

Agenda – Equality and Social Justice Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Committee Room 5 (Hybrid)	Rhys Morgan
Meeting date: 26 June 2023	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 13.30	0300 200 6565
	SeneddEquality@senedd.wales

Pre-meeting registration: 13:15– 13:30

- 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**
(13:30)
- 2 Papers to note**
(13:30)
 - 2.1 Correspondence from the Minister for Climate Change to the Equality and Social Justice Committee regarding the Warm Homes Programme**
(Page 1)
 - 2.2 Correspondence from the Minister for Social justice and Chief Whip to the Equality and Social Justice Committee regarding an update concerning Women's Experiences in the Criminal Justice System**
(Pages 2 – 3)
 - 2.3 Correspondence from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists Wales to the Equality and Social Justice Committee regarding the Welsh Government response to the Committee's report: "60% – Giving them a voice – Speech, Language and Communication Needs in the Youth Justice System"**
(Pages 4 – 5)
- 3 Motion under SO17.42 (vi) and (ix) to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting**
(13:30)

4 Forward work programme

(13:30–14:30)

(Pages 6 – 71)

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

Ein cyf/Our ref: JJ/PO/180/2023

Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair
Equality and Social Justice Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

14 June 2023

Dear Jenny,

I would like to draw your attention to a suite of documents I have published today on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme. These documents can be found at <https://www.gov.wales/next-iteration-warm-homes-programme-review-and-recommendations-report>

The documents include a Policy Statement, Lessons Learnt and a Consultation Response document which will inform the detailed design of the new Warm Homes programme.

I will also publish a tender specification for the procurement of the new demand led scheme shortly.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Agenda Item 2.2

JANE HUTT AM MS
Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Chwip
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice
Committee

16 June 2023

Dear Jenny,

Following the Committee's inquiry into women's experiences in the Criminal Justice System, I am writing to you to provide an update on recent progress which has been made regarding access to alternative Opioid Substitution Therapy (Buvidal) in HMP Styal and HMP Eastwood Park.

The Welsh Government supported the national implementation of Buvidal in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and this support also extends to the Criminal Justice System here in Wales. Buvidal is a slow-release injectable form of buprenorphine (seven day and one month), replacing the need for daily supervised consumption. Wales was the first UK nation to implement this treatment option and now over 1,400 service users across Wales are benefitting from this.

As Buvidal is not commonly available within the English treatment system, we are also financially supporting Welsh women who serve custodial sentences in England, until such time as NHS England make this treatment available.

Following discussions with health teams in both HMP Styal and HMP Eastwood Park, I am pleased to confirm we have recently issued grant letters to both establishments to provide funding for Welsh women to access Buvidal. This means there is no longer a barrier for Welsh women, serving sentences in either establishment, accessing Buvidal in the same way as men serving sentences in Wales.

It is exceptional for Welsh Government to fund healthcare in England and this funding further supports our commitment to ensure women who are serving custodial sentences are being given access to the help and support they need. This financial support will allow ongoing treatment to be given until NHS England, who have responsibility for treatment in these settings, fund Buvidal.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Once again, I would like to thank the Committee for their ongoing support, recognising the importance of ensuring that Welsh women who find themselves involved with the Criminal Justice System are able to access the support they require.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the first letter of "Jane".

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Chwip
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip

Agenda Item 2.3



Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair

Equality and Social Justice Committee

Senedd Cymru

Cardiff Bay

CF99 1SN

19 June 2023

Dear Jenny,

I'm writing to express our disappointment at the recent Welsh Government response to the excellent report by the committee entitled '60% Give Them a Voice – Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) in the Youth Justice System'. We are hugely grateful to the committee for shining a light on this often overlooked topic and wanted to place on record our dissatisfaction with the government response.

We are particularly concerned that the response rejects the two clear recommendations (3 and 6) which would have ensured that young people with SLCN, who are over-represented within the justice estate would have been able to access much-needed speech and language therapy support.

As I know you are aware, at the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, we have consistently argued for higher commissioning numbers for speech and language therapy given the clear evidence base for the expansion of the profession into newer areas such as justice. However commissioning numbers in Wales have remained stubbornly at 49 from 2020 until 2023 despite the creation of a second undergraduate course, sustained increases in other healthcare courses and evidence from higher education institutions that there is both demand and capacity for a growth in numbers. It is therefore deeply frustrating to read in the government response to the report that the reason for the rejection of the recommendations relating to workforce is the lack of speech and language therapists rather than lack of evidence of need. We are calling on Welsh Government to reconsider the number of future training places to ensure we are able to meet the needs of our most vulnerable young people.

We are also concerned that there is a lack of clarity around a number of the recommendations accepted within the Welsh Government response. For example, we are uncertain how the youth justice blueprint on a prevention framework will specifically deliver on the recommendation that a summit is held for key stakeholders and a new work steam created. We also question how, in response to recommendation 2, the Talk with Me programme will support children as they progress from primary to secondary school given its current focus on the 0-5 age-group and proposed end date of 2024. We request further clarification on these areas.

We also wish to highlight our concerns about the Welsh Government response to recommendation 7 around workforce planning. We are pleased to represent allied health professional (AHP) bodies on the Welsh Government Workforce Implementation Board but have raised significant concerns within this forum about AHP actions within the plan and in particular the absence of a commitment to an AHP workforce plan as proposed for other professions. As the case of youth justice reveals, there is an urgent need to improve workforce planning for AHPs and in particular speech and language therapy – a profession which cuts across education, social services, health and justice. This is vital to ensure that future workforce projections meet demand.

We hope the Welsh Government, as a government committed to a more equal Wales, will reconsider its response to this important report and provide greater clarity on the areas raised. We would warmly welcome the committee's support in seeking clarification on the issues outlined above and continuing to push for young people within the criminal justice system to receive the support that they urgently require.

Please do contact me if it would be helpful to have a further discussion about our concerns. We look forward to the Senedd debate on the report next week.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Cotterill', is centered on the page.

Pippa Cotterill

Head of Wales Office

Agenda Item 4

By virtue of paragraph(s) vii of Standing Order 17.42

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