

**Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg](#) ar [Flaenoriaethau'r Chweched Senedd](#)**

**This response was submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) consultation on [Sixth Senedd Priorities](#)**

**CYPE SP 98**

**Ymateb gan: Nicolas Webb, Coleg Brenhinol yr Ymarferwyr Cyffredinol Cymru**

**Response from: Nicolas Webb, Royal College of General Practitioners Wales**

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Beth yn eich barn chi yw'r prif flaenoriaethau neu'r materion y dylai'r Pwyllgor eu hystyried yn ystod y Chweched Senedd? Os oes modd, nodwch eich barn o ran sut y gallai'r Pwyllgor fynd i'r afael â hyn.

What do you consider to be the main priorities or issues that the Committee should consider during the Sixth Senedd? Where possible, please set out your view about how the Committee could address them.

**Thema 1: Addysg oedran ysgol | Theme 1: School-age education**

**Thema 2: Addysg bellach ac addysg uwch | Theme 2: Further and higher education**

**Thema 3: Iechyd a lles, gan gynnwys gofal cymdeithasol (i'r graddau y maent yn ymwneud â phlant a phobl ifanc) | Theme 3: Health and well-being, including social care (as they relate to children and young people)**

RCGP Cymru Wales proposes that the Committee carry out an inquiry into the involvement of children in drugs gangs, specifically those associated with the 'County Lines' problem. While this is an issue which cuts across a range of remits both devolved such as impact on education, where children may well drop out of schooling, and non-devolved, criminal justice, it also has a significant relevance to health and safeguarding. The College would suggest an inquiry which reaches wider than simply the health and safeguarding implications, but that included this aspect prominently.

County Lines typically involves a gang from a large urban area travelling to locations such as county or coastal towns to sell class A drugs. Users are contacted via a mobile phone line used by the gang. Couriers travel between the gang's urban base



and the county locations on a regular basis to collect cash and deliver drugs. Gangs groom and use young people to act as couriers and deliver drugs to customers out of their areas – this often involves deception, intimidation, violence and debt bondage.

It is anticipated that the recent destabilisation of Afghanistan will further increase the flow of narcotics into Wales.

From a safeguarding perspective we would like to see consideration given as to how steps can be taken to protect children from becoming involved in the drug trade.

From a health perspective we would like to see a robust evaluation of rehabilitation support services to assess what can be done to help those effected rebuild their lives as law-abiding citizens.

#### **Thema 4: Plant a phobl Ifanc | Theme 4: Children and young people**

