tystiolaeth pa mor bwysig yw sicrhau bod yr holl benderfyniadau yn y system derbyn gofal yn seiliedig ar ddarparu ar gyfer lles y plant hyn sydd mor hawdd i'w niweidio, yn hytrach na gadael i'r penderfyniadau gael eu dylanwadu gan ystyriaethau arbed arian tymor byr. Oherwydd, yn y tymor hir, er budd ein cymdeithas, rhaid i ni sicrhau bod anghenion ein plant yn ganolog i'r penderfyniadau a wnawn.

gael ei defnyddio i wella arferion comisiynu. Mae'r Comisiwn yn fenter ar y cyd rhwng Llywodraeth Cymru, Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru (CLlLC), Cymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru (ADSS Cymru) ac Arolygiaeth Safonau Gofal Cymru (ASGC).

11. Dywedodd y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol hefyd wrthym:

> "I am delighted that the committee is undertaking this review. I very much appreciate the advice that the committee will want to give on this important issue."[4]

[4] Y Cofnod, Para 168, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 22 Medi 2009

16. Wrth gydweddu plant a phobl ifanc â gofalwyr, disgwylir i awdurdodau sydd â chyfrifoldeb ystyried eu hanghenion diwylliannol, hiliol, ethnig, ieithyddol a chrefyddol.

17. Y bwriad yw y caiff y gwaith cydweddu hwn ei gyflawni drwy rannu gwybodaeth ac ystyriaethau sy'n cynnwys yr holl weithwyr proffesiynol perthnasol, y plentyn a'r teulu a'r gofalwyr posibl, eu teuluoedd hwy ac unrhyw blant neu bobl ifanc eraill sydd wedi'u lleoli.

18. Bwriedir i gytundebau lleoliadau maeth ysgrifenedig gynnwys cyfeiriadau penodol at elfennau o'r gofynion cydweddu a ystyriwyd wrth gytuno i'r lleoliad a nodi unrhyw feysydd lle mae angen cymorth ychwanegol ar rieni maeth i gau'r bylchau cydweddu rhwng y plentyn a'r gofalwr.

19. Disgwylir i awdurdodau sydd â chyfrifoldeb roi unrhyw hyfforddiant ychwanegol, unrhyw gymorth neu unrhyw wybodaeth i'r rhieni maeth ar gyfer anghenion penodol y plentyn.

> "People come forward, and they want to foster. They have their own families, and have children of different ages within their family, perhaps, so they have an idea of what sort of fostering they want to offer. What seems to happen is that we try to put children who do not necessarily fit into what they want into their homes and then we are surprised that the placements break down."[13]

31. Roedd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn cydnabod wrthym bod y ffaith bod lleoliadau'n torri i lawr o bryd i'w gilydd yn peri pryder, a bod hyn yn golygu y caiff rhai plant a phobl ifanc sydd yng ngofal awdurdodau lleol eu rhoi mewn nifer o leoliadau mewn blwyddyn. Dywedodd y Dirprwy Weinidog hefyd:

> "since 2006 there has been a 4 per cent reduction in the number of children who have had three or more placements in any year. That is not good enough, but it is a move in the right direction."[14]

32. Roedd y dystiolaeth gan y tystion yn awgrymu mwy nag un rheswm dros aneffeithiolrwydd wrth gynllunio lleoliadau. Awgrymwyd bod cynllunio lleoliad cyn y broses wirioneddol o ganfod a chomisiynu lleoliad yn cael ei handwyo gan y diffyg amser oedd yn cael ei dreulio ar asesiadau craidd a chynllunio lleoliadau, diffyg dewis cyffredinol o leoliadau a'r angen mewn sawl achos i sicrhau lleoliadau brys.

Asesiadau Craidd

33. Cyn cael eu rhoi mewn lleoliadau derbyn gofal, cynhelir 'asesiad craidd' o'r plant a'r bobl ifanc, er mwyn canfod eu hanghenion a'u pryderon. Dywedodd y Dirprwy Weinidog wrthym fod yr asesiad craidd ar ddechrau'r broses yn bwysig iawn[15] fel man cychwyn ar gyfer penderfynu ar leoliadau posibl ar gyfer y plentyn.

34. Dywedodd AGGCC, fodd bynnag, fod y nifer fawr o achosion ar gyfer gweithwyr cymdeithasol unigol o bryd i'w gilydd yn golygu y gall

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[13] Y Cofnod, Para 21, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009
[14] Y Cofnod, Para 94, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 22 Medi 2009
[15] Y Cofnod, Para 94, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 22 Medi 2009

yr asesiadau craidd o anghenion plant a phobl ifanc, a'r gwaith cynllunio dilynol ar gyfer eu lleoliad, fod yn frysiog ac yn arwynebol.[16]

35. Yn yr un modd dywedodd yr Ymddiriedolaeth Plant a Phobl Ifanc (TACT):

> "individual social work practice can vary tremendously given the experience of the social worker and the busyness in terms of their caseloads. We are finding that we are receiving referrals for children where, often, there has not been a complete assessment of their needs."[17]

36. Mae tystiolaeth yr ymchwiliad hwn yn dangos yn glir bod angen gwella ansawdd y cynlluniau gofal ar gyfer plant yng Nghymru sy'n derbyn gofal, os ydym am sicrhau gwell canlyniadau i'r plant a'r bobl ifanc hyn. Credwn fod angen cydweithio effeithiol a meithrin cysylltiadau da rhwng gweithwyr cymdeithasol a phlant a phobl ifanc er mwyn sicrhau cynlluniau gofal da, gan gynnwys amcanion penodol ar gyfer lleoliadau.

37. Fodd bynnag, rydym yn ymwybodol, hefyd, nad yw'n hawdd mynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn, gyda chanllawiau eisoes yn nodi'r gofynion ar gyfer yr asesiadau hyn. Dywedodd y Rhwydwaith Maethu wrthym:

> "The Schedule to the regulations sets out what should be agreed in advance. You would expect that when you have a good plan with identified outcomes for the child, it would lead you into the foster placement agreement, which is agreed in advance with the foster carer to show what we are trying to achieve, how we want to achieve it, what the carer's responsibility within that is, and what authority we give the carer within that. It should all be quite clear when they start out, but the reality is that that does not happen."[18]

38. Felly rydym yn awyddus i sicrhau y gall gweithwyr cymdeithasol wneud asesiad cywir o anghenion plant a phobl ifanc. Ym mhennod 4 o'r adroddiad hwn, nodir ein sylwadau ar wella'r cymorth ar gyfer gweithwyr cymdeithasol.

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[16] Y Cofnod, Para 164, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009
[17] Y Cofnod, Para 99, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009
[18] Y Cofnod, Para 80, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 22 Medi 2009

Dewis o Leoliadau

39. Er bod gwir anghenion y plentyn yn cael eu canfod, un arall o bryderon y tystion oedd y gallai'r diffyg dewis o ran lleoliadau derbyn gofal posibl amharu ar y gwaith o gynllunio gofal y plentyn dan sylw. Dywedodd y Rhwydwaith Maethu:

> "The work done by Loughborough University in its costs and outcomes study, which was undertaken across England and Wales, shows that those local authorities that were able to take great care when making a placement and in deciding where a child went were more likely to be effective at reducing the number of children rocketing through the care system, which is very bad for the children and also leads to progressively more expensive placements, so it is bad for local authorities and for children. So, the issue is that ability to take care when deciding the placement, and that requires a choice of families to be available."[19]

40. Yn yr un modd, dywedodd Cymdeithas Mabwysiadu a Maethu Prydain (BAAF):

> "there is not always a vacancy rate that allows you to plan… you start to think about a sibling group coming in, but you would be lucky to find a placement that could cope with a sibling group of three or four children."[20]

41. Efallai bod y broblem o opsiynau cyfyngedig oherwydd cydweddu gwael rhwng gofalwyr a phlant a phobl ifanc yn waeth am fod gofalwyr maeth o dan bwysau i dderbyn plant a phobl ifanc i'w gofal. Dywedodd Barnardo's wrthym:

> "foster carers are extremely well meaning people who want to do the best for children and young people, and who find it difficult to say 'no' to placement requests that are made to them… When that match of foster carers' skills and needs of

[19] Y Cofnod, Para 25, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 22 Medi 2009
[20] Y Cofnod, Para 23, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009

> young children does not come into play, the outcomes are negative."[21]

42. Yn wir, roedd y rhan fwyf o'r tystion yn cytuno nad oes digon o ofalwyr maeth ar gael i leoli plant a phobl ifanc, ac awgrymodd un tyst fod angen 700 yn fwy yng Nghymru, er mwyn galluogi cynllunwyr i gael digon o ddewis o ran lleoliadau posibl.[22] Dywedodd Dr Heather Payne wrthym:

> "We would need a fairly major foster care recruitment strategy in order to provide anything resembling a choice of foster placement."[23]

43. Pan soniwyd am y pryder hwn wrth y Dirprwy Weinidog, dywedodd:

> "Yr ydym wedi ceisio denu rheini maeth ar draws y sector. Mae'r sefyllfa'n gwella, ond, wrth gwrs, mae wastad mwy i'w wneud."[24]

44. Roedd tystiolaeth yr ymchwiliad hwn yn awgrymu nifer o ffyrdd posibl o recriwtio gofalwyr maeth ychwanegol, gan gynnwys talu ffioedd i'w cadw wrth gefn, cynnwys gofalwyr maeth yn y gwaith o gynllunio ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc sy'n dod i'w gofal, a gwella'r gwasanaethau cymorth a chyngor ar gyfer gofalwyr maeth. Rydym wedi cynnwys ein hystyriaeth fanwl o'r syniadau hyn ym mhennod 4 o'r adroddiad hwn, gan ein bod o'r farn y byddai'n ddefnyddiol i nifer y lleoliadau derbyn gofal yng Nghymru fod yn uwch na nifer y plant a phobl ifanc sydd angen y gofal hwnnw. Credwn fod posibilrwydd y byddai hyn yn caniatáu ar gyfer cydweddu plant a phobl ifanc â gofalwyr yn well, gan arwain at leoliadau mwy sefydlog.

45. Wrth wneud yr awgrym hwn, nodir sylwadau nifer o dystion y gallai llefydd gwag effeithio ar adnoddau ac y gallai olygu newid diwylliant mewn rhai awdurdodau lleol. Dywedodd Gweithredu dros Blant:

> "it is acceptable to carry a vacancy, because you can then match appropriately, but the expectation in many local

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[21] Y Cofnod, Para 96, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009
[22] Y Cofnod, Para 24, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 22 Medi 2009
[23] Y Cofnod, Para 67, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 6 Mehefin 2009
[24] Y Cofnod, Para 145, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 22 Medi 2009

> authorities is that you should function at full capacity, which does not allow for good matching."[25]

46. Rydym hefyd yn cydnabod sylwadau Cymdeithas Mabwysiadu a Maethu Prydain (BAAF) ei bod yn anodd penderfynu'n union faint o lefydd gwag sydd eu hangen er mwyn cydweddu'n fwy cywir:

> "some would say that you need a vacancy rate of at least 10 to 15 per cent to be able to make an effective match… That figure itself masks a complexity because, in a sense, the vacancy might be 10 per cent for children under the age of five, but you need to consider the vacancy rate for the particular children or child whom you have in mind."[26]

47. Yn wir, dywedodd y tystion fod angen gofalwyr maeth arbenigol ar gyfer grwpiau arbennig o blant a phobl ifanc sydd ag anghenion penodol. Dywedodd TACT Cymru wrthym mai'r gred yw bod tua 70% o blant sydd wedi derbyn gofal wedi cael eu cam-drin a'u hesgeuluso yn y gorffennol, sy'n golygu bod angen gofalwyr medrus ac arbenigol.[27] Dangosodd tystiolaeth yn yr ymchwiliad hwn hefyd, efallai bod angen gofalwyr arbenigol er mwyn maethu plant a phobl ifanc du ac o leiafrifoedd ethnig, plant anabl, plant sy'n siarad Cymraeg a phlant, er enghraifft, sy'n dangos ymddygiad rhywiol. Fel y dywedodd Cymdeithas Mabwysiadu a Maethu Prydain, mae'n gamarweiniol i siarad am ofal maeth fel un peth; mae'n cuddio amrywiaeth eang o anghenion.[28]

48. Er hynny, mae'n amlwg bod angen mwy o ofalwyr maeth yng Nghymru, a mwy o ofalwyr maeth sydd â sgiliau arbenigol i ofalu am grwpiau penodol o blant, er mwyn gallu cynnig dewis o leoliadau posibl i'r bobl sy'n gwneud penderfyniadau.

Lleoliadau Brys

49. Caiff y gwaith o gynllunio lleoliadau ei andwyo hefyd, wrth gwrs, gan yr angen, weithiau, am leoliadau brys. I raddau, mae hyn yn wirionedd anochel, a dywedodd TACT Cymru:

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[25] Y Cofnod, Para 181, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009
[26] Y Cofnod, Para 25, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009
[27] Y Cofnod, Para 111, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009
[28] Y Cofnod, Para 7, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009

> "We often see same-day placements being made in an emergency and in crisis, rather than being planned."[29]

50. Yn yr un modd, dywedodd NSPCC CYMRU:

> "we recognise that many placements are arranged on an emergency basis, and that they cannot be planned and necessarily be well thought out."[30]

51. Credwn y dylai lleoliadau brys, nas cynllunnir, gael eu cadw'n drefniadau tymor byr. Pan gaiff lleoliad brys o'r fath ei wneud, credwn ei bod yn hanfodol y caiff cynlluniau ar gyfer lleoliad gofal hirdymor y plentyn gael eu gwneud yn gyflym, gyda'r plentyn neu'r person ifanc yn cael eu hysbysu'n llawn o'r trefniadau sy'n cael eu gwneud. Nid yw hyn yn golygu y dylai'r plentyn gael ei symud ymlaen yn awtomatig o leoliad brys tymor byr. Rydym yn cydnabod y gallai rhai plant deimlo'n gyfforddus iawn yn eu lleoliad cychwynnol, ac nad ydynt am symud. Yn wir, cafwyd tystiolaeth gadarnhaol gan Barnardo's Cymru bod pobl ifanc eisoes yn cymryd rhan yn y dewis o leoliad parhaol sy'n berthnasol iddynt.[31]

52. Yn hytrach, credwn y dylai cynllun gofal ar gyfer y plentyn, a allai gynnwys eu bod yn aros yn eu lleoliad cychwynnol, gael ei baratoi'n gyflym, gyda dymuniadau'r plentyn yn cael ystyriaeth amlwg. Fel y dywedodd Plant yng Nghymru:

> "If it is an emergency placement, it is not always possible to involve the child effectively at every point, but that does not mean to say that we cannot involve the child. We need to do it as soon afterwards as we can to make sure that their concerns are fed in."[32]

53. Rydym yn pryderu y gallai oedi'r broses hon, a gadael person ifanc mewn ansicrwydd, ynghyd â'r trafferthion gwreiddiol a arweiniodd at roi'r person ifanc mewn lleoliad derbyn gofal, gael effaith andwyol ar ei iechyd emosiynol ac iechyd meddwl. Yn wir, dywedodd NSPCC CYMRU wrthym y gall diffyg sefydlogrwydd arwain at

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[29] Y Cofnod, Para 95, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009
[30] Y Cofnod, Para 98, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 24 Tachwedd 2009
[31] Y Cofnod, Para 128, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009
[32] Y Cofnod, Para 60, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009.

60. Ar y cyfan, hefyd, mae'r tystion yn cytuno bod y wybodaeth a gaiff ei chynhyrchu gan yr adnodd hwn yn hwyluso awdurdodau lleol i gynllunio darpariaeth lleoliadau yn well. Dywedodd CLlLC:

> "When that database was initially commissioned, it led to us having much more valuable information. It is a resource that lets us know what the provision is across Wales, and that is the first time that we have been able to do so."[38]

61. Dywedodd CLlLC hefyd bod yr adnodd wedi bod yn fan cychwyn ar gyfer ffyrdd o gyd-gomisiynu rhwng awdurdodau lleol:

> "there is an excellent initiative across south-east Wales, which connects the south-east Wales agenda, where 10 authorities have worked together to develop a regional commissioning approach to work with our partners in the independent sector."[39]

62. Bellach, mae holl awdurdodau lleol Cymru yn gwneud defnydd o'r gronfa ddata hon. O gofion hanes Cymru o wahanol awdurdodau lleol yn gweithio ar wahân ar gyfer eu plant a'u pobl ifanc eu hunain, a gwneud taliadau gwahanol i ofalwyr maeth, credwn fod hyn, ynddo'i hun, yn llwyddiant sylweddol.

Problemau o ran defnyddio'r Adnodd Cymorth Comisiynu ar gyfer Plant (CCSR)

63. Fodd bynnag, soniodd rhai o dystion yr ymchwiliad am broblemau gyda'r gronfa ddata:

- ymddengys bod rhai defnyddwyr yn cael problemau o ran diweddaru'r wybodaeth;
- ymddengys nad oedd rhai awdurdodau lleol yn defnyddio'r adnodd yn gyson;
- nid yw'r adnodd, ar hyn o bryd, yn cynnwys lleoliadau mewnol a ddarperir yn uniongyrchol gan yr awdurdod lleol;

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[38] Y Cofnod, Para 12, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009
[39] Y Cofnod, Para 12, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009

- ni all darparwyr annibynnol ddefnyddio'r data felly ni allant gynllunio'u darpariaeth eu hunain.

64. Er enghraifft, dywedodd Gweithredu dros Blant:

> "we input information to the database, but we cannot get information back out of it. That information is held by local authorities, so we are not able to target our recruitment in the way that we were able to. So, we have a mixed response on the value of the database system."[40]

65. Yn ogystal, dywedodd TACT Cymru:

> "we have the children's commissioning support resource database, which local authorities are supposed to be signed up to and working with, but we are finding that they are not totally signed up to or working with it. Referrals come on an ad hoc basis and they do not always come via the database. So, I would say that we are, in fact, working with about five different systems."[41]

66. Awgrymodd Gweithredu dros Blant hefyd mai'r rheswm bod rhai awdurdodau lleol yn cael eu hystyried yn anghyson o ran defnyddio'r gronfa ddata oedd:

> "things change on a daily basis in the world of fostering. It is very hard to ensure that that database is up to date on a day-to-day basis, as a live system. So, I think that some of the frustrations from the local authority may be down to the fact that, when they access the database and see that there are, for example, three placements that meet the criteria available, when they make contact, they find that they are not available, because the database has not been updated and things have changed."[42]

67. Cytunodd CLlLC ei bod yn hanfodol i'r gronfa ddata gael ei diweddaru'n rheolaidd gan ddarparwyr, gan nodi:

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[40] Y Cofnod, Para 97, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009
[41] Y Cofnod, Para 82, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009
[42] Y Cofnod, Para 104, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009

> "A database system is only as good as the information that you put into it. It tends to direct you to a tick-box approach. It is the narrative behind some of that that is missing from it. You cannot get at that information until you have the conversation with somebody, and because the database system prohibits you from having those conversations at an early stage, it is very difficult to get at that information. We get requests for placements with carers who can deal with sexualised behaviour, but you have no idea what that means and, in one case, we discovered that it meant that the child was using sexualised language. So, there are all the nuances that a tick-box system does not allow you to elaborate on. It inhibits that sharing of information, and tends to keep it very bald."[45]

70. Yn yr un modd, dywedodd Barnardo's Cymru:

> "the CCSR database obviously supplies a lot of useful information about numbers, such as numbers of carers across Wales, but it is important that it is not used as the sole matching tool. I think that there was some risk that local authorities would run a search for carers and come up with 'Yes, this agency has a carer' but would try to match on that basis with limited information. The CCSR is a tick box, and it might deal with what the carer feels that they can manage, but you need far more than that when matching carers to children."[46]

71. Er bod yr Adnodd Cymorth Comisiynu ar gyfer Plant yn ddyfais ddefnyddiol, dywedodd Cymdeithas Mabwysiadu a Maethu Prydain hefyd na ddylai'r adnodd hwn rwystro awdurdodau lleol rhag siarad yn uniongyrchol â darparwyr annibynnol wrth gomisiynu lleoliadau maethu, gan ddweud:

> "nothing can replace knowing the child's needs inside out. Databases can be a guide and can help, but they will never replace that. The danger is that they can be seen as a replacement."[47]

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[45] Y Cofnod, Para 107, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009
[46] Y Cofnod, Para 102, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009
[47] Y Cofnod, Para 29, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009

72. Fodd bynnag, pwysleisiodd y swyddogion llywodraeth leol nad oedd unrhyw fwriad i gronfa ddata'r Adnodd rwystro awdurdodau lleol rhag gwneud cysylltiad uniongyrchol â sefydliadau. Dywedodd CLlLC:

> "we were clear from the beginning that this is not an electronic abdication of local authorities' responsibility to find a really good placement for the child, along with the ongoing assessment and care management. We had a number of problems in the beginning because people thought that it would do everything. That is why it is called CCSR. Those words were chosen very carefully. This is not a central commissioning function through which local authorities have abdicated their responsibility; it is a support resource…. if there are a couple of potential matches, they have to go and assess them, as they would have done if they were using the Yellow Pages or because they know Mary and that she has been a good foster carer. It is the same process. All that we have done with the children's commissioning support resource is to make it electronic, systemise it, make it real time and record it, so, for the first time, there is documentary evidence as to why a placement is chosen, as opposed to a social worker saying, 'Well, we've always done it this way.'"[48]

73. Yn wir, dangosodd swyddogion yr Adnodd mai ychydig iawn o wybodaeth sydd angen ei rhoi i greu lle gwag ar y gronfa ddata, gan ddweud mai'r cyfan fyddai angen i ddarparwr ei wneud fyddai:

> "key in about four or five pieces of information to set up a vacancy, and it is possible that you may have heard that this is difficult, so I wish to dispel that notion in this session. It is a fairly simple thing to do to set up a vacancy."[49]

74. Credwn na all y wybodaeth fwriadol, a hanfodol gyfyngedig, a ddarperir gan yr Adnodd gymryd lle trafodaethau rhwng pobl. Yn rhyfedd iawn, mewn oes pan fydd swyddogion yn aml yn trafod yr angen am gyfrifiaduron a thechnolegau i siarad â'i gilydd, mae angen mawr i bobl siarad â'i gilydd yn fwy aml hefyd.

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[48] Y Cofnod, Para 44 a 61, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 24 Tachwedd 2009
[49] Y Cofnod, Para 17, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 24 Tachwedd 2009

- Angela Burns AC

77. Cododd llawer o dystion bryderon y gallai pwysau ariannol ar awdurdodau lleol arwain at wneud penderfyniadau cynllunio lleoliad yn ôl pris yn hytrach nag anghenion y plentyn. Am ei bod yn bosibl mai ychydig iawn o wybodaeth y gall yr Adnodd ei darparu ar gyfer lleoliadau, dywedodd y tystion ei bod yn ymddangos bod y gwaith tendro yn digwydd drwy ganolbwyntio ar bris yn hytrach nag anghenion y plentyn.

78. Er enghraifft, dywedodd Gweithredu dros Blant wrthym:

> "local authorities, when they receive the tender bids for those placements, have a matrix that they then use to score those bids. Unfortunately, price has quite a high level of importance on that matrix. As it is not a transparent process, there is no way of challenging that."[52]

79. Yn yr un modd, dywedodd Barnardo's Cymru:

> "on occasion, the wrong matches are made in local authority placements in order to avoid the big decisions about financing the more expensive placements…
>
> We are being informed, as an agency, that if we do not put down how much our service costs we will not even be considered for a placement. That shows how fundamental, in a way, the cost is, when the carer that you have could be the ideal carer. If you do not put the price down, they will not consider the placement. So, I think that finance is very high up on the agenda."[53]

80. Dywedodd TACT Cymru, hefyd, y gallai'r canfyddiad o gostau lleoliadau annibynnol fod yn anghywir weithiau, a dywedodd na chaiff rhai costau eu hystyried wrth gymharu pris lleoliad annibynnol o'i gymharu â lleoliad mewnol.[54] Soniodd TACT hefyd y gallai barn fyrdymor olygu ei bod yn bosibl y byddai awdurdodau lleol yn dewis y

[52] Y Cofnod, Para 120, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009
[53] Y Cofnod, Para 95 a 103, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009
[54] Y Cofnod, Para 86, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009

mathau rhataf o ofal plant a fyddai ar gael i ddechrau, ond heb fod o'r ansawdd gorau neu'r canlyniad hirdymor mwyaf cadarnhaol.

81. Ein pryder yw y gallai'r system hon arwain at ddarparwyr annibynnol cystadleuol yn codi prisiau is, gan arwain at lai o gymorth a hyfforddiant ar gyfer gofalwyr maeth. Byddai hyn, yn ei dro, yn arwain at niwed a chostau yn y tymor hwy, gan na fyddai plant a phobl ifanc yn cael y cymorth llawn y dylent ei gael.

82. Roedd CLlLC yn cydnabod gwerth canolbwyntio ar ganlyniadau lleoliadau yn hytrach na chostau. Awgrymodd y byddai'r 'South East Wales Improvement Collaborative Children's Services Commissioning Project' yn hwyluso 10 o awdurdodau yn ne ddwyrain Cymru:

> "to start on outcome-based procurement, as opposed to saying, 'Yes, we have a placement; thank goodness, let's stop worrying about that'… What is driving it is the consistency of outcomes. The real spin-off is that the providers are really engaged because they feel, for the first time, that their skills have been recognised and that they are being asked to help to shape the market in a collaborative way."[55]

83. Eglurodd CLlLC y byddai'r prosiect hwn yn galluogi awdurdodau lleol yn y ffordd ganlynol:

> "use the CCSR database to short list potential suitable placements for a child. Providers short listed will be then offered the opportunity to tender for the placement outlining how their foster placement will offer the best care and outcomes for that child. As part of this process the child's care plan (personal details anonymised) will be sent to the short listed providers so that they have the information required to make a decision as to whether their provision has the skills needed. In sending the child's care plan to prospective providers this ensures that agencies if successful will have the information required to pass onto chosen foster carers."[56]

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[55] Y Cofnod, Para 74, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009
[56] Tystiolaeth ysgrifenedig, CLlLC, http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-other-committees/bus-committees-third-cyp-home/bus-committees-third-cyp-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=147641&ds=11/2009

chyfleu i ofalwyr ac mae hyn yn beryglus.[60] Yn yr un modd, dywedodd Gweithredu dros Blant:

> "I do not think that I would advocate foster carers reading local authority files, because I think that it is the professional analysis of that information that makes it relevant. I do not think that it would be particularly helpful for foster carers to read that information. Somebody who is able to professionally analyse the information that is in there should be reading it and should be doing an overview of what that child's life has been like and what the child's needs are."[61]

91. Rhwystr arall y cyfeiriodd y tystion ato o ran rhannu gwybodaeth yw swyddogaethau newidiol gweithwyr cymdeithasol. Dywedodd Cymdeithas Mabwysiadu a Maethu Prydain:

> "social workers could be moving around and failing to collect the information or a new social worker may not have got that information together to be able to share it."[62]

92. Yn yr un modd, awgrymodd Plant yng Nghymru:

> "When it works, it works exceptionally well, where there is that good, healthy, consistent relationship between a key worker and the foster carer. Too often, there is a constant change of staff, which is having an impact. That is where gaps are created and things fall between them. Information is not passed on and the file is completed by several different people over the life course of the child. So, the more changes there are, the more risks there are to information not being captured and not being shared effectively."[63]

93. Roedd tystion eraill yn pryderu y gallai awdurdodau lleol fod o dan yr argraff y gallai gwybodaeth annymunol rwystro darpar ofalwyr maeth rhag maethu plentyn. Er enghraifft, dywedodd TACT:

> "there still exists, for some workers in some local authorities, a mistrust of the independent sector, and, within that mistrust,

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[60] Cyflwyniad ysgrifenedig gan Plant yng Nghymru
[61] Y Cofnod, Para 152, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009
[62] Y Cofnod, Para 54, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 22 Medi 2009
[63] Y Cofnod, Para 50, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009

96. Fodd bynnag, roedd tystiolaeth yr ymchwiliad yn dangos nad oedd eglurder o ran y ffordd o ymdrin â gwybodaeth ddi-sail. Roedd y Pwyllgor yn ddiolchgar i'r Dirprwy Weinidog am ddarparu nifer o enghreifftiau damcaniaethol o sefyllfaoedd yr oedd Llywodraeth Cymru o'r farn na fyddai'n briodol rhannu gwybodaeth â gofalwr maeth. Roedd y rhain yn cynnwys enghreifftiau lle roedd gwybodaeth am deulu biolegol y plentyn yn berthnasol i'w lleoliad maeth, fel:

> "A 10 year old girl is placed with foster carers. Her mother is HIV positive. Unless the local authority is satisfied that that it is relevant for the foster carers to know that the mother is HIV positive, this information should not be shared."[67]

97. Rhoddodd Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd enghraifft o sefyllfaoedd lle y byddai angen caniatâd y plentyn i rannu gwybodaeth, fel:

> "A 12 year old boy is placed with foster carers. He has disclosed information in confidence to a psychotherapist within therapy sessions. This information would not be shared with foster carers."[68]

98. Rydym yn cydnabod pa mor gymhleth yw cyfleu gwybodaeth ddisail i ofalwyr maeth. Rydym hefyd yn nodi y gallai fod yn angenrheidiol cael caniatâd y plentyn neu deuluoedd biolegol cyn rhannu rhai mathau o wybodaeth, oni bai mai'r farn yw ei bod yn hanfodol o ran galluogi'r gofalwyr maeth i ddarparu gofal (a chydymffurfio, felly, â'u dyletswyddau rheoliadol).

99. Er hynny, roedd y rhan fwyaf o'r tystion, gan gynnwys AGGCC, yn pwysleisio mai diogelwch ddylai fod yn brif ystyriaeth i ni ac y dylai'r rhan fwyaf o wybodaeth gael ei rhannu fel arfer. Credwn y dylai plant a phobl ifanc gael eu cynnwys yn y broses o rannu gwybodaeth amdanynt, gan gynnwys rhoi caniatâd i rannu gwybodaeth os yw hynny'n angenrheidiol ac yn bosibl.

100. Rydym wedi nodi, â chryn ddiddordeb, enghraifft o arfer da a roddodd CLlLC i ni, lle roedd awdurdod lleol yn Sir Benfro yn rhoi

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[67] Tystiolaeth ysgrifenedig, Llywodraeth Cymru: Ymchwiliad y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc i'r Trefniadau ar gyfer Lleoli Plant mewn Gofal, Tystiolaeth gan Lywodraeth Cymru, 17 Hydref 2009, Atodiad C.
[68] Ibid.

efallai bod angen cael caniatâd y plentyn. Fodd bynnag, os nad oes rheswm cyfreithiol dros beidio â rhannu gwybodaeth, credwn y dylai'r wybodaeth honno, fel arfer, gael ei rhannu. Hyd yn oed pan fydd rheswm cyfreithiol penodol, fel hawl yr unigolyn o dan y Ddeddf Hawliau Dynol, credwn y dylai awdurdodau lleol geisio dod o hyd i atebion i'r rhwystrau hyn, er enghraifft drwy geisio cael caniatâd i rannu gwybodaeth. Credwn fod hyn yn hanfodol, gan fod gofalwyr maeth mewn sefyllfa fregus o beidio gwybod yr hyn nad yw'n hysbys iddynt, er gwaethaf y ffaith bod angen gwybodaeth ar ofalwyr maeth am y plant a'r bobl ifanc sy'n dod i'w gofal:

- er mwyn eu galluogi i wneud penderfyniad cytbwys o ran a ydynt yn ofalwyr addas ar gyfer y plentyn;
- er mwyn gallu darparu'r gofal gorau posibl ar gyfer anghenion y plentyn unigol;
- er mwyn sicrhau diogelwch y plentyn sy'n dod i'w gofal ac, o bosibl, y bobl eraill a ddaw i gysylltiad â'r plentyn.

106. Felly roedd y Pwyllgor yn falch o benderfyniad y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol, ar 14 Rhagfyr 2009, i ysgrifennu at gyfarwyddwyr y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, penaethiaid y gwasanaethau plant a darparwyr maeth annibynnol yng Nghymru, gyda'r bwriad o egluro'r rheolau o ran rhannu gwybodaeth. Dywedodd:

> "We know that the majority of local authorities already fully inform foster carers about the past history and experiences of children prior to placement. However, it is clear that in some cases, foster carers have not had access to sufficiently detailed information and have been unable to make fully informed decisions about whether they are suitable carers for that child, about how they might best provide for the needs of the child, ensure their safety and where necessary the safety of others who come into contact with the child being fostered."[73]

[73] Llythyr gan Gwenda Thomas AC, y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol at gyfarwyddwyr y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, penaethiaid y gwasanaethau plant a darparwyr maeth annibynnol yng Nghymru, 14 Rhagfyr 2009

child's needs. However, whether that happens consistently is another matter."[76]

111. Dywedodd y Dirprwy Weinidog wrthym fod Llywodraeth Cymru yn cydnabod yr angen i rannu gwybodaeth, a dywedodd:

> "We have looked at the need to share information, and it has to be shared within the health community, the education community, and right across the board. These IFSTs [sic: Integrated Family Support Teams] could be used to trial more effective ways of information sharing. That gives us an opportunity, because requirements for the IFSTs are based on statutory duties, and so it becomes a statutory duty for health to work with education, for education to work with health, for health to work with social services, and so on. This is the first time that we have been in that position, with a statutory duty for the agencies to work together, and it will produce practical examples of how we can improve the situation. I believe that these IFSTs could break down barriers within local authorities and show how they can be overcome."[77]

112. Dywedwyd wrthym hefyd bod gan Awdurdod Lleol Caerffili brotocol ar gyfer rhannu gwybodaeth rhwng asiantaethau yn ymwneud â chyfnewid gwybodaeth iechyd am blant sy'n derbyn gofal, a bod hyn yn gweithio'n dda ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc a gaiff eu lleoli yn yr awdurdod lleol neu mewn awdurdodau cyfagos. Roedd cyflwyniad ysgrifenedig Dr Heather Payne yn argymell i ni:

> "Every Local Authority and Trust/LHB should have written agreed interagency protocols dealing with the gathering of consent for health assessments, the sharing and maintenance of health information and personal documentation for the LAC [sic: Looked After Children] and the interagency sharing of personal information for the purposes of discharging joint responsibilities. Unnecessary bureaucratic barriers to effective working should be removed. There should be quality monitoring/control/assurance mechanisms in place, including regular interagency review of statistics, performance and

[76] Y Cofnod, Para 34, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009
[77] Y Cofnod, Para 158, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 22 Medi 2009

115. Yn wir, fel y dywedodd un plentyn, yn ystod ymweliad i gwrdd â phobl ifanc sydd â phrofiad o'r system gofal ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr, fod angen i bobl broffesiynol 'siarad â mi cyn i chi ddweud fy nghyfrinach wrth eraill.'[80]

116. Yn hytrach, credwn y dylai plant a phobl ifanc gael rheolaeth bendant dros wybodaeth, ac y dylid gofyn iddynt a ydynt am i'r wybodaeth gael ei rhannu gyda'r bobl broffesiynol - ai peidio. Pan gaiff asesiadau iechyd eu cynnal yng Nghaerffili ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal, dywedodd Dr. Heather Payne wrthym ei bod yn arferiad rhoi copi o'r wybodaeth i'w gofalwr maeth a'r meddyg teulu:

> "[because] we'll ask the child at the beginning of the consultation if they're happy to share this information."[81]

[80] Cyfarfod â Phobl Ifanc i drafod Lleoli Plant mewn Gofal, Tud 1.
[81] Y Cofnod, Para 50, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 6 Mehefin 2009

> "If they are to be truly independent—and in a previous life I was an alleged independent reviewing officer but working for a local authority—then I would suggest that those services need to be commissioned from another organisation in order to achieve that absolute independence."[84]

121. Fodd bynnag, dywedodd yr AGGCC wrthym nad oedd wedi dod ar draws unrhyw dystiolaeth glir o ddiffyg annibyniaeth y Swyddogion. Dywedodd AGGCC:

> "There was some concern that the IROs would not be strong enough or independent enough to make their voices heard. That was not a problem that we found in the review."[85]

122. Yn wir, barn y rhan fwyaf o'r tystion oedd bod gwaith y Swyddogion Adolygu Annibynnol yn werthfawr iawn, gan fod y gallu ganddynt i ddylanwadu ar amrywiaeth o wasanaethau (Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, Iechyd ac Addysg). Awgrymodd Voices from Care:

> "As I see it, the social services team managers do not have much influence over education and health. There are three players, and none seems to be able to influence the others or say, 'Come on; hurry up. Tell us what you are doing'. So, I think that their [IRO's] role should be to have influence over all of those services, including adult services. They should be able to say to adult services, 'Okay, we may not meet the criteria, but you have some responsibility for this young person'. So, I think that they need to have quite a powerful role over whatever agency is working with the young person."[86]

123. Yn wir, er na chafodd y Swyddogion Adolygu Annibynnol eu hystyried yn y bennod flaenorol, rydym yn ymwybodol y gallant chwarae rhan bwysig o ran rhannu gwybodaeth fel rhan o'u gwaith wrth gasglu gwybodaeth ar gyfer adolygu lleoliadau gan y gwahanol feysydd sy'n cwmpasu gwaith cymdeithasol, iechyd ac addysg.

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[84] Y Cofnod, Para 146, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009
[85] Y Cofnod, Para 186, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009
[86] Y Cofnod, Para 45, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 6 Hydref 2009

124. Fodd bynnag, awgrymodd rhai tystion y byddai'n ddefnyddiol cryfhau rôl y Swyddogion Adolygu Annibynnol. Awgrymodd Voices from Care:

> "The IROs should have more of a monitoring role; not where they are constantly involved with the case, but where there are decisions that involve a timescale, or assessments to get done that have been recommended to keep a placement stable. In that kind of case, they should be asking whether these things have been done, and putting a bit of pressure on if things are not happening within the timescale. You find that some independent reviewing officers seem to have a knowledge of how things have been for the young person in between reviews, and then you get others who say, 'Let's catch up about the last six months', and anything could have happened in that time. They need to have a bit of a watching brief, and, in some cases, intervention may not be needed, or it may mean nothing more than a phone call to a social worker or whatever, if everything is going smoothly. However, in other cases, where people are waiting for information, then it may be that they have more of a role in bringing things together."[87]

125. Wrth wneud adolygiad, ac wrth i gynllun gofal gael ei newid, credwn ei bod yn hanfodol fod asesiadau yn symud ymlaen ac yn datblygu, gan fonitro'r penderfyniadau a gaiff eu gweithredu. Credwn y byddai hyn yn sicrhau na fydd adolygiadau'r dyfodol yn gwneud dim ond ailadrodd y rhai a ddigwyddodd yn y gorffennol, gan wneud i'r plentyn golli diddordeb yn yr holl broses. Mae'n hanfodol na chaiff yr adolygiadau eu hystyried yn ddigwyddiadau ynysig heb ddilyniant.

126. Felly rydym yn croesawu sylwadau'r Dirprwy Weinidog bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn cydnabod yr angen i symud tuag at roi dyletswyddau newydd i Swyddogion Adolygu Annibynnol a chryfhau eu prosesau gweithio, a'i bod yn symud ymlaen yn hynny o beth.[88] Dywedodd un o swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru wrthym y bydd y Llywodraeth yn ymgynghori ar y canlynol:

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[87] Y Cofnod, Para 40, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 6 Hydref 2009
[88] Y Cofnod, Para 136, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 22 Medi 2009

permanent or long-term and there is a lack of understanding about what that means. A review will often also look at whether a rehabilitation home is possible. We know that some families will change over a period of time, but it can be confusing and unsettling for children and for foster carers when each review even when a long-term plan has been agreed asks whether a rehabilitation home is a possibility."[90]

130. Esboniodd TACT na roddir digon o ystyriaeth, yn aml iawn, i faterion syml a fyddai'n hwyluso gwell ymgysylltiad â'r plentyn a theuluoedd:

> "Too often, we see that reviews are held in inappropriate settings. We think that the child ought to be the person to choose where the review is held, and often, that should be in the foster home. Too often, the review can become overly professionalised, so that too many adults are there, and it is difficult for children to make their voices heard."[91]

131. Yn yr un modd, dywedodd AGGCC:

> "Sometimes the issue is not so much about attendance of all of the participants, but more to do with the fact that there is too many of them in the room. Therefore, it is about trying to get some of these formal procedures right without them overwhelming the child and the young person so that their full involvement can be assured… Young people have often said that the best IROs and chairs of reviews start with a young person's views, outcomes, and what they want. The least experienced IROs have a plan that they work to, and the child's views is somewhere in that plan. So, there is something about the expertise, knowledge and ability of the IROs, but we generally found that IROs were highly respected individuals and were very skilled and experienced… On the further improvements that are needed, young people need to be given more choice in relation to the venue for reviews and to play a fuller part in the review process."[92]

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[90] Y Cofnod, Para 113, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009
[91] Y Cofnod, Para 118, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009
[92] Y Cofnod, Para 187-189, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009

132. Soniodd y bobl ifanc eu hunain wrthym am bryderon tebyg. Dywedodd llawer o bobl ifanc wrthym, mewn cyfarfod anffurfiol, eu bod yn pryderu nad yw eu hymatebion i bapurau ymgynghori, sy'n gofyn beth maent am ei gael ac a gaiff eu dosbarthu cyn cyfarfodydd adolygu, yn cael eu darllen cyn y cyfarfodydd hynny. O ganlyniad, os oedd person ifanc wedi nodi nad oedd am i rywun penodol fod yn y cyfarfod adolygu, y gwir yw y byddai'r cais yn cael ei anwybyddu. Gallai hyn olygu, er enghraifft, y byddai'n cael ei holi o flaen y teulu biolegol a'r teulu maeth, er nad oedd am i'r ddau deulu fod yn bresennol.[93]

133. Credwn y dylai cyfraniad plant sy'n derbyn gofal, mewn cyfarfodydd lleoli, fod yn realistig, ac y dylid caniatáu i'r plant a'r bobl ifanc gael rhywfaint o reolaeth dros y lleoliad, er enghraifft, a nifer y bobl fydd yn y cyfarfodydd hynny. Mae'n bosibl y gallai hynny gynnwys pobl yn y cyfarfodydd nad ydynt yn weithwyr proffesiynol, gyda grŵp o feibion a merched gofalwyr maeth yn dweud yr hoffent gael eu cynnwys mewn trafodaethau am y lleoliadau.[94] Cyflwynodd y Rhwydwaith Maethu enghraifft o arfer da i ni:

> "We know from the independent reviewing officers' report that a fifth of children do not attend their own review, where a group of people discuss the way forward for them. Would you want to sit in a room with a dozen people talking about you? I would not. A very good system has been developed to support children to make the decision about who attends. They are helped to work through it if there are people whom they think should not be there, or to ensure that those people are only there for part of the meeting or something like that. They are helped through the whole process and they get to a point— dependent on age and capability— when they can chair their own reviews. I have not been able to find an example of that happening in Wales, but I think that that is a way forward that we should be looking at. There are so many benefits to it: you are looking at citizenship, people's participation, and allowing

[93] Nodyn o gyfarfod anffurfiol rhwng Aelodau'r Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc a phobl ifanc yn y system gofal yng Nghymru, neu sydd â phrofiad ohoni, 6 Hydref 2009, tudalen 1.
[94] Y Cofnod, Para 91, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 8 Rhagfyr 2009

> carer, she had stated that she did not feel they got on, her wishes were ignored and not taken into account, and she had to go on the placement anyway. She stated that the placement broke down, and the young person ended up homeless and was concerned about the implications of being homeless for herself and her child, and her homelessness being used to say she was unable to provide for her child. She considered that if her opinion that did not get on with the carer had been listened to in the first place, the situation of homelessness could have been avoided."[98]

138. Pwysleisiodd y tystion wrthym y dylai plant a phobl ifanc fod yn rhan o'r penderfyniadau a wneir am eu lleoliad o ddechrau'r broses. Dylid ymgynghori â hwy, gwrando arnynt a'u hysbysu o'r hyn sy'n digwydd. Ychydig iawn y mae plant a phobl ifanc yn ei ddeall am yr hyn sy'n digwydd iddynt a'r opsiynau sydd ar gael iddynt, yn arbennig o ran y lleoliad cyntaf, felly mae'n hanfodol eu bod yn cael eglurhad o hyn. Dywedodd Plant yng Nghymru:

> "It is not just about ascertaining the wishes and feelings of the child; it is about ensuring that the child is clear about the information, understands the information and what is happening, and understands the future options open to them. Much of this will take time, particularly given that we are talking about different groups of children, including very young children and disabled children. Practitioners need the additional skills and capacities to spend time. With asylum-seeking children, a pool of interpreters will also be needed, so there are additional challenges."[99]

139. Rydym yn cydnabod nad yw bob amser yn bosibl cynnwys plant a phobl ifanc yn effeithiol mewn penderfyniadau lleoliad mewn achosion brys ond, fel y nodwyd yn ein pennod gyntaf, gellir defnyddio adolygiad yn fuan wedyn er mwyn caniatáu i blant a phobl ifanc gael cyfle i fynegi barn. Credwn y bydd cynnwys plant a phobl ifanc yn

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[98] Nodyn o gyfarfod anffurfiol rhwng Aelodau'r Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc a phobl ifanc yn y system gofal yng Nghymru, neu sydd â phrofiad ohoni, 6 Hydref 2009, tudalen 1.

[99] Y Cofnod, Para 59, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009

> decisions. It is very clear. We go back again to the implementation gap in many years."[102]

142. Credwn y byddai'n bosibl cynorthwyo plant a phobl ifanc i gymryd rhan fwy effeithiol mewn penderfyniadau am eu proses leoli drwy gael gwared â'r gred y soniodd rhai tystion amdani fod angen i blant a phobl ifanc allu cyflwyno rhesymeg dechnegol neu gymhleth ar gyfer gweithredu eu dymuniadau. Dywedodd Voices from Care:

> "There is this idea that young people have to have a really strong argument, when sometimes their argument is 'I like these people', or 'I'm not happy; I want to move', or 'I can't see my family as much as I want to'. Those kinds of reasons that young people might have are pushed aside a bit."[103]

143. Credwn ei bod yn annerbyniol anwybyddu'r mathau hynny o bryderon, er eu bod yn ymddangos yn simplistig, gan ei bod yn bosibl mai'r materion hyn, mewn gwirionedd, yw'r unig beth sy'n bwysig i'r bobl ifanc eu hunain. Credwn y gall gwasanaeth eiriolaeth proffesiynol chwarae rhan bwysig wrth sicrhau bod pryderon plant a phobl ifanc yn cael yr ystyriaeth briodol o fewn y broses o wneud penderfyniad am y lleoliad. Dywedodd Plant yng Nghymru wrthym:

> "advocacy is crucial because many children who find themselves in such a situation have had difficult upbringings and difficult lives, and are extremely disempowered in the first place. So, recourse to advocacy is crucial. To have somebody there to support them, to ensure that they understand, and that their wishes and feelings are carried forward is vital."[104]

144. Credwn, hefyd, y gall gwasanaeth eiriolaeth proffesiynol helpu i ddatblygu gallu plant a phobl ifanc i ddod yn fwy dylanwadol o fewn y broses o wneud penderfyniad. Dywedodd Voices from Care wrthym:

> "Advocates may say, 'Okay, you want A. You may not get A at this point; perhaps it might be better to ask for B and work towards A'. In the decision making, I tell young people, 'This is not your only chance and it should not be your only chance'; it

[102] Y Cofnod, Para 58, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009
[103] Y Cofnod, Para 55, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 6 Hydref 2009
[104] Y Cofnod, Para 61, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009

> "It is quite hard for us in Children in Wales to say exactly how it is out there because who is talking to the young people to find out? Perhaps one thing that we could improve is exit interviews. Let us find out a bit more from young people about what it was like so that we can improve."[108]

150. Gallai cyfweliadau fel hyn ar ddiwedd lleoliadau helpu i ganfod materion sydd o bryder o fewn y system. Er enghraifft, dywedodd un person ifanc wrthym ei fod wedi gadael lleoliad derbyn gofal a bod y gofalwr blaenorol wedi cymryd cyfrifoldeb dros rywun newydd.

> "I can't see my old foster carer, which is stupid because it's not normal to break the bond that has developed between a young person and their Foster carer. I am lucky that one of my old foster carers still phones me up from time to time to see how I am and how I am doing, and we meet up for a cup of tea."[109]

151. Fodd bynnag, gallai cyfweliadau fel hyn ar ddiwedd y lleoliad ddatgelu gwybodaeth gadarnhaol hefyd. Er enghraifft, dywedodd y Rhwydwaith Maethu wrthym, eu bod wedi clywed y rhan fwyaf o bobl ifanc yn siarad yn gadarnhaol am fod mewn gofal maeth.[110]

152. Roedd llawer o dystion yn pryderu hefyd nad oedd digon o sylw yn cael ei roi i'r gwaith o gefnogi rhieni a oedd, eu hunain, wedi bod drwy'r system derbyn gofal. Dywedodd TACT:

> "Statistically, we see that children from the looked-after system in Wales are 66 times more likely than their peers to have their children removed, and at an earlier age, and placed into the care system… We are not educating our children to look after their children. Often, that is because of the difficulties that they have had, and we must remember that more than 70 per cent of the children who come into the care system are there because of abuse and neglect."[111]

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[108] Y Cofnod Para 55, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009
[109] Nodyn o gyfarfod anffurfiol rhwng Aelodau'r Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc a phobl ifanc yn y system gofal yng Nghymru, neu sydd â phrofiad ohoni, 6 Hydref 2009, tudalen 3.
[110] Y Cofnod, Para 13, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 22 Medi 2009
[111] Y Cofnod, Para 109 a 111, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009

Trin gofalwyr maeth fel 'gweithwyr' proffesiynol

156. Yn wir, pe bai gofalwyr maeth yn cael eu hystyried yn fwy fel rhan o'r tîm sydd o amgylch y plentyn, ac yn cael mwy o awdurdod ac ymddiriedaeth i wneud penderfyniadau, awgrymodd llawer o dystion y byddai mwy o bobl yn cynnig gofal maeth. Mae trafodaeth i'w chael o ran i ba raddau y dylai gofalwyr maeth gael eu hystyried yn 'weithwyr proffesiynol', o gofio sialensiau'r gwaith. Mae'n ymddangos fel pe bai'r tueddiad tua'r cyfeiriad hwn ac roedd llawer o'n tystion yn cymeradwyo hyn. Fodd bynnag, rhybuddiodd rhai ei bod yn bwysig nad ydym yn colli gafael ar y ffaith bod disgwyl i ofalwyr maeth (yn arbennig gofalwyr hirdymor) garu'r plant a'r bobl ifanc a gaiff eu maethu ganddynt, yn hytrach na chadw pellter proffesiynol. Er enghraifft, mynegodd Voices from Care y pryder:

> "Young people like people who are homely, caring, fun, and all the things that professionals cannot be. They need to be recognised for their skills, but I do not think that we need to make them into the kind of professional who builds a barrier, comes in to do the job and who has no emotional connection."[113]

157. Yn gyntaf, dywedodd Barnardo's Cymru:

> "We are concerned that the demands on foster carers have increased, but often they are not viewed as part of the professional team by childcare social workers. They are excluded from receiving information. They are not seen as part of a team around the child, which would be an approach which would work far better."[114]

158. Ond, wrth wneud gofal maeth yn faes proffesiynol, esboniodd:

> "it is crucial that we do not frighten off a wodge of the population by overprofessionalising foster care—those with the intuitive skills, who need and want to look after young people. If you ask most people who come forward what their motivation is to be a foster carer, the sense that it is a passport into some

[113] Y Cofnod, Para 34, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 6 Hydref 2009
[114] Y Cofnod, Para 122, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009

> form of career or training or whatever is going to be fairly low on their agenda. Their need to offer something back to children or young people and their view that they and their extended family can give support is generally the main motivating factor and, indeed, should be the main motivating factor. We need to get that balance right so that we do not scare off a whole wodge of the population."[115]

159. Yn yr un modd, dywedodd CLlLC:

> "There is often a debate about whether they undertake their duties as a good, caring, loving family, or whether it is a professional role. Having looked at the evidence, I think that the complexity of the children placed requires professional skills—a skill base broader than that necessary for dealing with your own family circumstances. Fostering takes you into the complexities of care planning, health treatment, and therapeutic services, which are often required for children in the looked after children's system."[116]

160. Cytunwn â'r sylwadau hyn, a chredwn na ddylai 'cariad' a 'phroffesiynoldeb' fod yn gysyniadau eithriadol i'w gilydd. Rydym yn bendant nad ydym am i ofalwyr maeth gael 'pellter proffesiynol' oddi wrth y plant a'r bobl ifanc y maent yn gofalu amdanynt. Yn wir, dywedodd y Grŵp Meibion a Merched Gofalwyr Maeth wrthym:

> "you feel as though they need that little bit extra to come into our family, for us to say, 'We accept you'. They need more love and support from our parents at the start, but once they get more confident in our family and start to speak to everyone, things get back to normal."[117]

161. Credwn, yn hytrach, yn union fel y disgwyliwn i ofalwyr maeth – yn arbennig lleoliadau hirdymor - feithrin perthynas gariadus â'u plant, ei bod yn hollol iawn iddynt gael y grym, y parch a'r hyfforddiant fel 'gweithwyr' proffesiynol i sicrhau bod eu plant yn cael y cymorth sydd ei angen arnynt. O ganlyniad, argymhellwyd gennym, yn gynharach yn yr adroddiad hwn, y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru gymryd camau i sichrau

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[115] Y Cofnod, Para 124, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009
[116] Y Cofnod, Para 20, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 20 Hydref 2009
[117] Y Cofnod, Para 164, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 8 Rhagfyr 2009

y caiff gofalwyr maeth eu hystyried yn rhan broffesiynol o'r gweithlu gofal plant.

Swyddogaethau a chyfrifoldebau gofalwyr maeth o ddydd i ddydd

162. O ganlyniad i ystyried gofalwyr maeth yn 'weithwyr' proffesiynol, credwn ei bod yn briodol y dylai gofalwyr maeth gael y cyfrifoldeb a'r awdurdod i wneud penderfyniadau priodol dros blant a phobl ifanc sydd yn eu gofal. Rydym yn ymwybodol, hefyd, y bydd angen gwneud penderfyniadau am amgylchiadau unigol uwchben y cydbwysedd priodol o gyfrifoldeb ac awdurdod (rhwng gofalwyr maeth a gweithwyr cymdeithasol) i gael eu gwneud yn ôl pob achos unigol. Rydym yn cytuno â sylwadau Voices from Care:

> "Carers need to know what decisions they can make, but that needs to be on an individual basis, because you get some young people who are very established with their foster carers and get on well with them and trust them. In that situation, they would probably feel that their foster carers would make the right decisions. However, you get other young people who do not connect with their foster carers, and their social worker is a safety net for them because they are sharing the decision making and the information. We do not see that it should be the same for everyone."[118]

163. Er hynny, mae'n ymddangos bod arferion amrywiol iawn ledled Cymru o ran y cyfrifoldebau y mae awdurdodau lleol yn fodlon eu rhoi i ofalwyr maeth. Dywedodd Gweithredu dros Blant wrthym:

> "The Welsh Assembly Government issues advice to local authorities about children being able to stay overnight with friends. Some authorities will happily work with that, but other authorities do not have that system and you must go back to get permission for every thing. Again, it is about personalities, personnel and individuals—it is about people rather than systems… The guidance is clear that foster carers can and

[118] Y Cofnod, Para 33, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 6 Hydref 2009

should be able to make those decisions, but some local authorities choose not to interpret it in that way."[119]

164. Roedd y sylwadau hyn yn peri pryder i ni, gan fod y tystion yn gyffredinol yn cytuno y dylai gofalwyr maeth, fel arfer, gael yr awdurdod i wneud penderfyniadau rhianta arferol - penderfynu a fyddai'n iawn i'r plentyn aros yn nhŷ ffrind dros nos, neu fynd ar wibdaith gyda'r ysgol, er enghraifft. Dywedodd un person ifanc wrthym, mewn cyfarfod anffurfiol ei bod yn teimlo cywilydd bod angen i'r heddlu wirio ei ffrindiau cyn ei bod yn cael aros dros nos yn eu cartrefi. Credwn fod hyn yn amlwg yn annerbyniol ac mae'n creu stigma, a dywedodd Angela Burns AC, un o aelodau'r Pwyllgor, "you must feel like you have a neon light over you, flashing 'IN CARE.'"[120]

165. Rydym yn ymwybodol bod Llywodraeth Cymru, yn y gorffennol, wedi cyhoeddi canllawiau statudol ar aros dros nos ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc mewn gofal maeth: *Guidance on the Delegation of Decisions on 'Overnight Stays' for Looked After Children*. Mae'r canllawiau hyn yn statudol, a chawsant eu cyhoeddi fel cylchlythyr o dan adran 7 o *Ddeddf Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Awdurdodau Lleol 1970*, sy'n ei gwneud yn ofynnol i awdurdodau lleol weithredu o dan ganllawiau cyffredinol Llywodraeth Cymru (Gweinidogion Cymru ers *Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006*). Roedd crynodeb o gynnwys y cylchlythyr yn datgan:

> "2. There is no statutory duty for Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks to be carried out on adults in a private household where a looked after child may stay overnight. CRB checks should not normally be sought as a precondition of an overnight stay.
>
> 3. Decisions on overnight stays should in most circumstances be delegated to foster parents and residential care staff, and arrangements for such decisions written into the Placement Plan or Foster Placement Agreement.
>
> 4. Looked after children should as far as possible be granted the same permissions to take part in such acceptable age

[119] Y Cofnod, Para 167 a 169, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009
[120] Nodyn o gyfarfod anffurfiol rhwng Aelodau'r Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc a phobl ifanc yn y system gofal yng Nghymru, neu sydd â phrofiad ohoni, 6 Hydref 2009, tudalen 2.

"financial remuneration is important, but the ultimate issue is that, when somebody picks up a telephone and wants advice or support, they have a consistent relationship with a worker and can talk through those difficult issues that Pat alluded to with young people. That is going to be one of the main issues that will bring people back into the profession."[127]

174. Yn yr un modd, awgrymodd y Rhwydwaith Maethu:

"Some of the surveys that have been undertaken into those that are fee-paying show foster carers clearly saying that they would not want to be paid more if it meant that they were less well trained or less well supported."[128]

175. Croesawodd y Pwyllgor, felly, sylwadau Llywodraeth Cymru:

"we are working with the Care Council for Wales. Core training is available locally, but we are currently working on a national package. I mentioned earlier the new framework that we are developing on how we can reward different groups of people and encourage them to become foster carers, from the family and friends level to the more professional foster carer level."[129]

176. Nodwyd awgrym gan Barnardo's Cymru hefyd:

"access to advice and support should be available to foster carers, residential workers and children and young people themselves. Such timely provision could prevent an escalation of crisis situations which can result in placement breakdown. Foster carers tell us that if they had access to such advice and support, it could have more impact on whether they continue with both individual placements or generally as a carer, than the financial remuneration."[130]

177. Rydym yn ymwybodol bod y Rhwydwaith Maethu ar hyn o bryd yn darparu llinell gyngor gofal maeth yn ystod y dydd, dros y ffôn a drwy e-bost, ac a gaiff ei hariannu gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Fodd bynnag, credwn y gallai'r gwasanaeth gwerthfawr hwn gael ei ymestyn

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[127] Y Cofnod, Para 126, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009
[128] Y Cofnod, Para 30, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 22 Medi 2009
[129] Y Cofnod, Para 154, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 22 Medi 2009
[130] Tystiolaeth ysgrifenedig: Cyflwyniad ysgrifenedig gan Barnardo's Cymru.

gwag,[133] trosiant staff uchel a lefelau uchel, o ganlyniad, o staff dibrofiad. Dywedodd Cymdeithas Mabwysiadu a Maethu Prydain wrthym:

> "There is a high vacancy rate in front-line social work teams. However, there is also a culture of turnover, which means that there is no stability within teams. That is different from 10 years ago in social work, when, in a sense, people came into a team, and were mentored and supported by experienced workers. There is reluctance among social workers to go into frontline childcare now for obvious reasons. It is not the best and easiest place to be and it does not get the best press."[134]

180. Yn yr un modd, dywedodd Plant yng Nghymru wrthym am lawer o weithwyr cymdeithasol yng Nghymru:

> "Many of them are extremely frustrated by the lack of time and capacity to do their job properly and effectively and to spend quality time with children and families, which is the reason why they went into the profession in the first place. Finally, on top of that, the media at the moment is very negative about the service, so it does not seem to be an attractive profession for people to want to go into."[135]

181. Yn wir, rydym yn ymwybodol y gall y sylw mawr a roddir i achosion yn y wasg, fel achos Baby P, gael effaith enfawr ar ysbryd gweithwyr cymdeithasol ledled y DU, a gall hyn wneud iddynt deimlo'n ddiwerth o ran y gwaith a gaiff ei wneud ganddynt yn ein cymdeithas. Credwn y gall Llywodraeth Cymru gynorthwyo i fynd i'r afael â'r mater allweddol hwn. Fel y nododd AGGCC, rydym hefyd yn ymwybodol o'r canlynol:

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[133] Dywedodd y Dirprwy Weinidog wrthym: "ADSS and Care Council for Wales piloted a project with local authorities to collect data on the demand from employers for newly qualified social workers. The results were tentative but indicated a vacancy rate amongst child care social workers of 11.9%." Tystiolaeth ysgrifenedig: Cyflwyniad gan y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol.
[134] Y Cofnod, Para 13, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009
[135] Y Cofnod, Para 31, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009

gwasanaethau rheng flaen. Mae'r trosiant uchel o weithwyr cymdeithasol yn rhwystro cysylltiadau da, sefydlog rhag cael eu meithrin gyda phlant sy'n derbyn gofal. Dywedodd Jenny McMillan, Cyfarwyddwr Cymdeithas Mabwysiadu a Maethu Prydain (BAAF) Cymru wrthym:

> "This is a personal opinion and not that of the British Association for Adoption and Fostering, but there has to be recognition of expertise, so that people stay within a role and do not move through the management structure. To move through or progress your career in social work, people have always had to move through a management structure, but we need to recognise that we need very skilled practitioners on the front line. Senior practitioners exist in many local authorities but, very often, you will find that they are still doing a quasi-managerial role, and still doing some supervision, although that is appropriate as regards mentoring and that sort of role. However, people move through management structures or into other parts of the department. We need to see the role with looked-after children as absolutely vital and encourage practitioners to remain in it… I think that a consultant social work role would be excellent as it would keep people who have a passion for the work in the field, and they would share their passion with colleagues."[138]

184. Yn yr un modd, dywedodd TACT Cymru wrthym:

> "Increasingly, we see good social workers moving through management systems and being taken away from the very thing that they are good at, namely supporting families and young people. We would much rather see a move similar to that taken in the health service, namely a move towards having consultants. A consultant can be promoted and can take on managerial responsibility but, at the same time, he or she becomes an expert in the field and continues to be a clinician. So, we would like to see a system in which social workers come to be seen much more as consultants, and a career structure

[138] Y Cofnod, Para 73, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009

> "The fantastic thing about the nurses is that they are flexible and they give the children what they want. They empower the children and young people to access health services, whether that is registering with a GP or changing their GP, if they are not happy, registering with a dentist, accessing the optician or going to the family planning clinic or the genito-urinary medicine clinic. They will take them there if they wish, but the ultimate aim will be for them to be able to access those services when they leave care. The other part of the nurses' role is to provide help, support and advice to the foster carers and the social workers. The health promotion element can come from all angles, not just from direct work with the child or the young person."[143]

191. Dywedodd tystion eraill y gallai nyrsys plant sy'n derbyn gofal gynorthwyo i rannu gwybodaeth, a dywedodd y Rhwydwaith Maethu:

> "When the looked-after children's nurse undertakes the health assessments, all the foster carers know the nurse for that authority and, if someone changes places, they ring the nurse to say, 'Johnny Bloggs has come to stay with me and I do not have any health information for him', and it gets transferred quickly. That does not happen everywhere."[144]

192. Fodd bynnag, nid yw gwasanaethau arbenigol fel hyn ar gael ym mhob rhan o Gymru ac mae amrywiaeth yn y gwasanaethau gofal iechyd ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal oherwydd anghydfod ac ansicrwydd ynglŷn â sicrwydd cyllid. Dengys y dystiolaeth bod angen i wasanaethau arbenigol ar gyfer plant sy'n derbyn gofal fod ar gael yn ehangach a bod angen arweinydd meddygol penodol ym mhob ardal. Awgrymodd Dr Heather Payne:

> "Every Trust/LHB in Wales should have a named Doctor for Looked After Children with the BAAF/RCPCH recommended protected time to offer the necessary clinical consultation AND manage the infrastructure of information systems, processes

[143] Y Cofnod, Para 153, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 24 Tachwedd 2009
[144] Y Cofnod, Para 17, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 22 Medi 2009

that is how the system works. If they need psychiatric or psychological input, then it may be that children and adult mental health services are configured differently in the new location, so the service that they were getting may not be handed over. There is no obligation to liaise with service providers in the new location, and that work would not be funded from my job plan. Often, I do not even know that a client has moved, because there is not necessarily any consultation in planning the healthcare. So, there is a certain disconnect there as well… My solution to that particular issue would be to say that, wherever a child lives, that is where their health services should come from. That would be the easiest solution. We would have to be careful that some areas were not taking a hit from having children placed there and left without any planning or preparation. There would have to be some financial exchange, but if the accountability was fair and square, we could hand it all over to a nominated person who could ensure that the child gets the right services."[146]

194. Yn yr un modd, dywedodd Cymdeithas Mabwysiadu a Maethu Prydain:

> "Distance is significant if children are placed out of area. We talked about the difficulty in seeing children, and that becomes more of a challenge. For the child or young person, as I said, if it is an exceptional placement, and will meet their specific, identified needs, then there is some value in an out-of-area placement; but otherwise, you are taking the child or young person away from their family, community, environment, and everything that is familiar to them. We know that children in the looked-after system are likely to return to their family of origin at some point. When you look at the leaving-care population you start to see particular challenges for children who have been placed some distance away, because those children have lost any kind of infrastructure that they had, and that becomes a real problem."[147]

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[146] Y Cofnod, Para 71 a 73, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 9 Mehefin 2009
[147] Y Cofnod, Para 83, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 23 Mehefin 2009

195. Dywedodd Plant yng Nghymru, hefyd, fod y materion hyn yn gwaethygu eto ar gyfer plant a gaiff eu lleoli y tu allan i Gymru:

> "Health systems do not necessarily work across boundaries very well. If you go over the border into England, it is even harder. The frequency of visits and the education of the young person suffers. Links with home and community, friends and school are all broken. So, the child is actually in isolation. What we do know is that we have seen a large number—almost a half—of young people who have gone through the looked-after system gravitating back to their original environment once they leave care. So, it is really a dislocation for those young people. We are very supportive of moves to try to look at keeping young people as close to their families and communities as possible… When an advocate has to go all the way to Scotland, as I saw in a case not long ago, to try to engage with a child, I really do not need to elaborate on the challenges to that worker, and on the impact on that child of being placed miles away from their birth parents, their network, their friends. That has an impact on their health, education and emotional wellbeing."[148]

196. Gall anghytundeb godi ynghylch cyfrifoldeb dros rai gwasanaethau eraill: er enghraifft, clywsom dystiolaeth bod anghydfod wedi codi ynghylch talu am addasiadau yn y cartref y tu allan i'r sir, a oedd am gymryd plentyn sy'n derbyn gofal. Cawsom dystiolaeth ysgrifenedig sy'n dweud mai'r awdurdod sy'n derbyn y plentyn sy'n gwneud y penderfyniad terfynol am addysg plentyn sy'n derbyn gofal, ac y dylai gofalwyr maeth, sy'n aml yn teimlo nad yw'r system yn rhoi grym iddynt, gael mwy o awdurdod dros faterion sy'n ymwneud ag addysg. Cawsom dystiolaeth, hefyd, bod nifer fawr o blant a phobl ifanc o Loegr yn cael eu lleoli yng Nghymru, ac mae hyn yn golygu mwy o bwysau ar wasanaethau lleol.

197. Mae'r nifer o leoliadau y tu allan i'r sir wedi cynyddu fel cyfran o'r holl leoliadau o 8 y cant ar 31 Mawrth 1998 i 29 y cant ar 31 Mawrth 2009. Fodd bynnag, roedd tystiolaeth gan y bartneriaeth sy'n gweithredu'r Adnodd Cymorth Comisiynu ar gyfer Plant yn nodi bod y gronfa ddata yn dechrau helpu i leihau'r nifer o leoliadau y tu allan i'r sir. Dywedodd Beverlea Frowen wrthym:

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[148] Y Cofnod, Para 78 a 80, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 7 Gorffennaf 2009

> "there is a myth that a lot of Welsh children are being placed at excessively long distances—that is not true. However, there is, between systems, the ability for us to have a look at that. That is certainly part of the management of information that the Welsh Assembly Government is very interested in looking at, because it has never had this information either—even something as basic as this report and the map of where provision was across Wales. I know that everything always leads to another question, does it not? However, when you think how basic the system was a couple of years ago, when people could not even tell you that there were 3,800 care settings in Wales, and yet we are spending £140 million a year on just under 4,000 children."[149]

198. Fodd bynnag, roedd yn ymddangos bod yn dystiolaeth hon yn groes i'r hyn a oedd yn cael ei honni Dr Carolyn Sampeys:

> "According to the data released on 31 March 2009 from the Office for National Statistics—and the Welsh Assembly Government logo features on the bottom, so it must be right… The number of looked-after children on the exact day of 31 March 2009 was 4,704. In foster placements outside local authority boundaries, there were 1,041 looked-after children… I am not sure whether things have improved since 31 March 2009. I know that there is a will to stop children from going out of county… I know that locally, in Cardiff and the Vale, fewer children are going out of county and the authorities are thinking very hard about those children that need to go out of county."[150]

199. Credwn fod dros 1000 o blant sy'n derbyn gofal ac a gaiff eu lleoli y tu allan i'r sir yn ymddangos fel pe bai hyn yn cynrychioli llawer o blant a phobl ifanc yn cael eu lleoli gryn bellter o'u cartrefi. Rydym yn ymwybodol y gallai rhai o'r lleoliadau hyn fod wedi cael eu gwneud ychydig dros y ffin sirol, ac na fyddent, felly, yn cael eu hystyried yn bellter gormodol o gartref y plentyn. Rydym yn cydnabod, hefyd, y bydd angen i ganran fach o blant sy'n derbyn gofal gael eu lleoli y tu

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[149] Y Cofnod, Para 84, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 24 Tachwedd 2009
[150] Y Cofnod, Paragraffau 174, 175 ac 184, Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc, 24 Tachwedd 2009

Jeremy Coleman	Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru	CYP(3) PCC 16
Keith Bowen	Plant Anabl yn Cyfri Cymru	CYP(3) PCC 17
Trudy Davies	Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr	CYP(3) PCC 18
Dot Jones	Yr Ymddiriedolaeth Plant a Phobl Ifanc	CYP(3) PCC 19
Beverlea Frowen	Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a Chymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg Cymru	CYP(3) PCC 20
Katy Young	Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru	CYP(3) PCC 21
	Canllawiau ar gyfer gofal amgen i blant (Guidelines for the alternative care of children) Mehefin 2009	CYP(3) AWE 01
Gwenda Thomas, Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau	Llywodraeth Cymru	CYP(3) AWE 02 CYP(3) AWE 2a CYP(3) AWE 2b CYP(3) AWE 2C CYP(3) AWE 04 CYP(3) AWE 03
Freda Lewis	Rhwydwaith Maethu Cymru	CYP(3) AWE 05 CYP(3) AWE 05a
Katy Young	Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru	CYP(3) AWE 06