



# JAYNE BRYANT MS CONSTITUENCY UPDATE



## PRIDE IN THE PORT

Adam and the fantastic team behind Pride in the Port have been amazing champions of the event since its launch. Back for 2023, Pride in the Port will take place at The Riverfront and include a march through city centre. Delighted to have been there for the official launch, to hear the exciting announcements and catch up with lots of familiar faces.

### IN THE SENEDD

On St David's I was pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to John Griffiths' debate on Welsh identity in Newport. Since the 1970s there has been a growing sense of pride in our Welsh identity in Newport. It hasn't come easy, but we have seen real progress because of the hard work and passion of dedicated people, helping drive advancements in the Welsh language in Newport.

Newport through its old Monmouthshire county days was not always seen fully as a part of Wales. That changed in the 1970s, and helped further by the Welsh music scene in Newport and the use of the Welsh language in schools. Long may this progress continue.

You can watch my contribution on my YouTube channel: [@JayneBryantMS](#)

### WELSH GOVERNMENT BUDGET SET

The Welsh Government's Finance Minister, Rebecca Evans MS has said protecting public services and the most vulnerable has been put front and centre of the Welsh Government's Budget for 2023/24.

Key Budget allocations include £227 million extra for local government, an additional £165 million for the NHS, and a support package for businesses worth £460 million over 2 years.

The Budget has been delivered in the context of significant financial pressures, with inflation reducing the value of the Welsh Government's 2023-24 Budget by up to £1 billion, and the UK government's post-EU funding reductions leading to more than a £1.1 billion funding shortfall between 2021 and 2025.



It is so important to play a role in encouraging young women to be involved in politics. As part of the Chwarae Teg LeadHerShip programme, 17-year-old Aliza visited the Senedd to shadow myself and my team. Proactively looking to learn how the Senedd represents young women, gain experience and break down barriers to entering politics and public life.



Photo by the Val Feld Purple Plaque outside the Senedd to celebrate International Women's Day

## NHS WORKERS WILL GET AN EXTRA PAY RISE IN WALES EVEN AS STRIKES SET TO CONTINUE

Members were updated following the outcome of Trade Union ballots. The enhanced pay offer for 22/23 comprises an additional 3%, 1.5% consolidated and 1.5% non-consolidated on top of the increase paid earlier this year. In total this equates to an additional 7.6% on the NHS pay bill for 22/23. In addition, should conversations in England result in an offer for NHS staff in England, and by extension Wales, these will be passed on to NHS staff in Wales.

The Welsh Government and Trade Unions met and, narrowly, accepted the enhanced pay offer proposed by the Welsh Government for 2022/23. Welsh Government have stated they recognise the strength of feeling amongst members and will continue to work together to work through the implementation of the offer, and also to begin immediate discussions on next steps including continued meaningful conversations on the nature of the pay award for 23/24 and additional non pay elements to improve the conditions and well-being for NHS staff.



Tredegar House and its parklands are a real gem in the heart of Newport. It was a pleasure to plant a tree on blossom avenue. Grateful to Lizzie, Jonathan and Ellen for talking to me about your work in the area, and to Steve and Lily for showing me how to properly bed in a tree.

## MORE TWO-YEAR-OLDS ACROSS WALES TO BENEFIT FROM FUNDED CHILDCARE

More two-year olds in Wales are set to benefit from funded childcare. The scheme is expanding with £10 million of further Welsh Government funding as part of a phased plan to increase early years provision to all two-year-olds in Wales, seeing an additional 2,200 children benefit from Flying Start childcare in 2023-24.

## SPRING COVID BOOSTER FOR OVER 75s AND MOST VULNERABLE

The Welsh Government has confirmed that a spring COVID-19 booster vaccination programme will begin on 1st April for the most vulnerable, including people over 75. As well as the spring booster programme, there will be an autumn booster programme later this year, following further advice from the JCVI.

In addition, the Welsh Government has announced that the universal offer of a COVID-19 booster will end on 31st March. Higher risk groups and people who develop a new health condition that makes them eligible will still be able to receive their booster vaccine, if advised by a doctor or other clinician.

## GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT: £5 MILLION TOURISM FUND LAUNCHED

A £5 million Brilliant Basics tourism fund for 2023 to 2025 has been launched by Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, Dawn Bowden MS. Brilliant Basics is a capital fund to deliver small-scale tourism infrastructure improvements across Wales.

Open to local authorities and national park authorities, Brilliant Basics will also support projects that improve accessibility at sites and those that make their destinations more environmentally sustainable.

## ADDRESSING NHS WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

The Welsh Government has set out its plans to address the challenges of staffing the Welsh NHS. Actions include ethically recruiting more nurses from overseas, plans to create an 'All-Wales Collaborative Bank', the Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) is developing proposals to deploy reservists and Welsh Government also plans to encourage more volunteers into the health and care system.

The Welsh Government will issue detailed plans for specific professions and services such as nursing, dentistry and pharmacy over the next two years. To find out more please visit: [www.gov.wales/plan-address-nhs-workforce-challenges](http://www.gov.wales/plan-address-nhs-workforce-challenges)

## A PERIOD PROUD WALES

A 'Period Proud Wales' plan has recently been launched. A plan initiated to achieve period dignity in Wales and eradicate period poverty. The plan details ambitions to go further, setting out intentions to make free period products available in a wider variety of settings, providing education to all about periods and eliminate period stigma. Aiming to achieve this through more comprehensive teaching about periods.

## £2.1M FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS IN FURTHER EDUCATION

New funding over three years to improve the experiences of further education students with additional learning needs (ALN) was announced by Minister for Education and the Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles MS, and is being given to all further education colleges in Wales to help them to implement the ALN Act, which is being phased in and will gradually replace the special educational needs (SEN) system.

## BUS EMERGENCY SCHEME EXTENSION

Originally due to end in March, the Bus Emergency Scheme will be extended for a transitional period of three months. Offering the industry short term stability while planning happens on bus networks better suited to the new travel patterns we have seen since the end of the pandemic.

## NEW GREEN BUSINESS LOAN SCHEME

A new loan scheme to support businesses in Wales cut their energy costs by taking steps to become greener and more energy efficient has been launched by the Welsh Government and Development Bank of Wales. As well as the new loan, support and advice is also available from the Welsh Government's Business Wales service to help businesses decarbonise.