

Minister sees benefits of Childcare Offer on Anglesey

Babinogion Menai in Menai Bridge offers bilingual childcare provision and is taking part in the Childcare Offer. Through the offer the Welsh Government provides 30 hours a week of government-funded early education and childcare for working parents of three and four year olds, for up to 48 weeks a year.

By the beginning of 2019, every local authority in North Wales will be delivering the offer to eligible parents.

The Minister said:

“It’s been great to visit Babinogion Menai and see at first hand the difference our Childcare Offer is making to providers, parents and, most importantly, children.

“Our pilots are already showing the difference this scheme is making. We have examples of families saving almost £250 a week, which they can use for other expenses. We’ve also seen parents increasing their hours of employment and parents changing their working hours so they can spend more time with their children.”

First Minister calls for ‘everyday saint’ nominations for inspirational awards

The annual event, now in its 6th year, was created to recognise and celebrate the good deeds and achievements of individuals and groups from all walks of life.

Previous finalists include Mair Elliot, a young mental health campaigner from Pembrokeshire; Wales’ rugby captain Alun Wyn Jones and Gerald Williams from Gwynedd who has spent his life preserving the home of his uncle, poet Hedd Wyn.

To encourage nominations, the Welsh Government has launched its [#EverydaySaint](#) campaign to highlight that anyone can be put forward for an award provided they have made a significant contribution to Wales.

The categories comprise of; Bravery, Culture, Enterprise, Citizenship,

Innovation and Technology, International, Sport, Young Person and the First Minister's Special Award. The final award will be chosen by the newly appointed First Minister as Mr Jones steps down in December.

With just 2 weeks to go until entry closes, First Minister Carwyn Jones has spoken to encourage those who haven't yet nominated someone to take the opportunity to do so.

First Minister Carwyn Jones, said:

"As First Minister, I often have the honour of meeting the truly inspirational people who make Wales the amazing country it is. These people are a credit to us, and they are the people who deserve your nominations for the 2019 St David Awards.

"Everyday saints come in many guises – they may have shown outstanding bravery, innovation, or leadership – or perhaps they've preserved a part of our Welsh culture for future generations. I am talking about those who go that extra mile – who give their all without hesitation, for the benefit of others.

"With 2 weeks to go until nominations close, don't miss this opportunity to celebrate your local heroes. Entering is easy and takes just a few clicks – head to the St David Awards website and nominate someone today."

Nominations close on 16th October with finalists being announced on 14th February next year and a celebratory dinner taking place in March 2019 at the Senedd, Cardiff Bay.

International Day of Older Persons: "Older people have human rights – they must be respected" – Huw Irranca- Davies

To mark International Day of Older Persons (Monday 1st October), the Minister has reaffirmed the Welsh Government's commitment to putting the human rights of older people in Wales at the heart of Welsh public services and make Wales the best place in the world to grow old.

Wales has a long history of working with and for older people from the introduction of the first Strategy for Older People in Wales in 2003, to

establishing the world's first Older People's Commissioner in 2008.

The Welsh Government's determination to improve lives for older people continues today. Earlier this year, the Minister publicly committed to reinvigorate the Welsh Government's focus on older people's issues.

Ministers are working closely with older people and their representatives, the Older People's Commissioner and other interested groups to co-produce a framework for an ageing society.

Huw Irranca-Davies said:

"To mark International Day of Older Persons, I want to reaffirm the Welsh Government's determination to put the human rights of older people in Wales at the heart of Welsh public services. Growing older should not erode an individual's human rights.

"Raising awareness of human rights can empower older people to play an active role in ensuring the care they receive upholds their fundamental right to be treated with dignity and respect. However, we must also raise awareness of human rights among the public bodies and organisations that work with older people every day.

"Celebrating Older People's Day can encourage people of all ages to look forward with positivity and embrace growing older. My aim is to make Wales the best place in the world to grow old and I look forward to working with key stakeholders, the Older People's Commissioner and, most importantly, older people themselves, to realise this aim."

Pilots for new ways to tackle mental health issues announced

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Farm Business Grant application window extended

The Farm Business Grant (FBG) is designed to improve the economic and environmental performance of agricultural holdings. It helps farmers make their business more efficient, resilient and environmentally friendly by providing a contribution towards capital investments in items of equipment and machinery.

The FBG, which is administered through Rural Payments Wales, is an important element of the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-20.

Farmers were required to have attended a Farming for the Future event to apply. Further information on the grant and how to apply is available on the Farm Business Grant page on the Welsh Government's website.

The Cabinet Secretary said:

“Given the lack of certainty on future funding from the UK Government, this may be the last window of the Farm Business Grant. I have therefore decided to extend the deadline to 26 October to allow farmers more time to apply for this crucial investment.

“The FBG allows farmers to make important investments in their businesses to support efficiencies, improve productivity and increase their resilience. The prolonged period of dry weather over the summer posed pressures and additional costs on farmers so this grant is particularly timely.

“I urge all eligible farmers who have attended a Farming for the Future event to consider making an application in this extended window.”