

Gender Equality Forum
07 April 2025, 10:00-11:00
Team meeting (virtual)

Attendees

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip (Chair)
Bawso
Cardiff University
Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Wales
Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales (FTWW)
Homestart Cymru
National Federation of Women's Institute (NFWI) Wales
National Adviser, Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
University of South Wales
Welsh Women's Aid
Women Connect First
Women's Equality Network (WEN) Wales

Welsh Government officials

Equality and Human Rights
Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units
Women's Health
Cohesive Communities

- 1. Welcome and update on next steps from previous meeting - Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip**
- 1.1 An update on the actions from the previous meeting was provided. The two actions not yet completed were:
 - Welsh Government (Women's Health) to confirm with relevant team whether women's health research funding would be open to Third Sector.
 - Welsh Government will reach out to Gender Equality Forum members to seek views on the priorities.
- 1.2 Women's Health have confirmed that there is nothing in the eligibility criteria that would exclude Third Sector organisations from bidding for the women's health research funding. Organisations will need to demonstrate relevant experience of leading and/or delivering research.
- 1.3 An update will be provided in agenda item 4 regarding working with Forum members to identify priority areas.
- 1.4 The revised Terms of Reference were circulated to all Forum members earlier this year. No amendments were requested. The revised [Terms of Reference](#) have been published on the Gender Equality Forum pages on internet.

Next Steps:

- Welsh Government (Women's Health) to provide contact details for the Women's Health research project funding.

2. Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Research Network Wales - University of South Wales

- 2.1 The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Research Network Wales was launched in 2021 by the University of South Wales. The Network brings together and utilises a wealth of experience, expertise, knowledge and skills across Wales. It has over 250 members who represent over 90 organisations spanning all sectors including universities, the Third Sector and public bodies.
- 2.2 The objectives of the Network include:
 - Determining and understanding the research and practice priorities for Wales.
 - Identifying gaps in VAWDASV research.
 - Sharing knowledge and expertise.
 - 'Testing' research ideas and reviewing interest in collaboration.
 - Identifying and responding to research council grants and commercial grant calls.
 - Co-producing research grant applications.
 - Developing future partnership working across the UK and Internationally.
 - Annually reporting on progress against objectives.
- 2.3 Forum members were invited to join the Network and encouraged to read about past and ongoing studies that have been undertaken.

Next steps

- Welsh Government to share details of the Network with the VAWDASV Partnership Board, the Senedd's Equality and Social Justice Committee and with UK Government.
- Forum members to share information about the Network and details of how to join with relevant organisations and their networks.

3. New Equality and Inclusion Funding - Head of Strategic Equality Human Rights & Delivery Planning, Welsh Government

- 3.1 The new programme seeks to fund activities which support delivery of the Welsh Government's National Equality Objectives (NEOs), in particular the overarching Programme for Government commitment to "celebrate diversity and move to eliminate inequality in all its forms". This builds on previous Welsh Government grant schemes and is intended to improve coherence, accessibility and transparency so

that a wide range of organisations can support the delivery of Welsh Government objectives.

3.2 There will be two new streams of grant funding:

- Innovation to tackle inequality and support people
- Awareness and engagement

3.3 It is planned to launch the new schemes in May 2025. The total funding available will be £800,000. Both grants will be competitive and likely to run for 18-24 months. Innovative proposals from organisations and community groups will be welcomed.

3.4 In advance of launching the grants, Welsh Government is providing the opportunity for feedback to shape the grants. Feedback should be submitted by 11 April 2025.

4. Advancing Gender Equality Plan update – Equality Evidence Unit, Welsh Government

4.1 The Gender Policy team have been working alongside the Equality Evidence Unit to review the actions within the Gender Equality Plan to develop a measurement framework. A questionnaire is being developed to capture the views of Forum members regarding delivery priorities.

4.2 A Theory of Change is being developed to outline how each of the actions within the plan will achieve the expected outcomes. Once finalised, the Theory of Change will be used to produce a measurement framework which will assess the progress of each action. This framework will also highlight datasets that exist and where there are gaps in data that need to be filled. It will also allow the success of the plan to be linked to key national goals, such as the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and National Equality Objectives.

Next steps

- Welsh Government to send brief questionnaire to Forum members to help identify the key priority areas.

5. Any Other business - Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

5.1 The [Diversity and Inclusion Guidance for Registered Political Parties](#) was published in March 2025. Welsh political parties are being encouraged to implement the actions in the guidance which include preparing a diversity and inclusion strategy in advance of local and Senedd elections.

5.2 The next meeting is due to take place on 1 July 2025.