

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 112**

**Ymateb gan: Matt Sedgebeer ar ran DCC Blakeman (Heddlu Gwent) a DPCC Thomas (OPCC Gwent), Diogelwch Cyhoeddus Prif Arolygydd Dditectif Heddlu Gwent**

**Response from: Matt Sedgebeer on behalf of DCC Blakeman (Gwent Police) and DPCC Thomas (Gwent OPCC), Gwent Police Detective Chief Inspector Public Protection**

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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**

Understanding and responding to the impact of Covid on mental health and well being.

This will have an impact on wider social issues such as poverty (access to food) and being a direct/indirect victim of crime.

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

It is vital that there are clear pathways and support available such as suicide prevention, trauma etc to support children, young people and their families. This often results in children and young people coming to police attention from a mental health, victims and perpetration perspective.

### **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)**



Understanding patterns of referrals and themes post covid is important so that services can be shaped to meet the needs of the population.

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

### **Criminalisation of children**

Offending by children and young people is often a symptom of other challenges they are facing in their lives. This can have a disproportionate impact on children and young people who are looked after and/or those from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups.

Ensuring that young people are not unnecessarily criminalised, and every opportunity is taken to divert them away from offending should be one of the priorities for the Committee during the Sixth Senedd.

This approach will deliver a more equal Wales by reducing the impact that criminalisation has on equal access to jobs and opportunities, as well as improved outcomes for the individual, their family and communities.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with and support the committee to develop preventative strategies which focus on the needs of the individual. This could include:

1. The development of effective diversion schemes for children and young people.
2. Multiagency local and national protocols to reduce the unnecessary criminalisation of children in care and care leavers.
3. The establishment of remand and custody accommodation for children and YP to avoid them staying in police custody due to a lack of appropriate accommodation. A pilot is currently being conducted in the South East Wales area with the ambition to provide similar accommodation across Wales.
4. Creating effective education and diversion schemes for children and young people who come to the notice of the police using illegal drugs.

Ensuring that disproportionality within youth justice is identified, explained and responded to effectively. There is an opportunity to build on the Newport Youth Justice Board pilot to level the playing field on disproportionality.

