



News from One Voice Wales:

Welcome to Issue 21 of the One Voice Wales E-Bulletin. This edition is packed with our regular update from our *Cost of Living* team and *Local Places for Nature* programme, along with key news and opportunities to support your work in local communities.

Please can we ask all clerks to share with their members and staff

NEWS



Time to Adapt: Examining waiting times for Disabled Facilities Grants in Wales - Report from Rhian Bowen-Davies , Older People's Commissioner for Wales

I am pleased to share a copy of my latest report – Time to Adapt: Examining waiting times for Disabled Facilities Grants in Wales – which has been published today.

[Download your copy of Time to Adapt: Examining waiting times for Disabled Facilities Grants in Wales](#)

I have published this report in response to concerns raised with me by older people across Wales about the waiting times they often face when waiting for adaptations to be made to their homes, particularly when these are funded through Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs).

Given the importance of home adaptations to support people's health, wellbeing and independence – as well as the significant impact that delays can have on someone's quality of life – I wanted to examine these issues in more detail to better understand the extent of the waits older people are facing and why these are occurring.

I therefore requested a range of information and data from local authorities, on which the findings of my report are based.

As you will see, average waiting times appear to have increased significantly in recent years, rising by almost 80%. Individuals in some areas are also waiting far longer than the 370 day average, with DFG recipients in one area waiting nearly two years on average for works to be completed.

The data also shows that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals are significantly underrepresented – comprising just 1.3% of DFG recipients despite representing 6% of the population in Wales.

Other key findings in the report include:

- Many older people find the DFGs process to be complex, confusing and difficult to navigate.
- Local authorities across Wales are struggling to meet rapidly rising costs and increased demand.
- There are inconsistencies in the ways that the home adaptations/DFGs process is delivered across Wales, including approaches to means testing.
- Data captured about DFGs is very limited – offering no real insight into people's experiences – and is published infrequently, limiting opportunities for scrutiny.
- Current guidance and service standards are out-of-date and offer little support to local authorities.



Flooding Matters Newsletter



**Ombwdsmon
Ombudsman**
Cymru · Wales

One Voice Wales's Response
to the Public Services
Ombudsman for Wales Draft
Strategic Report

Welsh Government Consultation

The UK Emissions Trading Scheme Authority (ETS) is seeking views on options for the future treatment of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) in the UK ETS.



For more information



More Than Words
Newsletter

Age Friendly Communities



Evaluation of Funding to Local Authorities to Create Age Friendly Communities

Using Data analysis to improve benefit take-up

Exploring the devolution of social security administration



Date: 20th April



Time: 10.00am – 2.00pm



Location: [SPARK](#), Maindy Road, Cardiff, CF24 4HQ

You are warmly invited to join us for [Neurodivergent Futures – Ageing Well Through Inclusive Engagement](#), an event exploring how we can better support neurodivergent people to age well through meaningful and inclusive engagement.

This collaborative session brings together researchers, practitioners, community partners, and those with lived experience to share perspectives, identify priorities, and shape future work in this growing field.

Register

To register, **please click the link below or scan the QR code:**



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=MEu3vWiVvki9vwZ1I3j8viOKZI54V3ZNktP5EQITyaNUNkxFWEdNTVZBVDfIS1IWUDFKtYzWTNXTC4u&route=shorturl>





Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Changes to Planning
Performance Framework

Dementia Strategy Consultation

Consultation
Document





Manifesto

Please find attached our new WLGA Manifesto including an introductory letter, in case not received (Theme 4: Prevention and Resilience may be of particular relevance).

[Letter](#)

[Manifesto Document](#)



South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Strategic Development Plan Delivery Agreement

On 24 March 2026, the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) approved the Delivery Agreement for the Strategic Development Plan (SDP). The Welsh Government subsequently agreed to the Delivery Agreement on 25 March 2026.

The approved Delivery Agreement (DA) can be viewed on the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee website: [Delivery Agreement - Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales](#)

In September 2025, the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) decided to engage with key stakeholders regarding the draft Delivery Agreement, marking the first step in developing the Strategic Development Plan.

This early engagement was designed to promote meaningful and inclusive participation, underscoring the Committee's commitment to a fair and transparent process. The draft Delivery Agreement was strengthened by incorporating a wide range of perspectives, enhancing its robustness, credibility, and alignment with stakeholder needs and aspirations.

With the approval of the Welsh Government, we can now move forward to the next stage with the Strategic Development Plan, as its Delivery Agreement incorporates the Community Involvement

Scheme (CIS). This helps define how and when stakeholders, as well as the wider community, can participate in the plan-making process. This ensures that the South West Wales CJC embeds integrity, inclusion, and transparency from the very beginning.

The Delivery Agreement also provides a detailed timetable for preparing the Strategic Development Plan (SDP), specifying steps, milestones, and strict deadlines to guide the progress of the work.

Kind Regards,

Charlotte Harding

Regional Principal Policy Planner

Email: SDP@npt.gov.uk

Well Being of Future Generations Act 10 years on !!



Fit for Future - the Well-being of Future Generations Act ten years on



Progress, challenges and unleashing potential

Worth taking the time to view on the One Voice Wales Website:

Model Governance Documents and guidance for Councils



Model Governance Documents and guidance for Councils:

One Voice Wales has published model arrangements to help Councils run effectively and meet their statutory obligations. We also circulate statutory guidance and other guidance.

We keep these arrangements under regular review, helping Councils to maintain a sound governance framework.

Click on the the link to see the wealth of documents that are available

For further information



Practice Development Notes:



Practice Development Notes:

One Voice Wales has created Practice Development Notes - simple guides to help Councils understand key annual tasks and provide advice on other council activities.

You may wish to look at our PDN on Pre Election Period - the dates relevant to the Senedd elections are April 8th until polling date

View all Practice development notes here

One Voice Wales Training Dates:



Councillors wishing to attend training modules please contact your clerk who will book you on to the relevant session.

[Click here to view dates](#)

JOBS

Vacancies within Community and Town Council Sector:



Vacancies:

As part of annual membership, One Voice Wales offers member Community and Town Councils the opportunity to advertise sector-related vacancies, such as Clerks, Responsible Financial Officers, and other staff roles.

[Further Information on vacancies](#)

Welsh Government Jobs



If you are looking for a new career then a job in the Welsh Government is a great place to start.

A career in the Welsh Civil Service offers you:

- the opportunity to make a difference to people's lives in Wales
- learning on the job and good career development opportunities
- flexible working hours and comprehensive benefits

There are a number of different ways to join the Welsh civil service.

We are keen to work with our external partners to build a pipeline of individuals who are interested in applying for a board position.



Save the Date

Events you don't want to miss

ONE VOICE WALES
NATIONAL
CONFERENCE AND
AWARDS CEREMONY

1st JULY 2026

ONE VOICE WALES
INNOVATIVE PRACTICE
CONFERENCE

30th September 2026



One Voice Wales Funded Projects Updates:

Cost of Living Crisis Project News

Upcoming Lunch & Learn Session: to support older people in your community



RNID - Hearing Aid Support Services (Online)

 Monday 15 June 2026 |  12:30pm - 1.30pm

RNID will present their new Hearing Aid Community drop-in services launching across South and West Wales, offering support, advice and practical assistance to residents.

To attend, email your name, council and contact details to: colc@onevoicewales.wales



LOCAL PLACES FOR NATURE



Spring has arrived!

Nature is bursting into activity, and there are things we can do to help during this busy time:

- Insects are coming out of hibernation and need food. Let your dandelions grow! They can be a useful source of food for these hungry creatures.
- Birds are starting to nest - leave any hedge and tree cutting for now, unless they are posing a danger.
- Leave major habitat works until summer is over to avoid disturbing wildlife.
- Clean your bird feeders regularly to avoid spreading disease.
- Head to our [website](#) for resources on supporting biodiversity in your community.

Un Llais Cymru / One Voice Wales

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This E-Bulletin is distributed to all Councils in Wales . Please note that if you unsubscribe you will unsubscribe from both languages and the Newsletter . If you wish to receive only one version please send to kbrown@onevoicewales.wales

[Dad-Tanysgrifio / Unsubscribe](#)

