

# Enterprise and Learning Committee

EL(3) 06-10 (p2a) : 4 March 2010

## Valleys Kids Project

### Objective One History (2000 -2006)

Local community groups such as Valleys Kids were able to access Object One

There was a good development of local partnerships between Statutory, Private and Voluntary Sector

This resulted in partnership bids such as 'Learning for Growth' being successful

Being able to access Objective One capital funding enabled us to develop two community venues in disadvantaged wards

We were able to access Objective One revenue funding that allowed us to support people in a variety of ways to help them to gain the self confidence and skills that enabled them to enter employment or training

During the period of Objective One funding Valleys Kids were able to access over 3 million pounds.

### Applying for Convergence

We submitted three PIFs and to be part of the YALO bid but were advised that we were too small and not strategic

Training PIF

Health PIF

Community Development PIF

We were advised that we could access funding through the larger Regional Bids

### Experience of Convergence Funding

'Bridges into Work' the son of 'Learning for Growth' we have not been able to access, as most funds appear to be used by Local Authorities themselves.

The excellent partnership working that had been developed through Objective One is virtually non-existent now to the detriment of the people living in our most disadvantaged communities and the most disengaged groups

We were excluded from the YALO bid - mainly National Organisations were part of that bid

We have had great difficulty accessing the funds and the first Convergence funding we received was in January 2010

To date we have been able to access a total of £125,000 through convergence

We have only been able to access this funding because of the work done by the WCVA and the Arts Council of Wales

This is minimal in comparison with the funding we were able to bring into disadvantaged areas through Objective One

### Our Observations

Instead of building on what had been achieved through Objective One this had been a wasted opportunity preventing us reaching the people in the most disadvantaged areas

The policy to only fund large 'strategic' bids from Local Authorities, WAG departments and Universities has restricted access by Community Organisations.

Not being able to access any Convergence funding till three years into the programme has had a crippling effect on the local Voluntary Sector and vulnerable individuals in those disadvantaged communities.