

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

Date 06 June 2023	Time 13:00 – 14:00	Location Microsoft Teams Meeting
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No.	Action	Who	When
1	If members have any suggestions or improvements on how we can work together, please email the Budget Improvement Team mailbox.	BIIAG members	Before next meeting
2	Membership to put forward suggestions of how we can link prevention work to the equality sphere.	BIIAG members	Before next meeting
3	Members to contact Budget Improvement Team if they would like to join the prevention subgroup.	BIT	Before next meeting
4	Agreed to re-circulate the presentation on prevention to help with clarity.	BIT	26/06/2023

1. Welcome and Introduction

- 1.1. Members were welcomed to the meeting of the Budget Improvement Impact Advisory Group (BIIAG).
- 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.

2. General update on BIIAG

- 2.1. Group were provided with an update and introduced to Chriss O’Connell who will be taking over as Head of the Budget Improvement Team in September.
- 2.2. An update was given to the group on the recruitment of an SEO. Job advertisement was shared with the Group in the hope that there would be an opportunity for someone from the Group to join, but unfortunately, we were not successful in that regard. We are now seeking advice from HR regarding next steps on recruiting to this post.

- 2.3. Open to ideas and suggestions of how to be more creative to work together. If any members have any suggestions, please email the Budget Improvement Team mailbox.

AP: If members have any suggestions or improvements on how we can work together please email the Budget Improvement Team mailbox.

3. Prevention update

- 3.1. An update was provided on the prevention work; the group have previously agreed that the prevention definition agreed by a working group back in 2018 was fit for purpose and does not require adjustment. As part of the Budget Improvement Plan work plan for 2023, a key piece of work is looking at how we can embed prevention into our budget processes.
- 3.2. Earlier meetings have agreed to carry out some pilot work on prevention in relation to biodiversity. Initial prevention subgroup meeting took place on 7 March however this did not include representatives from RSPB or WG biodiversity colleagues, so we have since had a series of other meetings. Meetings have taken place with biodiversity colleagues in Welsh Government and with representatives from RSPB to try and establish as agreed, how we could progress prevention in the biodiversity area.
- 3.3. Our proposal is to develop and implement a toolkit to assist people when they are developing proposals for the budget process. The toolkit will help colleagues understand prevention and embed it within the proposals they are submitting. This will initially be introduced in relation to biodiversity – as a pilot perspective - with the view to implementing something for the next WG spending review. Consideration is being given to inviting colleagues from other areas of WG, possibly from education, to help with this.
- 3.4. The Group were provided with more detail about the current toolkit that has been developed by WG biodiversity colleagues for procurement purposes and how we hope to develop it for our use over the next 18 months.
- 3.5. In terms of prevention, there are two levels to the toolkit. Ensuring that our spending does no future harm to our biodiversity; and a second tier, which is funding projects that enhance and maintain biodiversity – exploring some of the wider objectives and policies that we would want to see delivered as part of that.
- 3.6. Item was opened to the Group for discussion on this proposal.
- 3.7. A discussion took place which covered areas including:
- Group agreed it was an interesting and important project.
 - Queried how we could consider it influencing public bodies' strategic equality plans that have to be reviewed ahead of April 2024.
 - Highlighted the importance of making connections. Ensure that we get input from the wide range of people who really need to advise us on

how this impacts in relation to a whole range of different aspects of equality, not least socioeconomic inequality.

- Clarity needed on what we are trying to achieve.
- Noted the bureaucratic language, where it helps and where it hinders and how we work together because there is a lot going on around prevention.
- Important we have that common and shared understanding.
- Suggestion of packaging case studies and using these to educate others both internally and with key stakeholders.
- Work to break down information into something that is quite tangible and obvious in how it works.

AP: Membership to put forward suggestions of how we can link prevention work to the equality sphere.

- 3.8. Group were advised that the subgroup is going to be running for a while as there is a long lead up to this work to ensure that the changes are implemented in the next spending review. For all respective areas to be represented on this group, please contact our mailbox budgetimprovementteam@gov.wales.

AP: Members to contact Budget Improvement Team if they would like to join the prevention subgroup.

AP: Agreed to re-circulate the presentation on prevention to help with clarity.

- 3.9. An update on the spending review was given to the group. It was noted that if anyone has any ideas of how we can work together on any areas of budget improvement in the interim please contact us.

4. Update on children in Wales work

- 4.1. A presentation was provided on Children in Wales work.

- 4.2. The Group were invited to provide reflections or ask questions relating to the presentation.

- Group welcomed the presentation; it was helpful and great to hear reflections.
- Children in Wales representative will be providing feedback to the young people and colleagues involved within the organisation.
- Really valued the pace of the work as there was lots of complex information provided to them at the start of the process which has enabled them to share their views and help improve the process.
- Welcomed the longevity of the project and working around schooling and exam times.

- Members are looking forward to the animation and the leaflet towards the end of the year.

5. AOB & Meeting Review & Close

- 5.1. Next meeting is scheduled for 26 September 11:00 - 13:00. Agenda to follow closer to the meeting.
- 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 mailbox.