



## **Consultation Response**

### **Cross-Party Groups**

#### **Senedd Standards of Conduct Committee**

**September 2022**

#### **Introduction**

Age Cymru is the leading charity working to improve the lives of all older people in Wales. We believe older people should be able to lead healthy and fulfilled lives, have adequate income, access to high quality services and the opportunity to shape their own future. We seek to provide a strong voice for all older people in Wales and to raise awareness of the issues of importance to them.

We are pleased to respond to the Senedd Standards of Conduct Committee's consultation on Cross-Party Groups. Age Cymru provides the Secretariat for the Cross-Party Group on Older People and Ageing.

The points below refer to Cross-Party Groups in general, and not any specific Group.

The format of Cross-Party Groups is very useful and valuable – they are a good source of information and perform a good job in channelling thoughts to the issues being discussed.

We would like to see greater cross-party representation by Members of the Senedd at meetings so that the Cross-Party Groups live up to their name, as this would provide a more helpful dialogue in discussing issues.

We appreciate that it may be difficult for Members of the Senedd to attend the various Cross-Party Group meetings, as there are many Groups available. Furthermore, there are limited time windows only in which to hold Cross-Party Group meetings, as in-person or hybrid meetings would need to be held on Plenary days. Lunchtimes on such days seem to be a popular time for meetings at the Senedd, and it is more difficult to arrange evening meetings as these would be dependent on when Plenary finishes. Is there scope for allocating windows of time to recognise the importance of Cross-Party Groups?

We would also suggest that opportunities could be promoted for various Cross-Party Groups to work together and hold joint meetings to discuss shared issues.

A point raised with us is the accessibility of information about Cross-Party Groups. Whereas there are contact details for the various Cross-Party Groups on the Senedd website, not all people have access to the internet, or are able to use the internet. In feedback we received, it was felt that information about Cross-Party Groups should be accessible to all.

Age Cymru is a registered charity 1128436. Company limited by guarantee and registered in Wales and England 6837284. Registered office address Ground Floor, Mariners House, Trident Court, East Moors Road, Cardiff CF24 5TD. ©Age Cymru 2022.