

Gweithgor | Working Group
Cenedl Noddfa | Nation of Sanctuary
29/09/2025

Mynychwyr | Attendees

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) (Chair) – REDACTED – SEC 38(1)

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) – Welsh Government (WG)

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REDACTED – SEC 40(2) – REDACTED – SEC 38(1)

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) – Cardiff University

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) – WLGA

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) – REDACTED – SEC 38(1)

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) – REDACTED – SEC 38(1)

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Ymddiheuriadau | Apologies

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REDACTED – SEC 40(2) – WSMP

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) – WG

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) – WG

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) – NHS

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) – WG

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REDACTED – SEC 40(2) – WG

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) – NHS

1. Welcome and apologies

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) welcomed everyone to the meeting and REDACTED – SEC 40(2) read out the apologies.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) introduced the REDACTED – SEC 38(1).

2. WISERD Project: ‘Devolved governance, civil society activism and welfare for refugees and asylum seekers’ – REDACTED – SEC 40(2)

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) of Cardiff University introduced the WISERD project (slides are attached), and confirmed that the project would like to speak to more sanctuary seekers and for interested group members to contact her at REDACTED – SEC 40(2)

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) confirmed that children weren't included in the project.

Actions

- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2) to share slides.**
- **Interested group members to contact REDACTED – SEC 40(2) to help facilitate further interviews with sanctuary seekers.**

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) also stated that she works to support sanctuary seekers at Cardiff University.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) shared that REDACTED – SEC 38(1) had contributed a report for the Independence Commission in 2022 – REDACTED – SEC 38(1)

3. Welsh Government update – general

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) gave a general update, reiterating Welsh Government's commitment to Nation of Sanctuary. Noted that the Cabinet Secretary had attended

an event in Westminster where there was praise for the Nation of Sanctuary vision and is looking forward to attending Sanctuary in the Senedd.

Officials are aware of stakeholder calls for public reassurance but cannot confirm plans at this time.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) stated that the Cab Sec has written to the new UK Government Home Office ministers to request a meeting and has stated Welsh Government's commitment to Nation of Sanctuary in plenary.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) asked if Welsh Government is planning to provide local authorities and third sector partners with myth-busting materials to counteract misinformation. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) will take the question back to the Community Cohesion Team, but posted the following in the chat:

- We are developing training for third sector organisations on how to navigate the hate and harassment they are experiencing. It's not likely to provide myth-busting but would be interested to hear more about what they need, bearing in mind that directly countering misinformation often does not work as a strategy.
- With local authorities we called together an all-Wales meeting to help them spot narratives and good practice approaches in how to consider a response.
- We have our ForTheRecord blog where the misinformation is about WG policies and we're always happy to consider adding another entry if there's something we are doing which is being misrepresented.

4. Welsh Government update – All-Wales Accessible Communication and Information Standards

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) spoke briefly about the newly published [All-Wales Accessible Communication and Information Standards](#), explaining that the Standards have been widened from only being for sensory loss. A Welsh Health Circular has been sent to health boards.

The Standards mean that a person's language preference should be recorded in their medical records. There are also standard operating procedures for commissioning interpreters.

Now in the implementation phase, an Implementation Group is being established.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) shared details of a trauma-informed approach workshop will be held on 18 November, including people with lived experience, to help health boards with the implementation of the Standards. If anyone has any questions or would like more info, they can email the team at HSCEYG.EqualityTeam@gov.wales.

Action

- **Interested group members to contact** HSCEYG.EqualityTeam@gov.wales for further information on the Standards or the workshop.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) shared a link to REDACTED – SEC 38(1) that can be used in any communications to access a GP and asking for an interpreter.

5. Welsh Government update – Welcome Connectivity Project (Welcome Ticket)

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) stated that the Welsh Government is still committed to the project and appreciate everyone's patience as it is a complex project with many challenges, e.g. affordability, data sharing.

There will hopefully be an Oral Statement by the Cabinet Secretary in November and group members were asked not to share this update, but to wait until the statement.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) reassured group members that officials are working closely with comms colleagues to ensure that any announcement doesn't exacerbate existing tensions.

6. Welsh Government update – Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan Dashboard

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) gave a presentation about the ArWAP dashboard (slides attached). Qualitative data will be added to quantitative data.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) explained that they had to use existing data, with Welsh Government wellbeing data as a primary source. The data is updated yearly.

The availability of ethnicity data is challenging, as this isn't always collected.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) and REDACTED – SEC 40(2) gave a live demonstration of the dashboard on Power BI.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) invited group members to feedback how they would like to access the data, give suggestions for future research in trends and offered to hold workshop sessions in future. REDACTED – SEC 40(2) noted that they were considering publishing reports and static charts.

Action:

- **Working Group members to contact equalityevidenceunit@gov.wales with any feedback or ideas for accessing data or research for other trends.**

7. Indicators and next steps discussion

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) read through the indicator priorities received from group members and said that discussions on the priorities highlighted could be a part of the away day.

8. Away day

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) noted the intention to hold a Nation of Sanctuary Working Group away day in Cardiff sometime in November.

Members are invited to send any ideas regarding sessions, speakers or format for the away day.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) agreed to give at least 1-months' notice of the away day date.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) noted that the format of the meetings could be discussed, e.g. more interactive or open sessions, less updating and more discussion.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) requested any papers be circulated beforehand.

Action:

- **Members to send any ideas about the away day to REDACTED – SEC 40(2).**
- **REDACTED – SEC 40(2) to send out away day date with at least 1-months' notice.**

9. AOB

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) suggested that the meetings should have a slot to discuss the current situation and the impact on people's lives.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) suggested that we set up an issues and risk log to keep the important points raised on the agenda.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) noted that many reported racist incidents aren't pursued, or people don't file complaints because they fear retaliation, do not trust the authorities to act, or worry that speaking up could negatively affect their legal status or access to services.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) stated that there are concerns regarding the cutting of move-on period to 28 days, which doesn't leave enough time for people's Universal Credit applications to go through, and that the system creates homelessness – there needs to be a strategy for this.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) suggested that migrant accommodation could be discussed at the away day.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) noted that Welsh Government officials are working with 3rd sector and are also being vocal in pushing back with the Home Office on accommodation. They are also asking local authorities for evidence of the knock-on effects of the 28-day move-on period. Welsh local authorities were asked to volunteer to take part in a Home Office housing pilot.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) asked if Welsh Government have guidance for teachers to deal with racist incidents in schools.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) stated that the Director for Education has written to local authorities outlining the support and resources available.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) said that the Children's Commissioner for Wales is working with schools to record racist bullying, and what support is available, and REDACTED – SEC 40(2) stated that Medr has published guidelines for colleges and universities to support asylum seekers and refugees.

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) shared a link to REDACTED – SEC 38(1) – resources codesigned with REDACTED – SEC 38(1).

REDACTED – SEC 40(2) expressed a preference for 90-minute meetings.