ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS FEDERATION CYMRU

NEWSLETTER

ahpf Cymru . Wales

Edition 2 Summer 2025

AHP debate at the Senedd!

In only the second time since the dawn of devolution in 1999, AHPs had a dedicated debate in the Senedd. With the support of AHPF Cymru, Plaid Cymru's health and social care spokesperson, Mabon ap Gwynfor MS tabled a Motion, which was backed by the Welsh Conservative health and social care spokesperson James Evans MS and the leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, Jane Dodds MS. The Motion noted the crucial role AHPs played in maintaining a healthy population, by allowing people to be socially and economically active. It also called on the Welsh Government to develop a long-term workforce strategy for AHPs, increase student placements for AHPs; and increase routes to qualifications in Wales to meet growing demand.

During the hour-long debate contributions were had by Mark Isherwood MS, Heledd Fychan MS, Gareth Davies MS, Jenny Rathbone MS and John Griffiths MS. The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services also responded to the debate and paid tribute to the work of AHPs in Wales. A full transcript of the debate can be found here.

AHPF Cymru manifesto meetings

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, AHPF Cymru launched a manifesto ahead of the Senedd election next year and we are actively engaging with the political parties. Meetings have been held with the politicians writing the manifestos such as Alun Davies MS for Labour, Sam Rowlands MS for the Conservatives and Mabon ap Gwynfor MS for Plaid Cymru.

To remind you, the five key areas of the manifesto are:

1. A National Workforce Strategy for AHPs.

2. Timely access to AHP services for those working in health and social care.

3. Expand access to the AHP professions through exploring routes, in consultation with the professions, such as degree apprenticeships.

4. Ensure that services within the community are delivered within suitable buildings.

5. Allow patients the right to access AHP services as part of their treatment pathway.

Apprenticeship discussion

AHPF Cymru has been working hard to make the case for AHP degree apprenticeships. Members have met with leads at Medr and Health Improvement Wales and also with the Head of Apprenticeships at Welsh Government to better understand the context, challenges and opportunities. We will now be working on an influencing document on this topic.

Croeso Paul!

In our last newsletter we bid farewell to David Davies, who left his role as policy officer for the Royal College of Occupational Therapists but this time we are delighted to welcome his successor, Paul Smith. Previously Paul was the Chief of Staff to the Welsh Conservatives in the Senedd and was the author of three manifestos for the 2021 Senedd election and the 2019 and 2024 UK General Elections. Prior to this he worked as a Public Affairs Manager for the RSPCA. In his spare time Paul enjoys partaking in amateur dramatics. A very warm welcome to you Paul!

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Conference season!

In May, AHPF Cymru travelled to Llangollen to attend the Welsh Conservative conference and discussed our manifesto with elected representatives and delegates. Constructive discussions were had with relevant stakeholders. Pictured here are AHPF Cymru representatives with the UK Leader of the Opposition, Kemi Badenoch MP, the Welsh Conservative leader, Darren Millar MS and Baroness Olivia Bloomfield.

In June, AHPF Cymru travelled north again, but this time to Llandudno for the Welsh Labour conference with a boxful of our manifesto! Again, a stall was booked, and our manifesto was shared widely with elected representatives including the First Minister, Eluned Morgan MS and the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, Jeremy Miles MS.

AHPF Cymru will also have a presence at the Plaid Cymru conference held in Swansea on the 10th and 11th of October and the Reform UK Welsh conference due to be held in Newport in the new year.

And finally, we say Hwyl Fawr to Ruth...

The AHP world in Wales has lost a real stalwart last month, as Ruth Crowder retired as the Chief Allied Health Professions Adviser. Ruth has been a real champion for the professions within government and has brought a wealth of experience to the role as a qualified occupational therapist and as a former policy officer for the Royal College of Occupational Therapists. Thank you for everything Ruth and enjoy your retirement!

AHPF Cymru are concerned that a successor to Ruth has yet to be appointed and has written to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services about next steps and how the key role will be covered in the interim.

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CYLCHLLYTHYR

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Rhifyn 2 Haf 2025

Dadl AHP yn y Senedd!

Am yr ail dro yn unig ers dechrau datganoli yn 1999, roedd gan AHPs ddadl bwrpasol yn y Senedd. Gyda chefnogaeth AHPF Cymru, cyflwynodd llefarydd Plaid Cymru ar iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol, Mabon ap Gwynfor AS, Gynnig, a gefnogwyd gan lefarydd iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig, James Evans AS, ac arweinydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, Jane Dodds AS. Nododd y Cynnig y rôl hanfodol a chwaraeodd AHPs wrth gynnal poblogaeth iach, trwy ganiatáu i bobl fod yn weithgar yn gymdeithasol ac yn economaidd. Galwodd hefyd ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ddatblygu strategaeth gweithlu hirdymor ar gyfer AHPs, cynyddu lleoliadau myfyrwyr ar gyfer AHPs; a chynyddu llwybrau at gymwysterau yng Nghymru i gwrdd â'r galw cynyddol.

Yn ystod y ddadl awr o hyd cafwyd cyfraniadau gan Mark Isherwood AS, Heledd Fychan AS, Gareth Davies AS, Jenny Rathbone AS a John Griffiths AS. Ymatebodd Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i'r ddadl hefyd a thalu teyrnged i waith AHPs yng Nghymru. Gellir dod o hyd i drawsgrifiad llawn o'r ddadl yma.

Cyfarfodydd maniffesto AHPF Cymru

Fel y soniwyd yn y cylchlythyr diwethaf, lansiodd AHPF Cymru maniffesto cyn etholiad y Senedd y flwyddyn nesaf ac rydym yn ymgysylltu'n weithredol â'r pleidiau gwleidyddol. Cynhaliwyd cyfarfodydd gyda'r gwleidyddion sy'n ysgrifennu'r maniffestos fel Alun Davies AS dros Lafur, Sam Rowlands AS dros y Ceidwadwyr a Mabon ap Gwynfor AS dros Blaid Cymru.

I'ch atgoffa, pum maes allweddol y maniffesto yw:

1.Strategaeth Genedlaethol y Gweithlu ar gyfer AHPs.

2.Mynediad amserol i wasanaethau AHP i'r rhai sy'n gweithio ym maes iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol.

3.Ehangu mynediad i'r proffesiynau AHP trwy archwilio llwybrau, mewn ymgynghoriad â'r proffesiynau, fel prentisiaethau gradd.

4.Sicrhau bod gwasanaethau o fewn y gymuned yn cael eu darparu mewn adeiladau addas.

5.Caniatáu i gleifion gael mynediad at wasanaethau AHP fel rhan o'u llwybr triniaeth.

Trafodaeth prentisiaethau

Mae AHPF Cymru wedi bod yn gweithio'n galed i wneud yr achos dros brentisiaethau gradd AHP. Mae'r aelodau wedi cwrdd ag arweinwyr Medr a Gwella Iechyd Cymru a hefyd â Phennaeth Prentisiaethau Llywodraeth Cymru i ddeall y cyd-destun, yr heriau a'r cyfleoedd yn well. Byddwn nawr yn gweithio ar ddogfen ddylanwadol ar y pwnc hwn.

Croeso Paul!

Yn ein cylchlythyr diwethaf fe wnaethom ffarwelio â David Davies, a adawodd ei rôl fel swyddog polisi ar gyfer Coleg Brenhinol y Therapyddion Galwedigaethol ond y tro hwn rydym yn falch iawn o groesawu ei olynydd, Paul Smith. Cyn hynny, Paul oedd Pennaeth Staff y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig yn y Senedd a fe oedd awdur y tri maniffesto ar gyfer etholiad y Senedd 2021 ac Etholiadau Cyffredinol y DU 2019 a 2024. Cyn hyn bu'n gweithio fel Rheolwr Materion Cyhoeddus i'r RSPCA. Yn ei amser hamdden mae Paul yn mwynhau cymryd rhan mewn drama amatur. Croeso cynnes iawn i chi Paul!

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Tymor y cynhadledd!

Ym mis Mai, teithiodd AHPF Cymru i Langollen i fynychu cynhadledd y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig a thrafod ein maniffesto gyda chynrychiolwyr etholedig ac aelodau'r blaid. Cafwyd trafodaethau adeiladol gyda rhanddeiliaid perthnasol. Isod, mae llun o gynrychiolwyr AHPF Cymru gydag Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid yn y DU, Kemi Badenoch AS, arweinydd y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig, Darren Millar AS a'r Farwnes Olivia Bloomfield.

Ym mis Mehefin, teithiodd AHPF Cymru i'r gogledd eto, ond y tro hwn i Landudno ar gyfer cynhadledd Llafur Cymru gyda bocs arall o'n maniffesto! Unwaith eto, trefnwyd stondin, a rhannwyd ein maniffesto yn eang gyda chynrychiolwyr etholedig gan gynnwys y Prif Weinidog, Eluned Morgan AS ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, Jeremy Miles AS.

Bydd AHPF Cymru hefyd yn bresennol yng nghynhadledd Plaid Cymru a gynhelir yn Abertawe ar y 10fed a'r 11eg o Hydref a chynhadledd Reform UK a gynhelir yng Nghasnewydd yn y flwyddyn newydd.

Ac yn olaf, rydyn ni'n dweud Hwyl Fawr i Ruth...

Mae'r byd AHP yng Nghymru wedi colli un o'n ffyddloniaid mis diwethaf, wrth i Ruth Crowder ymddeol fel Prif Gynghorydd y Proffesiynau Perthynol Iechyd. Mae Ruth wedi bod yn hyrwyddwr go iawn dros y proffesiynau o fewn y llywodraeth ac wedi dod â chyfoeth o brofiad i'r rôl fel therapydd galwedigaethol cymwysedig ac fel cyn-swyddog polisi ar gyfer Coleg Brenhinol y Therapyddion Galwedigaethol. Diolch am bopeth Ruth a mwynhewch eich ymddeoliad!

Mae AHPF Cymru yn pryderu nad yw olynydd i Ruth wedi'i benodi eto a rydyn wedi ysgrifennu at Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ynglŷn â'r camau nesaf a sut y bydd y rôl allweddol yn cael ei lenwi yn y cyfamser.