

Nation of Sanctuary Strategic Oversight Board

Wednesday 16 July 2025 09:30 – 11:00

Virtual MS Teams

Attendees

- **Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby**, Leader Monmouthshire Council (Co-Chair)
- **Jane Hutt**, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip (Co-Chair)
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Home Office
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, REDACTED – SEC 38(1)
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Wales TUC Cymru
- **Cllr Andrea Lewis**, Deputy Leader, Swansea County Council
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Welsh Local Government Association
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, REDACTED – SEC 38(1)
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Welsh Government
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, South Wales Police
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Welsh Government
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Cohesive Communities, WG
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, REDACTED – SEC 38(1)
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, REDACTED – SEC 38(1)
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Cohesive Communities, WG
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Home Office
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Welsh Government
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Home Office
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Cohesive Communities, WG
- **Cllr. Linda Davies Evans**, (Deputy Leader Carmarthenshire Council)
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Home Office
- **Louisa Le Roux**, Asylum Accommodation (Non-Detained) Programme Director, Home Office
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Cohesive Communities, WG
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, WLGA
- **Nikki Lawrence**, Chief Executive, Careers Wales
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Welsh Government
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, REDACTED – SEC 38(1)
- **Paul John Rowlinson**, Gwynedd County Council
- **Rebecca Nugent**, Deputy Director, Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill, Home Office
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Welsh Government
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Cohesive Communities Division, Welsh Government
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Home Office
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, REDACTED – SEC 38(1)
- **Sarah Rhodes**, Deputy Director - Housing Policy • Housing and Regeneration, Welsh Government
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, REDACTED – SEC 38(1)
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, REDACTED – SEC 38(1)
- **Shavanah Taj**, General Secretary, Wales Trades Union Congress (TUC Cymru)

Apologies

- **Alastair Paton**, Deputy Director, Funding, Engagement, Delivery and Safeguarding Resettlement Directorate, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)
- **Andrew Dunbobbin**, North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner
- **Dame Angela Eagle**, Minister for Border Security and Asylum
- **Amelia John**, Director of Communities and Social Justice
- **Cllr Brent Carter**, Leader, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
- **Emma Williams**, Director of Housing and Regeneration
- **Erica Cassin**, Chair of Careers Wales Board
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Cohesive Communities, WG
- **Andrew Charles**, Deputy Director, Cohesive Communities, WG
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Welsh Government
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Newport City Council
- **Cllr Darren Price**, Leader Carmarthenshire Council
- **Cllr Geraint Thomas**, Merthyr Council
- **Joanne Hopkins**, Programme Director, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Criminal Justice and Violence Prevention, Public Health Wales
- **Cllr Huw Thomas**, Leader Cardiff Council
- **Lord Khan**, Lords Minister for Faith, Communities and Resettlement
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, WG
- **Cllr. Menna Trenholme**, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Supporting Families, Gwynedd Council
- **Cllr Nia Wyn Jeffreys**, Deputy Leader Plaid Cymru, Gwynedd Council (Co-Chair)
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, WG
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, Pro Steel Engineering
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, WG
- **Sioned Rees**, Temporary Public Health Protection Director, Welsh Government
- **Tim Rymer**, Deputy Director of Adult and Family Asylum Accommodation, Home Office
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2)**, REDACTED – SEC 38(1)
- **Tracy Bridgett**, Deputy Director Resettlement, Home Office
- **Tracey Cooper**, Chief Executive Public Health Wales

Agenda Item 1: Welcome, introductions and apologies

Cllr Brocklesby welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced Jane Hutt, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Chief Whip (CSSJCW) as Co-Chair.

Apologies noted in the minutes.

Agenda Item 2: Actions from Last Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed by attendees.

An update on the actions from the previous meeting (note covered in the agenda) was provided and included:

a) Misinformation Toolkit and Nation of Sanctuary:

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) updated on the misinformation toolkit that was shared with members and the ongoing commitment to the Nation of Sanctuary.

Attendees engaged in discussion around community cohesion and the need for a coordinated approach to manage misinformation and migration-related tensions.

CSSJCW reiterated the commitment and importance of the Nation of Sanctuary at the Senedd.

b) Trade Union Meeting and Immigration Bill:

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) shared feedback from the trade union meeting on misinformation. Immigration bill update covered under Agenda Item 4.

Agenda Item 3: Nation of Sanctuary Partnership Board – 7 July, Key points of discussion and actions arising

REDACTED – SEC 40(2), Welsh Local Government Association, provided feedback from the Nation of Sanctuary Partnership Board meeting that was held on 7 July 2025.

Discussion at the Nation of Sanctuary Partnership Board meeting focused on community cohesion and the potential for continued online and public tensions around migration.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) shared feedback on the need to remain proactive as the 2026 elections approach.

The next Nation of Sanctuary Partnership Board meeting is scheduled for November 2025; extended discussions regarding cohesion and misinformation are planned.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) shared a collective sense of a need to work in partnership to develop a coordinated approach around misinformation and managing risks.

Agenda Item 4: Update – Interministerial Group on Safety, Security and Migration

a) Update from CSSJCW:

CSSJCW provided an overview of discussions held at the Interministerial Group on Safety, Security and Migration emphasising the need for collaboration with devolved governments.

b) UK Government's Immigration White Paper: REDACTED – SEC 40(2), Welsh Government

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) Highlighted the impact of the White Paper on Welsh demographics, social care, and higher education sectors.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) highlighted that some changes proposed in the White Paper have already been laid and are in process of coming into effect:

- Increase to skills threshold
- Increase to salary threshold
- Social visas to new applicants closing soon (22nd July 2025)

Discussion on the need for data sharing to support workforce planning and the importance of the Labour Market Expert Group.

Conversations were held around the proposed changes to Social Care, staff shortages in an array of sectors and a chronic gap in adult social care.

CSSJCW acknowledged that Wales doesn't have a Displaced Care Workers Scheme but that this needs to be raised and implemented.

c) Asylum Accommodation Pilot: REDACTED – SEC 40(2), Home Office

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) explained that there had been eight returns in Wales out of twenty-two authorities (one return was joint between three rural authorities)

Out of this total number, three will be proceeding and letters have been drafted to Local Authorities.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) shared that the second tranche will take place later on in 2025. Attendees discussed maximising opportunities in rural areas and the need for rural areas to be tested.

CSSJCW acknowledged that the 56 Day Move On pilot has worked well and subsequently has been extended for another six months.

Agenda Item 5: Update - Border Security, Immigration and Asylum Bill and Deprivation of Citizenship Bill

CSSJCW has engaged with UKG to express that these Bills have been carefully considered by the Welsh Government. It was agreed that details of amendments are reserved matters.

Rebecca Nugent provided an update on the progress of the Border Security, Asylum, and Immigration Bill (1) and the Deprivation of Citizenship Bill (2).

- 1) The BSAIB is currently before the House of Lords and has completed Day Three in Committee. This is now paused until after summer. It is being discussed again on the 3 and 8 of September 2025, where it will then move onto the Report Stage.
- 2) The DCP is a single issue Bill which is moving through the House of Commons at speed. It has completed its Committee Stage and will see its third reading in the House of Commons this week before moving onto House of Lords.

Attendees discussed the need for further clarification on transitional provisions and guidance for local bodies in Wales.

Agenda Item 6: Future Strategy for Community Cohesion

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) introduced the Community Cohesion Response Framework, focusing on improving identification, evaluation, and response to community tensions.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) reiterated that the Framework is currently an internal Welsh Government document.

Discussions centred around a need for a coordinated communication strategy and the involvement of local authorities and the Home Office in those developments.

Work is currently being developed on the training of Third Sector organisations to help with issues that may arise from building tensions. Training courses will be delivered this year.

Agenda item 7: AOB / matters arising

There were no AOB items or matters arising

Action Points:

No.	Action	Lead	Update
1.	Follow up with the UK Government to obtain a formal response and progress update regarding enhanced data sharing on migration and the impact of migration, including a translated version of the White Paper.	Welsh Government	
2.	Proceed with three Welsh local authorities' proposals and provide more information on costings, timelines, and suitability for Asylum Accommodation Pilots	Home Office	

3.	Engage in discussions with stakeholders to assess the impact of the White Paper. Complete a full analysis of the White Paper's impact on Wales and communicate to the UK Government	Welsh Government	
4.	Relay concerns regarding the reduction of the graduate visa period and its impact on retention of international students and public sector workforce to relevant Home Office colleagues and ministers	REDACTED – SEC 40(2), Home Office	
5.	Provide further clarification and guidance to local authorities in Wales on transitional provisions and procedures for dealing with cases involving individuals affected by deprivation of citizenship orders.	Rebecca Nugent, Home Office	
6.	Engage with partners to test the Community Cohesion Response Framework and improve information flow and response times	REDACTED – SEC 40(2)	
7.	Next Meeting: Scheduled for October	Welsh Government	