### SPRING 2023



## JAYNE BRYANT MS CONSTITUENCY UPDATE

# NEW WALK AND CYCLEWAY INTO CITY CENTRE

It has been a long wait, and now it's here. So pleased to finally see the Devon Place subway replaced with a walkway/cycleway leading to the City Centre, A huge investment funded by Welsh government. There was such an excellent turnout for the launch. Lovely to see local school children taking the first steps over the bridge also great to have the Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters MS there, and to see him cycle the route himself too.

### **IN THE SENEDD**

#### SOCIAL PRESCRIBING

At a time when A&E and GP surgeries are under pressure, it's vital that we grasp every opportunity at preventative care. Social prescribing offers accessible and affordable benefits and I fully believe that it is imperative that Wales fully utilises the assets it has.

#### CELEBRATING THE WINDRUSH GENERATION.

2023 is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Windrush generation arriving in the UK. Many came to Wales and to Newport. The Windrush generation and their families have made an invaluable and lasting contribution to Wales. I asked the Minister what is being done to mark this special anniversary.



### UTILISING THE SKILLS AND STRENGTHS OF THE YOUNGEST GENERATIONS.

Within Wales, our pupils and young people have such a vast array of skills and talents. In terms of future employment, It benefits everyone for there to be a system in place that allows them to access educational opportunities that utilise and play to their own strengths. I pushed the First Minister on his assessment of the Junior Apprenticeship Programme pilot and asked will we see more pupils across Wales being able to access such opportunities.

You can watch my contribution on my YouTube channel: <u>@JayneBryantMS</u>

### WALES FIRST IN THE UK TO INCREASE EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE PAYMENT (EMA)

The Children Young People and Education committee has been calling for an increase in the EMA payment for some time and I am pleased to see the Welsh Government step in to help pupils during this cost of living crisis. EMA has now increased from £30 per week to £40 for eligible further education students in sixth form or college and will directly help over 1,000 16 to 18-year-olds from low-income households in Newport alone.

Further information can be found here: <u>www.gov.wales/wales-first-uk-increase-education-</u> <u>maintenance-allowance-payment</u>



### WALES RETAINS FAIRER STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT SYSTEM

Welsh graduates will continue to repay loans for a 30-year repayment period rather than 40-years as will be the case in England. Minister for Education and Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles, has confirmed the decision to retain the current, fairer and more progressive system for future years, subject to annual review to ensure it remains sustainable.

<u>www.gov.wales/wales-retains-fairer-student-loan-</u> <u>repayment-system</u>



Wibli Wobli, the first Welsh language day care nursery in Newport, has officially opened. It was lovely to be there for their open day in Rogerstone with Peredur Owen Griffiths.

### NEW TEST TO REVOLUTIONISE LUNG CANCER DIAGNOSIS ROLLED OUT IN WALES

An innovative liquid biopsy blood test to improve lung cancer treatment could help more people in Wales. Made possible through the All-Wales Medical Genomics Service (AWMGS), Illumina technology, Life Sciences Hub Wales, and investment from multiple partner organisations, the new use of the blood test can detect multiple cancer markers without needing an invasive tissue biopsy.

www.gov.wales/new-test-revolutionise-lung-cancer-diagnosisrolled-out-wales

#### PUSH TO MAKE SCHOOL UNIFORMS CHEAPER

School logos should not be compulsory, the Education and Welsh Language Minister Jeremy Miles has announced as new statutory guidance is published. There was almost universal consensus that schools should operate uniform exchange or recycling schemes. The new guidance calls for arrangements to be in place so that secondhand school uniforms are available for parents and carers.

www.gov.wales/make-uniforms-cheaper-says-education-minister



Recently had lots of opportunity to meet with our schools and to see them in the Senedd. Always love Meeting Newport's dedicated teaching staff and passionate pupils. It's been great to talk to, and be grilled by, some of our youngest residents from schools such as St. Woolos Primary, Malpas Church in Wales School and John Frost School.

## EXPANDING FLYING START CHILDCARE TO MORE CHILDREN IN WALES

Delivering a phased expansion of free childcare to all two year olds is a key commitment of this government, it will be in addition to the existing Childcare Offer, which provides 30 hours of funded childcare for 48 weeks a year to those eligible. You can find more information on the expansion here.<u>www.gov.wales/written-statement-expanding-flying-</u> start-childcare-more-children-wales

Good to visit KLA Corporation in Ringland in anticipation of their move to a new build at Tredegar Park. A global supplier for the world's leading semiconductor manufacturers.



### TWENTY-FOUR HOUR LISTENING LINE NOW OFFERING SUPPORT TO FAMILIES LIVING WITH NEURODIVERGENT CONDITIONS

Families living with autism and other neurodivergent conditions can now access 24 hour support and advice, The Neurodivergent project, which can also signpost neurodivergent individuals, their families and friends to helpful literature or service information, has been in place since April 2023.

CALL Mental Health Helpline For Wales <u>www.callhelpline.org.uk</u> Community Advice & Listening Line Offering a confidential listening and support service. <u>Freephone 0800 132737 or text help to 81066</u>



As Ramadan drew to a close, I had the pleasure of the joining in celebrations with а community meal - iftar. Very grateful to Pill Councillors Saeed and Debbie for organising and bringing people together.

#### **RECORD LEVELS OF FUNDING FOR FLOOD DEFENCES**

The latest funding allocations of a £214m for flood schemes put in place has been confirmed. The Programme for Government includes an ambitious target to provide increased flood protection to more than 45,000 Welsh homes and a commitment to expand natural flood management approaches which will to help tackle the climate and nature emergencies. <u>www.gov.wales/recordlevels-funding-flood-defences</u>

Always touched when I speak to

organisations like Llamau. Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with Paul and Kester to talk about Llamau's impact in Newport and the wider campaign to end homelessness.



### £11M FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS TO HELP WALES' ENDANGERED WILDLIFE

Minister for Climate Change Julie James has announced a pot of nearly £11m to help curb the decline of Wales' wildlife. Gwent Wildlife Trust Ltd is one of 26 projects across Wales to secure funding which also included a project to improve the Salmon population in the Usk. They have secured £248,834 to run its 'Connecting Nature, Connecting Communities' project. www.gov.wales/11m-conservation-projects-help-walesendangered-wildlife

### UPDATE ON COUNCIL TAX REFORM IN WALES

A package of reforms to council tax will address unfairness in the current system, the Welsh Government's Minister for Finance and Local Government has said. The changes are set to be delivered from April 2025. Council tax will continue to fund vital services like schools and social care, the reforms are not designed to raise any more revenue overall than is raised currently. <u>www.gov.wales/council-taxreform-deliver-fairer-system</u>

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