

Concise Minutes – Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 4 – Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: Thursday, 15 December
2016

Meeting time: 09.07 – 12.55

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/3841>

Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	John Griffiths AM (Chair) Gareth Bennett AM Siân Gwenllïan AM Bethan Jenkins AM Jenny Rathbone AM
Witnesses:	Naomi Alleyne, Welsh Local Government Association Anne Hubbard, Welsh Local Government Association Catriona Williams, Children in Wales Cheryl Martin, Children in Wales Rocio Cifuentes, Ethnic Youth Support Team Shehla Khan, Ethnic Youth Support Team Professor Bill Yule, British Psychological Society Dr Gillian Richardson, Aneurin Bevan Health Board Roisin O'Hare, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Committee Staff:	Christopher Warner (Clerk)



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	Elizabeth Wilkinson (Second Clerk)
	Chloe Davies (Deputy Clerk)
	Osian Bowyer (Researcher)
	Hannah Johnson (Researcher)
	Gwyn Griffiths (Legal Adviser)

Transcript

View the [meeting transcript](#)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1. Apologies were received from Joyce Watkins AM, Rhianon Passmore AM and Janet Finch–Saunders AM.

2 Inquiry into refugees and asylum seekers in Wales: evidence session 4

2.1. The Committee received evidence from:

- Naomi Alleyne, Director, Social Services and Housing, Welsh Local Government Association
- Anne Hubbard, Director, Wales Strategic Migration Partnership

2.2. The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) agreed to provide:

- information about the Home Office–run schemes for refugees and asylum seekers that local authorities in Wales can participate in, outside of the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Scheme;
- examples from regional community cohesion co–ordinators of local people in the community supporting refugees, such as “befriending” and providing language support.

2.3. The Wales Strategic Migration Partnership agreed to provide a copy of the research recently carried out by the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on

refugees in Wales who overall have had positive experiences of being resettled in Wales.

3 Inquiry into refugees and asylum seekers in Wales: evidence session 5

3.1. The Committee received evidence from:

- Catriona Williams OBE, Chief Executive, Children in Wales
- Cheryl Martin, Development Officer, Child Poverty, Children in Wales
- Rocio Cifuentes, Director, Ethnic Youth Support Team
- Shehla Khan, Manager, Ethnic Youth Support Team

4 Inquiry into refugees and asylum seekers in Wales: evidence session 6

4.1. The Committee received evidence from:

- Professor Bill Yule, British Psychological Society
- Dr Gill Richardson, Executive Director of Public Health, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- Roisin O'Hare, Asylum Seeker Nurse, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

4.2. The Aneurin Bevan University Health Board agreed to provide information about the health assessments carried out by looked after children nurses on unaccompanied minor refugees.

5 Paper(s) to note

5.1 Inquiry into refugees and asylum seekers in Wales: note of visit to the Scottish Refugee Council

5.1.a. The Committee noted the note of the visit to the Scottish Refugee Council.

5.2 Correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs in relation to Building Regulations Part L

5.2.a. The Committee noted the correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs in relation to Building Regulations Part L.

6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) and (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting

6.1. The Committee agreed the motion.

7 Inquiry into refugees and asylum seekers in Wales – consideration of evidence under items 2, 3 and 4

7.1. The Committee discussed the evidence received.

8 Trade Union (Wales) Bill: Consideration of approach to scrutiny

8.1. The following Members declared relevant interests as members of unions:

- John Griffiths AM;
- Siân Gwenllïan AM;
- Jenny Rathbone AM.

8.2. The Committee agreed its approach to Stage 1 scrutiny of the Trade Union (Wales) Bill.

9 Consideration of Legislative Consent Memorandum on Digital Economy Bill

9.1. The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government seeking clarification on human rights implications of the relevant clauses of the Bill.