

Communities and Culture Committee

CC(3) 02-07 (p1): 26 September 2007

Scrutiny Inquiry: Funding of Voluntary Sector Organisations in Wales

1. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to set out various practical issues concerning a scrutiny inquiry into the Welsh Assembly Government's strategic approach to the funding of voluntary organisations in Wales.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- Agrees to undertake a scrutiny inquiry on the topic described in Section 3;
- Approves terms of reference set out in Section 4;
- Approves the programme set out in Sections 6;
- Considers possible witnesses set out in Section 7; and
- Approves the draft consultation letter and list as set out in annex B and C respectively.

3. Background

At an informal meeting on 11 July 2007, Members identified two possible topics for a scrutiny inquiry:

Local Authority Housing Strategies; or
Funding of Community Organisations.

Having carried out some background research into these subject areas, it is considered that it would be premature to carry out an inquiry into local authority housing strategies. This is because the Welsh Assembly Government's guidance on this topic was updated only last December and the first strategies using this new guidance were only recently submitted. It is recommended that this inquiry is deferred for at least a year, to allow the new system to bed in. It is recommended that the Committee undertakes the funding inquiry first; and that this should focus on the Welsh Assembly Government's strategic approach to the funding of voluntary organisations in Wales. There are some 30,000 voluntary organisations in Wales. The Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) has devised a categorisation system; see Annex A. During the recess, in order to sharpen the focus of the inquiry, Members were invited to suggest specific types of organisation to be included in the terms of reference. One Member felt that selective categorisation would greatly dilute the core issues and advocated a generic approach. Other Members who responded preferred to focus on specific areas; these included - advice and advocacy; children and families; community; health and social care; sport and recreation; and youth.

4. Terms of Reference

It is proposed that the Committee should:

- Examine the Welsh Assembly Government's policy for funding voluntary organisations (the Committee may wish to specify particular types of organisation, with reference to the WCVA categories at Annex A);
- Examine policy directions issued to relevant funding bodies;
- Examine procedures for monitoring the outcomes of such funding;
- Examine 'gender budgeting' issues with regard to such funding;
- Examine the ease or difficulty experienced by relevant organisations in accessing funding; and
- Submit a report to the appropriate Welsh Minister, with recommendations.

5. Pertinent Questions

The Committee may wish to consider the following questions during its inquiry:

- What is Welsh Assembly Government's strategic vision for the voluntary sector in Wales?
- To what extent is there a consistent strategic vision across Welsh Assembly Government and its departments and other bodies who distribute Assembly Government funding to voluntary sector organisations?
- How does the strategic vision address the following key issues?
 - The role of the voluntary sector in delivering Assembly Government goals, including linking funding to desired outcomes;
 - The relationship between social enterprises and established commercial enterprises;
 - Charitable giving;
 - Distribution of National Lottery funds;
 - Differential benefits associated with voluntary sector funding for different groups; for example, by age, gender or ethnicity; and
 - Issues associated with short term and non recurrent funding.

6. Provisional programme for the inquiry

The Committee may wish to consider conducting a public consultation as well as taking evidence in Committee sessions. The following programme for the inquiry is proposed: **26 September 2007**: Agree Terms of Reference and Programme

October 2007 - December 2007: Written Consultation Exercise

October 2007 - December 2007: Receive evidence in Committee

December 2007: Consider key issues to be included in report

January 2008: Consider draft report

February 2008: Approve final report

March 2008: Publish report / plenary debate

7. Possible Witnesses

The following are potential witnesses who could be invited to give evidence to the Committee. The final list will depend on which types of organisations the Committee decides to focus.

Minister for Social Justice and Local Government;

Wales Council for Voluntary Action;

Welsh Local Government Association;

Relevant voluntary organisations; and

Relevant funding bodies.

8. Written Consultation

Provided Committee Members are content with the proposed terms of reference, we will shortly issue a call for written evidence. This will be in the format of a consultation letter (Annex B) that we will send to a wide range of organisations (Annex C).

9. Acknowledgement

This paper was prepared with the assistance of the Members' Research Service.

Committee Service

Annex A

WCVA Voluntary Organisation Categories

Advice and Advocacy

Animal Welfare

Arts Heritage and Culture

Children and families

Community

Community Justice

Disability

Education and Training

Employment

Environment

Ethnic Minorities

Gender

Health and Social Care

Housing

Intermediaries

International aid and emergency relief

Older People

Faith Communities

Sport and Recreation

Volunteering

Youth

Welsh Language

Sexuality

Asylum Seekers & Refugees

Annex B

Draft consultation letter

Y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant Communities and Culture Committee

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Ein cyf / Our ref: CC Pol Rev 1 07

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Dear Colleague,

Funding of Voluntary Sector Organisations in Wales

The Communities and Culture Committee has chosen to carry out an inquiry into the funding of voluntary organisations in Wales focusing in particular on the following groups (Committee will decide at the first meeting). The Terms of Reference are: To carry out a scrutiny inquiry into the Welsh Assembly Government's strategic approach to the funding of voluntary sector organisations in Wales:

Examine the Welsh Assembly Government's policy for funding voluntary organisations (the Committee may wish to specify particular types of organisation, with reference to the WCVA categories at Annex A);

Examine policy directions issued to relevant funding bodies;

Examine procedures for monitoring the outcomes of such funding;

Examine 'gender budgeting' issues with regard to such funding;

Examine the ease or difficulty experienced by relevant organisations in accessing funding; and

Submit a report to the appropriate Welsh Minister, with recommendations.

The purpose of this consultation is to seek your views on the following issues: 1. Ease or difficulty of obtaining funding from the Welsh Assembly Government or relevant national funding bodies. 2. Ease or difficulty in complying with constraints or conditions placed on funding. 3. Issues related to the duration or timing of funding. 4. Any other comments relevant to the inquiry. The Committee would welcome written responses to the consultation letter. Please indicate whether you would be interested in presenting your views to the Committee. Should you wish to contribute, written submissions should be sent by e-mail to Community.Culture.comm@Wales.gsi.gov.uk or in hard copy to: Clerk

Communities and Culture Committee

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay

Cardiff

CF99 1NA to arrive by Friday 14th December 2007. We welcome responses in English or Welsh. **It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.**

Please note:

Your response should be brief and to the point; please reference your response with the relevant question number.

It is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence either within a report, or as supplementary evidence to a report. We will not publish information which we consider to be personal data, such as name and contact details, unless consent has been provided or these are details relating to an organisation.

The National Assembly operates within the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

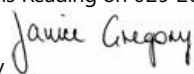
If any information, other than personal data, is being submitted that is regarded by the provider not to be suitable for public disclosure, it is up to the provider to stipulate what part(s) of the information should not be published and provide a reasoned argument to support this. The National Assembly will take this into account when publishing evidence in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In the event of a request for information, it may be necessary for information which has been provided either as evidence, communication or any other written information, to be disclosed. This may include information which has previously been removed by the National Assembly for publication purposes.

Please indicate whether you are responding on behalf of an organisation, or as an individual.

Please feel free to pass this invitation on to anyone else you feel may have an interest. If you need any further information please contact the Committee's Clerk Chris Reading on 029 2089 8164 or its Deputy Clerk Sarah Bartlett on 029 8029 8153. I look forward to

hearing your views. Yours sincerely



Janice Gregory AM

Chair, Communities and Culture Committee

Cadeirydd, Y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant

Annex C

Draft consultation list

Age Concern Wales

Age Alliance Wales
All Wales Ethnic Minority Association
Amcan
Anti Poverty Network Cymru
Arts Council for Wales
Association of Directors of Social Services
Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham
Audiences Wales
AWEMA
Barnardo's Cymru
BEST (Black and ethnic minority support team)
Bevan Foundation
Big Lottery Fund
Black Environment Network (North Wales)
Black Voluntary Sector Network Wales
Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations
BTCV Cymru
Building Strong bridges
Business in the Community
Cardiff Gypsy Sites Group
Carers National Association in Wales
Care Council for Wales
Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Organisations
Cartrefi Cymru
Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations
Children In Wales
Christian Aid
Chwarae Teg
Citizens Advice Cymru
Civic Trust for Wales
Coalfields Regeneration Trust
Commission for Racial Equality Wales Office
Commission for Racial Equality and Human Rights (from Oct)
Communities First
Community Action Network (CAN)
Community Development Cymru
Community Enterprise Wales
Community Matters
Community Service Volunteers Wales
Community Transport
Community University of the Valleys Partnership
Confederation of British Industry (Wales)
Conwy Voluntary Services
Council for Wales Voluntary Youth Services
Countryside Council for Wales
Crime Concern
Cydcoed
Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council
Development Trusts Association in Wales
Disability Rights Commission
Disability Wales
Equal Opportunities Commission Wales
Federation of Small Business Wales
Finance Wales
Friends of the Earth Cymru
Groundwork Wales Trust
Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
Gweini
Help the Aged
Heritage Lottery Fund
Joint Committee for Ethnic Minorities in Wales
Laura Ashley Foundation
Mantell Gwynedd
Medrwn Mon
Menter a Busnes
Mental Health Wales

Mentrau Iaith Cymru
Merched y Wawr
MEWN Cymru (Minority Ethnic Women's Network)
Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust
Nacro Cymru
National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux
National Association of Pensioners Associations in Wales
National Council of Women
National Federation of Women's Institutes - Wales
National Youth Advocacy Service
NCH Action for Children
Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Services
Niace Dysgu Cymru
One Voice Wales
Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services
PHA Cymru
Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations
ProHelp
Race Equality First
Rhyl Community Agency
Rhyl Youth Forum
Save the Children Fund
Scarman Trust
SCOVO
Sefydliad
Shelter Cymru
SOVA
Sports Council for Wales
Stonewall Cymru
Swansea Council for Voluntary Services
SWITCH
TPAS Cymru (Tenants Participation Advisory Service)
The Centre for Social Justice
The Children's Society
The Prince's Trust - Cymru
The Social Enterprise Coalition
The Voluntary Arts Wales
The Welsh Sports Association Ltd (WSA)
Torfaen Voluntary Alliance
Tudor Trust
UNA International Youth Service
Unison Wales Voluntary and Community Sector Branch
Urdd Gobaith Cymru
Vale Centre for Voluntary Services
Valleys Kids
Voluntary Action Cardiff
Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil
Voluntary Action Treharris
Voluntary Arts Wales
Wales Audit Office
Wales Consumer Council
Wales Co-operative Centre
Wales Council for the Blind (WCB)
Wales Council for the Deaf
Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Wales European Funding Office
Wales Pensioners
Wales Women's National Coalition
Wales Youth Agency
Welsh Asian Council
Welsh Association of Youth Clubs
Welsh Language Board
Welsh Local Government Association
Welsh Refugee Council
Welsh Scout Council Office
Welsh Sports Association

Welsh Women's Aid
Wales Trades Union Congress (TUC Cymru)
YMCA Welsh Council
Youthlink Wales
YWCA Welsh Council

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Bridgend County Borough Council
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Carmarthenshire County Council
Ceredigion County Council
City and County of Cardiff
City and County of Swansea
Conwy Borough Council
Denbighshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Gwynedd County Council
Isle of Anglesey County Council
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Monmouthshire County Council
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Newport County Borough Council
Pembrokeshire County Council
Powys County Council
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
The Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council
Torfaen County Borough Council
Wrexham County Borough Council

Others

All Assembly Members
All Welsh MEP's
All Welsh MP's
Clerk, Welsh Affairs Committee