



Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru

Older People's Commissioner for Wales

John Griffiths MS
Chair, Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

17 August 2020

Dear John,

Leave No-one Behind: Action for an age-friendly recovery

I hope you and your family are keeping well at this most challenging of times.

I will shortly be publishing *Leave No-one Behind: Action for an age-friendly recovery*, which sets out the action needed to respond to the most pressing challenges facing older people and the longer-term work required to ensure that older people are not left behind in the reconstruction of our society over the coming months and beyond.

Many of the calls for action in the report are drawn from discussions at engagement sessions with older people, community groups and others, together with evidence and analysis carried out by my office. There are actions which I believe the Welsh Government needs to take, and I have also highlighted areas for action by public bodies and others, as well as indicating some of the areas where I am taking action and working with others to achieve change.

It is clear from my engagement with older people that many continue to endure extremely difficult circumstances due to the pandemic, which have taken their toll and left some feeling worried about what the future holds and without the confidence needed to get out and about and reengage with their communities. As you know I have also been concerned, and remain so, about the extent to which older people's rights have been protected and the need to ensure that rights that have been removed are reinstated.

Despite these difficult circumstances, the pandemic has also shown some of the best of who we are. I have heard so many inspiring stories of how people have been helping each other, of the way in which community organisations and many public bodies have

03442 640 670

Rydym yn croesawu
galwadau yn Gymraeg

Adeiladau Cambrian
Sqwâr Mount Stuart
Caerdydd CF10 5FL

Cambrian Buildings
Mount Stuart Square
Cardiff CF10 5FL

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn
Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh
and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

www.olderpeoplewales.com

responded quickly to what is needed and been creative in finding new ways to reach, connect and help. It is crucial that we harness these positive experiences into the next phase of the pandemic and engage and enable older people to play their part in a recovery from Covid-19 which utilises the experience and expertise of each and every generation and takes the next steps together.

I will be using this report, and its calls for action, to scrutinise the Welsh Government and hold them to account for their continued actions in response to Covid-19. I hope that it will also be useful in supporting your role in scrutinising the Welsh Government and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Heléna Herklots'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Heléna Herklots CBE

Older People's Commissioner for Wales