

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

SJR(2)-11-06(p.1) Annex 6

Remaining Recommendations of Independent Commission to review the Voluntary Sector Scheme - Implementation by the Welsh Assembly Government, Social Justice and Regeneration Department: Implementation Pan – progress summary

Rec' no	Recommendation	Action taken / milestones
Rec 3 and Rec 4	In full consultation with the sector through the Voluntary Sector Partnership Council (VSPC), develop and publish a new strategic action plan, setting out the next steps in implementing the Scheme in the light of the Commission's recommendations. It should assign responsibilities, set deadlines, and identify milestones and indicators for monitoring and evaluation. Report at each meeting of the VSPC and annually at relevant Ministerial meetings on progress against the strategic action plan, and use the indicators in the strategic action plan as the basis for the next full review of the Scheme in 2007.	Consultant appointed to co-ordinate the development of the draft Plan, and to manage the public consultation, which will be held from December. (Mar 07)
Rec 5	Actively promote consistent application of the Scheme and the Code of Practice for Funding the Voluntary Sector by the Assembly Government, ASPBs and health bodies. This should be taken forward through the strategic action plan.	New system of Voluntary Sector Liaison Officers now in place. Exercise in progress to assess compliance with the Scheme and the Code by each Assembly Government division and department. (Sept 06)

Rec 7	Map the policy areas and funding that are not devolved but impact on the voluntary sector in Wales, and enter into discussions with the relevant Whitehall Departments to establish concordats bringing their practice into line with the Scheme and Code.	Assembly Government is asking UK Ministers for non devolved Departments to agree to comply with our Scheme, and to amend their Concordats with the Assembly Govt' to reflect this. (Dec 06).
Rec 8	Ensure that the sector and the relevant parts of the Assembly Government have the capacity and resources to implement and benefit from the Scheme and the Code, for instance by developing training for officials working in the voluntary sector, located in centres easily accessible across Wales.	Discussions in progress with the Assembly's training provider to develop this programme (Jan 07)
Rec 9	Ensure that the implementation of the Scheme and the Code, especially the provision of funding, acts as a driver for appropriate practice in the sector.	Work in progress on strengthening standard Terms and Condition of grant. New 'Disadvantaged Groups Development Fund' being developed (Dec 06)
Rec13	Develop and publish a forward plan of consultations.	This is being taken forward by the e-Wales Unit, with input from the sector, as part of the re-design of the Assembly Government website (Oct 06)
Rec 15	Improve its use of IT in consultations	IT issue – initial meeting has been held with sector reps' to revise consultation portal, to be located on the Assembly's website. (Oct 06)

Rec 21	<p>Review the Code as scheduled, in Summer 2004, taking into account the amendments already agreed by the VSPC and reflecting the Commission's recommendations, and consulting on any changes. The Code should be updated annually thereafter.</p>	<p>The Funding & Compliance Subcommittee has completed a mini-review. Minor updates have been made; current work focusing on monitoring mechanisms and auditing compliance with the Code by Assembly Divisions. VSPC has requested that for the future, procurement issues should be incorporated. (2007)</p>
Rec 23	<p>Strengthen the requirements in the Code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To consider granting core funding to organisations where a strategic role is envisaged or capacity building is an objective; · To include core costs in project funding where core funding is not otherwise provided; · For robust exit or continuation strategies to be agreed where long term funding is not envisaged. 	<p>Implications of this are being discussed with the relevant Assembly Departments (Oct 06)</p>
Rec 25	<p>Develop, promote and monitor the use of an updated Manual of Guidance for Assembly officials to assist them in following the Code consistently. Make the Manual available to ASPBs and third party funders. The Manual should provide templates for standard arrangements for all stages of the bidding, assessment, award, payment, monitoring, and evaluation processes.</p>	<p>An internal working group is taking this forward. (Nov 06)</p>
Rec 26	<p>Introduce training on the Code and Manual of Guidance, for managers of grant schemes offering funding to voluntary organisations.</p>	<p>This will be arranged once the Guidance is revised. (Jan 07)</p>

Rec 27	Regularly update the Guide to Voluntary Sector Grants. Include in the Guide ASPB and third party intermediary schemes, and consider feasibility of including schemes operated by Whitehall Departments but available to organisations in Wales.	An updated Guide is now available on the Assembly's website. Plans drawn up to issue Extended Guide (ASPBs & UK schemes)
Rec 28	Review the outcome of the pilots on eligibility 'passports' in England with a view to introducing 'passporting' in Wales.	Lessons from English pilot projects being assessed.
Rec 29	Continue with more urgency the work on identifying and quantifying all grants paid to voluntary organisations by the Assembly Government, and its ASPBs, to establish a baseline of funding.	Data collection exercise revealed that 84% of funding goes via 3 rd parties –options of commissioning further work being considered (Jan 07).
Rec 31	Consider the mechanisms and approaches to funding set out in the Treasury Cross-cutting review and Futurebuilders programme and their appropriateness in Wales.	This will be undertaken as part of the work on drafting the Strategic Action Plan; will also be informed by Beecham review (Jun 07)
Rec 50	Give consideration to the impact of geographically focused community development programmes on adjacent areas experiencing similar problems but not similarly qualifying for assistance.	Proposals being developed by Communities Directorate (Jan 07)
Rec 54	Develop a comprehensive programme of training in community development principles and practice for all agents involved in delivering Communities First and other initiatives related to community development at the national and local levels, including staff of ASPBs.	Audit of current training provision in progress, also work in progress on accreditation of training provision. (Dec 06)
Rec 55	Commission research into practical and realistic ways in which Assembly Government working practices across the board can be made more conducive to genuine community involvement.	Proposals being developed by Communities Directorate (CD); will be informed by local government community strategies evaluation report due shortly. (Oct 06)
Rec 56	Ensure that the strategic action plan specifically address the need to implement the vision and principles set out in the community development chapter of the Scheme.	Communities Directorate will address this once the detailed work on the Strategic Action Plan is in progress.

Rec 58	Follow the precedent of independence set by the first review.	For a future Government
Rec 59	Ensure that future reviews do not create undue uncertainty within the sector about future funding, or to lead to unnecessarily short-term funding decisions.	For a future Government
WCVA		
Rec 20	Advise the Assembly Government on the compilation of the "who to consult" list and the central database of contact details.	Discussions between officials and sector reps' in progress (Oct 06)
Rec 43	Review and consult on the "Ministerial map" and arrangements for Ministerial meetings, to ensure that a range of sizes and types of voluntary organisations is represented at meetings, that views presented are representative of the whole sub-sector, and that information about Ministerial meetings is cascaded to interested parties.	The WCVA has concluded its review of the 'map' – will now consult networks regarding the proposed changes. (Oct 06)
Assembly & WCVA		
Rec 42	<p>Encourage greater participation by AMs in the VSPC, for instance by writing to all AM VSPC members and party leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Reporting the disappointment felt by the sector at the low levels of attendance; · asking whether any practical changes might address this (e.g. linking with regional committee dates, or holding meetings on a Friday); · clarifying the procedure for raising items at the VSPC. 	Minister raising with AM members on VSPC.
VSPC		

Rec 11	Take responsibility for taking equality of access to funding, recognising the cultural, rural and urban diversity of Wales, through its strategic action plan and, if established, its monitoring and evaluation sub-committee.	Funding & Compliance Sub-committee in place. Strategic Action Plan in early stages of preparation (Oct 06)
Rec 35	Note the minutes of Ministerial meetings and take responsibility for identifying and progressing any common issues or themes, monitoring the success of the meetings, and making proposals to the Assembly Government for issues to be tabled at Ministerial meetings or ways of improving meetings.	Minutes of Ministerial meetings are now being presented to the VSPC. Further work in progress on second part of recommendation (Oct 06)

Recommendations 1, 2, 6,10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52, 53 and 57 no longer feature on this Plan as they have been signed-off as completed.