

## Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee

A National Statistics Joint Consultative Committee  
Minutes of meeting held on 9 June 2016  
Glyndwr University, Wrexham

<b>Attendees</b>			
Adam	Al-Nuaimi	AA	Welsh Government
Karen	Armstrong	KA	Flintshire County Council
Janine	Edwards	JE	Conwy County Borough Council
Neville	Evans	NE	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Pippa	Hardwick	PH	North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Lauren	Hassett	LH	Gwynedd Council
Bethan	Hughes	BH	Gwynedd Council
Glyn	Jones	GJ	Welsh Government
Steve	King	SK	City and County of Swansea
Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government
Sarah	Lowe	SEAL	Welsh Government
Geraint	Morgan	GM	Powys County Council
Siân	Morris	SM	North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Ludi	Simpson	LS	Manchester University
Andrew	Stephens	AS	Data Unit Wales
Jamie	Thorburn	JT	Ceredigion County Council
Holly	Walsh	HW	Public Health Wales Observatory
<b>Apologies</b>			
Phillip	Barlow		Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Osian	Bowyer		Welsh Language Commissioner
Sioned	Cardew-Richardson		Estyn
Chris	Clarke		Torfaen County Borough Council
Fiona	Clay-Poole		Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Vicki	Doyle		Caerphilly County Borough Council
Jill	Edge		Monmouthshire County Council
Emyr	Edwards		Gwynedd Council
Rhys	Fidler		Data Unit Wales
Alan	Jackson		Welsh Government
Martin	Jennings		Assembly Commission
Leanne	John		City and County of Swansea
Helen	Jones		National Assembly for Wales
Paul	Jones		Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Sarah	Jones		Health Inspectorate Wales
Ann-Marie	McCafferty		Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
David	Morgan		Pembrokeshire County Council
Jenny	Murphy		Data Unit Wales
Anna	Nicholl		Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Jonathan	Radcliffe		Sport Wales
Lesley	Rees		Carmarthenshire County Council
Richard	Reynolds		Carmarthenshire County Council
Matthew	Scanlon		Brecon Beacons National Park
Beverley	Searle		Vale of Glamorgan Council
Yuan	Shen		Bridgend County Borough Council
Alison	Vaughan		Ceredigion County Council
Russell	Watts		Vale of Glamorgan Council
Tryfan	Williams		Gwynedd Council
Lowri	Wyn Francis		Gwynedd Council

1	<b>Welcome, Introductions &amp; Apologies</b>	
	<p>GJ opened the meeting and welcomed new members. On the occasion of her retirement, Bev Searle from the Vale of Glamorgan had sent a message to the group:          “I would be very grateful if you could express my sincere thanks to all members of this group, it has been a great pleasure attending the WSLC meeting and I believe it is an invaluable part of the research community”</p> <p>On behalf of the group, GJ wished all the best to Bev when she retires and expressed many thanks to her for her contribution to the group over the years.</p>	
2	<b>Note of last meeting &amp; Update on action points (WSLC (2015 12) 01 &amp; 02)</b>	
	<p>There were no requests for amendments to the minutes for the last meeting. GJ apologised for not updating the actions document before circulating.</p> <p><i>Action Point 1: This was included on the agenda for the meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Action Point 2: Done.</i></p> <p><i>Action Point 3 – To be considered during item on Future Generations update</i></p> <p><i>Action Point 4 – this had not been done but will be for future meetings.</i></p> <p><i>There were no further general points on the Actions.</i></p>	
3	<b>Review of information papers</b>	
	<p>GJ explained that the papers were a bit out of date because had been prepared for the meeting planned for March but WG couldn't publish them due to the pre-election election period. GJ gave an update on things that had happened since the papers were finalised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The NSW went into the field in April 2016.</li> <li>2) Indicators for WIMD 2015 were published on 25th May</li> <li>3) The first meeting for a long time of WASP (the technical group for population projections) has been held. Population projections will be published in September and projections for housing and national parks in the 6 months following. GJ reported that as a result of the consultation responses, the projections will move to a fixed 3-yearly cycle. The timing of the publication of the first post-Census 2021 projections will depend on how quickly ONS are able to get the data and outputs out – the cycle is likely to be 2014, 2017, 2020, then possibly late 2022 or more likely 2023. Although the commitment is to deliver every 3 years this will be adapted to user needs.</li> </ol> <p>JE noted that, with Jerry Dixon and Bev Searle having retired, there is a need to include someone on WASP with a land use planning perspective. GJ asked for suggestions as to who could fulfil this role - one suggestion was David Morgan, who is now working in Pembrokeshire council. GJ said he would write around to ask who should be included on land use planning.</p> <p>JE noted that LAs will need guidance where projections are expected to deviate from those previously published and in what way. GJ agreed and noted that variant projections also need to be more clearly promoted.</p>	<p><b>ACTION: GJ to write around to invite suggestions for a land use planning rep for the WASP group</b></p>

	<p><b>WSLC (2015 09) 03 - Welsh Government Statistics Newsletter</b></p> <p>There will be a workshop on the 10<sup>th</sup> June to discuss ways to improve homelessness data. Changes to legislation mean different data will be captured this year so we are working closely with LA to ensure the data collected are as consistent and accurate as possible . Time will therefore be needed to check and validate the data before the first year's release is published and it has been delayed. AA noted that some of the delay has been in collating the data rather than with supply – systems have needed to be changed to reflect the changes in legislation and some LAs have struggled to update their systems to provide the revised data extract.</p> <p>ONS will publish a new house prices index on 14<sup>th</sup> June. JE noted that they are also looking to produce at MSOA level and still have to prove the quality of the new index – it is not as good as land registry data. It was noted that ONS had published an article on 30<sup>th</sup> March introducing the new index and explaining the changes.</p> <p>JE raised the issue of the gypsy traveller needs assessment, noting that Wrexham LA had encountered problems in following the guidance and that the resulting estimates did not appear plausible.</p>	<p><b>ACTION: SL to query the gypsy traveller needs assessment guidance with WG colleagues</b></p>
	<p><b>WSLC (2015 09) 04 – Demography Update and WSLC (2015 09) 06 – ONS Census Information Paper</b></p> <p>GJ directed the attention of the group to the demography update and the additional paper on the census that had been circulated separately the previous evening. He noted that the same paper will go to the Census Advisory Group for Wales on the Census on 17<sup>th</sup> June. WG will ask ONS to give an update on the Census to every WSLC meeting from now on and will invite ONS to speak on any significant issues that arise.</p> <p>Welsh representation on the Census Advisory Group was discussed. GJ agreed to circulate the list with a view to ensuring there is appropriate representation from local authorities and that the NLPG custodian is included. It was agreed that the reps should formally report back to WSLC.</p>	<p><b>ACTIONS: GJ to circulate list of CAG reps with a view to ensuring there is appropriate representation from local authorities and that the NLPG custodian is included. CAG reps to formally report back to WSLC.</b></p>
	<p><b>WSLC (2015 09) 05 – Data Unit update</b></p> <p>AS said there had been a presentation on Dewis at the last meeting but this work is expanding quickly with a number of South Wales LAs now joining the group. There have also been a couple of new releases with improved functionality. Although Dewis will formally be launched at the Social Services conference in Llandudno at the end of June, this work is increasingly moving up the agenda for Welsh LAs.</p> <p>AS noted that InfoBaseCymru has been updated and asked to be sent any comments.</p> <p>AS reported on the issue of what indicators LAs should report against, given the introduction of new indicators for the WFG Act, and a recent consultation into the future of NSIs. Local Government led by WLGA need to think what this means for them as there is still responsibility on them to publish performance data under Local Government regulations.</p>	

	<p>WLGA has written to all CEs to confirm that all leaders have met and agreed to collect NSIs for 2016-17 regardless of the outcome of the consultation to help satisfy this requirement. This letter has also gone to leads in policy and improvement.</p> <p>AA noted that some Local Authorities may struggle to change systems in time to report anything different. AS agreed: some LA CEs had already put corporate plans in place using the existing indicators; however, anything new will be non-statutory and if people are having problems, there will be time to make changes. There is potential to deliver the previous indicators for some time if necessary, many of which are automatically re-populated so the resource required to report them would be minimal.</p> <p>GJ suggested that WG might have observer status on the WLGA T&amp;F Group so they can be aware of developments and ensure coherence/reduce duplication with existing collections. AS said WAO would be invited to observe so he would take back the suggestion that WG also act as observers.</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> AS to take back the suggestion WG should act as observers on the WLGA Indicators T&amp;F Group</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Supporting People Data Linking Project</b>	
	<p>SEAL gave a presentation on the Supporting People Data Linking Feasibility Project. She explained that LAs could band together to jointly fund some analysis work that could potentially be match-funded by ESRC as part of a Welsh Government bid for further funding. The bid will include a proposal to incorporate SAIL Research 'Appliances' in LAs and SEAL noted that Welsh Government were keen to identify potential pilot areas. LH volunteered Gwynedd as a potential pilot area due to their ongoing interest in developing use of SAIL.</p> <p>Suggestions were invited for the focus of any analysis of Local Authority data that might be funded by the ESRC (if the bid was successful). Suggestions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an evaluation of care and repair.</li> <li>• some work on the Wider Social Care Market – around capacity and capability.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTION: SEAL</b> to follow up suggestions for potential SAIL analysis</p> <p><b>SEAL</b> to contact LH with regards to potentially piloting SAIL appliances in Gwynedd.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Stats Wales Open Data</b>	
	<p>AA presented the updated Stats Wales website, which now includes a beta upgrade allowing direct machine readable access to the raw data. The site is accessible from new statswales.gov.wales links (old links still work). The machine readable aspect of the data use a Microsoft OData endpoint and where manual download of the data was previously required to access the data in a secondary system, a live link can now be used to automatically link to the data to that system e.g. when new annual data becomes available. The descriptors, hierarchies and metadata are all also available from the OData endpoint. StatsWales metadata contains all relevant URLs.</p> <p>Users can use a range of software to access the data in tis way e.g. Microsoft Power BI or Excel. While analysts will generally tend to use only the data itself, details behind the data, such as the the dimensions and items within those dimensions may be useful to anyone who wants to build an application based on the data. Data can be downloaded in English, Welsh or bilingually.</p> <p>By the end of the year, all new data added will be OData. WG are working on getting further data into cubes e.g. Road Casualty data.</p> <p>GJ asked members to please let WG know which cubes/datasets are of most use so these can be prioritised. AA encouraged members to use the Open Data function as part of the beta-testing so any bugs can be ironed out.</p>	<p><b>ACTIONS:</b></p> <p><b>Members</b> to let WG know which cubes / datasets should be prioritised for publication as OData.</p> <p><b>AA</b> to look into commissioning some joint training on Power BI in Wales.</p>

	<p>GM asked whether a cell in a spreadsheet can be used to denote a parameter and then be automatically used to query the metadata or data itself in building an application and AA confirmed that something similar had been done.</p> <p>The updated site can be found at <a href="https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue">https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue</a></p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Information Sharing</b>	
	There was no time for any additional information sharing.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Wellbeing of Future Generations</b>	
	<p><b>National Indicators</b></p> <p>GJ gave an update on progress with the National Well-being indicators, highlighting that a good response had been received to the consultation and that this had led to changes in the final set which were published before the Assembly Easter recess (16<sup>th</sup> March). There were some outstanding issues to be considered, for example the Minister committed to look at how we measure child well-being in future.</p> <p>Another key question was around whether there should be a hierarchy, with some headline indicators and whether there should be any groupings. In the end all 46 were laid as a plain set and the minister committed to looking further at how they were presented. Milestones will also be developed for some of the indicators in due course.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Government are required to publish an annual-wellbeing report from 2017-18.</li> <li>• The data will be published on StatsWales as Open Data and a resource outlining the links to the data will be published during the summer.</li> </ul> <p>AS noted that in terms of local well-being assessments there may also be a tension between sources where one is available/more appropriate at the national and another at the local level. If the difference between the two is small, it would be sensible to follow the national one. GJ said there was a need to recognise the national indicator but to triangulate with sources suitable at local level.</p> <p>SM asked why the indicators will be reported by Local Authority but not PSB. GJ said the clear priority is the national level but if there is a need, WG can provide different geographies. GJ undertook to take the suggestion back but said some data may never be available at that level. JE suggested it should be made clear where data was not available and what the weaknesses were in existing data. AS noted that LGDU-W have been asked to prepare regional reports and to note weaknesses in the data.</p> <p>GJ said it was important to bear in mind these will not be performance indicators and there was no intention to publish a formal report comparing LAs.</p> <p>JE asked, although WG can shape NSW around WFG Act, how much influence WG has on surveys outside Wales e.g. on ONS. GJ noted Welsh Government have strong relationships with ONS on all their surveys and hope that where an ONS survey has been used, it will still be available in the future.</p>	<p><b>ACTIONS:</b>  <b>GJ to consider potential for publishing data for National Indicators at different geographies</b></p>
	<b>Future Trends Report</b>	
	DT noted the statutory requirement to publish a Future Trends report by May 2017 and noted current thinking around how the report might be developed.	

	<p>A stakeholder/advisory group will be created in due course.</p> <p>Key is the purpose: if done well, it needs to be a constructive challenge for ministers and senior policy officials, identifying the kinds of choices they need to be making now to provide suitable services in the future. So, even if taking work that has already been done, we need to add a constructive narrative and create coherence across areas. The project will also consider how to engage business and third sector.</p> <p>JE noted that projections made using Daffodil, although better than nothing, have some weaknesses. She also noted that PHW are about to do some projections based on 2011 Census projections. HW said that the PHW project is due to be published in September on the PHW website; users will be able to tweak the outputs by choosing different health concerns as inputs.</p> <p>GJ reported on the action from the last meeting re: whether Local Authorities would have to re-submit well-being assessments once the Future Trends report was published: there will be time to amend after the public engagement. A discussion followed concerning the practical aspects of the timetable.</p> <p>JT noted that there is a stark difference between that can be achieved in the short timescale available for the population assessments vs the longer timescales for well-being.</p> <p>GJ noted that if there was anything WG could do to help, members should please let WG know. LH said anything WG can do to point LAs in the direction of data would help. AS said some of the challenges are about the data below LA level, which can be limited – some areas have picked only a small number of subdivisions for their LA to make the work more manageable.</p> <p>Research network proposal – JT to speak to GJ about relaunching this network.</p> <p>GJ thanked DT and invited him to attend future WSLC meetings.</p>	<p><b>ACTIONS:</b>  <b>JT to contact GJ in relation to the Public Sector research network</b></p> <p><b>DT to be invited to future WSLC meetings</b></p>
	<p><b>Well-being/Population Assessments</b></p> <p>AS presented an update and forward look on their work in developing toolkits for evidencing the assessments. AS stated that although LA assessments do need to be produced this year some LAs are waiting for population assessments before doing wellbeing assessments. AS noted that the work is being done very differently in different areas of Wales, with the same individual producing both for some LAs and not for others.</p> <p>Largely the focus is on situation analysis rather than response analysis – people were thinking they needed to finish the situational analysis before embarking on the response analysis but that has changed now. Data needs are starting to emerge but largely for situational analysis. It is less clear what requirements will be for response analysis and whether PSB-level or region-level is required. The biggest piece of work is on the ‘so what’. Regional workshops to support PSBs are being held.</p> <p>WG have made available a grant based to support work on local wellbeing assessments similar to what was done for population assessments to help bring the data together. There is a tension around how we compare to other areas of Wales vs. what is needed locally – i.e. rates are needed to compare vs. absolute numbers of how many people need services.</p>	
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Development of Labour Force projections for local authorities</b></p>	
	<p>LS explained that there are several ways to approach the development of projections, depending on their purpose: either model the impact of population</p>	<p><b>ACTION: JE to present on her work on labour</b></p>

	<p>change on the demand for jobs or choose a target number of jobs and model the implications for the area e.g. number of dwellings required. Whatever the purpose, a good national projection is needed as an ‘anchor’ to inform projections of local activity because local trends are more volatile than national trends. It is important to use local intelligence to inform local projections e.g. some areas with low economic activity may be areas where there is the capacity to increase. Commuting must also be taken into account. There is a census table of merged electoral wards for anyone interested in sub-LA level data. However, the key conclusion is the need for a well-documented, well-produced national forecast.</p> <p>A key challenge is the lack of an accepted national statistic of projected economic activity; there are two projections – EC and OBR – and both are considered official but are very different.</p> <p>There was a discussion of various existing methods and JE agreed to present her work on projections to a future WSLC meeting.</p>	<p>force projections at a future WSLC meeting.</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>Housing Conditions Evidence Programme</b>	
	<p>SL reported that this was discussed at WSLC some time ago but more work was done in preparation to put advice to ministers in February 2016 suggesting a way forward. Ministers agreed to take work forward in order to prepare for work that may be funded in the future not only to collect a house conditions survey but also to develop a dwelling spine to pull together administrative data on housing in Wales e.g. EPC, VOA. Officials are now going back to seek funding from ministers.</p> <p>JE asked if the data would be used at LSOA level in WIMD and SL said that was the intention. JT asked whether the data would be collected to report the Hills definition of fuel poverty but SL noted that the Hills definition was not adopted in Wales. The revised Fuel Poverty modelling is due to be published in July.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<b>WIMD Update</b>	
	<p>SL presented some slides on the breadth of reports that have come out since 2014. JE said the WIMD indicators were a good starting point for LAs on what data can be used at the sub-LA level for needs assessments.</p> <p>SL noted that discussions are starting about when to create a new WIMD and WG will be in touch to ask when it is needed. Information about the purpose LAs put WIMD to would also be useful to feed into development and timing of the index.</p> <p>SL reported that WG will continue to update the indicators annually and are considering doing some further analysis. Analysis has already been published for different age groups but members to please let her know what other topics would be of interest e.g. income and employment, older people, specific population groups or geographies. Some indicator data can be put into the interactive mapping tool and it will depend on resources how much so feedback on priorities would be useful.</p> <p>JE commented that priorities will need to be considered in the context of the WFG Act.</p> <p>GJ reported that a project is being completed to examine the feasibility of creating an individual-level deprivation measure based on linked administrative</p>	<p><b>ACTIONS:</b> Members to please let SL know:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. what further analysis would be useful</li> <li>2. preferred timing for a new WIMD</li> <li>3. priorities for data to be added to the interactive mapping tool</li> <li>4. what you use WIMD for</li> </ol>

	data.	
<b>11</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	<p>GJ reminded members to complete the online feedback form.</p> <p>GJ updated the group on the EU general data protection regulation – this will come into force in 2 years time and will impact the use of data so members need to start thinking about it.</p> <p>GJ also reported that the new data sharing legislation was included in the Queen’s speech and that WSLC will be kept informed.</p>	
	The next WSLC meeting will be held on 13 <sup>th</sup> October – we are doing VC – express Welsh Language preferences please.	<b>Secretariat to confirm next meeting date with Members</b>

### Summary of Action Points

1.	<b>GJ to write around to invite suggestions for a land use planning rep for the WASP group</b>
2.	<b>SL to query the gypsy traveller needs assessment guidance with WG colleagues</b>
3.	<p><b>GJ to circulate list of CAG reps with a view to ensuring there is appropriate representation from local authorities and that the NLPG custodian is included.</b></p> <p><b>CAG reps to formally report back to WSLC.</b></p>
4.	<b>AS to take back the suggestion WG should act as observers on the WLGA Indicators T&amp;F Group</b>
5.	<p><b>SEAL to follow up suggestions for potential SAIL analysis</b></p> <p><b>SEAL to contact LH with regards to potentially piloting SAIL appliances in Gwynedd.</b></p>
6.	<p><b>Members to let WG know which cubes / datasets should be prioritised for publication as OData.</b></p> <p><b>AA to look into commissioning some joint training on Power BI in Wales.</b></p>
7.	<b>GJ to consider potential for publishing data for National Indicators at different geographies</b>
8.	<b>JT to contact GJ in relation to the Public Sector research network</b>
9.	<b>DT to be invited to future WSLC meetings</b>
10.	<b>JE to present on her work on labour force projections at a future WSLC meeting.</b>
11.	<p><b>Members to please let SL know:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. what further analysis would be useful</li> <li>2. preferred timing for a new WIMD</li> <li>3. priorities for data to be added to the interactive mapping tool</li> <li>4. what you use WIMD for</li> </ol>
12.	<b>Secretariat to confirm next meeting date with Members</b>