

END CHILD POVERTY NETWORK CYMRU
RHWYDWAITH DILEU TLODI PLANT CYMRU

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Rhagfyr 2011-Ionawr 2012/
December 2011-January 2012



Cydlynir Rhwydwaith Dileu Tlodi Plant Cymru gan Plant yng Nghymru.

The End Child Poverty Network Cymru is hosted by Children in Wales.

(Please scroll down for the English version)

Annwyl Gefnogwr,

2.64 miliwn yn ddi-waith yn y Deyrnas Unedig

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda. Gobeithio eich bod wedi mwynhau'r cyfnod o seibiant dros y Nadolig. Ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn newydd, rydym ni, sef aelodau Rhwydwaith Dileu Tlodi Plant Cymru yn ail-ddatgan ein hymrwymiad i ddileu tlodi plant. Parhau i gynyddu mae diweithdra, ac yn arbennig ymhlith pobl ifanc, gyda 1,027, 000 ohonynt yn ddi-waith ar draws y Deyrnas Unedig. O ganlyniad i hyn a'r sefyllfa economaidd bresennol ynghyd â'r Diwygio Lles, mae rhagolygon ar gyfer dileu tlodi plant yn ddigalon iawn.

Mae diweithdra ymysg merched ar ei uchaf ers dau ddegawd. Dywed Alan Milburn ei bod hi'n hanfodol bod gofal plant o safon uchel ac yn fforddiadwy os yw merched am fynd yn ôl i weithio ar ôl cael plant. Fel y gwyddom, mae Rhwydwaith Dileu Tlodi Plant Cymru wedi bod yn galw am hyn ers blynnyddoedd maith.

Bu Grwp Llywio Rhwydwaith Dileu Tlodi Plant yn brysur iawn yn ystod mis Rhagfyr. Ar 8 Rhagfyr cawsom gyfarfod cadarnhaol iawn gyda Gwenda Thomas, y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Byddwn yn ei chyfarfod eto ym mis Mawrth. Byddwn yn trafod y Cynllun Gweithredu Mynd i'r Afael â Thlodi gyda Llywodraeth Cymru ym mis Ionawr.

[Child Poverty Solutions](#)

[Gwefan RhDTP Cymru](#)

[Ymunwch â'n Rhwydwaith](#)

[Siarter Tlodi Tanwydd](#)

[Ymgyrch Dileu Tlodi Plant
Nawr](#)

[Robin Hood Tax](#)

[Datrys Tlodi Plant](#)

Mae'r Grwp Llywio hefyd wedi cael gwahoddiad i fynychu digwyddiadau Llywodraeth Cymru ar *Ymgynghoriad ar opsiynau i ddisodli Grantiau Gofal Cymunedol a Benthyciadau Argyfwng ar gyfer Treuliau Byw Cronfa Gymdeithasol* - gweler yr Adran Ymgynghoriadau. Byddwn yn ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad yn swyddogol yn ystod y misoedd nesaf.

Cyflwynodd Rhwydwaith Dileu Tlodi Plant Cymru ymateb i'r *ymgynghoriad Papur Gwyn y Bil Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru)*. Canolbwyntiodd y Rhwydwaith ar y cwestiynau ar gynlluniau Brechwast am Ddim a chostau cinio ysgol. - gweler yn yr Adran Ymgynghoriadau.

Cofion,

Anita

Dear Supporter,

2.64m unemployed in the UK

Happy New Year. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break. At the start of the New Year we, as members of the ECPN, are reiterating our commitment to end child poverty. Unemployment continues to rise, especially among young people with 1,027,000 of them unemployed across the UK. As a result of this, the present economic situation and the Welfare Reform, the outlook for child poverty looks very bleak.

Unemployment among women is at its highest for two decades. Alan Milburn states that high quality and affordable childcare is essential if women are to go back to work after having children. The ECPN has been calling for this for many years.

The ECPN Steering Group has been very busy in December. We had a very positive meeting with Gwenda Thomas, the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services, on 8 December. We will be meeting her again in March. In January, we will be meeting the Welsh Government to discuss the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

The Steering Group has also been invited to attend the Welsh Government's events on the *Consultation on options to replace the Social Fund Community care Grants and Crisis Loans for Living Expenses* - see Consultation section. We will be responding to the consultation in the next few months.

The ECPN has submitted a response to the White Paper consultation on the *School Standards and Organisation Bill (Wales)*. The Network concentrated on the questions on Free Breakfast Schemes and the costs of school meals. Please see section on Consultations.

Regards,

Anita

CYMRU/WALES

Welfare reform to have 'negative impact' on Wales, according to Welsh Government research

The Welsh Government says [research](#) it has commissioned confirms that changes to the benefits system are likely to have a negative impact in Wales.

Flying Start evaluation

The Deputy Minister for Children Gwenda Thomas has responded to the publication of the first survey report into the Flying Start programme saying that the report will provide useful evidence as the programme expands and develops. The report is available [here](#).

New-look blue badges free for disabled drivers in Wales

Disabled drivers will get blue parking badges for free, the [Welsh government has announced](#).

Education Minister announces a review into the qualifications market in Wales

Following reports regarding examination seminars held by examination boards, the Education Minister has [announced a review](#) into the structure of the general qualifications market in Wales.

Unemployment figures show women are bearing the brunt of the nation's continued economic slump

[The latest Government figures](#) show a 27.1% rise in Welsh female unemployment. The number of unemployed women aged 16-plus stood at 49,000 for the August to October period, a rise of 11,000 on the previous three months and an 8.9% increase on last year. In contrast, male unemployment rose by just 0.8% on the quarter and 5.2% on the year.

UNITED KINGDOM/Y DEYRNAS UNEDIG

Child maintenance confusion among parents 'is failing young'

Thousands of children are missing out on essential maintenance payments because their parents do not know where to find help in sorting out payments from their former partners, [it has been claimed](#).

Is this the end for child poverty targets?

Work and pensions secretary Iain Duncan Smith has criticised [the way child poverty is measured](#), implying that poverty is about more than income alone.

Alan Milburn warns government will miss 2020 child poverty target

Alan Milburn, the coalition's adviser on social mobility, has warned that the government will miss its [legally binding targets](#) to reduce child poverty by 2020, and is calling for spending to be re-focused on the 800,000 under-fives living below the poverty line.

Affordable childcare must be priority to end child poverty, says Alan Milburn

The Government should invest in early years services to help fight

child poverty, the Government's independent reviewer on social mobility said in a [speech](#) yesterday.

Female employment hit by public sector cuts and childcare costs

Public sector job cuts and high childcare costs will push up female unemployment in coming months, a [thinktank warns](#) before the release of the latest round of UK jobs data. Unemployment among women is already at its highest level for more than two decades, at 1.09 million.

UK unemployment increases to 2.64m

UK unemployment rose by 128,000 in the three months to October to 2.64 million, the highest level since 1994. Youth unemployment has risen to 1.027 million, the [highest since records began](#).

More Northern Ireland children live in poverty

There has been a significant increase in the number of children living in poverty in Northern Ireland, according to a new report. Of the 26 councils in Northern Ireland seven have 30% or more children in living in poverty. Read the full BBC article [here](#).

Strong opposition to cuts in disabled children's benefits

On 12 December, the government nearly lost a vote in the House of Lords on whether a 50% cut to disability additions for children should go ahead. In the final count they got the proposals through with a tiny margin of just two votes. [Read the full story](#).

MSPs to withhold consent from UK Welfare Reform Bill

Members of the Scottish Parliament are set to formally protest against [changes to the UK benefits system](#), which some claim will see cuts in payments to the most vulnerable. SNP and Labour members of the Scottish Parliament are expected to take the unprecedented step of voting against a Westminster "consent" motion.

NEWYDDION/NEWS

Wales' life expectancy gap between richest and poorest

growing The life expectancy gap between the richest and poorest people in Wales is growing, [according to new figures](#).

Call for early intervention to support premature babies

Babies born between 32 and 36 weeks fare less well at school, according to [a new study](#), which recommends that children born early should have a school readiness check before starting school to help identify any problems.

Youth homelessness rise linked to relationship breakdowns

Increasing levels of relationship breakdown, mental health problems and substance misuse have been linked to rising levels of youth homelessness in England, [a study](#) of local authorities and homeless charities has found.

Rising pension age will lead to childcare gap

The charity Grandparents Plus has [raised concerns of a 'gap in care'](#), as an increasing number of grandmothers looking after grandchildren will have to work until 67, following the Chancellor's announcement last week to changes to the state pension age.

3.8m children without books

Almost four million children in the UK do not own a book, according to a [new report by the National Literacy Trust](#).

Income inequality growing faster in UK than any other rich country, says OECD

Income inequality among working-age people has risen faster in Britain than in any other rich nation since the mid-1970s, [reports The Guardian](#).

Disadvantaged children continue to lag behind their peers at the end of Reception

More children from low-income families do less well than their peers at the end of the [Early Years Foundation Stage](#).

Disabled children and their families 'excluded'

Many disabled children fail to reach their full potential because they are marginalised in schools, health and social care, [according to new research](#).

The big squeeze: warning over incomes as Britain goes on strike

Families with children will be worse off in 2016 than 14 years earlier, an [analysis of George Osborne's autumn statement](#) finds.

Welsh student university applications down by 10%

The number of Welsh students applying for a place at university has fallen, [new figures have revealed](#). Data released by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) revealed that there were 10.3% fewer applications this week than at the same time last year.

Money Matters survey sent out

Turn2us in partnership with specialist money management magazine Quids In! have [sent a survey out](#) to 120,000 housing association properties across the country. The survey which was developed in association with Merlin Housing Society's Financial Inclusion Team aims to find out more about the money issues facing social housing residents. The results are expected in March.

A third 'run up Christmas debts'

Almost a third of Britons will get debt to help fund their Christmas spending, [research has revealed](#).

NUS: Students turning to prostitution to fund studies

Greater numbers of students in England are [turning to prostitution](#) to fund their education, the National Union of Students (NUS) claims. The NUS also says students are turning to gambling and taking part in medical experiments to fund their studies.

Headstart at school for rich parents' offspring

Children from middle-income families start school with skills five months behind those of their more affluent peers, [research suggests](#).

Parents of children with cancer struggle to make ends meet

Parents of children who have been diagnosed with cancer are struggling to make ends meet while their child is having treatment, [a cancer charity has claimed](#).

More homes in Wales to get faster broadband says BT

Nearly 175,000 homes and businesses in Wales are to get access to ['super-fast' broadband](#) as part of BT's £2.5bn roll-out of 'fibre' broadband with the upgrades due to be completed by next year.

MPs urge teaching finance in schools

Every child should be taught personal finance as a compulsory part of the school curriculum, [an eight-month study has concluded](#).

Youth service cuts put further strain on NHS, charity claims

Government must invest in advice and support services for young people or risk putting a massive strain on the NHS, [Youth Access has warned](#).

Wales child poverty hotspots revealed by electoral ward

More than half the children in parts of Wales live in poverty as some areas reach levels of deprivation comparable to inner-city London, [a new study reveals](#).

ADRODDIADAU/REPORTS

End Child Poverty Map of the UK

This new report by End Child Poverty shows the extent of child poverty across the whole of the UK, including a breakdown by constituency ward. The report and indicator map are available to access from the [End Child Poverty website](#).

Monitoring poverty and social exclusion 2011

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published its annual report on the state of poverty and social exclusion in the UK. The report covers income and spending, children, young adults, work, older adults and housing. To access the report click [here](#).

Do we blame people for being in poverty?

A recent survey suggested that 54% of Britons believe social security benefits are too high and discourage people from finding jobs, up from 35% in 1983 when the study was first carried out, says the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#).

Divided we stand: Why Inequality Keeps Rising

The OECD has published a new report showing that the gap between the rich and poor in OECD countries has reached its highest level for

over 30 years. You can access the report [here](#).

Climate change and sustainable consumption: What do the public think is fair?

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published new research into public attitudes to fairness in the context of climate change, fuel poverty and the transition to a low-carbon economy. The report is available on the [JRF website](#).

Rising Energy Costs: The impact on low-income families

Save the Children has produced a briefing paper on the impact of fuel poverty on poorer families. The report warns that most of the families who cannot afford to heat their homes are not getting enough help from energy suppliers, and the the UK Government's scheme to help with fuel costs reaches only 3% of British families who are at risk of fuel poverty. To access the report, please visit the [Save the Children website](#).

YMGYNGHORIADAU/CONSULTATIONS

Consultation on options to replace the Social Fund Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for Living Expenses

The Welsh Government is seeking views on replacing the Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for living expenses once the funding is devolved to the Welsh Government in April 2013. Consultation ends 30/03/12. [Find out more](#).

School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Bill White Paper Consultation response

This is the End Child Poverty Network Wales' response to the Welsh Government consultation on the [School Standards and Organisation \(Wales\) Bill White Paper](#).

EWROP A GWEDDILL Y BYD/EUROPE AND THE REST OF THE WORLD

Eurochild attends inequalities conference

Policy Officer Agata D'Addato attended the "Inequalities in Europe and the Future of the Welfare State" conference, organised by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion on 5th and 6th December 2011 in Brussels. The aim of this conference was for experts to meet and take stock of available knowledge and of recent policy debates regarding income inequalities. For more information contact agata.daddato@eurochild.org.

Reconciliation of work and family life

The Council for Europe has called for further efforts to effectively support both men and women to reconcile their work and family life. In a meeting of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Council meeting, formal childcare was also raised as a way to improve gender equality. The report of the meeting is available [here](#).

The scissor effect of the current recession

[This paper](#) by the International Federation of Family Development discusses the way the current economic climate is affecting youth employment compared with the older workforce, and discusses recent disturbances in Greece and England in light of disengagement of the young people involved.

Early Childhood Profiles for all 50 USA States

National Center for Children in Poverty's Early Childhood Profiles were produced as part of the [Improving the Odds for Young Children project](#). These profiles highlight states' policy choices that promote health, education, and strong families alongside other contextual data related to the well-being of young children. For more information click [here](#).

Ireland Budget 2012

One Family (Ireland) is campaigning to reverse budget cuts in the new budget, including the reduction of One-Parent Family Payments, raising the age for the Back to School Clothing Allowance and standardizing the rate of child benefits. For more information, please visit the [One Family website](#).

Free pre-school budget maintained in Ireland

On 6 December, Start Strong, an expert body on early childhood care and education, showed their relief that the Free Pre-School Year has not been cut in the Irish 2012 Budget. [Find out more](#).

YMGYRCHOEDD/CAMPAIGNS

End Child Poverty Campaign: Response to Autumn Statement

The End Child Poverty Campaign has [expressed its disappointment](#) that the government has dropped its promise to stop child poverty rising. Members of the campaign have also written a [letter to the Prime Minister](#) on this issue.

Child Poverty Action Group campaign: Welfare Reform Bill

The CPAG is campaigning on the Welfare Reform Bill as it enters the report stage in the House of Lords. The Bill contains measures that are like to impoverish women, children and the disabled. The campaign is asking everyone to contain one Lord in the run-up to the vote in January. [Find out more](#).

ADNODDAU/RESOURCES

Financial Capability Courses

[Teach me](#) and [Teach Others](#) are fully funded courses covering a series of financial topics. Teach me is an interactive on-line course, and Teach Others is a two-day course designed to help those without teaching qualifications to run financial capability lessons. To find out more and apply visit www.moneyforlifeprogramme.org.uk/qualifications.

RNIB's New Welfare Right Service for Gwynedd & Anglesey

RNIB Cymru's new Welfare Right Service is now up and running in

Gwynedd & Anglesey and is available to anyone with sight loss regardless of whether they are registered blind or partially sighted. This service will help people find out exactly what they are able to claim for, help them fill out forms, challenge benefit awards or decisions etc.

If you know of anyone who could benefit from this service please contact the North Wales Society for the Blind on 01248 353604 or contact Ellen.lloyd@rnib.org.uk for further information.

'Top tips' campaign

Consumer Focus Wales has launched a bilingual 'top tips' campaign aimed at helping people who use domestic heating oil to keep their bills under control. The campaign - in partnership with EST and supported by Age Cymru, Care&Repair Cymru, and the Welsh Government - will encourage households which rely on heating oil to get the best possible deal. [Find out more.](#)

ARIANNU/FUNDING

£10 million local energy assessment fund (LEAF) up for grabs

The Department of Energy and Climate Change has announced a new [£10 million fund](#) to help local communities in England and Wales develop energy projects.

Reach The Heights - Final round

The third and final round of procurement under the Reach the Heights programme has been announced. Reach the Heights is a Welsh Government initiative aimed at reducing the number of young people in Wales aged 11 - 19 years who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), or at risk of being so. Organisations and individuals interested in delivering the work are invited to submit bids for the funding. For more information please visit <http://www.artscouncilofwales.org/reach-the-heights>

Tender opportunity

The Participation Unit based at Save the Children UK is inviting tenders for contracts under the Reach the Heights Programme. Reach the Heights is a Welsh Government initiative aimed at reducing the number of young people in Wales aged 11 - 19 years who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Details of the tender opportunity are available on the [sell2wales website](#).

Arbed grant funding

Environment Minister, John Griffiths has announced a further £8.8m to improve the [energy efficiency](#) of Welsh homes and to help stimulate Wales' green economy.

Renewable Heat Premium Payment scheme launched

The Government has launched the Renewable Heat Premium Payment scheme to help householders across the country with funding

towards the cost of installing renewable heating systems. Householders can call 0800 512 012 or visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/RHPP. Grants will be available on a first come, first served basis and the scheme will close on 31 March 2012.

Comic Relief Local Communities Grant Programme

Comic Relief supports work where there is clear evidence of beneficial impact on people and communities who are excluded or disadvantaged. The closing date for applications to the Local Communities Grant Programme is Wednesday 15th February 2012. For further information and application form see [Community Foundation in Wales](#) website.

DIGWYDDIADAU/EVENTS

Shelter Cymru Welfare Reform Briefing Session

8 February 2012

Gorseinon Centre, Swansea

The Welfare Reform Bill amounts to the biggest shake-up of welfare reform in over 60 years. This event will explore the complex reforms and assess the impact of what is to come. For more information please visit the [Shelter Cymru website](#).

The future of homelessness policy in Wales: learning lessons from the States and the Scots

9 February 2012

Cardiff

This lecture, which will be chaired by Dame Mavis McDonald DCB, Trustee of Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust, will bring together key minds that have shaped homelessness policy in the UK and the USA. This Cardiff University lecture is free of charge and is sponsored by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and WISERD. Please click on this link if you would like to register for this event <http://www.cplan.cf.ac.uk/events/registrations/73>

'Delivering fairer outcomes for Wales: tackling fuel poverty'

23 February 2012

Millennium Stadium, Cardiff

This event will address the growing problem of fuel poverty as many households worry about their ability to pay their fuel bills this year. It is predicted that the number of Welsh households experiencing fuel poverty will reach over 390,000 households. You can download a booking form for this event from <http://www.nea.org.uk/nea-cymru-conference-cynhadledd-2011/>. For more information, please contact Claire Henderson - claire.henderson@nea.org.uk, or Brian Hart - brian.hart@nea.org.uk or call 0191 261 5677.

HYFFORDDIANT/TRAINING

Lloyds Bank Money for Life Project

Lloyds Banking Group, in partnership with the National Skills Academy for Financial Services, is offering two fully-funded courses in financial capability through its Money for Life Programme. For more information and to apply, please visit the [money for life website](#).

Citizens Advice B Discounted Money Advice Training

The training team at citizens advice are currently offering heavily discounted, quality courses for money advisers. Find out more [here](#).

MyBnk financial education

MyBnk, a charity who deliver finance and enterprise education to young people aged 11-25 in schools and youth organizations, are seeking partners to training across the UK. If you're interested in finding out more, please contact Melanie Robinson on 020 7377 8770 or email melanie@mybnk.org.

Gadewch i ni wybod os oes gennych unrhyw eitemau, er enghraifft, digwyddiadau, newyddion neu adroddiadau, yr hoffech i ni eu cynnwys yn y Bwletin nesaf.

If you have any items you wish to see included in the next Bulletin - forthcoming events, news items or released reports - please let us know.

**Diolch,
Thank you,**

Anita Myfanwy

Swyddog Datblygu Rhwydwaith Dileu Tlodi Plant Cymru
End Child Poverty Network Development Officer

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