

Nation of Sanctuary Strategic Oversight Board

Terms of Reference

Vision

To facilitate strategic oversight of migration in Wales at a political and strategic level, supporting the inclusion of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants into Welsh communities, in line with becoming a Nation of Sanctuary and the objectives of the Nation of Sanctuary Action Plan.

Joint Chair: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip and Leader/Migration Spokesperson, WLGA.

Purpose

- Ensure political engagement with and oversight of the delivery of migration programmes in Wales, with appropriate representation of all Welsh public bodies.
- Provide a strategic platform for updates from, and discussion with, the UK Government (Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government).
- Provide strategic leadership at national and local levels and influence and shape the migration agenda in Wales, recognising the differing local, regional, and national community contexts and needs.
- Support the development of a coherent and joined up approach to the delivery of different migration programmes/schemes in a devolved context, including providing the governance structure for the Wales Dispersal Plan and other migration schemes.
- Receive updates from the Executive Board to assess progress, challenges and opportunities.
- Support Welsh public bodies to develop a strategic, “Team Wales” approach to migration, which supports integration and meets local needs, in line with the ambition of a ‘place-based approach’.
- Make representations, recommendations and seek to influence the Home Office and other participating organisations on both current issues and future proposals.
- Ensure cohesion, inclusion and any wider impacts of migration scheme policies on public services, third sector and communities in Wales are recognised and addressed.
- Help to maximise and communicate the benefits and opportunities of migration and promote integration, involving academics and experts as appropriate, working towards a more progressive and positive migration narrative.
- Identify and share best practice and support the development of an evidence base on migration in order to help public services better understand their migrant populations and to enhance public policy responses to migration in Wales.

Membership

Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government Senior officials

Health Board Senior officials

Home Office Senior officials

Interfaith Council for Wales, Chair

Lead Council Chief Executive on Migration

Local Health Boards, Chair (to be nominated by Chairs of LHBs)

NHS Confederation, Chair

Police and Crime Commissioner (to be nominated by PCCs in Wales)

Public Health Wales, Chair

[REDACTED – Third sector organisation]

Regional Chief Executives, Chair

UK Government Ministers (Home Office and/or DLUHC)

Wales Council for Voluntary Action, Chair

Welsh Local Government Association

Wales Strategic Migration Partnership

Wales TUC

Welsh Government Ministers

Welsh Government Senior officials

[REDACTED – Third sector organisation]

Others, including third sector organisations and private contractors, by invitation of the secretariat or the Chair.

Operational arrangements of the Board

- Three meetings of the Board will be held annually (any additional meetings to be held will be agreed with/by the Chairs)
- Substitutes for attendees unable to attend meetings of appropriate seniority is actively encouraged so that organisations are consistently represented on the Board.
- Observers and representatives from other organisations may be invited from time to time to attend Board meetings and to present to members on specific agreed subjects.
- Secretariat support to the Board will be provided by Welsh Government officials.
- Transcription may be used to support the production of minutes; board members will be notified if this service is being used.
- Minutes will be circulated after each meeting and within 10 working days of each meeting.
- An agenda will be agreed and shared at least three working days ahead of each meeting.

(Version 4 October 2024)