

Cross Party Group on Intergenerational Solidarity

09 October 2023: 11:00 – 12:30pm on Microsoft Teams

Attendees

- Delyth Jewell MS, **Chair**, Senedd Cymru
- Peredur Owen Griffiths MS, Senedd Cymru
- Sion Wyn Evans, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- Dewi John, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- Catrin Hedd Jones, Bangor University
- Chris Thomas, COPA
- Dereck Roberts, NPC Wales
- Heather Ferguson, Age Cymru
- Carol Maddock, Swansea University
- Sharon Ford, National Museums Wales
- Carole Phillips, Kidscape
- Marie-Clare Hunter, ENRICH Cymru Advisory Board
- Chris Thomas, COPA
- Tamasree Mukhopandhyay, Kiran Cymru
- Deb Morgan, Swansea University
- Andrea Nicholas Jones, Action for Elders
- Joanne Hook, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- Rebecca Deverell, NUS Cymru
- Carole Phillips, Kidscape
- Pheobe Brown, Repair Café Wales
- Sue Edgersdoff, Ready Generations
- Carol Maddock, Swansea University

Apologies

- Orla Tarn, NUS Cymru
- Ceri Cryer, Age Cymru
- Rachel Bowen, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- Dave McKinney, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- Altaf Hussain MS Senedd Cymru
- Tanya Strange, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Actions

1. Heather Ferguson to send photos of the Falls Prevention event in schools to Dewi John for circulation.
2. Members to email Catrin Hedd Jones if they want to join a steering group on intergenerational research centre for Wales.
3. Dewi John to invite the Deputy Minister for Social Services to upcoming meeting of the Cross-Party Group for a Q&A.
4. Dewi John to add buses and the integration of care homes into the community to the agenda for future meetings.

5. Members to share any other suggested speakers on buses to herself or Dewi John.

Welcome and Introductions – Delyth Jewell MS – Minutes of Last Meeting

Delyth Jewell welcomed members and outlined that this will also be our annual general meeting before the group continues into 2024. The Members agreed to note the minutes from the previous meeting.

Annual General Meeting Nomination of Chair and Secretariat

Dewi John nominated Delyth Jewell as Chair of the Cross-Party Group – this was approved by the Group with no objections. Jayne Bryant, Peredur Owen Griffiths and Altaf Hussain were nominated as Vice Chairs of the CPG by Delyth Jewell – this was approved by the group with no objections.

Delyth Jewell nominated the office of the Older People's Commissioner for Wales as secretariat of the Cross-Party Group – this was approved by the group with no objections. Catrin Hedd Jones seconded all nominations.

Matters Arising – General Discussion Space

Member updates:

Heather Ferguson outlined the work she had done as part of [Falls Prevention](#) Week last month. She explained the event which focused on children in Key Stage Two to teach them about falls risk so they can best support their older relatives to prevent falls. Delyth Jewell asked Heather to send Dewi John photos from the events so they could be shared with the wider group.

Catrin Hedd Jones highlighted that in England there has been an establishment of [Centre for Intergenerational Practice, Research & Development](#). She asked members to share this and to email her if they wanted to join the steering group.

Carol Maddock updated the group on the progress of the climate change comic and explained that the comic has had lots of positive feedback. The comic will be printed again and put online if the project can secure additional funding.

Tamasree Mukhopandyay noted that KIRAN Cymru engages intergenerational communities also through Art, Culture and Heritage. KIRAN Cymru's service users are between the ages of 4 and 89 years. She explained that at the moment KIRAN Cymru are engaging intergenerational community members through Art and education, regular free maths sessions, public speaking, and theatre sessions. Tamasree said that if any member of the group was interested, to email her on info@kiran.org.uk.

Dereck Roberts said that NPC Cymru are frustrated with the situation of the buses here in Wales and that NPC UK are hosting a conference in the northwest of England on buses as they are having similar issues there. Delyth Jewell highlighted that the Senedd had a debate on buses last week and that the issue had real cross-party support. Delyth asked members if they wanted to talk about buses at a future meeting. Members agreed and Dewi John will add to the agenda for a future meeting.

Heather Ferguson volunteered to do a presentation on buses in conjunction with Dereck Roberts but asked if it was possible to involve younger people too. Tamasree volunteered KIRAN Cymru's youth wing. Catrin asked if any of the Members of the Youth Parliament would like to join in on this too. Delyth asked members to share any other speakers on the topic to herself or Dewi John

Deb Morgan and Carol Maddock are working to establish an intergenerational project on dealing with loneliness, by utilising public space. Sion Wyn Evans thanked Deb for this update and explained that the Older People's Commissioner for Wales will be doing a campaign on loneliness and isolation before the end of the year.

Tamasree noted that many groups are struggling to find venues within communities because of the closure of venues since Covid and asked if anyone had a space. Deb shared her email address so that her and Tamsree can work on this.

[d.j.morgan@swansea.ac.uk]

Delyth asked if members were happy to invite the Deputy Minister for Social Services for a Q&A session instead of a letter to capture some of the themes mentioned above. Members agreed.

Discussion on Access to Services – Opening Remarks by Chair and Sion Wyn Evans (OPCW)

Sion Wyn Evans opened this item by highlighting that the Older People's Commissioner for Wales has previously issued guidance in [November 2021](#) to local authorities and health boards that set out what needed to be delivered to ensure older people can access information and services in a digital age, and that older people's rights are protected and upheld.

A further report from the Commissioner was issued in [September 2022](#) summarising the action Health Boards and Local Authorities reported that they were taking. Building on this previous work, in summer 2023, the Commissioner invited older people to [share](#) their experiences of digital exclusion. Digital exclusion is increasing and has impacted every part of older people's lives including parking, access to GPs and banking. Sion also explained that digital exclusion is leading to more isolation and is making some older people feel left behind. Delyth Jewell noted that some of these issues have been discussed by the group and highlighted that people who are not connected are finding the gap widening and more difficult to get online.

Heather Ferguson highlighted that Age Cymru are aware that some older people are quite tech savvy whilst others chose not to use digital skills. However, this should not be a barrier to a service that people require. She also noted that younger people are also being digitally excluded because of the cost of the technology.

Dereck Roberts said that NPC Cymru has been supporting the Commissioner's team and Age Cymru in their research on this but voiced concerns that some people cannot even access a GP because the option to book is online only. Sion highlighted the Commissioner's work on GP access for the group and said if members were interested in hearing more to email: ask@olderpeople.wales. Dereck also noted that the social tariffs provided by broadband companies are not adequate as they are still costing £15 a month.

Marie-Clare Hunter said that she thinks that the cost of broadband is a very real concern because it is an ongoing cost. If other costs rise (e.g., heating), people may be forced to sacrifice digital access and lose their digital "voice" and confidence.

Andrea Nicholas Jones added that Covid has led to a cost problem which has meant that many organisations and community venues also have lost funding which, combined with digital exclusion and lack of buses, will create bigger issues of isolation. Marie Clare said that she is especially concerned about people who had social difficulties before the pandemic, who could have perhaps been persuaded to access daycare services etc., but now face even greater levels of isolation because of funding issues post Covid. Dereck Roberts explained that Swansea's age friendly communities is a good model to help end loneliness and build on older people's confidence.

Tamasree added that since Covid KIRAN Cymru has seen a huge surge in demand for their interpretation services.

Any Other Business

Marie Clare asked if the item of care home integration into the wider community could be added to the agenda for a future meeting because many care home residents are often forgotten by their communities. Heather said that this was a travesty that care home residents were being forgotten about and highlighted some of the projects that Age Cymru were [running](#). Deb Morgan also said that she would be happy to talk more on this.

Sue Edgersdoff highlighted that she will be publishing a report with Lancashire University on integrating care homes and that she will share report when it is published. She also noted the importance of talking to older people about the future instead of focusing solely on the past as older people still have lots to give to society whether they live in a care home or not. Heather [pointed](#) to Age Cymru's resource on mental health in care homes to support this. Chris highlighted that COPA will be hosting its AGM in November where a discussion on care homes also will take place.

Close

Date of Next Meeting: 22nd January 2024 on Microsoft Teams