



**Minutes / Cofnodion
Cross Party Autism Group / Grŵp Trawsbleidiol Awtistiaeth
Rhagfyr 6 December 2017
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru / National Assembly for Wales**

1 WELCOME / CROESO

CPAG Chair Mark Isherwood AM, welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was also attended by Dai Lloyd AM and Paul Davies AM.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING / COFNODION A MATERION YN CODI

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate account of the previous meeting, with one member seeking an update on the actions in relation to the work of the Cross Party Group on Disability on the Independent Living Fund.

3 UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AUTISM [WALES] BILL / DIWEDDARIAD AR DDATBLYGIAD Y BIL AWTISTIAETH [CYMRU]

Paul Davies AM thanked the group for their support during the recent consultation on the Autism [Wales] Bill, which received 90 responses. Paul will, over the coming months, develop a draft Bill for further consultation. He has until 13th July to introduce a Bill to the National Assembly for Wales. Paul said he has been engaging with Welsh Government to see if significant progress is being made as a result of their own reforms, and he hopes to meet soon with the new Cabinet Secretary, Vaughan Gething soon. The group asked Paul to consider data collection, diagnosis, access to services and professionals' training in the development of the Bill. It was also suggested that further online consultation could be effective.

4 'MISSING VOICES' PROJECT REPORT / ADRODDIAD PROSIECT 'LLEISIAU COLL'

Mat Mathias, from the Electoral Reform Society Cymru, updated the group on its current project, 'Missing Voices', in which they hope to identify barriers that people face to engaging in politics, democracy and elections. The main themes emerging from the survey and focus groups were confusion, frustration and hope. Many people who took part in the consultation had ideas for how to improve engagement and to make politics more accessible. The report will be launched on 11th December.

5 PROGRESS UPDATE ON CARDIFF AND VALE OF GLAMORGAN INTEGRATED AUTISM SERVICE/ DIWEDDARIAD AR WASANAETH AWTISTIAETH INTEGREDIG CAERDYDD A'R FRO

Keith Ingram, service manager for the Integrated Autism Service in Cardiff and the Vale, gave an overview of what the service is able to offer and its future development plans. Keith said the service aims to enhance existing services rather than replace them. He also said that the service is working with existing services, such as mental health, to ensure autism expertise is provided when needed. Questions were asked around how people can access the service, for example, if they didn't have a

diagnosis or if they had a co-occurring condition. Keith added that the nature of the service was prescribed in detail by Welsh Government, and although there was some local flexibility, the reporting procedures would be the same in every service across Wales, to avoid a 'postcode lottery'. It was noted that representation from the WLGA to provide an update on the services across Wales would be welcome.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS / UNRHYW FATER ARALL

Mark Isherwood AM noted that Vaughan Gething, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services has taken responsibility for autism policy. It was proposed and agreed to invite him to a future meeting to provide a progress update on implementation of the Welsh Government Strategic Action Plan and hear the views and concerns of the group.

7 ACTIONS / CAMAU GWEITHREDU

To write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, inviting him to a future meeting of the Cross Party Autism Group to provide a progress update on the Welsh Government Strategic Action Plan.

To write to the WLGA, inviting them to attend a future meeting of the Cross Party Autism Group to provide an update on the development of the integrated autism service across Wales.