

Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee A National Statistics Joint Consultative Committee Minutes of meeting held on 7 October 2021 Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Melanie	Brown	MB	Welsh Government
Lee	Clarke	LC	Cardiff County Council
Jay	Davies	JD	Flintshire County Council
Karen	Deehan	KD	Welsh Government
Paul	Dingle	PD	Welsh Government
Vicki	Doyle	VD	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Janine	Edwards	JE	Conwy County Borough Council
Steve	Hughes	SH	Welsh Government
Eleri	James	EJ	Welsh Language Commissioner
Bea	Jeffries	BJ	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Rebecca	Jeffries	RJ	Welsh Government
Leanne	John	LJ	City and County of Swansea
Helen	Jones	HJ	Senedd Research
Nia	Jones	NJ	Welsh Government
Paul	Jones	PJ	Partnership Analyst
Steve	King	SK	City and County of Swansea
Wanda	Kirby	WK	Bridgend Council
Duncan	Mackenzie	DM	Data Cymru
William	Miles	WM	Monmouthshire County Council
Geraint	Morgan	GM	Powys County Council
Andy	O'Rourke	AO	Welsh Government
Martin	Parry	MP	Welsh Government
Rhys	Powell	RP	Public Health Wales
Johnathan	Radcliffe	JR	Sport Wales
Lesley	Rees	LR	Carmarthenshire County Council
Elaine	Smith	ES	Wrexham County Borough Council
Helena	Snuggs	HS	Sport Wales
Daniela	Stewart	DS	Public Health Wales
Sam	Sullivan	SS	Data Cymru
Caitlin	Theodorou	CT	Ceredigion County Council
Alwyn	Williams	AW	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Andy	Wilson	AW	Welsh Government
Nia	Wyn Vaughan	NV	Gwynedd County Council

Speakers

Scott	Clifford	SC	Welsh Government
Brandon	Farrer	BF	Office for National Statistics
Callum	Foster	CF	Office for National Statistics
Andrew	Granville	AG	Welsh Government
Martina	Helme	MH	Office for National Statistics
Rebecca	Hill	RH	Public Health Wales
Ian	Jones	IJ	Welsh Government
Rhiannon	Jones	RJ	Welsh Government
Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government
Rebecca	Masters	RM	Public Health Wales
Salah	Merad	SM	Office for National Statistics
Will	Perks	WP	Welsh Government
Gowan	Watkins	GW	Welsh Government

Apologies

Lucy	Butler	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Richard	Cardwell	Natural Resources Wales
Chris	Clarke	Torfaen County Borough Council
Hugo	Cosh	Public Health Wales
Stephanie	Howarth	Welsh Government
Martin	Jennings	Assembly Commission

1.	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies	Actions
	<p>SL welcomed everyone and asked members to introduce themselves.</p> <p>SL explained that simultaneous translation had not been provided due to an issue with the iCalendar invitation that prevented them from seeing who accepted the invitation. She said that Nia Jones and Steve Hughes had offered to translate, if necessary, any questions for part of the meeting. SL added that WSLC members will be emailed regarding the way Teams invitations are sent to ensure attendees and apologies are captured for future meetings.</p>	
2.	Note of last meeting, update on action points, Statistics Wales quarterly update, demography update and Data Cymru update	
	<p>Notes of last meeting: EJ asked whether any training can be recommended regarding the discussion on accessibility of documents .WK mentioned in the chat that Bridgend council have used Shaw Trust to deliver training on accessibility.</p> <p>Update on actions: All actions were either completed or covered in the agenda.</p>	<p>Action – Members to share any advice or training available on creating accessible documents</p>

	<p>Statistics Wales quarterly update: SL mentioned there was a wide range of updates. To note, many health and COVID-19 stats will be continued but the frequency of those outputs will be reviewed, given Wales is at level zero. Labour market statistics will continue to monitor the impacts of COVID-19 e.g. as the furlough scheme ends. The school statistics team are continuing to monitor weekly school attendance. The National Survey for Wales (NSW) will publish one more quarterly output in October but will return to annual updates after this and the Trade Survey is ongoing. SL referenced the Administrative Data Research (ADRU) quarterly update noting that funding has now been secured for the next four years. Their work-plan covers many topics (early years, climate change, impacts of COVID-19, social justice and equality) so members may wish will be useful to look out for developments. JE mentioned the imminent boundary changes to wards ahead of local elections next year which will impact on data collection. SL mentioned the Well-being of Wales 2021 report which was published at the end of September.</p> <p>Demography update JE mentioned that small area population statistics came out from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 16 Sept 2021. She also flagged the usefulness of GP register data for LSOAs GP register as it provides a useful sense check of what is happening in the area when worth compared to ONS estimates. These can be made available through Data Cymru. SL also mentioned it is worth keeping an eye on the work that ONS are doing on administrative based population estimates which use GP registers as well as population and other sources to estimate population.</p> <p>Data Cymru update: DM ran through the updates in the paper. He also mentioned that data access from Public Health Wales (PHW) will now be shared on their hub. VD asked about new variables on green spaces in the Thriving Places tool. DM said data on access to private and public spaces has been added as part of the green spaces sub-domain.</p>	
3.	Welsh Health Equity Solutions Platform (WHESP)	
	<p>RH gave a background to their live innovation site for health equity (WHESP). The work aligns closely with the Future Generations Act, Wellbeing of Wales and the sustainable development goals. WHESP has been created to provide a portal to available evidence/legislation/data across departments (relevant for health). It will be accessible and bilingual. There are five 'essential conditions' to increase opportunities for healthy living and prosperous lives – goals that policy officials should aim to meet. There are six key aspects covered in the WHESP Platform to support evidence information decision-making RH talked though the Solutions page – an overview of what is working around the world to achieve the goals. RM talked through the</p>	

	<p>proposed features, and proposed contents of the live site including links to evidence and an interactive digital database</p> <p>Feedback/Discussion: VD asked about the geographical level the tool is available at as it is more useful at a smaller level for LAs particularly for well-being assessments RH said that currently the data is at national level but they aim to integrate LA level/granular data during the second phase of development.</p> <p>VD also mentioned the difficulties in accessing updated health data (Public Health Outcomes Framework data) to feed into their Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plans, which need to be produced in 2022 and 2023 respectively. RM said the feedback was helpful and is also concerned about this. They are aiming to get LSOA level data in future but, it might not come in time for the wellbeing update. RM did mention other cross cutting ways that may provide lower level data e.g. comparing data with The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD). Whilst the site can't do this right now, LAs can compare the data themselves. RH said that the data could be mapped against WIMD if you wanted to.</p> <p>SL asked when they were planning to make the platform live – RH indicated that they are aiming for spring of next year as they are in the process of collating data.</p> <p>JR asked if it would be possible to explore topic specific contributions to the overall picture. For example, the role of sport. RM said not at the moment but they will like to look into this in future feedback.</p> <p>Contact details given in the chat for further questions and feedback on the platform.</p>	
4.	Housing statistics general update	
	<p>SC summarised recent releases and upcoming releases for housing statistics. The team have been busy resuming housing statistics which were paused/delayed due to COVID-19 priorities. They have been working with ONS on certain outputs (monthly house price index and house prices by area). There is an intensive work programme within Welsh Government (WG) looking at second home policy issues and data to provide evidence on the issue. They are also collaborating with ONS on plans for 2021 Census outputs related to housing and how to collect data for groups such as the homeless.</p> <p>JE indicated that she was disappointed in the lack of housing statistics in the future trends report. SC said he would feed this back to those in charge of future trends report.</p> <p>RJ talked through the Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) update. An excel tool is in development which allows LAs to</p>	<p>Action – SC to feedback to those working on future trends report about the lack of housing statistics in the previous report.</p>

	<p>estimate need for market housing and affordable housing over a 15 year period, based on new needs as well as existing unmet needs. The tool has input, calculation and output sections. However it is still being worked on with regard to specific requirements e.g. older people's needs. JE welcomed the work done on this.</p> <p>A number of LAs indicated they were currently preparing LHMA's. VD raised the issue of access to data on incomes as not all LAs are part of the Paycheck consortium due to cost of the data, noting that estimates built into the tool would be very beneficial. It was noted that due to restricted finances some LAs were not able to purchase the data even at the reduced consortium rate. DM said Data Cymru have started looking at what freely available data might be available from ONS.</p> <p>GW talked about the housing conditions evidence programme, which supports policy across WG. More detailed data is being collected such as cladding data and data on high rises residential buildings. Funding for the programme is secured for the remainder of financial year, and backing for the rest of current government term. Aim to pull through administrative data and use what is available to get as much as possible value from linked data. Data sources they are using were covered, and how they are collected and merged together. Progress has improved somewhat in terms of data sharing with those outside of WG (due to COVID-19). The next steps were highlighted. GW said any suggestions for data sources or recommendations are welcome.</p>	<p>Action – DM to look into freely available estimates on incomes to reduce costs for LAs of Paycheck data. To feedback at next meeting.</p>
5.	Well-being of Future Generations Act, National Milestones and National Indicators	
	<p>AG discussed the current consultation on using national milestones and indicators to measure the nation's progress (links below). National milestones will be based on previously agreed national indicators and follow the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. A smaller set of indicators is used to set milestones, with the aim of strengthening how we measure the Future Generations Act and to encourage everyone to make valuable contributions to the milestones. Whilst the WG does have a leadership role and a role to lay the framework for these milestones, the targets are for all of Wales not just WG milestones. There will be two waves of agreeing milestones. Milestones for the current wave are existing targets and will be finalised by end of 2021. Then work will be done on how to achieve these and across which organisations. Wave 2 will agree future aims – covering a wide range of topics that link to strategies and plans of organisations and government. Date to aim for will be 2050 for all milestones, but potential for interim milestones (every ten years). Closing date for the consultation is 26 October 2021.</p> <p>WP gave an update on work on indicators. The Well-being of Wales report 2021 was published end September and provides an overall narrative of the 46 national indicators. On National Indicators, there was a consultation/review in 2019 to ask how they are working after four years. No wide-scale changes have</p>	

been made but suggestions taken forward e.g. a new indicator on collective bargaining, and the pay gap indicator will be improved. The pandemic delayed work on releasing the indicators but recent consultation highlighted two additional recommendations for indicators – one is around digital inclusion (training or infrastructure improvements), second one is about transport (working towards active or sustainable transport). Aim to get these agreed by end of this year alongside the milestones.

JE asked about the inclusion of housing indicators mentioning specifically the issue of affordable housing. GW and AG noted the indicators already included linked to housing homelessness prevention, energy efficiency of housing and quality of housing. AG indicated there will be a proposed Milestone around housing energy efficiency/performance in Wave 2 next year.

JE also mentioned disappointment about not hitting targets re affordable housing – we are failing as a nation and not enough is being done on this, every year new targets are made but we don't meet them and they lower the standards of the target which doesn't help to solve the problem. WP has noted this down and will take it forwards.

Action – AG and WP to consider comments on housing indicators as part of the feedback on the consultation.

Ymgynghoriad: Defnyddio cerrig milltir a dangosyddion cenedlaethol i fesur cynnydd ein cenedl	Consultation: Using national milestones and indicators to measure our nation's progress)
Blog Llundain Dyfodol Cymru	Shaping Wales' Future blog
Llesiant Cymru: 2021	Wellbeing of Wales: 2021
Dangosyddion cenedlaethol	National indicators

6. Local Wellbeing Assessments

IJ gave a verbal update on local Well-being assessments and Well-being plans. Public Service Boards (PSBs) need to prepare wellbeing assessments leading up to May 2022 local elections, followed by local wellbeing plans. WG is engaging with PSBs to support analytical capability and resources – drop-in clinics with PSBs being held, the third round of which recently finished, and engagement levels are high. Clear issues have been raised within LAs, such as analytical capacity and demand/time scales of these assessments. Challenges remain with engagement of other organisations to collate data. Next steps – WG will review local assessments and provide feedback, taking restraints into consideration, and impact of COVID-19. This will include consideration of data sources and data quality. WG noted the longer term issue of analytical capacity within LAs and PSBs.

	<p>LR asked for details of drop-in clinics – IJ said details had been provided through PSB newsletters and network meetings, with pretty good engagement so far. LR noted that such communication was not getting through to all relevant officials in LAs. IJ to follow up on this to include all relevant officials in LAs.</p>	<p>Action – IJ to seek to improve notification of Well-being Assessment drop-in clinics to LAs.</p>
7.	<p>Annual Population Survey (APS) recent developments</p>	
	<p>MH gave an overview of the changes to the APS (weighting and sample bias) since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. LFS is the main sample and there is a boost sample to target a set number of cases for each LA. Quarterly datasets are released, and cohorts can be followed. But the boost is measured in 12 month intervals rather than quarterly. So the APS includes boost cohorts and the main LFS sample. Timeline of events given during the APS collection – change from face to face to telephone interviews, which excludes part of the sample so wave size was increased. MH showed impact on response rates – decrease due to the pandemic and the move to phone call interviews, but knock to nudge (ktn), introduced in Apr 2021, increased response rates. There was also a bias based on the types of people represented when only phone calls were used (e.g. home owners, white, older people).</p> <p>SM talked through the re-weighting for 2020 APS estimates, and gave an overview of how this affected certain rates/variables. They wanted to find what the impact on trends was caused by/associated with, and then applied the weights accordingly. SM ran through an example of one variable – country of birth – and described the process behind this. This explained how the changes in rates of variables are applied to the weighting.</p> <p>MB indicated how the APS is used within the WG by a number of teams; for publishing quarterly labour market indicators, estimating young people not in education, employment and training (NEET), ability in Welsh language, qualifications etc. The boosted sample allows us to look at more detail such as local authority and characteristics. It is also the source for some well-being indicators. The Labour Market Statistics team are planning on publishing a detailed characteristics release later this year looking at trends within the labour market for example by ethnicity, disability, sex, and inter-sections where possible.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB</p>	
	<p>SL said a message would be sent out with regards the way we send out future meeting invitations which will enable appropriate arrangements for Welsh translation, if required.</p> <p>SL encouraged people to mention any topics they'd like to see included in future meetings.</p> <p>SL also said a more general questionnaire will be sent out about feedback on these meetings.</p>	<p>Action – Secretariat to contact members regarding the use of email for future meeting invitations.</p> <p>Action – Secretariat to send out</p>

	<p>SL notified everyone that the next meetings will take place on Thursday 3 February 2022 and Thursday 9 June 2022.</p> <p>Close</p>	<p>questionnaire for general feedback on WSLC meetings.</p>
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	Actions	
1	Members to share any advice or training available on creating accessible documents	All
2	SC to feedback to those working on future trends report about the lack of housing statistics in the previous report.	Scott Clifford, Welsh Government
3	DM to look into freely available estimates on incomes to reduce costs for LAs of Paycheck data. To feedback at next meeting	Duncan Mackenzie, Data Cymru
4	AG and WP to consider comments on housing indicators as part of the feedback on the consultation	Andrew Granville / William Perks, Welsh Government
6	IJ to seek to improve .notification of Well-being Assessment drop-in clinics to LAs.	Ian Jones, Welsh Government
7	Secretariat to contact members regarding the use of email for future meeting invitations.	Secretariat, Welsh Government
8	Secretariat to send out questionnaire for general feedback on WSLC meetings.	Secretariat / Sue Leake, Welsh Government