

before the start of the pandemic so needs to be reviewed in light of COVID-19 and the new challenges it has created, as well as the existing ones which it has amplified.

At the end of the last Senedd term, the First Minister announced the establishment of a Taskforce to address the inequalities highlighted by the report and to oversee the implementation of actions to address them. The Taskforce will build on the report's findings and continue the discussion on the important issues it highlights.

It will also build on the significant action already taken by the Welsh Government to mitigate the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on disabled people.

These actions include:

- Establishing a Taskforce to examine the issues raised in the report and beginning the work to address them alongside our partners in Health Boards and Local Authorities.
- Introducing the Socio-economic Duty which came into force in Wales on 31 March 2021 and puts tackling inequality at the heart of decision-making. The guidance stresses the need for public bodies to consider lived experience when making strategic decisions
- Suspending Schedule Twelve under Section Fifteen of the Coronavirus Act which permitted easements of Local Authority care and support provision. This was done following consultation with stakeholders including the Disability Equality Forum.
- Establishment of the COVID-19 Moral and Ethical Advisory Group for Wales (CMEAG-Wales) which offers ethical advice and support to policy makers in relation to issues caused or affected by COVID-19.
- Scoping an Equality Data Unit within Welsh Government which will be integral to pressing forward with actions to promote equality for disabled people in Wales.
- Taking forward the public appointments strategy, launched shortly before the pandemic which has actions to address the under-representation of disabled people in public appointments.
- A commitment by the incoming Welsh Government to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People into Welsh law.
- Improving the accessibility of our COVID-19 communications, as seen in the suite of accessible materials available for our Test, Trace, Protect campaign.

Some of these actions provide a response to recommendations in the Locked Out: Liberating disabled people's lives and rights in Wales beyond COVID-19 report. The list outlines some of the actions that have been undertaken and those which have been committed to, with more actions and more detail in the body of this document. Other recommendations are also already being addressed, whilst many are longer term ambitions and are noted as such in the report. They will require further discussion and may also need to be refined as Wales comes out of lockdown and circumstances change.

A significant number of the recommendations are to be captured within the priorities of the Taskforce. Where responsibility is not devolved, we will use the levers at our disposal to influence the UK Government and others to address those