

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT ON SOCIAL INCLUSION

Purpose

1. To seek the Committees views on the proposed future format of the National Assembly for Wales Annual Report on Social Inclusion in Wales.

Summary

2. The National Assembly for Wales Annual Report on Social Inclusion in Wales (2001) has been finalised. Below is a summary of the proposed future format of the report. A more detailed outline of this structure is attached at annex 1.

Text

3. It is proposed to begin the report with a foreword by the Assembly Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities, emphasising the importance of social disadvantage as one of the main themes of the Assembly and tying it to the other main themes of sustainable development and equal opportunities. This would be followed by an introduction, which would start with a clear definition of social inclusion and our vision, setting out what we want to achieve. The introduction would highlight the headline achievements since the last report and also include data to show economic trends and the magnitude of the problems excluded people face.
4. The remainder of the report would be structured by subject area covering the programmes and initiatives aimed at tackling poverty and social inclusion. Against each area we aim to include information on progress to date, first year targets and medium / long term targets, where appropriate. We propose to develop targets which are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time based. The main policy areas we plan to cover are:

- Communities
- Health
- Social Support
- Children and Young People
- Education
- Economy
- Community Economic Development

- Minority Ethnic Communities
- Leisure
- Transport

Background

1. Tackling social disadvantage is one of the three major themes which the Assembly has adopted in its strategic plan, "Better Wales". The Assembly is committed to combating poverty and social disadvantage and to bridging the gap between the most deprived communities and the more affluent ones.
2. The National Assembly for Wales Annual Report on Social Inclusion publicises the National Assembly's measures to combating poverty and is a vehicle for setting targets and reporting back on the National Assembly's achievements and areas where further work is needed.
3. The first report simply gave an overview of activity. It is intended that the second report will provide data to enable progress on addressing social inclusion issues to be measured.
4. At the LGH meeting, on 28 February 2001, the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities agreed to provide the Committee with a paper on the future format of the report.

Cross Cutting Themes

5. Tackling Social Disadvantage is one of the Assembly's major cross-cutting themes.

Communities Branch

Community Regeneration and Social Inclusion Unit

June 2001

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Annex 1

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Proposed Format of National Assembly for Wales Annual Report on Social Inclusion in Wales

1. Ministerial Foreword

2. Introduction

- Highlighting headline achievements since establishment of the National Assembly for Wales.
- Links to strategic plans
- Include data to show economic trends, size of the problem etc...

1. Communities

- Communities First (to include People in Communities and Sustainable Communities)
- Community Strategies
- Communities Fund

1. Health

- Healthy Communities
- Primary Health Care Services

- Secondary Health Care Services

1. Social Support

- Housing (including Homelessness)
- Physical Disabilities
- Learning Disabilities / Mental Health
- Older People
- Welfare Benefits
- Substance Misuse
- Crime and Disorder

1. Children and Young People

- Children and Young People: A Framework for Partnership
- Extending Entitlement: Supporting Young People in Wales
- Surestart
- Early Years
- Children's First
- Children and Youth Partnerships
- National Childcare strategy
- Youth Offending

1. Education

- Special Education Needs Action Programme
- School Disaffection
- ICT for Learning
- Student Hardship

1. Economy

- National Economic Development Strategy
- Educational and Training Action Plan
- European Programmes
- Agriculture
- New Deal

1. Community Economic Development

- Credit Unions
- Community Enterprise Wales
- Post Offices
- Co-operative Employment Schemes
- Co-operative Buying Schemes
- Community Food Initiatives

1. Minority Ethnic Communities

- Barriers to Inclusion
- Asylum Seekers
- Language
- Access to Services

1. Leisure

- Sport
- Libraries
- Museums / Galleries
- Theatre
- Languages

1. Transport

11. Conclusion and the Way Forward