

**Wales Race Forum Meeting
22 June 2017 at 12.00pm – 13.00pm
Ty Hywel, Cardiff Bay**

Attendees:

Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children

Aled Edwards	Faith Communities Forum Representative
Shahien Taj	Henna Foundation
Isaac Blake	Romani Cultural and Arts Company
Rocio Cifuentes	Ethnic Youth Support Team (EYST)
David Phillips	Welsh Equality Group
Maria Mesa	Women Connect First
Tracy Sherlock	Welsh Refugee Council
Shereen Williams	Community Cohesion Regional Co-ordinator, Gwent East
Samsunear Ali	BAWSO

Welsh Government Officials in Attendance:

Paul Dear	Equality Team
Emma Small	Equality Team
Andrea Adams	Equality Team

Apologies:

Mandy Burrows	Community Cohesion Regional Co-ordinator, North East
Daniel Hurford	Welsh Local Government Association
Uzo Iwobi	Race Council Cymru
Sunil Patel	Show Racism the Red Card
Melineh Essavy	Hope2Shine

Presentations:

Matthew Williams Professor of Criminology Cardiff University
Rocio Cifuentes EYST
Ginger Wiegard EYST

Welcome and Introductions

The Cabinet Secretary welcomed everyone to the meeting. Late apologies from Uzo Iwobi and Aliya Mohammed were noted by the Cabinet Secretary.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting and the actions paper were noted and agreed.

Item 1: Update from Uzo Iwobi on Third Sector Partnership Council

This item is deferred to the next meeting because Uzo Iwobi was not at the meeting.

Item 2 : Crime Prevention Presentation

Matthew Williams, Professor of Criminology Cardiff University

Hate Crime Data (Slides attached)

The Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) shows that between 2012/13 and 2014/15. There were an estimated 222,000 hate crimes committed per year in England and Wales. Hate crime accounted for 3% of all crime, 8% violent crime

and 3% criminal damage. Since 2011/12 and 2012/13 the number of hate crimes committed has decreased by an estimated 56,000 per year (28%). This is in line with a reduction in all crime (25%) in Wales and England. By contrast, the number of hate crime recorded by the police continues to rise due to an increase in reporting rates and better recording practices.

Cardiff University Social Data Science Laboratory is funded by UK Government to research the spread of hate crime, analysing social media in particular. Their data shows a clear spike in the hate crime records following the 23 June the day of the referendum and thereafter following terror attacks in Europe. In 2016/17 the data shows a spike in hate crime reporting for race or religious aggravated crime rates and again for the rise in 'hate' on social media including anti-Muslim and antisemitic speech on Twitter around the Referendum.

Particular events can be triggers for hate crime but this is not the whole story. For example, there are economic factors which may also play a part in any increase. One theory is that hate crime is more likely during periods of scarcity, as 'out groups' are perceived to be a threat to resources. The next wave of CSEW data will be released by in April 2018, estimating the number of hate crimes committed in England and Wales between 2015/16 and 2017/18. It is expected these data will show an increase in hate crime, due to factors including Brexit.

Prevention

Less is known about the prevention issue. 'Hate' has clear public, policy and criminal justice traction but it is problematic conceptually. There is research in identifying the presence of prejudice in individuals but the research it is poor at pinpointing the tipping point from prejudice into offending. However, the counter speech is more voluminous than hate crime on Twitter when an incident is posted. We saw this with the safetypin #, which was used on Twitter to report a hate crime incident witnessed by the public on the street.

During the discussion after Professor Williams' presentation, the following points were made:

The way that hate crime is reported has changed over the years.

'Half life' is a term used to describe the impact of an event such as a terrorist atrocity, where there is a short sharp increase in offending tailing off in following days and weeks.

The CSEW sampling technique samples 650 people per Police Force area, and therefore few BAME people in Wales are picked up in the survey as most people engaging with the surveys are white.

Some people will move from prejudice to offending.

Some people will discriminate against BAME people in circumstances where the victims do not identify their experience as a hate crime.

There is still a lack of diversity on Public Boards and in Government.

Item 3: Community Cohesion National Delivery Plan 2017-2020

The Cabinet Secretary deferred this item to the next meeting because the meeting was running on and moved to Item 4 on the agenda.

Action: Secretariat to arrange another meeting of the Forum as soon as possible to discuss the community cohesion agenda item and related issues.

Item 4: All Wales BAME Engagement Project

Rocio Cifuentes, Director EYST and Ginger Wiegand

EYST has met with about forty other organisations across Wales so far. They project will reach out to BAME people to collect information about their experiences of accessing public services across Wales and to bring this evidence back to the Welsh Government policy makers. The project will use this information to try to influence future Welsh Government policies.

EYST understands that different regions across Wales have different problems and experiences. EYST will adapt their engagement to reach out to each local authority. The Project will group BAME communities by local authorities. Although engagement with BAME people living in Powys may be different because of its large rural areas within the county and there are specific challenges to rural living: access to public services, mental health care and loneliness. There are four appointed community leaders across Wales to drive this work forward.

Each year EYST will provide a report to the Welsh Government about the progress of the Project.

During the subsequent discussion the following points were made:

Concerns were raised about the extent of engagement with race organisations during the Equality Grant consultation process. Members indicated their support for EYST in delivering the new project but some assurances were sought regarding the approach to be followed.

Will EYST duplicate the work of other organisations?

Will other race organisations retain their advisory role to the Welsh Government?

The Wales Equality Group representative read out some prepared questions on behalf of NWREN which included: how EYST will engage with North Wales BAME communities?; will NWREN's work be duplicated by EYST?; what guidance has been given EYST in relation to their engagement with the public sector to explain that NWREN is not being replaced?

Paul Dear confirmed that officials had already received the same list of questions and a reply had been issued directly to Professor Moore, at NWREN. He said that both Welsh Government and EYST are seeking to develop a collaborative approach, based on discussion with all the organisations with an interest in BAME issues. Specifically, he said, it is not intended that EYST should duplicate or replace work being done by other organisations in the sector. Nor would EYST

seek to control or manage the work of other, independent bodies. Rather, it is hoped that mutually supportive ways of working can be agreed.

The Minister thanked the Forum for their views. He said he had listened to the concerns raised and noted that there was an important distinction between concerns about whether due process had been followed prior to the award of funding and some people being disappointed about the outcome. He said he would be happy to facilitate a separate meeting to discuss concerns raised.

Action: Secretariat to follow up the discussion with members of the Forum and provide feedback at the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be issued to members shortly.