

**Wales Race Forum Meeting
02 December 2020 at 11.00am – 12.30-pm
Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)**

Attendees:

1.	Suzanne Duval	Diverse Cymru
2.	Daniel Hurford	Welsh Local Government Association
3.	Riaz Hassan	Community Cohesion Co-ordinator, Swansea
4.	Kay Denyer	Race Council Cymru
5.	Aled Edwards	Cytun
6.	Sunil Patel	Show Racism the Red Card
7.	Rocio Cifuentes	EYST
8.	Mutale Merill	BAWSO
9.	Shavanah Taj	Wales TUC
10.	Tasmaree Mukhopadhyay	KIRAN
11.	Dr Sibani Roy	NWAMI
12.	Mymuna Soleman	Privilege Café
13.	Sy Joshua	Race Equality First
14.	Abyd Quinn Aziz	Race Alliance Wales
15.	Justna Muhith representing Maria Mesa	Women Connect First.
16.	Althea Collymore representing Holly Taylor	Welsh Refugee Council.
17.	Andrew Ogun	BLM Gwent
18.	Alicja Zalesinka	Tai Pawb
19.	Clover Rodrigues	Welsh Local Government Association

Welsh Government Officials:

Alyson Francis	Deputy Director Communities Division
Uzo Iwobi	Specialist Policy Adviser
Ayanna Mathurine	Equality Branch
Sue Vincent-Jones	Equality Branch
Sue Leake	KAS

Guest Speakers:

Doug Nicholls	Welsh Government
Lara Phelan	Office for National Statistics
Nicola Tyson-Payne	Office for National Statistics

Apologies:

Emma Bennett	Welsh Government
Hannah Fisher	Welsh Government
Nashima Begum	Welsh Government

Agenda Item 1: Welcome, Introductions, and Update

The Deputy Minister and Chief Whip (The Deputy Minister) welcomed members to the meeting.

The Deputy Minister thanked the Forum for their valuable work to date, and stressed that their continued involvement will be crucial in the months ahead as the Race Equality Action Plan is developed, and as we face further challenges from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Deputy Minister expressed her apologies that she may have to leave the meeting later for an urgent cabinet meeting.

The Deputy Minister then highlighted two areas of concern that have directly affected Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, and the actions being taken to address these concerns.

She expressed her concern at the recent spate of stabbings in the Cardiff area and confirmed that she had met South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Alun Michael to discuss this recent rise in knife crime.

The Deputy Minister also confirmed that, following a meeting with the BAME Women Allies Collective in Wales, she would be appointing an independent Black,

Asian or Minority Ethnic woman to ask questions of Chwarae Teg and Welsh Women's Aid following the recent publication of their 'Women in Covid' list.

The appointee will set out recommendations to Welsh Government on how these organisations can improve intersectional representation, and how to ensure that this never happens again. The Deputy Minister will review these recommendations and inform the Collective of the action to be taken.

Update

The Deputy Minister gave an update of key areas of work delivered since the last Wales Race Forum Meeting. This included:

- the award of 25 Community Engagement Grants totalling over £115,00 thousand pounds to community groups across Wales to help put ethnic minority community voices at the heart of the development of Wales' Race Equality Action Plan,
- the publication of The Slave Trade and the British Empire: an audit of commemoration in Wales on 26 November,
- the first report of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Communities, Contributions and Cynefin in the New Curriculum Working Group, published on 19 November, and
- the Zero Tolerance Policy Racism in Wales Campaign, supported by Welsh Government, and delivered by Race Council Cymru, which will launch on Wednesday 9 December, and run for twelve months.

Action:

Wales Race Forum Secretariat to issue the following links to members:

- The Slave Trade and the British Empire: an audit of commemoration in Wales report.
- The first report of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Communities, Contributions and Cynefin in the New Curriculum Working Group.
- The Zero Tolerance to Racism in Wales Campaign materials.

Agenda Item 2 - Actions from Wales Race Forum Meeting of October 19 2020

The Deputy Minister confirmed with the Forum that the minutes of the last meeting were correct, and that all the required actions had been taken.

Agenda Item 3: Update on Race Equality Action Plan development work

The Deputy Minister gave an update on the Race Equality Action Plan. She confirmed that nearly all the Vision Setting events were complete with additional

sessions being held for children and young people, and older persons, within the next fortnight.

Officials are currently analysing the reports from the 25 organisations who received funding to undertake community engagement work. This analysis will be shared at future meetings.

Welsh Government have received over 70 applications for freelance community mentors to assist in developing the Race Equality Action Plan. Following meetings with shortlisted applicants, appointments will be made shortly.

Policy Deep Dive sessions will take place over the coming weeks for each of the current priority policy areas of the Plan. The sessions will triangulate the evidence from the rapid evidence review with the evidence from the community engagement work and stakeholder feedback.

The Deputy Minister will ask officials to present the outcomes of the deep dives and the community engagement work to the Forum at our next meeting, early in the New Year for your feedback.

Action:

Welsh Government to officials to present the outcomes of the deep dives and the community engagement work at the Wales Race Forum meeting on Monday 18 January 2021.

Agenda Item 4 - Introduction to the work of Kiran

The Deputy Minister welcomed new member Tamasree Mukhopadhyay, representing KIRAN, to the Forum, and invited her to give a brief overview of their work.

Tasmaree explained that KIRAN is a non-profit organisation based in the United Kingdom. KIRAN was established to promote community engagement on an informed basis. It seeks to foster knowledge-based acceptance of different cultures, heritage and traditions prevalent among various communities in the UK.

Agenda Item 5 - 'About the Vaccine'

The Deputy Minister invited Doug Nicholls (DN) from the Health and Social Services department to give a presentation on how the Welsh Government, working with Public Health Wales, will deliver the 'About the Vaccine' Campaign early next year.

DN outlined the Campaign, and explained that the campaign team are seeking feedback from trusted voices to help them communicate effectively with the ethnic minority community. He invited Forum members to contact him directly to share their views, thoughts, and feedback.

Action:

Wales Race Forum Secretariat to issue About the Vaccine Campaign Team contact details to members.

Agenda Item 6 – England and Wales Census 2021

The Deputy Minister invited Nicola Tyson-Payne (NTP) from the Office of National Statistics, who are delivering the 2021 Census due on 21 March 2021, to present an overview of the work of Community Engagement Managers and Community Advisors.

NTP explained their role, and stressed that their key objective is to raise awareness of the census and encourage participation by Key Population Groups.

NTP confirmed that community engagement managers and advisors have a commitment to ensuring credible engagement with our ethnic minority communities. She invited Forum members to contact the community mailbox direct to share their views, thoughts, and feedback.

Action:

Wales Race Forum Secretariat to issue Census 2021 campaign team contact details to members.

Agenda Item 7 – BAME Communities and Dementia

The Deputy Minister invited Suzanne Duval (SD) from Diverse Cymru to talk about BAME communities and dementia.

SD explained dementia was a growing area of concern for our ethnic minority communities, and outlined the challenges faced for those with, and caring for those with, dementia.

SD said that three per cent of people with dementia are from ethnic minority communities – around 25,000 people. This number is expected to double by 2026 with the steepest increase expected in South Asian communities.

Research suggests these communities often face delays in dementia diagnosis and barriers in accessing services.

The Deputy Minister explained that she would now have leave the meeting to attend Cabinet. She thanked everyone for their contributions, and thanked the Forum, once again, for their continuing engagement and support.

She invited Deputy Director of the Communities Division Alyson Francis (AF) to chair the remainder of the meeting.

Agenda item 8: Any other business

Kay Denyer from Race Council Cymru made Forum members aware of the Zero Tolerance Policy to Racism in Wales launch date of Wednesday 9 December.

There was no other business.

AF thanked all for their attendance and concluded meeting.

**The next meeting is on Monday 18 January 2021 from 10am to 11.30am.
A Diary Marker will be issued shortly.**