

Speaking Notes

Tackling child poverty in a Rural Setting

Bore da a diolch am fy ngwahodd i'ch cynhadledd chi heddiw.

- Good morning and thank you for inviting me to your conference today.

Mae'n bleser cael bod yma nid yn unig i gefnogi'r 'Diwrnod Dileu Tlodi Plant', ond hefyd i glywed mwy gan ymarferwyr a sefydliadau sy'n gweithio i leihau Tlodi Plant yng Nghymru ac yn y Deyrnas Unedig.

- I am delighted to be here not only to support the 'Day for the Eradication of Poverty', but also to hear more from practitioners and organisations working to reduce Child Poverty in Wales and in the UK.

Mae taclo tlodi plant yn dal i fod yn brif flaenoriaeth i Lywodraeth Cymru. Dyna pam rydyn ni wedi ailddatgan ein nod yn ein rhaglen lywodraethu newydd o ddileu tlodi plant yng Nghymru erbyn 2020.

- Tackling child poverty remains a top priority for the Welsh Government. This is why we have restated our aim in our new programme for government to eradicate child poverty in Wales by 2020.
- We are currently developing an Anti-Poverty Action Plan for Wales, which will help establish a system of collaborative working across the Welsh Government to tackle the very serious issues causing poverty in Wales.

- The Plan will strengthen our approach towards tackling child poverty - as it will enable the Welsh Government to draw upon a wider range of programmes that can contribute to addressing deep rooted and inter-generational poverty. This includes the Communities First Programme – which is being taken forward as an Anti Poverty Programme for Wales.
- There is no higher priority for us than ensuring that children and young people whose lives are affected by poverty have the same chances in life as everyone else in Wales. Tackling poverty and improving the outcomes of children and families living in rural areas of Wales is central to this agenda.

- In February this year, we published our new Child Poverty Strategy for Wales. This sets out three strategic objectives which are centered around tackling worklessness; increasing skills; and improving the education, health and economic outcomes of children, young people and families living in low income households, across the whole of Wales.
- Working with the third sector through our package of flagship programmes, including Communities First, Flying Start, the IFSS and Families First, is critical to delivering these outcomes.

- The knowledge and experience of the third sector will be important to the delivery of this agenda and to improving the outcomes of children, young people and families living in poverty.
- The Rural Development Plan, and its emphasis on the regeneration of rural areas in Wales, also has a key role to play – in terms of helping to deliver the Child Poverty Strategy’s three strategic objectives.
- The Welsh Government is fully committed to the delivery of this Plan. Either directly or indirectly, it helps to lift children and their families out of poverty, and gives them a safe and secure future.

- Crucially - it will provide regular updates and contain measurable outcomes to show progress in implementing the Welsh Government's Child Poverty Strategy.
- I hope you will also be aware of the Families First programme. Indeed, Ceredigion, along with Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, operating as a consortium, is one of five Families First pioneer areas. The South-West Wales consortium was chosen not least due to its focus on delivery of services and support in a particularly rural part of Wales – and to trial ways to overcome some of the challenges that rurality poses.

They are progressing very well and I would like to thank them for their commitment to the programme, which will roll out across Wales from April 2012.

- Families First acts as an impetus to the development of truly effective multi-agency systems and support for families – particularly those living in poverty. It places a clear emphasis on prevention and early intervention to try to stop problems escalating and becoming more entrenched and acute.
- As I mentioned earlier the involvement of the third sector will also be important to the delivery of this programme.

Their local knowledge and the trust they often build with families is valuable.

- They have a role to play in ensuring that we can respond to locally-identified needs. We have to do this in a coordinated way, ensuring that all partners, whether statutory or Third Sector, are joined-up and focused on meeting those needs.
- The Welsh Government has invested heavily in this new programme and I expect to see it bearing fruit with innovative, whole family approaches.

- I look forward to working with you on all of these priority areas over the coming years and wish you well for a successful event today.

- Rwy'n edrych mlaen at gael gweithio gyda chi ar yr holl feysydd blaenoriaeth hyn yn ystod y blynyddoedd i ddod, a phob dymuniad da am ddiwrnod llwyddiannus heddiw.

681 words

