

Third Sector Statistics User Panel for Wales

Minutes of meeting held on Friday 7 October 2016
WCVA, Baltic House, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff Bay

Present			
Rhodri	Bowen	RB	People and Work Unit
Paul	Chaney	PC	Cardiff University (WISERD)
Matthew	Close	MC	Wales Co-operative Centre
Eliot	Farmer	EF (Minutes)	Welsh Government
Sheila	Hendrickson-Brown	SHB	Cardiff Third Sector Council
Catrin	James	CJ	Urdd Gobaith Cymru
David	James	DJ	Rural Housing Enabler
Glyn	Jones	GJ (Chair)	Welsh Government
James	Koe	JK (Minutes)	Welsh Government
Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government
Silvia	Manclossi	SVM	Welsh Government
Steve	Marshall	SM	Welsh Government
Carys	Moseley	CM	Cytûn
Anthony	Newby	ANW	Welsh Government
Anna	Nicholl	AN	Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Sean	O'Neill	SO	Children in Wales
Hade	Turkmen	HT	Chwarae Teg
Lisa	Walters	LW	Welsh Government
Apologies			
Owain Llyr	Ap Gareth		Electoral Reform Society Cymru
Jacqueline	Campbell		Shelter Cymru
Martin	Fidler Jones		RSPCA Cymru
Paul	Glaze		Council for Wales of voluntary Youth Services
Carl	Gough		Community Transport association UK
Allan	Herbert		South Riverside Community Development Centre
Uzo	Iwobi OBE		Race Council Cymru
Lucy	Knight		Chwarae Teg
Ruth	Marks		Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Barbara	Natasegara		Safer Wales
Sian	Williams		Welsh Government
Victoria	Winckler		Bevan Foundation
Sarah	Witcombe-Hayes		NSPCC

1	Welcome, Introductions & Apologies	
<p>GJ and SL opened the meeting and welcomed members. The third sector panel, meeting every six months, was set up with the support of the WCVA to maximise the use of official statistics. GJ emphasised how important it was for the Welsh Government (WG) to understand the needs of users of official statistics from the Third Sector and the statistical information they hold that would be of wider interest.</p>		
2	Papers: Quarterly Statistics update, demography and the Census	
<p>GJ presented the quarterly statistics update, which provides a means for the User panel to stay informed, and spoke about the topics within the October 2016 newsletter. The group was also made aware of the completion of a WG project to ensure that all live StatsWales cubes (datasets) were bilingual as of 1 October 2016.</p> <p>GJ spoke about topics in the demography newsletter and members were asked to note the update on the Census Transformation Programme from the Office for National Statistics. GJ also noted that, further to the demography update, ONS had recently published population estimates of the very old for Wales.</p> <p>SL added that ONS were testing the potential for a census question on volunteering. The 2017 census would include trial questions on volunteering being developed for the 2021 census. A suggestion was made to circulate volunteering questions to generate feedback on the wording. It was noted by CJ that the age band for these questions should start earlier than the working age definition.</p> <p>AN proposed that third sector organisations could work more closely with Welsh Government to discuss the impact that sectors have had on areas such as wellbeing. The WISERD Data Portal (WISERD Social Science Discovery Tool) was mentioned as of potential use in finding data about the third sector and volunteering.</p> <p>GJ highlighted the priority to start developing the format for the annual report on the national indicators and that the panel may be contacted on this ahead of the next meeting.</p>		<p>Action: AN to circulate possible volunteering questions for feedback.</p> <p>Action: GJ to follow up with AN about third sector activity, and making links between third sector and WG.</p>
3	Work of the Welsh Government's social research team	
<p>SM presented information on the work carried out by the Welsh Government social research team. The team has started doing more internal research, and have also been increasing providing syntheses of existing research. SM highlighted that a lot of social research is demand led, so largely specific to the particular year.</p> <p>RB raised a question on objectivity when carrying out government research. SM emphasised the importance of following the correct standards and ensuring transparency and noted the Research Principles that were published on the WG website.</p> <p>SM set out the recent change to contribute to an annual published evidence plan that sets out the expectation of what research and statistical work will be conducted. The Welsh Government now uses a single webpage for statistics and research, making it easier to find topics and publications. SM expressed that feedback on usability of research findings is always welcomed.</p>		

	<p>The social research team is also providing advice externally to other bodies, such as public service boards, on evidence-based analysis. It was highlighted that the key challenge is to establish priorities across all policy areas to have the most impact.</p> <p>The annual supplier event for potential contractors on research is likely to be in early November.</p> <p>CJ raised a query on why data on activities for young people, such as Urdd, are not collected centrally by the Welsh Government as part of the Youth Service audit.</p> <p>HT raised a question on the availability of data split by gender within specific age groups. SM highlighted that both the social research and statistical teams aim to collect data with these characteristics. Larger datasets may have more unpublished data, for which further analysis can be carried out on request. GJ asked that if there were demands for data by gender and age for specific topics for organisations to inform the teams in question.</p> <p>The social research analysts are also carrying out more regression analysis to help identify underlying factors driving Well-being of Future Generations (WBF) indicators.</p>	<p>Action: GJ to speak to data collection team regarding the scope of Youth Service data collection.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>National Survey</p>	
	<p>LW and SVM presented information on the National Survey for Wales. The Survey, which is asked of 12,000 respondents, is 45 minutes long, and so can cover a broad range of topics. Topics are selected on a year by year basis, with fieldwork currently being carried out by ONS.</p> <p>The current 2016/17 survey has merged five large scale surveys, providing advantages in cost saving and analysis, given the numerous topics and potential for cross analysis.</p> <p>The first release is published in June, providing a broad overview of the results. This is followed by more detailed analysis over subsequent months. SVM presented and took feedback on six methods of presenting the survey results.</p> <p>CJ raised the issue of samples sometimes being too small to present in StatsWales tables.</p> <p>Feedback suggested that detailed data is often necessary, but that outputs need to be readable by everyone. Infographics are restricted to what it tells you. Various users require different preferences.</p> <p>DJ emphasised interest in the rural splits. Using classifications at a national level, such as the rural definitions/settlement type classifications etc. may suffice for this rather than breakdowns at small area.</p>	<p>Action: LW to consider what can be done about small cells with few data in StatsWales tables.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Update on the volunteering scheme for government analysts / Third Sector organisations</p>	
	<p>SL gave a presentation on the Analytical Volunteer program (AVP). The scheme arranges short term placements for government analytical staff across the civil service supporting organisations that could benefit from their support.</p>	

	<p>The scheme has been extended across Wales, London and South West and North England. The AVP places one or two analysts in each organisation, with placements lasting from half a day up to five days. There will be benefits to both parties and will be extremely beneficial to those organisations with limited analytical skills.</p> <p>Further information, case studies, and application details can be found at: https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/careers/analytical-volunteer-program-avp/. SL highlighted applications will be open throughout October (closing date for organisations to express interest 24 October).</p>	
6	Update on the Housing condition evidence project	
	<p>SL introduced the Housing condition evidence project, a major investment by the Cabinet Secretaries for Environment and Rural Affairs and for Communities and Children. The project, to be carried out over the next 3 years, aims to secure data and analysis to inform policy in relation to domestic housing, energy efficiency and fuel poverty measures.</p> <p>Although some data already exists about various elements of housing conditions they are difficult to combine and often limited in scope. One aim of the project is to maximise use of data that is already available, while ensuring confidentiality. In addition there will be a housing conditions survey undertaken in 2017/18 linked to the 2017/18 National Survey for Wales (NSW). This will be achieved by asking certain housing-related questions in the NSW, followed by recontact of a sample using a surveyor to obtain more detail on the condition of homes. SL added that recontact would most likely be for permanent homes only.</p> <p>DJ was interested in the Rural/Urban splits. GJ said that the group will be kept well informed on the updates regarding the Housing condition evidence project.</p>	
7	Demo of StatsWales open data capabilities	
	<p>ANW demonstrated the basics of StatsWales and shared with the group the open data capabilities that are freely available. It was demonstrated how StatsWales open data links can feed directly into excel, enabling the user to query and manipulate the data to suit their needs. It was highlighted that excel requires the power query add-in (already included in version 13 and above). The group was also notified that the link to the StatsWales data is live; hence the spreadsheet can be refreshed to update the data. More detailed options are available using power BI desktop. GJ added that in the near future there will be help to organisations on open data through a StatsWales training video.</p>	
8	Future Agenda Items and Date of next meeting	
	<p>No future agenda items were raised. GJ suggested that two hours may be too short for further meetings. It was agreed that the meeting should be extended by half an hour to cater towards the larger agenda and attendance and a preference was expressed to avoid Friday afternoons.</p>	
9	Any other business	
	<p>GJ spoke about the Digital Economy Bill presented to parliament by the UK Government. New data sharing clauses related to communication with public services, regarding research and statistics. It was highlighted that ONS could receive data from enterprises including charities and large businesses (excluding small/micro businesses) for statistical purposes.</p> <p>http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/digitaleconomy.html</p>	

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Friday 7 October 2016 - 13:30-15:30**

Summary of Action Points

1	AN to circulate possible volunteering questions for feedback.	Anna Nicholl
2	GJ to follow up with AN about third sector activity, and making links between third sector and WG.	Glyn Jones
3	GJ to speak to service data collection team regarding their scope of data collection.	Glyn Jones
4	LW to consider what can be done about small cells with few data in StatsWales tables.	Lisa Walters