

The future of policing and justice in Wales

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Y Comisiwn ar Gyfiawnder yng Nghymru

The Commission on Justice in Wales



The Commission on Justice in Wales

The Commission on Justice in Wales has been set up by the First Minister to review the operation of the justice system in Wales.

The Commission is looking at:

- criminal justice and policing;
- civil, commercial, family and administrative justice;
- access to justice;
- legal education and training;
- the legal professions and economy;
- and the legal jurisdiction.



Listening to people's experiences

The Commission has engaged with a wide range of people and organisations during its work. However, the Commissioners have been keen to hear from people who are marginalised and may face additional vulnerabilities or barriers to accessing justice.

In March, the Commission worked with Cymorth Cymru to organise an engagement event with people using homelessness, housing and support services. They shared their views and experiences on the policing and justice system and Cymorth is currently writing up a report on this event.

Today, we want to hear your views and experiences. As people who work alongside and advocate for people who have faced multiple challenges in their lives, you have an incredibly useful insight into how vulnerable people experience the policing and criminal justice system – and how you, as professionals interact with these public services.



Discussion 1: Crime and Community Safety

Reflecting on your experience of supporting people in homelessness, housing and support services...

- Do your tenants / clients feel safe in their home and community?
- If not, why? And what could be done to improve this?
- What problems with crime or anti-social behaviour do your tenants / clients face?
- How are problems dealt with? Are the police involved? If not, how do issues get resolved?
- Do you think that the police understand the needs of your services and the people you support?
- What is your experience of working with the police in a professional capacity?



Discussion 2: Prison and Probation

Reflecting on your experience of supporting people in homelessness, housing and support services...

- What has been the experience of people you have supported when they have been through the court system? Did they understand the process and the possible consequences?
- What has been their experience of the prison system? Did they know and understand their rights? What support did they get in the prison system with housing, education, training, mental health?
- Did they have housing ready when they were released from prison?
- What was their experience of the probation system? Did they receive support to access housing, education, employment, mental health services, welfare benefits?



Discussion 3: Civil, Family and Administrative Justice & Access to justice

Reflecting on your experience of supporting people in homelessness, housing and support services...

- Do the people you support know where to get advice on the legal system or their legal rights?
- Would they know where or how to get help and advice if they wanted to challenge a decision that had been made about housing, debt, welfare benefits, immigration etc?
- Have you had experiences of supporting people to attend a housing tribunal, welfare benefits tribunal or family court? What was this experience like? What went well and what didn't work well? Did the person you were supporting understand the process? Was the location convenient and what method of transport did you utilise?
- Did you feel that the person you were supporting was listened to and taken seriously?



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Thank you and next steps