

Minute of the Economic Social and Cultural Advisory Group

27th January 2021

Via video conference

Present : Colin McKay, Graham Morgan, Wendy Halliday, Jennifer Campbell, Anne O' Donnell, Chloe Trew, Kirsty McGrath, Adele Farwell.

Apologies: Joanna Higgs

1. Note of last meeting

This has been circulated recently. Note agreed subject to any comments people had in the next few days

2. 2nd interim report

This came out just before Xmas as planned, with the group having had a chance to input. The report was positively received by the group.

3. Plans for stakeholder engagement by Review

Kirsty and Colin outlined the proposals for stakeholder engagement – 2 reference groups and a rolling programme of engagement with existing stakeholder groups.

Discussion around events and practicalities of this in current times. The following points were raised.

Big number events had worked really well and engaged people. Shorter meetings will keep people engaged.

Good connections with the mental health partnership group and the Mental Health Foundation- Wendy will send on contact details for the mental health partnership group.

It's important that we widen out the discussion nationally. There are fundamental issues for persons with learning difficulties and dementia etc. which we still have to address. Important to make sure we were making meetings accessible, and looking at how to do this, including what support and facilitation is required. There may be ways of cascading the meetings to engage a wider group. Softer facilitated meetings to ensure they are accessible for everyone.

At some point a meeting involving all the reference groups together would be useful to understand the shape of the work and look at overlapping topics. Colin – stated that this happened in the Wessely review. They had periodic large meetings in hotels, so would need to look at a different approach now. It involved a lot of organising but benefited the review.

Kirsty confirmed this is being looked into.

Action

- List of stakeholder groups to be circulated by the Secretariat to the ESC group to ensure all areas covered.

Future work of the group

The group discussed the eight agreed actions from the Interim Report. The following points were made:

Peer support and Collective advocacy.

Important to acknowledge that groups have been consulted by others a lot over last few years, and may be reluctant to be asked again about issues they have already spoken about repeatedly. We are looking to shift the emphasis in speaking to these groups a bit to focus on where they think they are disproportionately discriminated against.

'Untapped potential' report from VOX and Mental Health Foundation a few years ago – still a lot of relevant information.

Also need to consider role of all agencies – e.g. how does community planning engage with individuals.

Consult with people with expertise in protected characteristics

Equality and Human Rights Commission have been in touch – will arrange meeting – focus on protected characteristics in discussion.

Graham will pass details of Sisco, an organisation who work in prisons, on to Kirsty so we can contact some harder to reach groups.

Organisations that focus on LD and Autism also need involvement, with appropriate support. And Alzheimer's Scotland can provide contacts for their service users, we would be supporting people in the discussions.

Analysis of 2003 Act and implications for ESC rights

Colin spoke about commissioning a detailed analysis of the provisions of the 2003 Act and the implications for them of economic social and cultural rights, to be discussed with Jill Stavert. The Children and Young People's group is considering something similar and the two could possibly be combined.

Welsh mental health measure

Some years back the Welsh Govt put in law a means to measure mental health
Chloe has contacts in Welsh human rights work, she will put feelers out to see what current view of this measure is.