

Cross Party Group on Climate, Nature and Wellbeing
Grŵp Trawsbleidiol ar Hinsawdd, Natur a Lles

16:15 – 17:15

27.01.2022

Virtual Meeting over Zoom

Cyfarfod ar-lein dros Zoom

Actions:

1. Draft an action plan for the CPG and circulate a draft to the group for comment
2. Form sub-groups to look at specific topics/ themes.

Attendees:

Alka Ahuja
Amber Howells
Anouchka Grose
Bryony Bromley
Caitlyn Williams
Carey Newson
Carolyn Thomas
Cate Bailey
Catrin James
Dr Stacey Harris
David Rees MS
Delyth Jewell MS
Dokubo Whyte
Emily Darney
Glenn Page
Gwenda Owen
Haf Elgar
Hannah Harvey
Ian Thomas
James Radcliffe
Jayne Bryant MS
Joe Rossiter
Joshua Whyte
Kathryn Speedy
Kevin Size

Kimberley Mamhende
Kirsten Shukla
Lewis Brace
Liz Williams
Lleucu Siencyn
Madelaine Phillips
Math Wiliam
Nel Hywel
Ollie John
Poppy Stowell-Evans
Rebecca Brough
Sandy Clubb
Shenona Mitra
Sophie Howe
Tom Downs

Delyth Jewell MS: Welcome, introductions and apologies.

Delyth Jewell AS: Croeso, cyflwyniadau ac ymddiheuriadau.

Delyth Jewell MS provided an overview of the aims and objectives of the group, which include:

- Influencing decision makers to take action to address the climate and nature emergencies
- Having discussions about the interplays between climate, nature and wellbeing
- Understanding the impact of climate change on different groups
- Understanding the positive and inspirational projects and campaigns taking place to address the climate emergency
- Giving young people a platform so they can directly influence decision makers, Delyth highlighted that she wants young people to have an equal stake in this group.

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol Cymru

Sophie Howe, the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, gave an update on her priorities in this area. The Commissioner spoke about the importance of building a collaborative platform for politicians, individuals with interests in the environment and in young people's health, and young people themselves.

The Commissioner highlighted the principles that are important to her:

- 1) Take decisions in a way that meets today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- 2) Think holistically when focusing on climate nature and well being

The Commissioner highlighted that even if your main aim is economic growth, there are no jobs on a dead planet. Therefore, it's crucial to all aspects of our physical and mental wellbeing and the state of our economy, that we are actually focusing on tackling climate change and ensuring that we've got a resilient ecosystem.

The Commissioner also spoke about climate anxiety and highlighted that if we focus too much on the 'anxiety' felt by many, it could lead to feelings of hopelessness. We need to channel that anxiety into collective action.

The Commissioner also spoke of a vision of Wales where you can step outside your front door and you can be within nature. A Wales where we don't get straight into a car, but instead we walk or cycle and through this interact with people and our community. This could also allow us to support the local and foundational economy, by having a coffee in the local independent coffee shop for example.

Finally, the Commissioner spoke about the importance of our homes being powered by renewables. The people of Wales should not have to choose between food and heating because there has been investment in renewable energy.

Delyth Jewell MS thanked Sophie for her contribution. Amber Howells highlighted the work of a project called [The Resilience Project](#). This is a youth led community group that supports collective wellbeing and explores ways of managing eco anxiety and preventing burnout. Amber also highlighted [The Democracy Box](#) - a youth-led project that aims to teach people the basics of UK democracy in an engaging way and empowers people to use their voice to prompt change.

Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales Llysgenhadon Hinsawdd Ieuencid Cymru

Poppy Stowell- Evans spoke to the group about the work of the Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales, which is facilitated by Size of Wales and WCIA. YCA is a group of 13- to 25-year-olds aiming to amplify the youth voice and empower accessible and unified climate action at all levels. Poppy told the group that the name of the CPG 'Climate, Nature and Wellbeing' is important, as when it comes to climate change, we often overlook the interlinked and the interdisciplinary nature of climate change, climate action, social justice, and the wellbeing of young people. Poppy told the group that for some people, when they think of climate change, they don't think it's an issue, but for others, the idea of climate change is terrifying and something that's going to impact every aspect of their life- something that could impact on people's livelihoods and could mean that we will need to redefine society as we know it.

Poppy highlighted that climate anxiety means that you truly understand the severity of the situation, and we must stop branding these conversations as 'fear mongering'. She emphasised that the way to combat climate anxiety is to take meaningful action. We must take action as individuals, but collective action is also crucial and governments and people in power are not always doing enough. It's crucial to take a holistic approach and understand

that every aspect of our society has a role to play in combating climate anxiety. Poppy also highlighted the recommendations set out in [YCA's manifesto](#).

Catrin James highlighted that 2022 is the centenary of many milestones in Wales - including the Urdd and the Peace and Goodwill Message of Wales. The 2022 Peace and Goodwill message from the young people of Wales to the world will be based on Climate Change. In addition, the redevelopment of 4 residential centres will be focused on the environment, climate change and wellbeing for children and young people and will ensure they have fun and enjoyment whilst learning and taking action. Both areas of work include partners and collaborative approaches.

The Future Generations Commissioner highlighted a good news story- Swansea Bay Health Board has just used the Future Gens Act in a business case to allocate land on their estate to a community food growing and nature project rather than selling it off for development - they are making the connections between environment/nature, food poverty, community and health.

Delyth Jewell MS: Views from the floor – how members of the CPG would like to see this group working and the issues they'd like us to consider

Delyth Jewell AS: Safbwyntiau o'r llawr – sut hoffai aelodau'r grwp trawsbleidiol weld y grŵp hwn yn gweithio a'r materion yr hoffent i ni eu hystyried

Delyth Jewell MS thanked Poppy for her contribution and then asked for views from the floor.

Ian Thomas welcomed the group and highlighted the importance of solving these issues through collaboration. He told the group that the climate emergency brings an opportunity to deliver positive change in the Welsh valleys for example, including around energy generation and the use of natural resources. Ian told the group that he would like to see the CPG highlight some of the challenges that these activities and community action programs are facing.

Kevin from Size of Wales highlighted that COP26 had a large focus on climate education and how it should be enshrined into country's national contributions towards emissions reductions. Kevin would like to see this group work on climate education and ensuring that Wales' new curriculum tackles these issues in a way that encourages engagement around climate change from people while balancing the issues of anxiety.

Shenona Mitra highlighted that young people are often excluded from climate action and is pleased that YCA and other young people are a part of this group. Shenona highlighted that she would like the group to consider how we bring climate action into everyday life, and also how the group can involve everybody in these conversations, and not just the people who are already involved in climate action. We also need to ensure diversity and hear the voices of those who are underrepresented in these conversations.

Bryony Bromley, education manager at Keep Wales Tidy, spoke about the EcoSchools program. Bryony works directly with teachers and young people to provide training and events and support and help them to take positive action within that school setting. Bryony

would like to see the CPG focus on making positive change as a collective by setting some goals. Bryony also highlighted that with such widespread expertise, we could explore ways to help the youth climate ambassadors to achieve the targets set out in their manifesto.

Haf Elgar, director of Friends of the Earth Cymru, spoke of her own climate anxiety and spoke of the importance of climate justice and considering who is most impacted by climate change as well as the transition to net zero, and who isn't being heard. We must also consider international impacts.

Delyth Jewell MS agreed with the points made and suggested that in time we establish a number of subgroups of the CPG to lead on specific areas.

Kimberley Mamhende, a youth climate activist based in Swansea, spoke about her work with marginalized groups, including people from ethnically diverse backgrounds. She highlighted that these groups are typically disengaged when it comes to climate action, even though they are some of the most impacted by climate change. Kimberly told the group that she often hears that people don't engage with climate action because they have bigger problems to worry about, for example, they may be living in poverty and may not know where their next meal will come from. She highlighted that she would like to see the CPG advocate for the groups typically left behind, and those without a voice, so we don't further marginalise them.

Delyth Jewell MS agreed and highlighted the need to see life through other people's eyes, especially those who experience a number of challenges, such as poverty.

Carolyn Thomas MS highlighted that CPGs are useful for information sharing, communicating and educating. Councils have targets to be net zero by 2030, they're responsible for transport, active travel, play areas, grass verges, green spaces etc. They're also looking at the 21st century school building program, electric cars and electric transport and biodiversity- and it's crucial that councils report this work.

Glenn Page spoke about the term 'climate anxiety' and how the term 'climate grief' can better describe some of his feelings. Glenn highlighted that the Welsh Government's ten-year mental health strategy is coming to an end this year, so we will have a huge opportunity to influence the next strategy and the conversation around nature, climate, ecological breakdown and its relationship with wellbeing and mental health. If we look at the scope of the actions within that ten-year strategy, they're relatively limited, so we have an opportunity to build on this conversation. When we look at the Welsh government's commitment to mental health being a cross cutting priority, in addition to the climate emergency we should be looking at what are the wellbeing and mental health outcomes of every department of all institutions.

Delyth Jewell MS highlighted that RCPsych Wales has also recommended that different government decisions should have to consider the climate impact and mental health impact of policies they're introducing.

Sophie Howe highlighted that the Welsh Government did have a Budget Equality, Inclusion Group, made up of a broad section of different kinds of equality groups, and they would help

to provide advice on the quality impacts of the budget etc. They're going to broaden that group now to build in nature and climate too. The Commissioner also highlighted that she has been working with a range of different organizations as part of a group being led by Natural Resources Wales, on the idea of a national nature service. This will look at how do we enhance and maintain and restore nature, as we are required to do under the Future Generations Act. A national nature service could provide opportunities to young people and could also help people of any age to enter to develop skills and then ultimately jobs in the nature economy.

The Commissioner also highlighted that in Wales, we spend about £7 billion a year on public procurement. She highlighted that of 363 tenders on the Sell to Wales website, none of them required decarbonisation as part of the contract.

AGM and Election of Chair/Secretariat

Cyfarfod cyffredinol blynyddol ac etholiad y Cadeirydd/Ysgrifenyddiaeth

Delyth Jewell MS was nominated as Chair, seconded by David Rees MS.

Jane Bryant MS and Laura Jones MS confirmed as vice chairs.

Poppy from YCA confirmed as honorary vice chair.

RCPsych Wales nominated by Delyth Jewell MS as secretariat, seconded by Glenn Page.

Delyth Jewell MS: Any other business and date of next meeting

Delyth Jewell AS: Unrhyw fusnes arall a dyddiad am y cyfarfod nesaf

Delyth Jewell MS thanked everyone for attending and for being elected to chair the group.

Delyth closed the meeting and confirmed the next meeting would be held in 6-8 weeks.