

OUTSTANDING ACTION POINTS FROM SJ &R MEETINGS

Action point	Progress	Target completion date
[lead Division]		
First meeting: 11 June 2003		
01-08 The Minister agreed to update the Committee on the number of accredited Supporting People providers. Housing		The number of ASPs has now increased to 82 and work continues on progressing other applications.
Third meeting: 24 September 2003		
3.12 The Minister would provide a note on research undertaken into the effects of drug taking on children. CSU		Richard Pates has indicated that his personal report will be completed in Spring 2005.
Fourth meeting: 15 October 2003		
4.04 The Minister would consider how to ensure that tenants were fully aware of 'report to tenant' information now in authorities improvement plans. Housing	Feedback was obtained from council tenants at Best Value Network meetings in January. Issue to be discussed at next meeting of Continuous Improvement in Housing Group. Meeting arranged for 6 October had to be cancelled due to lack of interest – to be rearranged for November 2004.	December 2004.
4.05 The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with an update on the 1 st stage of the review undertaken by the Audit Commission. CSU	The Audit Commission cancelled the meeting with officials scheduled for 30 September 2004. A revised date of 16 November has been set to discuss progress and future options.	The Minister will update the Committee in writing by end of November 2004.
4.06 The Minister would explore with the Education Minister how advice is being given to children relating to the drugs agenda and report back to Committee. CSU		Completed. A report analysing the information provided by the Minister for Lifelong Learning was sent to Committee on 25 October 2004.

4.09 The Minister would look into the issue of RSL letting rates to homeless people. **Housing**

As part of the revision of the existing Regulatory Requirements for Registered Social Landlords (to be known as the Regulatory Code for Housing Associations in Wales), Officials are drafting new circulars on Nomination Rights and Exclusions which will be discussed with WFHA and WLGA. These circulars will allow for a consistent approach to allocation of accommodation by all social landlords and appropriate contributions of housing provision for homeless people in accordance with available stock.

Circulars to be issued for consultation in December 2004.

Sixth meeting: 12 November 2003

06.12 The Minister would issue to the Committee the asylum seekers guidance. **Housing**

Committee members were provided with copies of draft guidance 'Asylum Seekers and Refugees – Guidance for Housing and Related Service Providers in Wales' on 31st March 2004.

Draft guidance was issued for consultation in February 2004. The deadline for feedback was June 2004. Responses have been analysed and final guidance will be issued by the end of December.

Eighth meeting: 3 December 2003

08.02 The Minister would report back to the Committee on social housing in rural areas such as Gwynedd. **Housing - see also 08.15**

See 8.15 below

08.15 The Minister would provide the Committee with an analysis of the local housing strategies. **Housing**

Feedback was provided to all local authorities on their draft local housing strategies with the aim of improving their quality prior to formal submission in April 2004. To date we have received 19 of the finalised strategies.

All the Strategies have now been received. In view of continuing staff shortages, external help has been procured to assist with the analysis of the strategies. It is anticipated that a report will be available in December 2004.

Second meeting: 21 January 2004

<p>02.09 The Minister agreed to consider the issue of gypsy and travellers in relation to the Anti Social Behaviour act as part of WAG's response to the Equal Opps Committee report on service provision for Gypsy and Travellers. CSU/EPU</p>	<p>The Equal Opportunities Committee considered the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Review on 4 March.</p>	<p>Responses to the consultation on draft guidance on unauthorised camping, taking account of the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 are now being considered.</p>
<p>02.11 The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with the guidance that would be issued on enforcement in relation to the Housing Bill once available.</p>	<p>Once the bill is enacted guidance on enforcement in the private sector will be drafted.</p>	<p>March 2005.</p>
<p>Housing</p>		
<p>02.15 The Minister agreed to make representations pertaining to the possible 'Welsh' content in the home information packs. Housing</p>	<p>A letter will be prepared for the Minister to write to the Housing Minister when the content of the home information packs is being considered by the ODPM sub group.</p>	<p>Completed. The Minister wrote to ODPM on 20 October 2004.</p>
<p>Third meeting: 11 February 2004</p>		
<p>03.03 The Minister agreed to consider the issue of 'waiting lists' and the possibility of providing Committee case studies in relation to DFGs. Housing</p>	<p>This issue will be considered as part of the adaptations review.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>
<p>03.05 The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with report on the research undertaken into the effects of drug taking on children as contained in the Hidden Harm report. CSU</p>	<p>The Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse (APoSM) held a one-day key-holder conference on 29 September 2004 to consider the recommendations in the report. Feedback from the conference, alongside comments from the APoSM were finalised at the APoSM meeting on 27 October 2004. A report containing the recommendations will be provided to the Minister. An update will then be provided for Committee.</p>	<p>February 2005.</p>

03.08 The Minister would update the Committee on the issue of HRA Business Plans. Housing	LAs are required to have submitted completed HRA Business Plans by 1 April 2004, demonstrating their ability to meet WHQS in accordance with Assembly guidance.	Only 13 Business Plans have been received, to date, 10 have issues that need to be clarified. This lack of progress is a clear concern and meetings have been held with the WLGA to resolve this impasse. Our officials will be visiting every Council in Wales, in the next 2 months, to assess the obstacles to progress and the potential for a joint initiative- between the WLGA and WAG - to accelerate the Housing Business Plan and Option Appraisal Process. A full report will be made to the next Social Justice and Regeneration meeting after the completion of these meetings. However, the Minister has not ruled out the use of sanctions
03.11 The Minister agreed to report back to the Committee on the issue of improved street lighting in relation to CCTV usage. CSU	Awaiting the report of the Scarman Centre into the effectiveness of CCTV due late November/early December 2004.	Further report to Committee following publication of the Scarman Centre report.
3.17 The Minister would report to Committee on the outcome of her correspondence with WACPO concerning ASB. CSU	Chief Constables to produce a report for Welsh Assembly Government following their evidence on anti-social behaviour to Welsh Affairs Committee during late October/early November.	Update will be included in Minister's report following this.

Fifth meeting: 10 March 2004

05.01 The Minister agreed to update the Committee on the Inland Revenue ruling on VAT relating to social housing.
Housing

V2C is the most urgent case. They are seeking legal and professional advice to find a solution to reduce their exposure to corporation tax.

The Minister to update Committee by writing to Committee Chair when advice is received from Legal and professional advisors.

The Assembly will provide additional guidance to local authorities in the form of a supplement to the existing transfer guidelines dealing with this issue once they have received the necessary legal and professional advice which has been commissioned. Any such guidance will require LAs to seek their own legal and professional advice in respect of their own particular circumstances

Sixth meeting: 31 March 2004

06.01 The Minister would provide a note on the police powers to disperse groups in relation to returning children to their homes. As part of this the Minister agreed to discuss with Chief Constable the operation of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act following 6 mths of its operation and report back to Committee on the issue. **CSU**

The Minister will raise this when she next meets the Chief Constables on 7 December 2004.

The Minister will report back to Committee following meeting.

06.06 The Minister agreed to consider the question of the use of B&B accommodation for vulnerable people and other related matters as part of her report to Committee on housing issues. **Housing**

Completed. Included in the Minister's written report for 17 November meeting.

06.08 The Minister would report back to Committee on the implications across her portfolio of the new Right To Know.

Housing

Discussions are currently underway with the Welsh Local Government Association, the Tenant Participation Advisory Service and other relevant bodies on the application of the "Right to Know" in relation to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard This will be followed by an analysis of its application across the housing tenures and the rest of the Social Justice and Regeneration portfolio.

The Minister to update Committee in December.

06.11 The Minister would report back to Committee in the Autumn on the Homelessness Strategy.

Housing

The National Homelessness Strategy and accompanying action plan were published in April 2003. The Minister undertook to review the strategy and report back to the Committee on the outcome of the review in Autumn 2004. Following advice from officials based on the views of the Homelessness Strategies Working Group the Minister has agreed a revised timetable and methodology for the review.

A report will be presented to the Committee in March 2005. The Minister will report to Committee on progress against the existing strategy and action plan, and on the arrangements for the review of the strategy at 8 December meeting.

Seventh meeting: 12 May 2004

07.03 The Minister agreed to update the Committee on the Community Pharmacy Substance Misuse Service. CSU

Eighth meeting: 9 June 2004

08.02 The Minister agreed to provide details of the appointments made to the All Wales Schools Programme along with information on the number of schools running the programme in each area. CSU

The Minister wrote to Committee twice during recess, to advise them of appointments made to the Programme and to circulate a progress report from Gwent Police. Gwent Police have also been asked for further information on the number and location of participating schools. Details will be reported to Committee thereafter.

Completed. Update included in the Minister's written report for 17 November meeting.

December 2004.

08.05 The Minister agreed to raise the issue of drugs education with the Minister for Health & Social Services. CSU		Completed. The Minister wrote to Committee on 29 October 2004.
8.07 The Minister agreed to provide a note to Committee on the future of Community Support Officers once Home Office Funding finishes. CSU	The Assembly's WACPO liaison officer will shortly organise a seminar to discuss the problem.	The Minister will update the Committee in writing following the seminar.
08.10 The Minister to include abuse against men in later stage of strategy and possible research. CSU	Support for male victims was discussed at the meeting of the All Wales Working Group on 22 September 2004.	Completed. The Minister wrote to the Chair of the Committee on 13 October 2004.
8.12 The Minister would present the action plan produced as part of the Domestic Abuse strategy to Committee once it was developed. CSU	The Minister will arrange for action plans, or a summary, to be presented to Committee, when it is developed.	The Minister will keep Committee updated on progress.
8.13 The Minister would discuss with Chief Constables the issue of ensuring that cases of domestic abuse are reported to the authorities. CSU	The Minister will raise this in her next meeting with Chief Constables on 7 December 2004.	The Minister will report back to Committee following the meeting.
Ninth meeting: 30 June 2004		
09.02 As part of the review of SHG the Minister agreed to consider any flexibility in funding that may be available for 'homebuy'. Housing	The review of SHG consultation paper does not make explicit reference to the funding of Homebuy. However, full consideration will be given to any flexibility in the funding of Homebuy once consultation responses have been considered as a whole and in particular comments on programme distribution. In addition to this any changes to Homebuy funding will also take into consideration the review of Low Cost Home Ownership which is assessing the extent to which LCHO (and Homebuy in particular) is meeting the Assembly Government's policy objectives for those assisted	Consultation period closes in October 2005. Review of Low Cost Home Ownership to be completed Summer 2005.

purchase and intermediate tenure forms.

09.03 The Minister would consider further the issues raised by the 'Right to Rent' campaign.
Housing

Officials are currently discussing the issues surrounding the concept of the right to rent and will be meeting with representatives of local authorities, RSLs and Cymdeithas yr Iaith. Meetings with interested parties are nearing completion.

Report will be presented to the Minister in mid November.

09.04 The Minister would report back to Committee on the possible use of factory built housing in Wales.
Housing

Minister will update the Committee at its 8 December 2004 meeting.

09.06 The Minister agreed to update the Committee as necessary on the issue of 'state aid' in relation to the SEAP.
Communities

Officials are continuing to monitor developments on state aid with the DTI and the Assembly's Legal Dept, European and External Affairs Division, the Department of Trade and Industry and Finance Wales.

In September 2004 the Minister approved 'in principle' the establishment of an All-Wales Community Development Finance Institution, subject to any potential state-aid implications.

Tenth Meeting: 29 September 2004

10.01 The Minister to consider the issues of reforming the Fire Fighters Pension scheme and transfer of powers associated with setting risk management plans.
Housing

The Minister will keep the Committee updated on progress.

10.02 The Minister would provide information on Communities First monies allocated to youth projects.
Communities

Minister will update the committee in December.

10.03 The Minister would circulate to members her letter to the Chair of the Equal Opps Committee on the duty to provide facilities for gypsies and travellers.
Housing

Completed. The Minister wrote to Committee on 7 October 2004 regarding amendments to the Housing Bill.

10.04 The Minister would update the Committee on the HEES.
Housing

Minister will update the Committee at its December meeting.

10.05 The Minister would report back to the Committee on Counselling Services. CSU	Minister agreed at the meeting on 29 September 2004 to provide a report to the Committee at their meeting in December.	8 December 2004.
10.06 The Minister to circulate to members information on the regulatory role of respective bodies in England and Wales as envisaged in the Draft Charities Bill. Vol Sector		Completed. The Minister wrote to Committee on 20 October 2004.
10.07 The Minister to provide information on the proposals in the Charities Bill that provides for the disposal of land by way of advert. Vol Sector		Completed. The Minister wrote to Committee on 20 October 2004.
10.09 The Minister would circulate to members details of Substance Misuse Treatment frameworks when launched. CSU		Completed. The Minister launched the first 5 modules of the framework on 3 November 2004. Copies have been forwarded to Committee members.
10.10 The Minister would report back on the issue of Homeless people in Newport being placed in B&B accommodation in Bristol. Housing		Completed. Included in the Minister's written report for 17 November meeting.
10.11 The Minister would look into the question of retention levels of Community Support Officers and Neighbourhood Wardens. CSU Eleventh Meeting: 20 October 2004		Completed. Included in the Minister's written report for 17 November meeting.
11.01 The Minister to circulate details of pay phone closures by constituency.		Completed. Members of the Committee and AM's e-mailed on 28 October 2004.

<p>11.02 The Minister to look at possible transitional arrangements necessitated by changes in Supporting People grant.</p>	<p>The move to Supporting People Revenue Grant tariffs has been the result of a widescale project review process which has delivered indications of funding for 2005/2006 with a full 12 months notice. The new tariffs provide funding according to the level of service being provided in projects. The total spent in tariffs will also equal the current transitional level of funding. The losers are therefore matched by the winners. To continue to provide any level of transitional arrangements will continue to provide a mismatch between funding and service level this can not be justified any longer.</p>	
<p>11.03 The Minister to issue a note on the update Trust Fund arrangements.</p>	<p>Note provided in Ministers Written Report for Committee on the 17 November</p>	<p>Completed. Included in the Minister's written report for 17 November meeting.</p>
<p>11.04 The Minister to provide an update on how the recommendations of the Housing and Local Government Reviews into Community Regeneration have been implemented and/or incorporated in the Deputy Minister's review in due course.</p>	<p>Officials are in discussion with Committee Secretariat as to how the Committee will be updated.</p>	