# Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee
# A National Statistics Joint Consultative Committee
# Minutes of meeting held on 4 February 2021
# Via Microsoft Teams

## Attendees

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| Steph | Howarth | SH | Welsh Government (WG) |
| Sue | Leake | SL | Welsh Government (WG) |
| Nia | Wyn Vaughan | NWV | Gwynedd Council |
| Lowri | Wyn Morton | LWM | Gwynedd Council |
| Vicki | Doyle | VD | Caerphilly County Borough Council |
| Lesley | Rees | LR | Carmarthenshire County Council |
| Janine | Edwards | JE | Conwy County Borough Council |
| Caitlin | Theodorou | CT | Ceredigion County Council |
| Vanessa | Dale | VD | Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council |
| Fiona | Clay-Poole | FCP | Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council |
| Lloyd | Fisher | LF | Vale of Glamorgan Council |
| Henry | Knowles | HK | Natural resources Wales |
| Tryfan | Williams | TW | Gwynedd Council |
| Eleri | James | EJ | Welsh Language Commissioner's Office |
| Helen | Jones | HJ | Senedd Research |
| Lucy | Butler | LB | Vale of Glamorgan Council |
| Nathan | Lester | NL | Public Health Wales |
| Sergio | Recio | RS | Estyn |
| Leanne | John | LJ | City and County of Swansea |
| Richard | Cardwell | RC | Natural resources Wales |
| William | Miles | WM | Monmouthshire County Council |
| Jay | Davis | JD | Flintshire County Council |
| Duncan | MacKenzie | DMK | Data Cymru |
| Lee | Clarke | LC | Cardiff County Council |
| Johnathon | Radcliffe | JC | Sport Wales |
| Tom | Brame | TB | Data Cymru |
| Sam | Sullivan | SS | Data Cymru |
| Wanda | Kirby | WK | Bridgend County Borough Council |
| Daniel | Cummings | DC | Data Cymru |
| Steve | King | SK | City and County of Swansea |
| Elaine | Smith | ES | Wrexham County Borough Council |
| Paul | Jones | PJ | Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council |
| Andy | Wilson | AW | Torfaen County Borough Council |
| Alwyn | Williams | AlW | Isle of Anglesey County Council |
| Catrin | Gilkes | CG | Translation |
| Gareth | Barclay | GB | Flintshire County Council |
| Will | Perks | WP | Welsh Government |

## Speakers

| Neil | Townsend | NT | Office for National Statistics |
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| Andy | O'Rourke | AOR | Welsh Government |
| Rachel | Punton | RP | Welsh Government |
| Rachel | Dolman | RD | Welsh Government |

## Apologies

| Geraint | Morgan | Powys County Council |
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| Karen | Hawkes | Denbighshire County Council |
| Shaun | Davies | Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council |
| Matthew | Scanlon | Brecon Beacons National Park |
| Eifion | Rees | Mid and West Wales fire and rescue service |
| Karen | Armstrong | Flintshire County council |
| Kate | Jones | HM Prison & Probation service |
| Steven | Marshall | Welsh Government |
| Nia | Jones | Welsh Government |
| Phillip | Barlow | Pembrokeshire Coast National Park |
| Sioned | Cardew Richardson | Estyn |
| Sharon | Davies | Welsh local Government Association |
| Anna | Nicholl | Wales Council for Voluntary Action |
| Andrew | Stephens | Data Cymru |

| 1. | Welcome, Introduction and Apologies | |
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| | SL started meeting explaining that SH may be a few minutes late, explained that the meeting had simultaneous Welsh translation and how to dial in. Said Meeting papers should have been sent around and any issues accessing them they can be resent. | |
| 2. | Note of last meeting and update on action points | |
| | Wellbeing assessments needs to be a standing item for the time being (JE)<br><br>Data Cymru welcomed feedback on their migration portal<br>Request for feedback remains open.<br><br>SH joined and went through the actions from last meeting and concluded that they had been completed | **Action:** Secretariat to add Well-being assessments as a standing agenda item |
| 3. | Review of information papers | |
| | Statistics Wales quarterly update:<br>SL drew attention to a few things on the update:<br>- publications around schools and education, including a weekly publication on school attendance using management information with the emphasis on the fact that it is low burden for schools.<br><br>- The Welsh Government is thinking about the timing of the school census, considering the school closures in January.<br><br> – the new monthly release of management information on homelessness accommodation and rough sleeping. | **Action**: SL to keep members updated on decisions about the school census |

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| | - Provisional data about affordable housing 2019/20 available but a fuller release timetabled for a months' time.<br><br>- Health and social services data- collections delayed but now processing individual level looked after children data.<br><br>- new WIMD (Welsh index of Multiple Deprivation) analysis of protected characteristics, whilst noting that the indicator data will not be being updated this year<br><br>DM mentioned the need for training in use of WIMD data as it could be useful to embed as part of the assessment process for PSB's.<br><br>[Demography update](#)<br>National park projections to be published in March 2021 following the agreement of methodology<br><br>[Data Cymru update](#):<br>SS mentioned that they are in process of creating dashboard for COVID 19 data including incidence, mortality, and incidence over time.<br><br>SS also mentioned that they are running training in April on focus groups and survey design<br><br>Local authority service data update- social media feeds LA websites<br>   -   Availably of key local authority services<br><br>SS reiterated that CACI has offered data tools free of charge to public bodies for use with COVID data<br><br>DC spoke about his work on labour market intelligence, economic support and looking at skills and employability. Working with local authorities on specific tasks e.g. employment recovery plans. Using stats info to work out what jobs hospitality workers can go into<br> Job posting reports by local authorities by occupations – in April the only jobs increasing were nurses, hospital porters and clergy.<br><br>DC also spoke about Open Data Wales. A HUB to share open data between public bodies, and they are beta testing with several local authorities in March.<br><br>SH asked about the public sector equality duty in the context of the open data hub. DC commented that this topic had also been raised by local authorities themselves as a potential use of the hub. | **Action:** anybody wanting to be involved in Data Cymru's development of the Covid Dashboard or the training to contact SS<br><br>**Action**: If interested with these CACI data tools contact Data Cymru or CACI direct |
| 4. | Future trend report update | |
| | RP who works in the Welsh Government Sustainable futures policy team, gave a presentation on the current work going into this.<br><br>The main focus of the discussion was on how they are building on the 2017 Future Trends report in three main areas, awareness and accessibility, use and application and data and content making sure it was relevant and appropriate.<br><br>RP mentioned that they have been working with PSBs and sustainable development coordinators discussing what would make this report more useful. One of the conclusions was that many PSB were not successfully | |

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| | using it as a resource and so team are looking to do engagement, seminars and workshops to help with this.<br><br>RP also put a focus on how the Report should be produced collaboratively. First draft should be available for PSBs in July 2021 to get an idea of themes.<br><br>JE commented that the report was published too late last time to be useful and the full report in Spring 2022 will also likely be too late. Would prefer early sight or approximate guidance now rather than something polished in three months' time.<br><br>JE also mentioned the difficulty of knowing whether things that are changed by COVID and Brexit are existing trends that have been accelerated or are blips. RP commented that the report aims to offer advice on this.<br><br>JE brought up the fact that she thought it would be beneficial to speak to land use planners as they are required to plan more than five years ahead.<br><br>VD mentioned that not everyone is aware of who is being engaged with elsewhere/ at a higher level, but people involved in the WSLC may need to know that info too.<br><br>LM questioned whether they could share the draft future trends report between groups whilst it's being created.<br><br>DMK suggested that some guidance was being put together centrally in Welsh Government by Kevin Griffith's team in support of local authorities, along with some workshops and advice for the assessment process. | **Action:** RP to share information on who they are engaging with on Future Trends Report<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>**Action:** Kevin Griffiths (WG) to share a written update on local wellbeing assessments in the absence of an agenda item |
| 5. | National indicators – summary of latest position and plans for any changes to national indicators | |
| | AOR gave an update on the annual [Wellbeing of Wales report](#) and developments with the National Indicators. He indicated that the report was shorter this year as a result of resources being diverted to support the pandemic response. The report is a summary report for the 2019-20 financial year. AOR also mentioned that some the data collections used for the national indicators were paused or changed as a result of the pandemic.<br><br>AOR explained that a fuller wellbeing report is planned for this year (2021), similar to the 2019 report.<br><br>AOR commented that some changes to the national indicator set were planned (e.g on fair work) but these were paused last year due to the pandemic. They will be picked up again this year. There is also an opportunity to suggest a small number of additions to the national indicators, based on learning and experiences during the pandemic.<br><br>[National indicator set](#)<br><br>Members suggested the following indicator gaps:<br>- Food poverty, access to healthy food<br>- Food security and food production capacities – borders<br>- Proportion of people living life without the threat of abuse (psychological, physical, emotional) | |

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| | - Long term illness – suicide and harmful use of alcohol<br>- Children's mental health<br>- Relationships or isolation/support bubbles<br>- Income and resource inequality (distributional impacts)<br>- Digital inclusion<br><br>NWV asked about the possibility of replicating indicators at lower level than Wales. SH explained that in some cases it is possible but it depends on the indicator as it varies case by case on the underlying dataset.<br><br>SK enquired whether there was ever a formal WG response to the 2019 milestones/ NI consultation. SH stated that it was paused due to the pandemic, but work is now restarting on identifying indicators to form milestones.<br><br>JE also raised the issue of income/resource inequality (and not the same as 'straightforward' or recognised measures of poverty/deprivation). SH agreed that the distribution of income/inequality isn't well represented at the moment and you can't always get that depth and insight form averages.<br><br>ES commented about digital deprivation and people's ability to contribute to events. WP agreed that does seem to have been highlighted during the pandemic. LR noted that despite the pandemic bringing this to light that we still have large rural areas where sufficient broadband is still not accessible. ES commented that digital deprivation could be around lack of broadband, lack of digital skills, inability to afford IT equipment and lack of knowledge as to how to set it up and use it. | |
| 6. | Covid-19 | |
| | RD gave an update on Welsh Government COVID-19 statistical work. She explained that the biggest development since the last meeting was the vaccination rollout.<br><br>- PHW have vaccination tab on their dashboard which is updated daily with high level figures. Looking to make more breakdowns available - age groups, care home residents, care and health workers.<br>- She mentioned that WG are looking to publish more information on the vaccine programme itself, including stocks of the vaccines and doses.<br>- RD mentioned a new weekly release of number of COVID cased reported to higher education establishments in Wales<br>- Online survey to look at the effect of COVID on Welsh language groups has been published.<br>- RD mentioned the development plans for a public facing dashboard bringing together the wide range of covid statistics in one place (including economic and social harms).<br>SS commented that it would be useful to see vaccinations data by offer and uptake<br>SL commented that we need to make sure we understand the roles of different dashboards and that they link together well<br><br>. SS indicated he would be happy to discuss the Data Cymru dashboard offering and plans. | |

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| | TW stated that a downloadable data link for reuse from the PHW dashboard has proved useful re cases. Vaccinations are a new area, but being able to download a complete dataset on both the priority groups and lower geographies over time would be very welcome.<br><br>DC mentioned the work that he has been undertaking in the area of prosperity/deprivation with local authorities recently. There was a lot of interest in this work and a specific agenda item was suggested for the next meeting.<br><br>SH suggested DC contact Mel Brown in the Welsh Government as she has been looking at data on home/remote working. | **Action**: DC to present an item on prosperity and deprivation at the next WSLC |
| 7. | Census update | |
| | NT gave an update on census plans. NT emphasised that it is digital first census with a field operation to follow up non response. Non response visits will be done on the doorstep with PPE and following all coronavirus guidelines.<br><br>Around 40-50% of households in Wales will receive a paper questionnaire as they may be less likely to respond online. Anyone can request a paper copy. ONS have upped capacity at the call centre so that people can fill it out on the phone.<br><br>Census support centres – aim to provide in person support but will only be doing that when it is safe to do so<br>For care homes (and other communal establishments), census officers will follow the COVID 19 protocols in place.<br><br>Aim to capture students at their term time address<br>    - Working on communications with universities<br>    - Student targeted ad campaign<br><br>Focus on the census being truly bilingual, including Welsh voice over artists used and all campaign materials used. EJ commented that the slogan works well in Welsh. She also expressed dissatisfaction about the language of the primary address used for the questionnaire, which will be in English only. NT responded that Welsh language addresses will be possible for second addresses.<br><br>JE asked about enumerating vacant household spaces this time round, such as second homes/holiday homes. NT explained that field staff will be collecting this data where possible. JE also asked about output plans for this.<br><br>NL noted that Scotland had delayed their census and questioned what had lead ONS to decide to proceed this year. NT responded that they had people out doing the COVID infection survey so drew on those experiences, the high level of user need – used extensively for analysis of the pandemic, they were unclear of how long the pandemic will continue and how long it would have to be postponed for. And so they decided to proceed due to the combination of factors<br><br>JE queried the impact of using the census to recalibrate population statistics if it's measuring unusual patterns during the pandemic and not true trends. NT responded that they have an extensive QA process, and that methodology experts are advising on this issue. | **Action:** NT to confirm whether ONS will be publishing statistics on vacant premises and holiday homes<br><br><br>**Action**: NT (or ONS colleagues) to discuss outputs in more detail at next WSLC. |

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| 8. | AOB | |
| | SH mentioned the Inclusive Data Taskforce, which is aiming to improve the UK's data holdings on inclusive data. They are aiming to hold a series of round table discussions, and they are keen to reach out to local authorities about requirements for local data. She asked for volunteers to join the discussions in late March.<br>ES indicated that she was happy to participate | **Action**: SH to pass on ES's contact details to ONS and to share the invite to take part in the Inclusive data taskforce discussions more widely. |
| 9. | Close | |