

Nation of Sanctuary Working Group

3 March 2025 11:00 – 12:00

Attendees

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) Chair – Welsh Government
REDACTED – SEC 40(2) secretariat – Welsh Government
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Apologies

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1. Introductions

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) made introductions and explained his role and that of his team in the context of being responsible for the Nation of Sanctuary chapter within the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) said that a general note of the meeting would be taken outlining key issues and actions.

2. Nation of Sanctuary Chapter update

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) gave a brief overview of the Nation of Sanctuary chapter. Members of the group were asked to let him know if they had requested the technical chapter and not received it, REDACTED – SEC 40(2) agreed to follow this up with the central Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan Team if anyone was yet to receive it. No requestors were yet to receive the chapter.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) shared and explained the role and purpose of the Progress Summary Report document, which is going to be used to update the Working Group on progress every quarter. The report is compiled from the internal Welsh Government BIRT system. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) advised that the document is sighted by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice. All members of the Working Group appeared content with the BIRT Progress Summary Report as a reporting method. The document is partially completed due to the impact of Christmas leave at the end of the last reporting round. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) agreed to share the current version for illustrative purposes only, as requested. The first full Progress Summary is expected to be circulated in April.

- **Action** – Progress Summary Reports to be shared with the Working Group – WG

3. Measuring progress – indicators discussion

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) explained that we need to be able to measure impact of our activity but this would be difficult to measure for some of the actions in the chapter. Some of the barriers were discussed, these included:

- methodological pitfalls
- financial constraints
- the burden on local authorities (or others) if asked to collect different or additional data
- the differences in how data is collected between geographical areas and data being counted more than once.

Various services funded by Welsh Government could be asked to capture how satisfied they are and how they feel about various things. It was suggested by REDACTED – SEC 40(2) that this could be used as an opportunity to reflect and use other work taking place as part of the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) will send the indicators to the group. He requested feedback about whether the right things are being measured, and he asked for suggestions on data sources / approaches that could prove valuable.

- **Action** - Indicators to be sent to the Working Group - WG
- **Action** – Feedback on the indicators to be sent to WG – All

4. Positive Communications

There is a significant challenge around negativity in public discourse regarding Nation of Sanctuary work. Third sector organisations have been targeted, and there has been various negative influences from other parts of the world. In terms of positives, the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice made a Senedd statement recently in support of the Nation of Sanctuary vision and several organisations coordinated statements committing to a shared vision. The Working Group made the following suggestions in terms of positive communications:

- It would be useful to embed positive stories and comms in other plans and policy areas such as housing, as this is a big issue for sanctuary seekers and refugees.
- WG helping to create a platform to share positive stories.
- The press becoming more accountable in terms click-bait titles, where the actual content is much more balanced. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) suggested a potential role for REDACTED – SEC 38(1) who could work collaboratively in respect of this.
- Improved communication between the Senedd and Westminster. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) said our Cabinet Secretary met with the Border Security & Asylum Minister recently during which she stressed the need for positive language and coverage.
- Victim support – Hate Hurts Wales campaign was discussed as a potential model for comms.
- Improved communications with Home Office would be beneficial. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) agreed to find a suitable contact for the REDACTED – SEC 38(1).
- REDACTED – SEC 40(2) said the Police need to be proactive when racism is reported. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) shared an example of when this did not happen. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) said he would be happy to have a separate conversation with REDACTED – SEC 40(2) outside of the meeting where they can discuss the most appropriate way of sharing with the Police, what is happening on the ground.
- REDACTED – SEC 40(2) spoke about the importance and effectiveness of working with children and young people to promote inclusion. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) shared information about the work of the Community Cohesion teams. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) will speak with the Cohesion Teams to explore if there is more to be done around work in schools.
- The REDACTED – SEC 38(1) is working with REDACTED – SEC 38(1) ready for Refugee Week but the onus is on schools to embed it. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) will provide REDACTED – SEC 40(2) with information about the work and available resources. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) will speak with the Cohesion teams about this to ensure they know what is available in their areas.

- **Action** - Contact for Home Office to be provided to REDACTED – SEC 38(1) – WG
- **Action** - A discussion to take place between REDACTED – SEC 40(2) and REDACTED – SEC 40(2) regarding the most appropriate way of sharing information with the Police in terms of reporting/lack of action – REDACTED – SEC 40(2) and REDACTED – SEC 40(2)
- **Action** - REDACTED – SEC 40(2) will speak with the Cohesion teams to explore if there is more to be done around work in schools.
- **Action** - REDACTED – SEC 38(1) – REDACTED – SEC 40(2) to provide REDACTED – SEC 40(2) with information about the work and available resources. – REDACTED – SEC 40(2)
- **Action** - REDACTED – SEC 38(1) – REDACTED – SEC 40(2) to speak with the Cohesion Teams to ensure they know what is available in their areas – REDACTED – SEC 40(2)

5. Terms of Reference / Frequency of Meetings.

The ToR will be sent out before the next meeting. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) said that feedback would be welcomed, and a further discussion would be held about the ToR at the next meeting.

- **Action** - The ToR to be sent to members prior to the next meeting - WG

6. AOB

Date of the next meeting is Monday 2 June 11:00 – 12:00, Invitation has been sent out.

Summary of Actions

1. Progress Summary Reports to be shared with the Working Group – WG
2. Indicators to be sent to the Working Group - WG
3. Feedback on the indicators to be sent to WG – All
4. Contact for Home Office to be provided to REDACTED – SEC 38(1) – WG
5. A discussion to take place between REDACTED – SEC 40(2) and REDACTED – SEC 40(2) regarding the most appropriate way of sharing information with the Police in terms of reporting/lack of action – REDACTED – SEC 40(2) and REDACTED – SEC 40(2)
6. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) will speak with the Cohesion teams to explore if there is more to be done around work in schools.
7. REDACTED – SEC 38(1) – REDACTED – SEC 40(2) to provide REDACTED – SEC 40(2) with information about the work and available resources. – REDACTED – SEC 40(2)
8. REDACTED – SEC 38(1) – REDACTED – SEC 40(2) to speak with the Cohesion Teams to ensure they know what is available in their areas – REDACTED – SEC 40(2)
9. The ToR to be sent to members prior to the next meeting - WG