

Concise Minutes – Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: Thursday, 13 October
2016

Meeting time: 09.15 – 14.17

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/3753>

Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	John Griffiths AM (Chair) Gareth Bennett AM Janet Finch–Saunders AM Siân Gwenllian AM Bethan Jenkins AM Jenny Rathbone AM Joyce Watson AM
Witnesses:	Eleri Butler MBE, Welsh Women’s Aid Frances Beecher, Llamau Jackie Stamp, New Pathways Mutale Merrill, BAWSO Fflur Elin, National Union of Students Claire O’Shea, National Union of Students Vivienne Laing, NSPCC Cymru Sian Morris, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council



Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales

	<p>Joy Williams, Welsh Local Government Association</p> <p>Lin Slater, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board</p> <p>Chris Overs, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board</p> <p>Wendy Sunderland–Evans, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg</p> <p>Aideen Naughton, Public Health Wales</p>
Committee Staff:	<p>Jon Antoniazzi (Clerk)</p> <p>Sarah Sargent (Deputy Clerk)</p> <p>Hannah Johnson (Researcher)</p> <p>Stephen Davies (Legal Adviser)</p>

Transcript

View the [meeting transcript](#)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed Members and members of the public to the meeting.
- 1.2. Apologies for absence were received from Rhiannon Passmore AM

2 Post legislative inquiry into the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015: evidence session 1

2.1 The Committee received evidence from:

- Eleri Butler, Welsh Women’s Aid
- Frances Beecher, Violence Against Women Action Group
- Jackie Stamp, New Pathways
- Mutale Merrill, BAWSO

2.2 Frances Beecher agreed to provide the Committee with details of how the Strategic Wellbeing Assessment Group in Gwent was looking at all legislation and aligning services accordingly

2.3 Mutale Merrill agreed to provide the Committee with a note on Bawso's position regarding the devolution of more powers to Wales in relation to the funding for support services

3 Post legislative inquiry into the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015: evidence session 2

3.1 The Committee received evidence from:

- Fflur Elin, National Union of Students
- Claire O'Shea, National Union of Students
- Vivienne Laing, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)

3.2 Vivienne Laing agreed to provide the Committee with details about the NSPCC/Bawso 'Voices over Silence' project materials.

4 Post legislative inquiry into the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015: evidence session 3

4.1 The Committee received evidence from:

- Sian Morris, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Joy Williams, Welsh Local Government Association

4.2 Joy Williams and Sian Morris agreed to provide the Committee with the following information:

- details of whether all local authorities in Wales are currently developing draft local strategies for their own area
- details of the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council VAWDA Leadership Group Board, including its Terms of Reference and details of what, and how, the Board has learned
- views on how local authorities will report on how they are addressing the requirements of the Act and, subsequently, who will collate data on local authority performance

- details and evidence of whether good practice guidance around Healthy Relationships is reaching individual schools across Wales
- details of how the WLGA have worked with local authorities in developing local strategies
- details of how local authorities are seeking the views of survivors of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence

5 Post legislative inquiry into the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015: evidence session 4

5.1 The Committee received evidence from:

- Lin Slater, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- Chris Overs, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- Wendy Sunderland–Evans, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board
- Aideen Naughton, Public Health Wales

6 Paper(s) to note

6.1 Chair to Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children regarding Post legislative inquiry into the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015

6.1 The Committee noted the letter from the Chair to Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children regarding Post legislative inquiry into the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015

6.2 Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children regarding Post legislative inquiry into the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015

6.2 The committee noted the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children regarding Post legislative inquiry into the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015

6.3 Letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent on future work relating to tackling violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

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7 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting

The Committee agreed the motion.

8 Post legislative inquiry into the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015: Consideration of evidence

The Committee discussed the evidence during the morning's meeting.