

Mike Hedges

Member of the Senedd for Swansea East



Welsh Labour  Llafur Cymru

SENEDD REPORT – JANUARY 2025



A PLAN TO CLOSE THE GENDER HEALTH GAP

I am delighted that the Women's Health Plan for Wales has been published. This is an ambitious 10-year vision to ensure that women and girls are receiving better health care throughout their lives.

Having spoken to women and girls in Swansea East and heard from many more across Wales, I am aware of the multiple barriers people face when trying to access the right care, being listened to and having health concerns and symptoms taken seriously. This plan was developed with the voices of thousands of Welsh women's experiences and I hope it will be a vehicle for real, positive change.

The plan focuses on eight key areas of women's health. These include endometriosis, menopause, violence against women and girls and long-term conditions. You can read more about it [The Women's Health Plan for Wales - NHS Wales Executive](#)

M4 AROUND PORT TALBOT



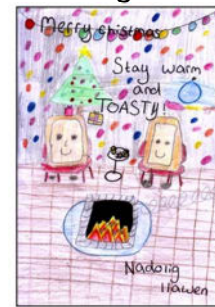
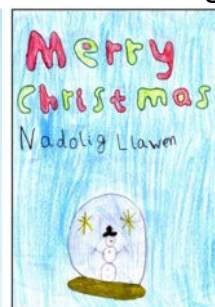
I raised in the Senedd the problems on the M4 between junction 43 and 38. I use the section of the M4 several times a week and I know only too well the frustrations, especially at rush hour times, of the congestion on this section of the M4.

I believe that the change I suggested to the Minister to make the second lane 'cars only' would help because it is very frustrating when a slow-moving lorry overtakes a very-slow-moving lorry and slows everyone down. My further suggestion is to make the outside lane for through traffic and this would also go some way to alleviating the problem. While accepting that it would be impractical and too costly to provide a third lane, something has to be done to improve traffic flow on this stretch of M4.

This generated a positive response from the Transport Minister Ken Skates where he said "I am very aware that this area does get congested at peak times, and Mike has kindly raised the issue of what the French call 'elephant racing' with me in recent days. I think his suggestions certainly merit investigation, and I'll therefore ask my officials to investigate the suggestion of limiting certain traffic to one lane, to ensure that traffic can move more freely in the outer lane. And I'll see what that might have in terms of positive effects on transport flows and on-air quality, and indeed on safety."

2024 CHRISTMAS CARD – GWYROSYDD PRIMARY SCHOOL

My 2024 Christmas card was designed by the pupils at Gwyrasydd Primary School. It was a very hard decision this year but I was very pleased to visit the school and meet the winner Kylan and runners up Scarlett and Denisa to thank them for their great designs.



ARTICLES

5th December Welsh Fabians- Swansea city region metro plan

This article explains the importance of the Swansea city region metro, that it needs to be given the same importance of the other two metro plans. It further describes how integrating transport is important.

5th December Nation Cymru- time to deliver a community right to buy

Community gives people a sense of belonging. Where you live is where your community will be, your community is where you feel you belong. It promotes the provision of community right to buy when buildings become available to try and stop buildings being left to deteriorate.

5th December Evening Post- politically speaking- foodbanks

This article describes foodbanks as the soup kitchens of the 21st century. It discusses the causes of the need for foodbanks and how increasing income will reduce the need for people to go to foodbanks.

18th December- Nation Cymru- Council funding

It looks at the local government settlement the key data is the Standard Spending Assessments that are intended to reflect variations in the need to spend which might be expected if all authorities responded in a similar way to the demand for services in their area. It explains how percentage increases are related to population change and the actual amount of government support is proportional to the number of properties in upper and lower bands.

4th January- Nation Cymru- Reform challenge

The article looks at other new parties over the last 50 years. It discusses the lack of media challenge to reform where they are treated as a vox pop not as a political party. The threat they pose to the established political parties.

A BUDGET FOR A BRIGHTER WALES



The Draft Budget announced last month by the Welsh Labour Government was full of hope and growth for Wales. The biggest settlement has been announced since devolution. After 14 difficult years with a Tory UK Government, it is so encouraging to see the practical difference that two Labour Government's working together can have for the people of Wales. The Draft Budget will deliver an extra £1.5 billion for our public services and provide an enormous boost to health and social care. This will help to assist cuts to the longest waiting times in our NHS and the creation of more appointments.

The Draft Budget is investing in children and young people, with more than £100 million dedicated to the education budget. £181.6 million will go to improving Welsh rail services.

The Draft Budget will be voted on in the Senedd in March 2025.

VISITS

Schools

Danygraig Primary School
St Thomas Community Primary School
Ysgol Pen Yr Bryn concert
Bishop Vaughan

Meeting/visits

Beer & Pub Association
Parc Prison
South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
Swansea City Disabled Supporters' Association
Dalling Shop Small Business Saturday Visit
Crisis
Persimmon cheque presentation to Swansea City Foundation
SBU Health Board
Good Faith Partnership
Cardiff Airport
Down to Earth
Swansea Bay health board
Less survivable cancers briefing
St Iltyds foodbank
Popham kidney
Llansamlet Tesco foodbank appeal
Swansea Deaf Centre
Samaritans
NAS Coffee morning
Meet Friends of the earth

Sport

Swansea City v Sunderland
African Community Centre
Birchgrove football
Glais Rugby

Get in touch

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

97 Pleasant Street
Morriston
Swansea
SA6 6HJ



MikeHedgesMS



@MikeHedgesAM

Mike.Hedges@senedd.wales

Tel 01792 790621

MONTHLY ADVICE SURGERIES

1st Friday – Brynhyfryd Library 3-4pm
2nd Friday – Morriston Library 3-4pm
3rd Friday – Penlan Library 2-3 pm
4th Thursday – St Thomas Library 3-3.30pm
4th Friday – Llansamlet Library 3-4pm