

Cross-Party Group Annual Report 2023-24

Cross Party Group on Intergenerational Solidarity

1. Group membership and Office Holders.

Chair: Delyth Jewell MS

Members:

- Altaf Hussain AS
- Peredur Owen Griffiths AS
- Jayne Bryant AS (Until 8th April 2024)
- Vikki Howells AS (29th April 2024 – 8th October 2024)
- Julie Morgan AS (From 29th April 2024)
- Janet Finch-Saunders AS (From 8th October 2024)

Secretary: Rhys Jackson (Office of the Older People’s Commissioner for Wales)

External Members:

Name:	Organisation:
Rhian Bowen-Davies	Older People’s Commissioner for Wales
Rachel Bowen	Older People’s Commissioner for Wales
David McKinney	Older People’s Commissioner for Wales
Heléna Herklots	Older People’s Commissioner for Wales (Until August 2024)
Alan Hatton-Yeo	Volunteering Matters Wales
Amanda Everson	Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services
Amanda Gallivan	Swansea Council
Andrea Nicholas-Jones	Action for Elders
Andy Wallsgrove	Children's Commissioner for Wales
Bryan Godsell	NPC Wales
Carole Butler	Swansea University
Carole Maddock	Swansea University
Carole Phillips	Kidscape
Catrin Hedd Jones	Bangor University
Chris Dunn	Diverse Cymru
Chris Thomas	COPA
Deborah Morgan	Swansea University
Elisabeth Carney-Haworth	Sliver Stories
Elizabeth Jones	Swansea University
Faye Patten	Care and Repair Cymru
Gino Parisi	Aneurin Bevan UHB
Heather Ferguson	Age Cymru
Jamie Smith	Hafod Housing Association
Katie Howson	Swansea University

Kathryn Morgan	Shared Lives Plus
Laraine Bruce	ConneXions
Linda Jenkins	Hafod Housing Association
Lisa Childs	NUS Wales
Marie-Clare Hunter	ENRICH Cymru Advisory Group
Merryn Thomas	Swansea University
Mike Rance	Hafod Housing Association
Mirian Llwyd Roberts	Gwynedd Council
Neil Williams	Care and Repair Cymru
Nia Richards	Tybed
Nina Finnigan	Bryncynon Strategy
Orla Tarn	NUS Wales
Pheobe Brown	Repair Café Wales
Ross Thomas	Tai Pawb
Sandy Clubb	Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
Sharon Ford	National Museum Wales
Stephanie Green	Swansea University
Stephen Burke	United for All ages
Sue Egersdorff	Ready Generations
Tanya Strange	Aneurin Bevan UHB
Tom Magner	Carers World Radio
Rhun Dafydd	Lottery Community Fund
Tamasree Mukhopandhyay	Kiran UK
Leaola Roberts-Biggs	Welsh Youth Parliament
Harrison Williams	Welsh Youth Parliament
Ellis Peares	Welsh Youth Parliament

2. Previous Groups Meetings 2023-24

Meeting One

Meeting Date: 9 October 2023

Attendees:

Name - Organisation
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

The Meeting was held virtually on Microsoft Teams, and the Minutes are included in [Appendix 1](#).

Summary of Communications

The group held its Annual General Meeting and held a discussion on access to information and service, and the impact of digital exclusion.

Meeting Two

Meeting Date: 22 January 2024

Attendees:

Name – Organisation
Delyth Jewell MS, Chair , Senedd Cymru
Rhys Jackson, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Julie Morgan MS, Deputy Minister for Social Services
Catrin Hedd Jones, Bangor University
Dereck Roberts, NPC Wales
Heather Ferguson, Age Cymru
Marie-Clare Hunter, ENRICH Cymru Advisory Board
Rebecca Deverell, NUS Cymru
Phoebe Brown, Repair Café Wales
Rachel Bowen, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Dave McKinney, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Leola Roberts-Biggs, Youth Parliament
Gethin Edwards, Welsh Government
Ioan Bellin, Staff Member to Delyth Jewell MS' team
Ruth Parness, Welsh Government

The Meeting was held virtually on Microsoft Teams, and the Minutes are included in [Appendix 1](#).

Summary of Communications

The Deputy Minister for Social Services, Julie Morgan MS, spoke to the Cross-Party Group about what the Welsh Government is doing to tackle ageism before taking questions from the group.

Meeting Three

Meeting Date: 16 May 2024

Attendees:

Name - Organisation
Delyth Jewell MS, Chair , Senedd Cymru
Rhys Jackson, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Vikki Howells MS
Merryn Thomas, Swansea University
Sharon Ford, National Museum Wales
Heather Ferguson, Age Cymru
Marie-Clare Hunter, ENRICH Cymru Advisory Board
Rebecca Deverell, NUS Cymru
Phoebe Brown, Repair Café Wales
Rachel Bowen, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Dave McKinney, Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Leola Roberts-Biggs, Youth Parliament
Mirian Llwyd Roberts, Gwynedd Council

The Meeting was held virtually on Microsoft Teams, and the Minutes are included in [Appendix 1](#).

Summary of Communications

The CPG discussed the Impact of Climate Change on Older People.

3. Professional lobbyists, voluntary organisations, and charities with whom the Group has met during the preceding year.

[names of lobbyists/organisations/charities should be included as follows, e.g.]

Name of Organisation:

- Julie Morgan, Deputy Minister for Social Services

Name of Group:

N/A

Annual Financial Statement

19 November 2024

Cross Party Group on Intergenerational Solidarity

Chair: Delyth Jewell MS

Secretary: Rhys Jackson (Office of the Older People's Commissioner for Wales)

Title	Description	Amount
Group's Expenses	None.	£0.00
Costs of all goods	No goods bought.	£0.00
Benefits received by the group or individual members from external bodies	No benefits received.	£0.00
Any financial support or other support.	No financial support was received.	£0.00
Total		£0.00

Appendix 1: Minutes from the meetings of 2023-4

Meeting One: Cross Party Group on Intergenerational Solidarity – 9 October 2023

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 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.

Meeting Two: **Cross Party Group on Intergenerational Solidarity - 22 January 2024**

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

There were no issues with minutes from the last meeting.

Discussion on Ageism with the Deputy Minister for Social Services

Julie Morgan said that age should not ever diminish someone's rights to be treated with respect and that the rights of older people should be upheld by services providers. She said intergenerational solidarity is important to ensure society understands ageism is unacceptable. She highlighted Age-Friendly Wales - the Welsh Government's strategy - is in its third year, and that the Welsh Government works with partners to deliver a Wales where ageism doesn't limit potential or impact the services older people receive. She spoke of the work around Wales to ensure Age-Friendly communities, noting that she has met with officers around Wales who have put intergenerational solidarity into their plans.

Julie Morgan highlighted the Welsh Government's loneliness and isolation fund, as part of the Connected Communities cross-government strategy, which funds projects that build intergenerational solidarity.

Julie Morgan said that a key priority for tackling ageism should be working to ensure mainstream media and society sees older people's contributions rather than as a 'burden' as they are often portrayed. She noted the work of the Older People's Commissioner who have created [guidelines](#) to challenge how older people are often portrayed. She said that she meets with the OPCW regularly to discuss progress on ageism, noting the OPCW's webinar on the 1st February on human rights in Wales.

The Deputy Minister noted the Welsh Government's work with Age Cymru and commissioned them recently for an older people's rights campaign. She said that Age Cymru has produced a human rights toolkit which is used to instigate conversations on human rights. She also noted that Age Cymru are mentoring a group of older volunteers to act as human rights ambassadors to go out into communities and broker conversations about rights and ageism.

Dereck Roberts highlighted the successful work Swansea ageing-well partners are undertaking and noted that it is difficult to find out the older people's champion in each local authority. Delyth Jewell asked the Deputy Minister whether the work of the older people's champions will differ depending on location, noting that intergenerational events may be better advertised in university towns. Julie Morgan noted that intergenerational issues also impact younger people, noting that she is unsure of how each work.

Heather Ferguson highlighted work that Age Cymru is undertaking to tackle ageism, including a photography campaign called 'This is Older' which provides a more realistic view of ageing, as well as awareness training. She said access to public transport is a big issue that Age Cymru is hearing from older people, noting that access to communities is important for ageing. Julie Morgan praised the 'This is Older' campaign and said public transport is suffering because people are not using it and thus the transport is losing money. Gethin Edwards said he will share these images of positive ageing with the Welsh Government communications team.

Heather Ferguson said Age Cymru is seeing a reluctance of people getting back out over Covid and back onto buses. Delyth Jewell said it would be good for the group to look at public transport in more detail at a later date.

On identifying ageing well officers, Catrin Hedd Jones asked whether the Welsh Government has looked at Scotland's model of generation's working together which has a strong national model of intergenerational work. Julie Morgan said she has personally not had any contact with Scotland but noted that this is something that could be looked at.

David McKinney said the age-friendly model includes older people and communities in the decision process and that where there are age-friendly partnerships with groups, there is a role for younger people's champions in these groups to work on intergenerational issues. Gethin Edwards highlighted the importance of language in working towards age-friendly communities.

Dereck Roberts highlighted that at a recent meeting of the National Pensioners Convention there was discussion on public transport, noting anecdotal evidence that a lack of buses is causing both younger and older people to not be able to access town centres which in some cases impacts employment. Delyth Jewell asked

whether the Deputy Minister's focus should be on encouraging people to get out and about and use public transport. The Deputy Minister noted the drop in the use of the bus pass, and said it was important for her to encourage older people to come out of the house.

Rachel Bowen said it was a good time to think about ageing as the Centre for Ageing Better has launched a [campaign](#) on ageism – recommending the CPG to look at this work. Julie Morgan said this is important to note everyone's own unconscious biases.

Delyth Jewell talked about the benefits of promoting intergenerational activities to bring generations together. Julie Morgan agreed. Gethin Edwards noted that the Welsh Government's intergenerational work this year will be focusing more in the sport sector. Delyth Jewell asked the CPG to send on any examples of intergenerational good practice when found.

Catrin Hedd Jones asked whether any person in the group has worked with the media to tackle ageism. Heather Ferguson said that Age Cymru has worked with the media and journalists to talk about these ideas. Phoebe Brown asked about resources that could be used internally for smaller organisations. Rhys Jackson shared work done by the Commissioner on [Guidelines for the Media](#) and [Tackling Ageism in Communications](#).

Matters Arising – General Discussion Space

Rachel Bowen promised to circulate a new report by the Commissioner on digital exclusion when it is published. Delyth Jewell encouraged the CPG to send any reports they may have to Rachel Bowen or Rhys Jackson to send around the group.

Heather Ferguson spoke about the work of Falls Prevention Taskforce, noting possible work with Scouts Cymru to teach them about falls and their dangers. Marie-Clare Hunter raised the possibility of drawing links with the Welsh Baccalaureate program.

Any Other Business

Delyth Jewell spoke about the next meeting of the CPG, noting that climate change could be the planned topic. Heather Ferguson agreed, noting that Age Cymru are

soon to be producing a policy statement on climate change. Rachel Bowen said that climate change would work with the conversations had in this meeting about public transport. Marie-Clare Hunter supported this topic, noting that repairing and reusing items is something prevalent among older people. Phoebe Brown agreed with this, noting that this is not something as widespread among younger people.

Delyth Jewell suggested **Public Transport, Addressing Climate Change in the Curriculum**, and **Learning from Other Generations** as topics for discussion next meeting. She encouraged members of the CPG to get in touch should they wish to talk in the next meeting.

Meeting Three: **Cross Party Group on Intergenerational Solidarity - 16 May 2024**

Welcome and Introductions – Minutes of Last Meeting

There were no issues with minutes from the last meeting.

Heather Ferguson, Age Cymru – The Impact of Climate Change on Older People

Heather Ferguson (HF) talked about the impact a changing climate can have on older people and said that older people are some of the most affected by climate change. She also mentioned that extreme flooding and high winds can severely impact older people, with power cuts leaving older people vulnerable. As 1 in 5 older people live in relative income poverty, they do not have the disposable income for repairs when climate change causes extra costs.

HF said there needs to be a shift towards more reliable public transport to encourage the disuse of cars. Age Cymru's recent polling has found that 24% of older people have found that transport has been a challenge in the last 12 months and that 10% of bus routes have been lost.

She also argued that the decarbonisation of homes need to be carefully considered as older people are more likely to experience fuel poverty and have extra costs, which will impact on older people financially.

HF said that ageism is leaving older people out of the climate change debate and that there's stereotyping that the generation are not engaged, even though 58% of older people aged 60 or over believed climate change is a global emergency.

HF challenged the group to think about how generations come together to tackle climate change and to bring together collective voices about what is needed.

Rachel Bowen (RB) thanked HF for the presentation, agreeing with her that many older people do care about climate change.

Marie-Clare Hunter (MCH) spoke about the 'blame' the older generation sometimes gets from the younger generation concerning climate change, noting that work needs to be done to encourage the younger generation to become allies with the older generation.

Merryn Thomas, Swansea University – Co-Creating an Intergenerational Climate Pack

Merryn Thomas (MT) gave an overview of the OPTIC project, which seeks to understand older and younger people's climate change perceptions. She highlighted the 'Climate Comic' which was created from five intergenerational workshops that were to encourage intergenerational conversations about climate change. In one session six students who had previously spent time in a care home talking to older people included older people into their comics (compared to none who had not attended the care home), which shows the importance of intergenerational conversations for changing assumptions.

MT said there is work progressing on an intergenerational activity pack which can be used in schools, care homes, and libraries and includes activities such as quizzes and games. The pack will have intergenerational engagement tips and have relevant materials and links. The OPTIC team will also work with care homes to discuss what else can be included in the pack and the plan is for the pack to be finished by Christmas. DMc highlighted a resource from the WHO network about low-cost ideas for the engagement of older people and offered to share the resource with the CPG.

MCH praised the resource and asked the group to consider asking the Senedd to create an intergenerational award for schools, to encourage intergenerational actions such as schools working with local care homes to encourage more intergenerational conversations. Vikki Howells (VH) agreed with this, noting a previous intergenerational project in Aberdare funded by CWMPAS to bring digital teaching into care homes by younger people. DJ also agreed and suggested she and VH work to encourage such work in the Senedd. MT approved of the idea. DJ said that such a project could be primarily online but involve in-person contact during the summer holidays.

DM wondered whether there is a way schools can work more with older people still living at home to ensure more of a community. MT said that every workshop undertaken by OPTIC believed that building stronger communities is important to combatting climate change. Phoebe Brown (PB) noted that Repair Cafés are community spaces that are inherently climate friendly while encouraging

intergenerational work. She said that they encourage older people to attend, which helps alleviate loneliness and isolation, while encouraging environmental activism.

David McKinney (DMc) echoed the importance of communities, noting an intergenerational project that was [undertaken](#) in Trefnant in north Wales that has developed into further relationships and resulted in a book containing intergenerational stories.

DJ highlighted the importance of creating tangible and relatable intergenerational stories to encourage such relationships.

RB raised the possibility of using the new Welsh curriculum to encourage more intergenerational practice around climate change. MCH supported this idea, noting the need to not reinvent the wheel but highlighting that an award would encourage schools to strive for something tangible. MT noted that although accreditation would incentivise schools to strive for such an award, she said schools will need help to work on this. DM said this would have to be handled sensitively to ensure work with older people doesn't become a 'tick box' exercise.

VH highlighted that in when she was a teacher, her school put on events for the local older population as part of the student's Welsh baccalaureate work.

DJ said the idea for the new curriculum should include local history and questioned whether the CPG would want to invite the new Cabinet Secretary for Education to attend a future meeting to get their thoughts on how to open up a space for more intergenerational practice and conversations. The CPG was supportive of the idea.

Matters Arising – General Discussion Space

RB called for anyone in the group who have connections with younger organisations or younger people themselves, to think about how the CPG could encourage more younger people to join the group.

Appendix 2: Date for Upcoming Meetings

- 3 February 5pm
- 12 May 11am
- 20 October 11am

All these meetings will be conducted on Microsoft Teams.