
BWLETIN POLISI CYTÛN

CYTÛN POLICY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER / TACHWEDD
2013



AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR NEW ORGAN DONATION LAW GROWING

An annual survey of more than 1,000 people across Wales has shown an overall rise in general awareness of changes to the organ donation system.

The same survey also shows an increase in support for the Welsh Government's new soft opt out organ donation legislation, which will come into force in Wales on 1 December 2015.

The survey – which was undertaken before the legislation was passed by the National Assembly for Wales in July - asked residents in Wales whether they were in favour of, or against, a change in the organ donation system, or whether they needed more information to decide. The proportion of respondents in favour increased significantly from 49% in 2012 to 61% in 2013. The proportion against decreased from 22% in 2012 to 17% in 2013, while the proportion of respondents needing more information to decide also decreased from 21% in 2012 to 16% in 2013.

Key findings include:

- In Cardiff and south-east Wales, the proportion of respondents in favour of the proposed changes to organ donation has increased from 47% in 2012 to 67% in 2013. At 20%, this is the largest increase across all regions in Wales.
- In the Valleys, the proportion of respondents in favour of the proposed changes to organ donation has increased from 46% in 2012 to 62% in 2013. At 16%, this is the second largest increase across all regions in Wales.
- In 2012, north Wales had the highest proportion of respondents in favour of the new organ donation system across all regions in Wales at 57%. This figure increased by 8% to 65% in favour in 2013.
- The proportion of respondents in favour of the proposed changes to the organ donation system in mid and west Wales has increased from 52% in 2012 to 56% in 2013.

- The proportion of respondents in favour of the proposed changes to the organ donation system in Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend has increased from 42% in 2012 to 51% in 2013.

The research can be found in full [here](#).

PAYDAY LENDING WARNING

Welsh Communities & Tackling Poverty Minister Jeff Cuthbert has joined with the Archbishop of Wales Barry Morgan to warn of the impact of payday lenders in Wales.

The Minister and the Archbishop share concerns that the growth of payday loans is causing damage to communities across Wales. The Welsh Government has increased support to credit unions as they offer an affordable alternative to high cost payday loan companies. Ministers have a target of six per cent of the population using their services by 2020 and how to continue the growth of the credit union movement will be part of the talks.

Earlier this year, the Welsh Government announced a £1.9 million funding package to increase membership. The money will also help the institutions to develop the services and products they provide for customers so that credit unions become a more visible and widely available source of affordable financial services.

You can find out more about the Welsh Government's support for Credit Unions [here](#).

NEW FINANCIAL POWERS WELCOMED

Welsh Finance Minister, Jane Hutt has welcomed the UK Government's full response to the first report by the Silk Commission – which confirms it will devolve new financial powers to Wales to help the Welsh Government boost the Welsh economy.

Following an initial announcement on November 1st, the UK Government has now published in full its response to all thirty-three of the Silk Commission's recommendations on strengthening the financial accountability of the Welsh Government and National Assembly for Wales.

The response confirms a referendum will be held ahead of any income tax devolution - throughout this process, the Welsh Government's priority has been to ensure that the people of Wales should have the final say.

The reforms mean that the Welsh Government will be able to borrow to invest in new infrastructure projects across Wales - which will create jobs and support the economy. This includes early access to borrowing to help fund an enhancement of the M4, subject to the ongoing consultation.

Further reforms include:

- The devolution of Stamp Duty Land Tax and Landfill Tax: this will allow the Welsh Government to reform them to become fairer, simpler and more efficient. The

devolution of SDLT will allow the Welsh Government to further support the Welsh housing market;

- The full devolution of Non-Domestic Rates to Wales: this is an important economic lever that will now be under full Welsh control. This will allow the Welsh Government to further support the Welsh economy.
- The power for the Assembly to legislate, with the agreement of the UK Government, to introduce new taxes and associated tax credits, opening a new avenue for policy development in the longer term.

The Minister confirmed that the Welsh Government will continue to put forward a strong case to devolve Long Haul Air Passenger Duty to Wales.

WELSH-MEDIUM EDUCATION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Welsh First Minister, Carwyn Jones, has launched an information campaign to raise awareness of Welsh-medium and bilingual education, *Live in Wales: Learn in Welsh?*

The First Minister launched the campaign at Ysgol Gymraeg Trelyn, Blackwood, where he met with parents and read a Welsh language story to children in the reception class.

The three year campaign will target expectant parents and parents with children aged 0-3, offering them information and advice so that they are fully informed when making a decision on whether to send their child to a Welsh-medium or bilingual school or not. The campaign aims to dispel some of the myths around Welsh-medium education.

COMMUNITIES FIRST PROGRAMME EXTENDED

Welsh Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty Jeff Cuthbert has announced the extension of the Communities First programme, which will now continue to help deprived areas until at least May 2016.

The Minister said that he was committed to the future of Communities First, which has had £75m funding to support 52 clusters across Wales to combat poverty and promote education, health and economic prosperity.

The scheme was re-launched last year from April 2012 to March 2015. The programme will now run for the life of the present Government.

The future of funding for individual clusters will take account of future budget allocations and an evaluation of Communities First.

Further information about Communities First can be found [here](#).

MORE INFORMATION ON LOCAL HEALTH SERVICE PUBLISHED ONLINE

New data on how local health services across Wales are performing will be easily accessible.

The website, mylocalhealthservice.wales.gov.uk, was launched by the Welsh Government in September to provide performance data on a range of health services. It will now include:

- Performance by GP practice on their care of patients with asthma, diabetes, dementia, atrial fibrillation, coronary heart disease and stroke.
- GP practices opening hours and appointment times at Health Board level, including appointments offered before 8.30am and appointments offered in the evening.
- Mortality data at district general hospital level.
- An improved user interface making it easier to access information.

The website already includes data for a range of healthcare quality measures for health boards and will continue to be developed with monthly new data uploads.

You can find out more at www.mylocalhealthservice.wales.gov.uk

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCED

Welsh Education and Skills Minister Huw Lewis has announced the membership of the Welsh Government's new National Leadership Development Board (NLDB).

Endorsed by Robert Hill in his Review of The future delivery of education services in Wales, the NLDB is made up of independent education professionals who will focus on the provision of high quality leadership development in support of the Welsh Government's school improvement agenda.

Each of the new members of the board, who were selected following an open recruitment process, has a wide range of expertise and experience in developing leadership capacity within the school system. They will advise and ensure that initiatives from the Welsh Government which relate to leadership development are fit for purpose and meet the needs of the profession in Wales.

The board consists of the following members:

Alun Llwyd - Headteacher at Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen, Bethesda.
Andi Morgan - Principal System Leader for Carmarthenshire/Pembrokeshire Hub.
Angela Satterly - Headteacher at St Albans' RC Primary School, Cardiff.
Claire Armitstead - Headteacher at Rhyl High School
Sir David Carter - CEO of Cabot Learning Federation, Bristol.

Diane Chisholm - Headteacher at Southdown Primary school, Buckley, Flintshire.
Gareth Coombes - System Leader, Central South Consortium and Education Consultant.
Ian Budd - Strategic Director and Chief Education Officer at Flintshire County Council / Chair of ADEW.
Ian Elliott - Principal at Trinity Field Special School and Resource Centre, Caerphilly.
J. Aeron Rees - Headteacher of federated schools, Ysgol Gynradd Pontsiân and Ysgol Dyffryn Teifi, Llandysul.
Jeff Beecher - Headteacher at Glan Usk Primary School, Newport.
Judith Pryce - Headteacher at Newtown High School.
Owain ap Dafydd - Headteacher at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini.
Rhys Howard Hughes - Headteacher at Ysgol Cae Top, Bangor.
Sue Walker - Head of Achievement for the primary sector in the Rhondda Cynon Taff.
Observer status - Claire Morgan, Assistant Director of Estyn.

BOOST FOR MONEY AND HOUSING ADVICE SERVICES

New services to provide advice on issues such as debt, money management and housing to Wales' poorest communities have been given the go-ahead after the Welsh Government announced £2.4 million of new funding.

The current economic climate and the UK Government's cuts to welfare have seen the demand for advice services increase considerably. This new package of funding from the Welsh Government will allow Citizens Advice Cymru to deliver advice services directly in 36 Communities First Clusters across the country to meet this growing demand.

Communities First is the Welsh Government's flagship programme to help those living in the top 10 per cent most deprived communities in Wales. It works to improve health, prosperity and access to education and learning.

A recent consultation by the Welsh Government suggests that the location of advice services has a large impact on whether people use them. The cost of travel, fear of being stigmatised and lack of awareness are all barriers to people turning for help.

This funding will allow advice services to be strengthened and be based in the communities that need them the most. Research also shows people on low incomes prefer face to face advice. This new money will go towards creating new outreach services to further reach these groups. It is estimated that the new services will work with over 19,000 individuals.

This expansion of advice services is a key part of the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan that targets resources to prevent poverty and its impact on people's lives.

GERAINT HOPKINS

SWYDDOG POLISI

CYTÛN – EGLWYSI YNGHYD YNG NGHYMURU

029 2046 4378

geraint@cytun.org.uk