



Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN
SeneddEquality@senedd.wales

29 November 2022

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your email dated 2 November in relation to our publication of the Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units strategy which included queries on our approach to VAWDASV and the childcare sector in relation to this work.

The Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units were established in January this year and have been working on developing the strategy and identifying and checking on key priorities with stakeholders. Some key work has started but more needs to be done as the Units become fully resourced to develop our understanding of the priorities and enable us to initiate the work required; your feedback, which will help us with this task.

The [emerging priorities](#) published alongside our strategy include items on both the 2 areas identified by you and I am able to give you more detail around those priorities following publication back in September. We plan to issue an updated version of the emerging priorities list in the new year as our work develops. We will also provide a progress update on the Evidence Units' work in the new year.

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

The Units are aware of the requirement around understanding more about the characteristics of victims and perpetrators of VAWDASV and a very general priority was included on this "3.08: Setting up a VAWDASV repository".

We understand the importance of the evidence base including lived experience as well as the challenges around access, trust and sensitivity to this information. The Units will work alongside the Social Justice researchers in Welsh Government's new Equality, Poverty and Children's evidence division and policy colleagues to better understand the data requirements and how we can respond to the challenges.

Related to this, we have also identified the need to understand and advise on the approach to recording personal characteristics of individuals at the point of access of services,

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.Morgan@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

including VAWDASV (priority 2.04b) which follows on from the priority to understand the barriers to collecting and reporting equality data (2.04a). We have started to scope the work to look at the descriptions of characteristics and the barriers to providing and collecting information and can share this with you further once it has developed.

It is essential for us to hear, and include, the voices of survivors, at all levels, in order to effectively tackle violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV). We want survivors, as experts by experience, to work with us to shape national policies and scrutinise the implementation of the VAWDASV national strategy. The Survivor voice panel is Chaired by the VAWDASV National Advisers and is integral to the Blueprint approach as the survivor voice will be the Golden Thread throughout the whole of the Blueprint Governance Structure. The panel will be represented at the National Partnership, Programme Board and to each workstream, when considering actions, policy and strategy.

Childcare sector

Since the strategy was published an exercise to map the childcare and play workforce has been added to our list of priorities. We are in the process of commissioning research to map the childcare and play workforce in Wales. The overall aim of the research is to better understand the sectors' make up through gathering evidence to provide an accurate picture of the size and make-up of the childcare and play workforce in Wales, and the number of places available in registered settings. This will include gathering data to help us understand the characteristics of the workforce, including ethnicity. The commissioned work will also produce projections for the number of places and staff that will be needed to deliver commitments relating to childcare and play over the next five years. This will be achieved by analysing existing data sources and conducting new research to fill any evidence gaps. This research will be used to inform policy to support and develop the childcare and play workforce now and over the next five years and is expected to be undertaken between January and September 2023.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jane Hutt'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'H'.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice