

## Budget Improvement Impact Advisory Group (BIIAG) – Minutes of Meeting

<b>Date</b> 10 January 2023	<b>Time</b> 11:00 – 12:45	<b>Location</b> Microsoft Teams Meeting
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No.	Action	Who	When
1.	<b>Re-circulate link to equality questionnaire for members to complete</b>	BIIAG members	ASAP
2.	<b>Raise query with Equality Data Unit around understanding if we recognise research that increased pressures on public services can lead to an increase of bias and stereotyping and if this is an area being considered.</b>	Budget Improvement Team (BIT)	At next meeting with Data Unit
3.	<b>Aim to establish a prevention working sub-group</b>	Budget Improvement Team (BIT)	Before next meeting
4.	<b>BIT to continue conversation on membership gaps</b>	Budget Improvement Team (BIT)	Before next meeting
4.	<b>Create more of an outcome focused work plan and share it with the group.</b>	Budget Improvement Team (BIT)	Before next meeting
5.	<b>Circulate summary documents relating to discussion points in advance of meetings as relevant</b>	Budget Improvement Team (BIT)	As relevant

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

- 1.1. Members were welcomed to the meeting of the Budget Improvement Impact Advisory Group (BIIAG). Members were thanked for all the work and support provided to the team to produce the Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment document and to the subgroup for their additional support.
- 1.2. Members were advised that the minutes from the last meeting had been circulated and all actions had been completed. No amendments were noted.
- 1.3. Update given on the previous action on providing clarification on what formats the children's budgeting animation will be available in. The animation will be in MP4 format with subtitles and voice over.
- 1.4. The Group were informed that the BIIAG web page is now live with all previous minutes published on it. This page contains an overview of the

purpose of the group, the TOR and workplan and minutes. This is to ensure we are being transparent in our approach and people can find out more about the group itself. You will find the webpage here: <https://gov.wales/budget-improvement-and-impact-advisory-group>

- 1.5. Group members were reminded to please complete the electronic equality questionnaire which was circulated to members. We would appreciate if everybody could complete it to help us with our own reporting and monitoring of the group's membership. [Survey Preview Window \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://smartsurvey.co.uk).

**AP: Re-circulate link to equality questionnaire for members to complete**

## **2. Reflect and feedback on the SIIA**

- 2.1. Following the work of the group we were able to make positive changes to this year's Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment and we would welcome your thoughts and feedback on this.

- 2.2. Group agreed it was encouraging that the feedback that the group had given was clearly being reflected in the improvements that have been made. The group felt that people would make more use of this document throughout the year not just in scrutinising the Draft Budget.

- 2.3. Positive improvements noted:

- Clearer purpose for the document
- Stronger links between evidence and trends and budget decisions
- Better use of references and hyperlinks
- Good use of case studies showing complex and challenging issues
- Specific reference to Public Sector Duty and Equality Act

- 2.4. Areas highlighted for further development and consideration:

- More clearly identify what is additional spending and reference original allocation
- More use of rights-based language
- Where references are made to read in context with other supporting documents include hyperlinks
- Stronger links needs to be made in the culture section to Wales being a nation of sanctuary
- More detailed analysis would be useful to support people drilling down further – Ministerial evidence paper and the time lag of this being published was noted.
- Where possible in case studies specific data could be provided where relevant e.g. who has been accessing Discretionary Assistance Fund?
- More gender disaggregation of data would be useful

- 2.5. Points to note:

- Real Living Wage case study implies that the Real Living Wage will be paid to social care workers from 1<sup>st</sup> April however it is 1<sup>st</sup> June
- As assessing impact on equalities is a statutory function should the social section be renamed equalities?

2.6. It was raised that research indicates that increased pressures on public services can lead to further embedding of biases and stereotypes – is this being monitored?

**AP: Raise query with Equality Data Unit around understanding if we recognise research that increased pressures on public services can lead to an increase of bias and stereotyping and if this is an area being considered.**

2.7. Members indicated their desire to support the further development of the SIIA over the coming year and were encouraged to provide any further feedback to the Budget Improvement Team. Please email us at [budgetimprovementteam@gov.wales](mailto:budgetimprovementteam@gov.wales).

### **3. Presentation on Prevention and identification of next steps**

3.1. A presentation was provided on prevention. (Link below). The group were invited to provide reflections or ask questions relating to the presentation.

3.2. The group acknowledged the complexity of this area but broadly agreed that the definition used was fit for purpose in terms of capturing but recognised complexity in its application. A discussion took place which covered areas including:

- Prevention being used to save costs and value for money
- The definitions being subjective and implemented in different ways depending on the specific service provision
- The role of climate and nature and net zero spending as longer term prevention
- Difference in viewing prevention at a macro and micro level
- The need to think outside public services
- International examples that could be drawn on

3.3. The group agreed to support further work in this area and a subgroup will be established to take this forward.

**AP: Aim to establish a prevention working subgroup**

### **4. Reflection of BIAG structure to date and agree future ways or working and focus**

4.1. A discussion took place on the structure and membership of the group over the last 12 months and members were asked for any reflections or points of

change to be considered. It was noted that there are gaps in the membership with some members attending less frequently. The Budget Improvement Team will undertake conversations with individual members to ensure the membership issues are resolved.

**AP: BIT to continue conversation on membership gaps**

- 4.2. Members provided positive feedback on the group and welcomed the approach of being open to setting up working groups such as the one on the SIIA and provide opportunity to dig into more detail in specific areas.
- 4.3. A discussion took place on the possibility of an in-person meeting later in the year. A strong consensus was not reached with members indicating it may only be useful if working on a specific issue or task in a workshop style.
- 4.4. No issues were raised in relation to the proposed workplan. BIT will now work this up to be more detailed with some specific outcomes listed.

**AP: Create more of an outcome focused work plan and share it with the group.**

- 4.5. A request for a summary document to be sent out in advance of some of the complex topics so that members can get familiarity with concepts such as terminology and purpose. This would encourage members to contribute due to different levels of understanding on different topics.

**AP: Circulate summary documents relating to discussion points in advance of meetings as relevant**

- 4.6. The Equalities and Human Rights Coalition will issue a report in October highlighting persistent areas of inequality, this could provide an opportunity to have a substantive discussion on areas of inequality or human rights.
- 4.7. Members highlighted opportunities for members of the BIT to attend other meetings such as the Children's Rights Advisory Group to talk about the budget improvement plan as relevant and where resources allow.

**5. AOB & Meeting Review & Close**

- 5.1. Next meeting will be scheduled for March after the Final Budget is published. A meeting request will be sent out shortly.
- 5.2. A reminder that this is a conversation that does not have to stop when the meeting ends. These meetings are intended to bring us together to be able to debate things in greater detail. Please feel free to contact us at any time using the [budgetimprovementteam@gov.wales](mailto:budgetimprovementteam@gov.wales) mailbox.