

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

GYFRINACHOL – I'W HAGOR GAN
CYREIRIWDYD ATO UN UNIG / CONFIDENTIAL
TO BE OPENED BY ADDRESSEE ONLY

Julie James MS
Minister for Climate Change
Welsh Government

Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.wales

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Pwnc
(Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol) / Chair of Subject
Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (Social
Services)

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line: (01656) 643515
Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Scrutiny

Ein cyf / Our ref: FB / Scrutiny
Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 14 December 2023

Dear Minister

I am writing to formally put on record the concerns of our Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 which met on 6 December 2023 to consider the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 2022/23.

During discussions, the Committee was extremely concerned about the number of families, children and young people in temporary accommodation and the impact that this has on their safety and overall wellbeing.

In cases of families with children presenting as homeless, the Committee heard that the Council try, wherever possible, to utilise accommodation from the private rental sector or holiday rentals to try to keep family units together and to avoid any additional disruption to the children such as changes to schooling, etc.

However, Members were troubled that the challenge of securing such accommodation is made more difficult by differential between the private rental value and the current level of Local Housing Allowance.

I have been asked as Chair of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 to express the Committee's concerns and their support of the lobbying by Local Authority Cabinet Members and Officers to Welsh Government to raise the Local Housing Allowance in order to close the disparity and enable Councils to support those presenting as homeless and the social sector via the private rental market.

The Committee requests that due consideration be given to the above and look forward to your response by return.

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Negeseuon SMS/ SMS Messaging: 07581 157014

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Gwefan/Website: www.bridgend.gov.uk

Cyfnwyd testun: Rhowch 18001 o flaen unrhyw un o'n rhifau ffon ar gyfer y gwasanaeth trosglwyddo testun

Text relay: Put 18001 before any of our phone numbers for the text relay service

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Rhowch wybod i ni os yw eich dewis iaith yw'r Gymraeg

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Freya Bletsoe'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Freya' written in a more stylized, rounded script, and the surname 'Bletsoe' in a more standard cursive.

Y Cyng / Councillor Freya Bletsoe

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Pwnc (Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol) / Chair of
Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (Social Services)