

Answers to Questions not reached in Plenary 03/02/2010

[R] signifies that the Member has declared an interest.

[W] signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

Contents

- 1 Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government
- 2 Questions to the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Community Facilities and Activities Programme

Q10 Lorraine Barrett: Will the Minister provide an update on the community facilities and activities programme? OAQ(3)1050(SJL)

The Minister for Business and Budget (Jane Hutt): Since it was launched in November 2002, the community facilities and activities programme has awarded over £70.5 million to 708 projects across Wales. I will shortly be announcing the successful applications from the October 2009 bidding round. *Under Standing Order No. 7.50, questions answered by the Minister for Business and Budget.*

Priorities

Q11 Jenny Randerson: Will the Minister make a statement on delivering the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities across his portfolio? OAQ(3)1046(SJL)

Jane Hutt: In addition to promoting safe and sustainable communities, promoting greater community cohesion and tackling child poverty, the Assembly Government will be working with our partners and stakeholders to tackle the economic downturn to help people, businesses and communities.

Anti-social Behaviour

Q12 Alun Cairns: What are the Minister's priorities for tackling anti-social behaviour? OAQ(3)1083 (SJL)

Jane Hutt: The Welsh Assembly Government's Safer Communities Fund is providing £4.5 million to the community safety partnerships during 2009-10. The fund supports projects that tackle youth crime, including anti-social behaviour. We are also very keen to tackle the anti-social behaviour associated with substance misuse, and are providing £19.7 million to community safety partnerships.

Community Safety

Q13 Leanne Wood: What representations has the Minister received regarding community safety? OAQ(3)1064 (SJL)

Jane Hutt: I and other Welsh Assembly Government Ministers regularly receive

representations about a range of community safety issues. The Welsh Assembly Government works closely with community safety partnerships in Wales to ensure a joined-up, multi-agency approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in Wales.

Child Poverty Targets

Q14 Eleanor Burnham: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's child poverty targets? OAQ(3)1052(SJL) *Transferred for written answer by the Deputy Minister for Children.*

The Deputy Minister for Children (Huw Lewis): The Assembly Government is committed to monitoring progress against our child poverty targets and the children and young people's wellbeing monitor will be the main vehicle for that purpose. In addition, the StatsWales website has incorporated a focus on child poverty targets, including a blended report where data is regularly updated.

Access for Disabled People

Q15 Chris Franks: Will the Minister make a statement on improving access for disabled people in South Wales Central? OAQ(3)1055(SJL)

Jane Hutt: I am committed to ensuring that the Welsh Assembly Government has a leadership role in promoting equality of opportunity for all citizens and ensuring that services and facilities are accessible to disabled people across the whole of Wales.

Questions to the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

Surplus Places in Secondary Schools

Q10 Nick Bourne: Will the Minister make a statement on surplus places in secondary schools in Wales? OAQ(3)1218(CEL)

The Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning (Leighton Andrews): I expect local authorities to plan school places strategically and to provide high-quality education for the benefit of learners. Efficiency issues in the secondary sector are being addressed through the transformation agenda and I expect that surplus places, currently standing at 37,000, will reduce as a result.

The Welsh Baccalaureate

Q11 Lorraine Barrett: Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Baccalaureate? OAQ(3)1217(CEL)

Leighton Andrews: From this September there will be 53,000 Welsh Baccalaureate learners at 217 centres in Wales.

Blaenoriaethau

Priorities

Q12 Gareth Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei flaenoriaethau ar gyfer y tymor newydd? OAQ(3)1243(CE) W

Q12 Gareth Jones : Will the Minister make a statement on his priorities for the new term? OAQ(3)1243(CEL) W

Leighton Andrews: Mae blaenoriaethau'r Llywodraeth yn parhau fel y maent wedi'u

Leighton Andrews: The Government's priorities remain as set out in 'One Wales',

nodi yn 'Cymru'n Un', gyda mesurau ychwanegol i ymateb i'r dirywiad economaidd. Fy nod i yw sicrhau bod mwy o adnoddau yn cyrraedd y rheng flaen. Oherwydd hynny cyhoeddais adolygiad o gost gweinyddu'r system addysg.

with additional measures in response to the economic downturn. My aim is to ensure that more resource reaches the front line, hence my announcement of a review of the cost of administering the education system.

Post-16 Education

Q13 Leanne Wood: Will the Minister make a statement on post 16 education in Rhondda Cynon Taf? OAQ(3)1231(CEL)

Leighton Andrews: Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is exploring proposals to reorganise post-16 education and learning. The statutory role of Welsh Ministers in determining proposals makes it inappropriate for me to comment further.

Funding for Pupils

Q14 Mark Isherwood: Will the Minister make a statement on funding for pupils in Welsh schools? OAQ(3)1234(CEL)

Leighton Andrews: School funding has increased by 71 per cent since 1999-2000 and spend per pupil is up 81 per cent. Across Wales, schools have a net surplus of £74.7 million.

Classroom Assistants

Q15 Janet Ryder: Will the Minister make a statement on the role of the classroom assistant? OAQ(3)1222(CEL)

Leighton Andrews: Classroom assistants play an important role in the effective running of schools and their contribution is highly valued by this Government.