

Vaughan Gething AM/AC

Assembly Member for Cardiff South & Penarth

Aelod Cynulliad dros Dde Caerdydd a Phenarth



School Funding in the Vale

Parents received a letter from the Vale Council within the last month about school funding. The Vale claimed that schools across the authority are being chronically underfunded and laying the blame squarely at the door of the Welsh Government. The Vale Council Leadership has never approached me on this issue before sending out a highly unusual letter to parents.

I am incredibly disappointed with the leadership of the Vale council. This is an obvious exercise in blame shifting. There are two particular aspects to this. One is the challenge for local government, making choices about their own resources. This includes making choices about how much money they choose to spend on schools. The second is more political. The Vale of Glamorgan council is now led by a Conservative administration. The Conservative party has spent three successive general elections campaigning for a policy of UK wide austerity. The inevitable consequence of Conservative choices to impose austerity across the UK is that there is less money for public services. There is a real squeeze on every single public service. It is simply not acceptable for elected representatives who have campaigned for austerity in three successive general elections to then complain about the inevitable consequences of austerity. More than that it is completely unacceptable for those same people to claim that anybody else is responsible for their choice.

What constituents may not be aware of is that the Vale council has had responses from both the Education Secretary and the Local Government Secretary. As a matter of fact the Vale is not the lowest funded authority when it comes to the school settlement. In the core settlement for schools, the Vale are ahead of Carmarthenshire, Newport, Flintshire, Swansea, Newport and Caerphilly. Local Government have had the opportunity to review

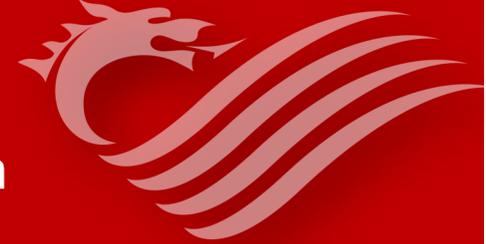
the funding formula with the Welsh Government, however they have chosen not to do so. The Welsh Government cannot be held responsible for the local authority family not agreeing to review the way that funding formulas work. What the Leader of the Vale did not say is that he has not raised this issue with the Education Secretary of the Local Government Secretary. He chose instead to write to parents.

It is also incredibly disappointing that the Vale Council have not sought to bid for grants available for schools funding that was set out clearly in the Education Secretary's response. I am disappointed that my constituents have not been told the full truth about these matters by the Vale administration.

BAFTA Award Winner Rungano Nyoni Visits the Senedd

I recently had the privilege of meeting BAFTA winner Rungano Nyoni in the Senedd. Rungano is the writer and director of the film "I Am Not a Witch". The film "I Am Not a Witch", which was set in Zambia was nominated for and won the Outstanding Debut By a British Writer, Director or Producer at this year's BAFTAs. Last year it won three British Independent Film Awards, including Best Director. Before making her feature debut, Rungano made several short films, including BAFTA Cymru winner The List. I am very proud of Rungano's continuing success. I look forward to celebrating her success and showcasing the film in the Assembly.





New Measures to Tackle Leasehold Concerns

At the beginning of the month the Labour - led Welsh Government announced a range of action to help tackle leasehold concerns. The package of measures includes:

- ⇒ New criteria will require a developed to present a genuine reason for a house to be marketed as leasehold
- ⇒ Leasehold contracts will have to meet minimum standards, including limiting the starting ground rent to a maximum of 0.1% of the property's sale value
- ⇒ Leasehold agreements will have to run for a minimum of 125 years for flats and 250 years for houses.

Where leasehold is already the tenure, the Welsh Government will be setting up a new group to recommend reforms to the system. A Code of Practice will be put into place to underpin these measure, improve standards and promote best practice.

National Black Youth Forum

I recently attended and spoke at the launch of the first National Black Youth Forum in the WMC. I spoke about the need to make the Assembly more representative of our communities. I had the pleasure of listening to the inspirational Hilary Brown speak on positive black role models.

Wales' First Purple Plaque Unveiled

I was honoured to attend the unveiling of Wales' first ever Purple Plaque. The plaques are designed to celebrate the achievements of remarkable women in Wales.

The plaque is dedicated to the memory of former AM and my former employer Val Feld.



It is the first in a series of hundreds planned over the coming years. Like Val, I am proud to be part of a legislature that has a strong record on women's representation and one that is leading the way on equal rights.

Oasis Splott – Items Needed

During my recent visit to Oasis in Splott I met with volunteers sorting through donations of clothes. The Charity does a fantastic job in supporting refugees and asylum seekers. They are icurrently short of the following items:

- Suitcases
- Mens clothing in Small and Medium sizes
- New boxers in Small and Medium sizes
- Mens shoes
- Toiletries for all

If you are able to help I am sure it will be greatly appreciated.

Get in touch...

If you have any issues or need any advice contact me on



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