



Consultation Response Form

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Questions

Q1 The Action Plan is split into four key areas of focus (Partnerships, Rare, Brief and Non-recurring). Do you agree that these are the right areas of focus / themes to focus the plan around?

- Yes
 No
 Partly

Please explain why you consider the areas of focus / themes are right or if you think a different approach is needed?

The four key areas would appear to be appropriate.

Q2 Do the actions in the Action Plan reflect the most effective high level steps that will enable the Welsh Government and its partners to end homelessness in Wales?

- Yes
 No
 Partly

How can they be improved?

There was a shortage of acknowledgement around victims and the possible impacts of the action plan:

- There is no mention of domestic abuse perpetrators or those where there may be other forms of abuse where the perpetrator needs to be removed with immediate effect for the protection of the victims. Therefore, risking perpetrators using that they cannot be made homeless as justification to remain where they are.
- Refuge provision is mentioned, but it was not clear in the action plan that part of the emergency safeguarding of victims and their families should take precedence, where remaining in the home is not possible and would carry risk of continued harm.
- The ending of all evictions causes concern from a community safety perspective. Research carried out by the Wales Safer Communities Network with the Anti-

Social Behaviour (ASB) Practitioners Network, identified that as evictions are the final tool/power that its removing during the pandemic increased the escalation of ASB and additional trauma for victims. Some of the victims can't move due to disabilities and requiring house adaptations and the policy of no evictions led to additional problems and issues.

Q3 Does the Action Plan align with other relevant areas of policy and practice?

- Yes
- No
- Partly

Please explain why it aligns well or outline how it could be made better?

We are concerned by the lack of acknowledgement around community safety, including the lack of mention of community safety partnerships. A number of the different elements mentioned have direct engagement or crossover with community safety and to not include it is to risk silo working. Whilst policing is not devolved there are a number of areas where there is a crossover and where engagement and working with the police forces in Wales will be key. This could be strengthened in the action plan.

Q4 We have developed a number of key actions and milestones. Do you feel these are the right ones?

- Yes
- No
- Partly

Q5 Do you think there are any key areas for action not captured by the high level actions? If so, what would they be?

Please provide additional comments

In principle we agree, but we would want ASB, all forms of abuse and hate crimes to be factored in. We are aware of staff shortages across all sectors at the current time, and are increasingly seeing a lack of Mental Health services being raised as an issue by Community Safety Partnership partners and Registered Social Landlords for delivering safer communities. A joined up approach for mental health services across all areas of work that is holistic seems to be an increasing need. The need for safe homes seems to be missed in the action plan. If housing or homes are provided that are not fit for purpose then the risks for health, personal and community safety and community cohesion and the impact on crisis services in those areas could be increased.

Q6 We would like to know your views on the effects that the Ending Homelessness Action Plan would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

No comments

Q7 Please also explain how you believe the proposed plan could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

No comments

Q8 We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

We have provided a response on behalf of the Wales Safer Communities Network. We understand that a separate response from the WLGA has been submitted which focuses on the Council only perspective.

Introduction to the Wales Safer Communities Network

The Wales Safer Communities Network was established in January 2021 following the recommendations of the Welsh Government's Working Together for Safer Communities Review. The Network aims to become the strategic voice for community safety in Wales, working collaboratively to champion and support community safety partnership working, and influence the shaping and development of national policy and local practice. This response is on behalf of the Network and not WLGA.