

Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee
A National Statistics Joint Consultative Committee
Minutes of meeting held on 5 October 2017
Cathays Park, Cardiff

Attendees

Sara	Ahmad	SA	Welsh Government
Gareth	Brand	GB	Welsh Government
Lee	Clarke	LC	Cardiff County Council
Richard	Cardwell	RC	Natural Resources Wales
Vicki	Doyle	VD	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Alex	Fitzpatrick	AF	Welsh Government
Alan	Jackson	AJ	Welsh Government
Paul	Jones	PJ	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Glyn	Jones	GJ	Welsh Government
Steve	King	SK	City and County of Swansea
Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government
Geraint	Morgan	GM	Powys County Council
Jenny	Murphy	JM	Data Unit Wales
Scott	Orford	SO	WISERD, Cardiff University
Rhys	Powell	RP	Public Health Wales, NHS Wales
Yuan	Shen	YS	Bridgend County Borough Council
Neil	Townsend	NT	Office for National Statistics
Gowan	Watkins	GW	Welsh Government
Andy	Wilson	AW	Torfaen County Borough Council
Lowri	Wyn Francis	LW	Gwynedd Council

Apologies

Phillip	Barlow	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Sioned	Cardew-Richardson	Estyn
Chris	Clarke	Torfaen County Borough Council
Fiona	Clay-Poole	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Brett	Davis	South Wales Police
Jill	Edge	Monmouthshire County Council
Janine	Edwards	Conwy County Borough Council
Rhys	Fidler	Data Unit Wales
Martin	Jennings	Assembly Commission
Nia	Jones	Welsh Government
Sarah	Jones	Health Inspectorate Wales
David	Morgan	Pembrokeshire County Council
Shan	Morris	North Wales Fire Service
Matthew	Scanlon	Brecon Beacons National Park
Andrew	Stephens	Data Unit Wales

1	Welcome, Introductions & Apologies	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GJ opened the meeting and welcomed new members. SL/GJ will offer a VC option for the North Wales meeting in future GJ noted that Neville Evans, Isle of Anglesey had retired and had sent his best wishes and thanks for the co-operation of members during his brief period attending these meetings. GJ thanked Neville for his time on committee. 	
2	Notes of last meeting and update on action points	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from previous meeting approved Action 1: GJ – There had been some technical problems with the Stats Wales webinar; will feedback shortly with dates Action 3: GJ would enquire of Scott Orford later in meeting Action 4: Not completed Action 5: GJ will send note around Action 6: JM gave update - data is ready, any questions speak to JM Action 9 & 10: Ongoing. YS noted that at a recent meeting of LAs hosted by WLGA it had been suggested that some questions about satisfaction with services should be consistent between Welsh Government (WG) National Survey and local authorities' surveys Action 13: GJ highlighted how important feedback is Action 14: JM to chase up issues with education PAMs Action 15: GM started a discussion about difficulties understanding STEAM. LW mentioned that anyone can benefit from the STEAM data even if they are not paying into it. SL to feed back conversation to Robert Lewis about STEAM. JM offered to check the position across various authorities Actions 16-25: no questions 	<p>Action: JM to speak to Andrew Stephens about national survey questions and how this feedback from the WLGA meeting might be raised with the national survey team</p> <p>Action: JM to run a desk exercise on activity taking place across authorities on tourism analysis</p> <p>Action: SL to feed back to Rob Lewis on conversation about STEAM</p>
3	Review of information papers	
	<p>Demography Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GJ noted a number of staffing changes taking place within WG: Adam Al-Nuaimi will be leaving shortly. Alan Jackson retiring in February – trying to replace internally. Gwyneth Thomas retired in September. <p>Data Unit update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VD concerned that not enough feedback is going to local government in respect of well-being assessments and there is a lack of co-ordination across well-being assessments and for example the Valleys Task Force. AW met with Aneurin Bevan Health Board (ABHB) to talk about skills development. He mentioned the possibility of an apprenticeship scheme to boost transferable skills. GJ said Welsh Government to work with Local Authorities to release more data as open data is generally considered a good thing. <p>National Development Framework (NDF)</p>	<p>Action: JM to take concerns with not enough communication with Local Authorities back to Data Unit</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team were unable to attend meeting. There was a suggestion that a separate phone meeting on the NDF and related major developments may be useful. 	
4	Wellbeing of Future Generations	
	<p>David Thomas phoned in and updated on future trends reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective Connect is a means of sharing work that is being done on future trends. It was asked if people have been using this VD mentioned problems accessing Objective Connect and that tight timescales for the next local well-being plans meant not much analysis can be done. Some analysis had been commissioned at a Gwent level for future trends; VD will share information about this in the group PJ mentioned the skills gap for regression analysis within LAs/PSBs GJ showcased the recently published Annual Wellbeing report, 'Well-being for Wales' September 2018 will be next publication date but the 46 indicator pages will be updated throughout the year All seven narratives are available in PDF form to print out Would appreciate feedback on usability and content of site, through survey monkey – link will be provided in upcoming GJ blog. 	<p>Action: Give DT a list of attendees so he can circulate Objective Connect link to Future Trends material</p> <p>Action: GJ to circulate links to the various parts of the Well-being of Wales report and include request for feedback on Well-being of Wales report in his upcoming blog</p>
5	Housing Conditions Evidence Programme (HCEP) – update	
	<p>GW provided information on aim and background of HCEP survey and aim of Housing Stock Analytical Resource (HSAR).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Housing Conditions Survey (WHCS) is collecting data and analysing on a national level only instead of looking at specific local authorities Report reflecting survey results to be expected in Autumn 2018, updated fuel poverty results end 2018 Sample taken from National Survey so is a good representation of Wales and ensures that the age of the property will be captured Meeting with NDF to discuss matters relating to housing GB interested in feedback on the draft purpose of HSAR and needs input from stakeholders HSAR will be used alongside the National Survey for Wales A report on availability of relevant data sets is available. LWF was interested in receiving this. GB to share with members. GB keen to hear about any other housing data sources that may be available Expect to be able to use HSAR to model WHCS data to a lower level (geographically and by type) 	<p>Action: GB to circulate report on availability of data sets for HSAR and seek feedback</p>
6	Information Sharing	
	See AOB	
7	2017 Census Test	
	<p>Neil Townsend (NT) provided update on the 2017 Census Test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2021 need to understand what types of people complete the census online vs paper Testing format and acceptability of potential Sexual Identity 	<p>Action: NT to circulate copies of the first Census</p>

	<p>question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017 Census Test undertaken across seven areas of the country to trial online processes and different versions of the Sexual Identity question • There was no evidence of a drop off when the Sexual Identity question was included • Planning for a 75 percent online response rate in 2021 • 43 percent response rate overall for 2017 Census Test – the highest being Powys 54 percent and the lowest Southwark 34 percent • ONS also tested the effectiveness of reminder letters • Looking at online responses, there was a notable increase when the style of letter was changed and the user was given their online code again. 	<p>Test reminder letter sent out and the Behavioural Insight Team (BIT) reminder letter so members can see the different styles.</p>
8	Census 2021 Topics and Questions	
	<p>Presentation given by Neil Townsend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1095 responses to ONS topic consultation in 2015 • Pressure for extra boxes on ethnicity question • Qualifications question may need updating due to new qualifications and given the average length of time it takes to complete • VD highlighted that the Qualifications question is unclear for apprentices • It is likely that new question aimed at the Armed Forces Community will be recommended for inclusion • AW highlighted the differing ability issue around the Welsh language question and the need for main language to be split into English and Welsh. However GJ noted that it is critical to ensure that there is no discontinuity in data on the number of Welsh speakers. 	<p>Action: NT and SL will look into the issue around Census question on qualifications and apprentices.</p>
9	Welfare Reform	
	<p>Presentation by Sara Ahmad (SA) on Welfare Reform and in particular, the rollout of Universal Credit (UC) and the availability of statistical data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SA explained that UC is a monthly payment to help low income households meet living costs • There is reportedly an issue around waiting times for some claimants receiving their first UC payment • If the current timetable is pursued the roll out plan for the Full Service (for new claimants and ‘natural migrants’) aims to reach all Local Authorities in GB by September 2018 • Managed migration of existing benefit claimants due to run from 2019 through to 2022 • DWP have released revised guidance on advance payments and have released an interactive map to view UC statistics • New experimental data available from DWP on people and households on UC (including information on ‘conditionality’ e.g. job seekers, and entitlement components e.g. housing, children, disability) • DWP consulting on plans to extend the statistics available on UC (closed 24 Oct). Statistics on sanctions remain available. <p>Presentation by Alex Fitzpatrick (AF) on ‘Zero Hour Contracts’.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The common element between all zero hour contracts is the lack of guaranteed minimum hours Data is published by ONS as 'contracts that do not guarantee a minimum number of hours'. 883,000 reported 'zero hour contracts' in the UK from April-June 2017. Some of the increases in the number of zero hour contracts recorded recently may be due to people's improved awareness of the term 'zero hour contract'. 	
10	Other business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SK drew attention to the note circulated on BRES, highlighting the more granular data at lower levels available and that the rounding boundaries have been amended GJ expressed difficulties in accessing the VML. However, AF thinks this will be less of a problem for Local Authorities due to their different operating systems It was noted that Welsh Government were considering options for dealing with BRES on StatsWales and asked if users were content to access data via NOMIS VD is happy to come back to talk more about work her local authority is doing with the Happy Cities / Happy Communities organisation RP noted that an update to the Public Health Outcomes Framework for Wales (PHOF) had recently been published. This is a developing tool; PHW would welcome feedback on the way it is presented. JM raised an issue about receiving papers for the meeting at very short notice, but she praised the agenda being on time. 	Action: Members to feedback any comments on that latest PHOF to RP

No.	Summary of Action Points	Status
1.	JM to speak to Andrew to Stephens about National Survey questions and get feedback from National Survey team	
2.	JM to run a desk exercise on activity taking place across authorities on tourism analysis	
3.	SL to feed back to Rob Lewis on conversation about STEAM	
4.	JM to take concerns with not enough communication with Local Authorities back to Data Unit	
5.	Give DT a list of attendees so he can circulate Objective Connect link	
6.	GJ to circulate links to the various parts of the Well-being of Wales report and include request for feedback on Well-being of Wales report in his upcoming blog	
7.	GB to circulate report on availability of data sets for HSAR and seek feedback.	
8.	NT to circulate copies of the first Census Test reminder letter sent out, and the Behavioural Insight Team (BIT) reminder letter, so members can see the different styles	Completed 301017

9.	NT and SL look into issue around census question on qualifications and apprenticeships	
10.	Members to feedback any comments on the latest Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) to RP	