

CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER FOR WALES UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE

Keith Towler, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, will be launching his redesigned website today (2 March 2009) to coincide with his first anniversary as the country's 'children's champion'.

The new site (www.childcomwales.org.uk), to be unveiled at Hafod Primary School in Swansea, comes complete with a new enhanced service that enables children and young people to share their views and opinions with the Commissioner's office.

Children and young people will be able to have their say on what matters to them by taking part in Backchat (www.childcomwales.org.uk/backchat), information which the Commissioner will then share with decision makers to help improve things for children and young people across Wales.

Other features include an interactive game about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, all the latest news and developments from the Commissioner's office including all its publications, as well as the Commissioner's blog.

Designed by Cardiff-based award-winning web development agency, Imaginet, the new site has been developed with the help of hundreds of children and young people from across Wales, and as Keith Towler, the Children's Commissioner, said ahead of the launch:

"I wanted to create a site that was interactive, user-friendly and a safe environment for children and young people. This site carries information about my role, about children's rights and has the latest news and developments from my office – resources which should appeal to all ages.

"I also wanted to take information to young people where they see it and to reach out to them in a dynamic and safe way. Young people will now be able to interact with my office via Bebo, where they will be able to complete Backchat at their leisure and encourage their friends to do the same.

“This is not a static site; it will continue to evolve with new features and enhancements being added to the site throughout the year. Just log on and take a look for yourself.”

The new site can be found at www.childcomwales.org.uk

Ends

For more information or to arrange an interview with Keith Towler, please contact Sara Young or Lucy Payne on 01792 765638, 07794 123132 or email sara.young@childcomwales.org.uk