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# Comisiynydd Plant Cymru Children's Commissioner for Wales

## Sally Holland

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**PRESS RELEASE / DATGANIAD I'R WASG**

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(Cymraeg isod)

### **Wales should prioritise their looked after children says Sally Holland, the new Children's Commissioner for Wales as she launches her Annual Report**

Those responsible for delivering services for children and young people need to make sure that Wales' looked after children's needs are met so that they can achieve their potential. That is the appeal by Sally Holland, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, as she publishes her first annual report today (4 November).

Sally Holland says that there are too many examples where looked after young people in care face additional barriers on their journey towards independence. According to Welsh Government figures, some 45% of 19 year old care leavers are not in Education, Employment or Training.

The Commissioner believes that local authorities should concentrate on providing the kind of care that any parent would, through stable and nurturing care and provide for them so that they can have secure and successful adult lives. **A vital part of this should be to give young people a proactive offer of education or training whilst also providing the appropriate living environment for success. Sally Holland has also called for sufficient funding to be made available to local authorities to deliver improved outcomes.**

The independent champion for children and young people has spoken extensively to young people leaving care and has heard how young people often struggle in poor quality or insecure housing on very low incomes.

Sally Holland said:

"We must take seriously our collective responsibility towards looked after children and young people. We must care for them and give them as much of a chance in life as we'd want to give our own. It is their right and our duty.

"It makes no sense to invest in supporting young people throughout the care system, meeting often quite complex needs, only for them to be let down at the very last – at the point where they may need our support most in order to achieve their goals."

**Within the Annual Report, the Commissioner calls for young people over the age 18 who are in residential care homes to remain in their accommodation should they wish beyond the age of 18.** The Welsh Government has already made this commitment to young people in foster care. **The Commissioner calls for adequate funding to**

**be made available to local authorities to support care leavers whether they are leaving foster or residential care. This is important if these changes are to be implemented effectively.**

Sally Holland believes that her calls are achievable and there are currently good examples where effective support has been put in place by local authorities and where it has led to positive outcomes. For example, some young people are offered bespoke local authority traineeships and are then able to move on to good quality jobs.

The Commissioner added:

“We all know that services are facing difficult times in the face of budget cuts, however this is about making choices and prioritising. 700 young people left care this year, so we are not talking huge numbers. This support is an investment in our future and we simply cannot afford to throw this potential away.”

The full Annual Report can be read and downloaded from the Commissioner's website:

[www.childcomwales.org.uk](http://www.childcomwales.org.uk)

**ENDS**

To arrange an interview with Sally Holland please contact Gwion Evans on 07794 123132 // [gwion.evans@childcomwales.org.uk](mailto:gwion.evans@childcomwales.org.uk)

The office will also assist in identifying possible case study interviews relating to the press release.

**Notes to Editors:**

Sally Holland will be appearing at the National Assembly for Wales' Children, Young People and Education Committee on Wednesday 4 November to discuss the Annual Report as well as other areas of the Commissioner's work.

The annual report and accounts covers all areas of work undertaken by the Commissioner's office during the last financial year.

Sally Holland is currently developing her first three year strategic plan and has recently undertaken an extensive national survey called 'Beth Nesaf | What Next'. The strategic plan will be launched in January 2016.

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## **Dylai Cymru roi blaenoriaeth i'w phlant sy'n derbyn gofal – dyna neges Comisiynydd Plant newydd Cymru wrth iddi lansio ei Hadroddiad Blynyddol**

Mae angen i'r rhai sy'n gyfrifol am ddarparu gwasanaethau i blant a phobl ifanc sicrhau bod anghenion plant sy'n derbyn gofal yng Nghymru yn cael eu diwallu er mwyn iddyn nhw fedru cyflawni eu potensial. Dyna'r hyn mae Sally Holland, Comisiynydd Plant Cymru, yn apelio amdano wrth iddi gyhoeddi ei hadroddiad blynyddol cyntaf heddiw (4 Tachwedd).

Yn ôl Sally Holland, mae gormod o enghreifftiau lle mae pobl ifanc sy'n derbyn gofal yn wynebu rhwystrau ychwanegol ar eu taith at annibyniaeth. Mae ffigurau Llywodraeth Cymru'n dangos nad oedd rhyw 45% o'r bobl ifanc 19 oed oedd yn gadael gofal mewn Addysg, Cyflogaeth na Hyfforddiant. Ym marn y Comisiynydd, dylai awdurdodau lleol ganolbwyntio ar ddarparu'r math o ofal y byddai unrhyw riant yn ei roi, sef gofal sefydlog sy'n meithrin, a darparu ar eu cyfer er mwyn iddyn nhw fedru cael bywydau sicr a llwyddiannus fel oedolion.

**Dylai mynd ati'n rhagweithiol i gynnig addysg neu hyfforddiant i bobl ifanc fod yn rhan hanfodol o hyn, ochr yn ochr â darparu amgylchedd byw priodol ar gyfer llwyddiant. Mae Sally Holland hefyd wedi galw am ddarparu cyllid digonol i awdurdodau lleol er mwyn cyflawni gwell canlyniadau.**

Mae'r pencampwr annibynnol i blant a phobl ifanc wedi siarad yn helaeth â phobl ifanc sy'n gadael gofal ac wedi clywed sut mae pobl ifanc yn aml yn cael trafferth ymdopi mewn cartrefi ansicr neu o ansawdd gwael, ar incwm isel iawn.

**Mae'r Comisiynydd yn galw am ddarparu cyllid digonol i awdurdodau lleol er mwyn cefnogi'r rhai sy'n gadael gofal, p'un a ydynt yn gadael gofal maeth neu ofal preswyl. Mae hyn yn bwysig os yw'r newidiadau hyn i gael eu gweithredu'n effeithiol.**

Meddai Sally Holland:

"Rhaid i ni gymryd o ddifri ein cyfrifoldeb ar y cyd am blant a phobl ifanc sy'n derbyn gofal. Rhaid i ni ofalu amdanynt, a rhoi iddyn nhw lawn cymaint o gyfle mewn bywyd ag y byddem am ei roi i'n plant ein hunain. Dyna eu hawl nhw a'n dyletswydd ni.

Does dim synnwyr mewn buddsoddi i gefnogi'r bobl ifanc ar hyd eu cyfnod yn y system ofal, gan ymateb i anghenion sy'n aml yn ddigon cymhleth, os byddwn yn methu ymateb i'w hanghenion yn y cyfnod olaf un – ar yr adeg pan fo fwyaf o angen ein cefnogaeth arnyn nhw i gyflawni eu nodau."

**Yn yr Adroddiad Blynyddol, mae'r Comisiynydd yn galw am ganiatáu i bobl ifanc dros 18 oed sydd mewn cartrefi gofal preswyl aros yn eu llety ar ôl cyrraedd 18 oed os byddant yn dymuno.** Mae Llywodraeth Cymru eisoes wedi gwneud yr ymrwymiad hwn i bobl ifanc mewn gofal maeth.

Ym marn Sally Holland mae modd cyflawni'r hyn mae hi'n galw amdano, ac mae enghreifftiau da eisoes yn bodoli lle rhoddwyd cefnogaeth effeithiol ar waith gan awdurdodau lleol, gan arwain at ganlyniadau cadarnhaol. Mae yna bobl ifanc sydd yn cael cynnig hyfforddiant pwrpasol ac yna yn medru symud ymlaen at swyddi o safon.

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Ychwanegodd y Comisiynydd:

“Rydyn ni i gyd yn ymwybodol bod gwasanaethau’n wynebu cyfnod anodd oherwydd toriadau cyllideb, ond mater o wneud dewisiadau a blaenoriaethu yw hyn. Roedd 700 o bobl ifanc yn gadael gofal eleni, felly dydyn ni ddim yn sôn am niferoedd aruthrol. Mae’r gefnogaeth hon yn fuddsoddiad yn ein dyfodol, ac allwn ni ddim fforddio taflu’r potensial yma i ffwrdd.”

Gellir lawrlwytho a darllen yr Adroddiad Blynyddol o we-fan y Comisiynydd Plant: [www.complantcymru.org.uk](http://www.complantcymru.org.uk)

### **Diwedd**

Er mwyn trefnu cyfweiliad gyda Sally Holland, cysylltwch â Gwion Evans ar 07794 123132 // [gwion.evans@childcomwales.org.uk](mailto:gwion.evans@childcomwales.org.uk)

Byddwn hefyd yn barod cynorthwyo er mwyn adnabod achosion achos posibl sydd yn berthnasol i’r datganiad.

### **Nodyn ar gyfer golygyddion:**

Fe fydd Sally Holland yn ymddangos ger bron Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru fore Mercher, y 4ydd o Dachwedd er mwyn trafod yr Adroddiad Blynyddol yn ogystal â’r gwaith amgenach.

Mae’r Adroddiad Blynyddol a Chyfrifon yn ymdrîn â holl feysydd gwaith swyddfa’r Comisiynydd Plant yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol ddiwethaf.

Mae Sally Holland yn datblygu ei chynllun strategol tair mlynedd ac wedi gweithredu arolwg cenedlaethol ‘Beth Nesaf’. Fe fydd y cynllun strategol yn cael ei gyhoeddi ym mis Ionawr 2016.

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