

Derek Walker
Future Generations Commissioner for
Wales

27 March 2025

Dear Derek,

Social Cohesion Inquiry

During our inquiry into Social Cohesion concerns have been raised about current and future risks to social cohesion in our communities.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 national goals for 'A Wales of cohesive communities' is described as 'attractive, viable, safe and well-connected'. Several [responses to our consultation](#) referenced this goal in the 2015 Act specifically.

For example, Carnegie UK emphasised the need to empower public bodies:

A significant amount of support is needed to equip people working in public bodies with the skills to think long term. Too often, legislation placing new duties on the public sector is passed without providing any support for the training, development and longer-term cultural change required to properly implement it. In a year where various implementation plans and strategies have been completed and published, the Welsh Government should not overlook the importance of ensuring public sector workers have the skills and knowledge to embed a preventative approach in practice.

Similarly the [Welsh Refugee Council](#) highlighted recent incidents concerning refugees and asylum seekers where they claim the approach adopted by public bodies were inconsistent with the 2015 Act.

Therefore your views on this matter and any details you can provide on work to support this well-being goal is key. In addition to any views on [the Terms of Reference](#) for this inquiry, we would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions:

- What actions or workstreams are you currently involved in which seek to strengthen the goal of social cohesion? How is social cohesion reflected in your current or future work?
- How are you monitoring progress towards the national goal of a 'Wales of cohesive communities'?
- How are you working with public bodies to support them to deliver this goal?

- How are you working with other organisations such as the Welsh Government and voluntary sector to build social capital and social cohesion?
- What examples of good practice are you aware of, or are you involved in, that demonstrate progress towards this goal?

As the inquiry is already underway and we are taking evidence through March and April, an early response would help to inform these evidence sessions. To enable us to consider your response before our final evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary, we would be grateful if you could respond no later than 5 May 2025.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jenny Rathbone' in a cursive style.

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

