

END CHILD POVERTY NETWORK CYMRU
RHWYDWAITH DILEU TLODI PLANT CYMRU

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Ionawr - Chwefror 2012/
January -February 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 Gefnogwyr,

Nodwedd amlycaf Ionawr 2012 oedd y dadleuon estynedig yn Nhy'r Arglwyddi a Thy'r Cyffredin ynghylch y Bil Diwygio Lles. Rhyddhaodd y Rhwydwaith Dileu Tlodi Plant fwletin yn nodi llawer o'r meysydd a oedd yn destun pryder i ni, yn arbennig ynghylch y Cap arfaethedig ar Fudd-daliadau, effaith debygol y newidiadau a gynigiwyd ar blant a phobl ifanc anabl, a newidiadau i fudd-dal tai. Galwodd papur Diwygio Lles ECPN hefyd ar Lywodraeth Cymru i chwilio am atebion a fyddai'n helpu i liniaru effaith y newidiadau ar blant, teuluoedd a gwasanaethau yng Nghymru, yn ogystal â chynnal asesiad effaith.

Mae'n edrych yn debygol y bydd 2012 yn flwyddyn brysur, ond heriol, ac edrychwn ymlaen eto at weithio'n agos gyda'n partneriaid, gan gynnwys Llywodraeth Cymru, yn ein hymgais i fynd i'r afael â lefelau tlodi plant yng Nghymru unwaith ac am byth.

Cofion,

Tîm y RhDTP

Dear Supporter,

January 2012 was dominated by the extended debates on the Welfare Reform Bill both in the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The End Child Poverty Network released a bulletin which identified

[Gwefan RhDTP Cymru](#)

[Ymunwch â'n Rhwydwaith](#)

[Siarter Tlodi Tanwydd](#)

[Ymgyrch Dileu Tlodi Plant
Nawr](#)

[Robin Hood Tax](#)

[Datrys Tlodi Plant](#)

many of our areas of concern, notably around the proposed Benefit Cap, the likely impact from the proposed changes on disabled children and young people, and changes to housing benefit. The ECPN Welfare Reform paper also called on the Welsh Government to seek solutions to help mitigate the impact of the changes on children, families and services in Wales, in addition to undertaking an impact assessment.

2012 certainly promises to be a busy, if challenging year and we again look forward to working closely with our partners including Welsh Government in our quest to tackle child poverty levels in Wales once and for all.

Regards,

The ECPN team

DIGWYGIO LLES/WELFARE REFORM

Welfare Reform: Key issues of concern for Wales in respect of child poverty

This [ECPN briefing paper](#) outlines areas of concern regarding the UK Government's Welfare Reform Programme.

Children's Commissioners express concern over Welfare Reform Bill

The UK's four Children's Commissioners have released a [joint statement](#) expressing their deep concern about the serious negative impact the proposals in the Welfare Reform Bill will have on hundreds of thousands of children.

End Child Poverty Coalition campaign letter

The End Child Poverty Coalition has sent a [letter](#) to all MPs, asking them to support amendments to the Welfare Reform Bill.

In the news:

01 Feb 12 - Ministers seek to overturn peers' welfare bill changes

The government will seek to overturn seven defeats inflicted by the House of Lords to its Welfare Reform Bill later.

25 Jan 12 - Welfare bill suffers Lords defeat over child support

The coalition has suffered its [biggest defeat in the Lords](#) since being elected over plans to charge single parents to use the Child Support Agency.

24 Jan 12 - Lords reject plan for welfare cap to include child benefit

A cross-party alliance, including many Liberal Democrat peers, [voted to exclude child benefit](#) from plans to impose a blanket £26,000 cap on household welfare benefits last night.

23 Jan 12 - Government suffers Lords defeat over benefit cap plan

The government has been [defeated in the Lords](#) in a vote on its plans for a £26,000-a-year household benefit cap.

23 Jan 12 - Children's groups urge amendments to Welfare Reform Bill

Children in Wales has joined children's charities and other voluntary organisations, churches, law centres and other advice agencies, campaign groups and the TUC in supporting proposed amendments to the [Welfare Reform Bill](#) as it progresses through the House of Lords.

17 Jan 12- Lords back disability benefit shake-up

The government has headed off a House of Lords defeat over plans to replace the [Disability Living Allowance](#).

12 Jan 12 - Plans for welfare reform put children's rights at risk

The children's commissioner for England has warned that proposals to introduce a cap on household benefit and changes to housing benefit are likely to have a [negative impact on children](#) and could breach children's rights legislation.

12 Jan 12 - David Cameron signals rethink on child benefit cuts

[Proposals to scrap child benefit](#) for higher earners will be revised to protect families with stay-at-home mothers, David Cameron has signaled.

12 Jan 12 - Welfare Bill: Changes to continue despite Lords defeats

The government has insisted it will continue with [changes to the welfare](#) system despite defeats in the Lords. Labour peers and independent crossbenchers rejected proposals to means test the benefits of young disabled people and cancer patients.

NEWYDDION/NEWS

Tooth decay levels are 'too high'

Health Minister Lesley Griffiths has described [high levels of tooth decay](#) in children as "unacceptable". The Welsh Government is funding the Designed to Smile scheme, which aims to improve children's dental health by teaching them how to brush their teeth.

School grades hit by lack of routine

Children who grow up without a daily routine of set bedtimes and mealtimes do worse at school, [a report suggests](#).

Small class sizes boost pupil results, new bandings reveal

[Small class sizes](#) make a significant difference to the performance of children at school, the Welsh Government's banding data shows.

Obese pregnant mothers store problems for children - say academic

Pregnant mothers who are obese could be storing up [health problems for their baby](#) after birth, according to Welsh academics.

Universities to be rewarded for dropping fees

Universities in Wales that are prepared to [lower their tuition fees](#) will be allowed to bid for extra students under new arrangements unveiled today by the sector's funding council.

Britain already back in recession say respected forecasters

The [UK is likely to already be in recession](#), according to two highly regarded economic forecasters, as developments in the eurozone paralyse the country's recovery.

43 per cent of people worry they can't afford their next fuel bill

43% of people are worried they can't afford their next fuel bill and one in two say energy bills will put a strain on their finances this year, according to new figures released today from Citizens Advice at the start of its [Big Energy Week](#).

Revealed: How much money schools in Wales spend on each pupil

Some schools in Wales are receiving [thousands of pounds more per pupil](#) than others in the same local authority, we can reveal.

Guidelines on preschool food from School Food Trust

[New guidelines on nutrition](#) for preschool children, aimed at reducing obesity, have been published.

Charity's mission to reduce stillbirth numbers in Wales

More needs to be done to reduce [stillbirth rates in Wales](#), a charity will tell an assembly committee.

Social housing standards not met, says Wales Audit Office

The Welsh government will not meet its own 10-year target for [improving the quality of social housing](#) this year, according to a new report.

Youth project review highlights value of peer recruitment

[Peer recruitment](#) is vital in getting the most hard-to-reach children engaged with youth projects, a major evaluation study has found.

Welsh students will still be funded for study in UK, reaffirms Finance Minister Jane Hutt

Finance Minister Jane Hutt has reaffirmed the Welsh Government's commitment to [funding Welsh students](#) wherever in the UK they choose to study.

Academic performance at school linked to exercise

How well children perform in the classroom could be linked to how physically active they are, suggests a [Dutch review](#) of previous studies.

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. The [End Child Poverty report](#) is available here.

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 was claimed today.

Student prostitution prompts Swansea University study

A study is to be carried out over concerns that students in Wales are [turning to prostitution](#) to pay for their education.

Education experts call for changes after Wales suffers in Pisa assessment

[Education experts](#) last night called for a more balanced view of Wales' schools after the validity of an international benchmark was called into question.

EU funding for youth projects under threat, BYC warns

Plans to remove a ringfence from around €10m (£8.3m) of European funding for youth projects in the UK could have a major impact on valuable schemes, the [British Youth Council \(BYC\) has warned](#).

Middle-income families with children to lose more than £1,000 a year

The Institute for Fiscal Studies research, commissioned by the Family and Parenting Institute, which examines the impact of tax and benefit reforms introduced between 2010 and 2014, reveals that [families will be significantly worse off by 2015](#).

Charity calls for fuel help urged for poor families

Energy companies are being urged by the charity Save the Children to do more to help [British families struggling to heat their homes](#) this winter. The new report on rising energy costs is available [here](#).

One in four 4-5-year-olds in North Wales obese or overweight

Nearly a quarter of four to five-year-olds are obese or overweight, raising fears of a ticking health timebomb. A [Public Health Wales study](#) found that 22% of reception class pupils - who have no real choice over what they eat - are too fat.

Free recipes sent to people in Wales

Welsh people who have registered with the [Change4Life initiative](#) are to receive a free recipe brochure providing them with ideas for healthy meals. Figures from the Welsh Health Survey indicate that just 51 per cent of children in Wales eat vegetables on a daily basis, while around one in three youngsters are overweight or obese.

Government changes law to allow charities to join credit unions

Charities, social enterprises and community groups will be able to join a credit union from 8 January under [changes made to the Credit Unions Act 1979](#).

Remploy launches Wales' flagship mental health support services for access to work

Remploy has launched Wales' first ever [Government-funded mental health in work support](#) service. This new service will assist more than 1,600 people with mental health conditions to stay in employment.

Solar feed-in tariff

Green groups and solar energy companies have welcomed a [High Court ruling](#) that proposals to rush through cuts to solar tariff payments

are illegal, despite a pledge from the government to seek an early appeal against the decision.

Scheme to make 14m UK homes more energy efficient will only reach 20in households, Committee on Climate Change says

The government's flagship programme to transform the [energy efficiency](#) of 14 million homes in the next decade will fail and will reach only two to three million households, according to an unprecedented attack from the governments own climate advisers.

ADRODDIADAU/REPORTS

Customer feed-back on Feed-in Tariffs

A new Consumer Focus report, entitled Keeping FiT, has been published which highlights the high overall level of satisfaction among consumers who have taken up the Feed-In Tariff (FiT) scheme. To view the report, please visit [Consumer Focus](#) .

Families with children worst affected by falling incomes

An Institute for Fiscal Studies report, commissioned by the Family and Parenting Institute, is the first to reveal the prospects for poverty rates and income for different family types up to the year 2015:

- The median income among families with children is projected to fall between 2010 and 2015 by 4.2%. For a couple with two children this equates to £1,250 less a year by 2015
- Families with children aged under five, families with more than two children, and lone parent families not in paid work bear the biggest financial pain in years ahead.

To read the full press release and access the report click .

Switched off: consumer views on energy switching in Wales

Consumer Focus Wales has produced a examining the extent to which consumers in Wales are engaging with the energy market, as more and more people in Wales struggle to pay their heating bills.

YMGYNGHORIADAU/CONSULTATIONS

Consultation on draft regulations: Child Support Management of Payment and Arrears (Write off and Part Payment in Full and Final Satisfaction) Amendment Regulations 2012 (closes 12/02/12)

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is consulting on implementing powers to write off arrears and accept part-payment in order to efficiently manage child maintenance arrears. The Government is planning to take regulations to Parliament in Spring 2012 to introduce these powers and is seeking views on the draft version. To find out more, please visit the [Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission website](#).

Meeting the Housing Challenge: Building a consensus for action (closes 17/02/12)

The Welsh Government is consulting on views for producing a new

Housing bill. Housing is a key issue to tackling poverty and inequality, but there is currently a lack of housing in Wales and much of the existing housing needs improvement. Views are being sought on the affordability, supply, and preventing homelessness, as well as the role of the Welsh Government in the housing system. To find out more about give your views, visit the [Welsh Government website](#).

Support for mortgage interest - Call for evidence (closes 27/02/12)

The Department for Work and Pensions is seeking views on the Government's plan to simplify the help provided towards mortgage interest payments for working age and pensioner home owners. The consultation also considers potential future changes in line with Universal Credit principles. Full details are available from the [DWP website](#).

Citizen Advice survey on Accessing Cash (closes 29/02/12)

Throughout February, Citizens Advice is trying to find out how people access cash from bank, building society and post office card accounts and how they would be affected if their bank stopped them from using other cash machines. To access the survey, [click here](#).

POBL IFANC NAD YDYNT MEWN ADDYSG, CYFLOGAETH NA HYFFORDDIANT/NEETS

Clegg resolves to tackle youth unemployment in 2012

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has promised to make tackling [youth unemployment](#) his top priority for 2012.

Youth Contract must go further, claims think-tank

The government is being urged to [extend its Youth Contract](#) to guarantee a job for all young people who have been unemployed for more than a year.

Work experience pays off for graduates looking for a job

Graduates without work experience stand little chance of securing a job this year despite a rise in vacancies, [research suggests](#).

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

Poverty rising in EU Member States

The latest [EU Employment and Social Situation Quarterly review](#) released by the European Commission shows that although employment levels in the European Union moderately recovered during the second quarter of 2011, it has worsened again since then with a drop of 0.1%. Those suffering the worst effects of the crisis are young adults, families with children and especially single parents. Read the whole Euroalert article [here](#).

Call for action on youth unemployment across Europe

The European Commission is calling for decisive action to tackle youth unemployment as the youth jobless rate reaches 21%. The new 'Youth

Opportunities Initiative', adopted by the Commission on 20 December, is aimed at preventing early school leaving and helping young people find a first good job. To read the full press release click [here](#).

Inclusive labour markets and tackling child poverty

Fostering inclusive labour markets and combating child poverty and social exclusion are two of the key challenges that need to be tackled by Member States if the objective of the Europe 2020 Strategy of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth is to be achieved. The short paper of the 'Peer Review in Social Protection and Social Inclusion and Assessment in Social Inclusion' explores how these challenges can best be addressed and shares examples of good practices. For more information click [here](#).

Cumulative deprivation study

Geranda Notten (Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa) and Keetie Roelen (Institute for Development Studies, Brighton) recently published a study on poverty indicators. The aim of this [study](#) was to evaluate indicators that measure the degree to which European children suffer from multiple deprivations at the same time. For more information click [here](#) or mail: gnotten@uottawa.ca.

The impact of the recession in the USA

A report from First Focus suggests that U.S. children continue to feel the negative effects of the economic crisis, with children in some states hit harder than others. While the number of children with an unemployed parent is lower than a year ago, child poverty continues to rise. To access the report click [here](#).

Child homelessness in American increases

More than 1.6 million children or one in 45 are homeless annually in America, according to a report from The National Center on Family Homelessness. This represents an increase of 38 percent during the years impacted by the economic recession (2007 to 2010). The report is available [here](#).

Greek parents too poor to care for their children

Greece's financial crisis has led to some families abandoning their children as they don't feel they can afford to look after them. According to ELSTAT, Greece's independent statistics agency, 20.1% of the population are threatened by poverty. For full details, read the whole [BBC article](#) as well as the [Athens News Agency report](#) on the ELSTAT statistics.

Initiatives to fight poverty

As poverty increases, IHECS University and NGO Fondation pour le Progrès de l'Homme have been looking for innovative local projects that could be applied all over Europe. In their report 'Beating Poverty', these organisations present 5 concrete propositions to European institutions: To access the report click [here](#).

European Parliament resolution on tackling early school leaving

One in six young people across Europe now leave formal education without the necessary competences and qualifications to enter the labour market successfully. Early School Leaving (ESL) is one of the biggest challenges facing Europe, and the European Union has set the target of reducing early school leaving by 10% by 2020. In this framework, the European Parliament voted on 1st December 2011 on a report to tackle the issue of Early School Leaving. To see the full text click [here](#).

Employment and social policies key to economic recovery

The European Commission has published its first annual review of Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE). The review underlines that a mix of employment and social policies are necessary to ensure a long-term recovery in the current climate of fiscal consolidation and bleak economic outlook. For more information click [here](#).

ADNODDAU/RESOURCES

Flying Start

An [organisation chart](#) is now available showing the structure of the Flying Start Programme.

Child Poverty Solutions library

Child Poverty Solutions is starting to build a library of notable practice examples of work to tackle child poverty. These practice examples of what your organisation is doing or planning to do to tackle child poverty support other practitioners to take action themselves. If you have examples you would like to upload you first need to register as a Child Poverty Solutions user. In order to maintain your privacy you can tell Child Poverty Solutions not to contact you via your login email. CPS WILL NOT share your contact details with other parties. Go to www.childpovertysolutions.org.uk.

New consumer checklist for energy customers

Consumer Focus has published a new consumer checklist for energy customers entitled 'staying connected'. It is a guide containing the key information that energy consumers need to know about their energy supply. To view the checklist, please visit the [Focus website](#).

DIGWYDDIADAU/EVENTS

Family Learning event 9 February 2012

This conference sets out to provide the evidence that family learning could provide an invaluable cost-effective contribution to the success of Families First and offers opportunities to learn how to address some of the challenges of delivering successful family learning. It will be of interest to all those planning and delivering Families First and seeking to improve the quality of life for families in Wales whether they work in health, social services, education, employment services, the voluntary sector, arts, sports or leisure. The keynote address will be provided by

the Welsh Government Families First team. [Read more and find out how to book.](#)

HYFFORDDIANT/TRAINING

Shelter Cymru Training Programme

Shelter Cymru's new training programme is now available. Visit www.sheltercymru.org.uk for further information.

Barclays Moneyskills

The Barclays Money Skills are looking for staff and volunteers who would be interested in training as Peer Education Support Workers for the Barclays Money Skills 'champions' project.

This project is a peer education project designed to build the financial knowledge and confidence of up to 5,000 young people, and equip them with the skills to share this information with their peer group.

If you would like to be part of this innovative project please visit www.barclaysmoneyskills.com ('champions' section) where you will find further details.

'Y Rhwyd' project

The project will train 20 volunteers and establish a network for individuals facing financial difficulties, and give them support by running support sessions across Gwynedd. [Find out more.](#)

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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