

Alun Davies, AM
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language

12 January 2017

Dear Alun

Inquiry into Youth Work

Thank you for your letter of 12 December in response to the Committee's correspondence regarding funding arrangements for the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS).

The Committee is very disappointed that your further response, did still not address all of the questions contained in the Committee's initial correspondence (2 November) or its follow up correspondence (23 November).

As you set out in your letter of 12 December, the Committee was aware that you were considering a new approach to securing representation and support for the voluntary youth work sector. The Committee's specific questions, however, related directly to the action taken by you before informing CWVYS of your initial intention not to provide grant finding for 2017/18. It is disappointing that these specific points were not addressed.

However, the Committee is aware that you have recently written to CWVYS confirming the Welsh Government's proposal to now provide grant funding to them for 2017/18. The Committee very much welcomes this, but understands that there are conditions attached to the funding offer, including the need for CWVYS to become self-sustainable. While we hope the specified conditions can be met to ensure continued funding for the next financial year, we are concerned



that the organisation may not have sufficient time to plan for, and deliver, a model that enables it to become self-sustainable before the end of the grant offer. We hope that you continue dialogue with CWVYS regarding this.

Involvement of CVCs

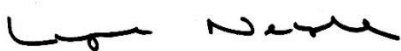
In relation to your letter of 12 December, the Committee is very concerned at your suggestion to establish a grant to support local CVCs in sharing good practice in youth work and providing a link between the statutory and voluntary sectors. We do not believe that this is an area of work in which CVCs have relevant expertise, or experience, and it is unclear how this new arrangement would work in practice.

The Committee is also concerned about the timing of this suggestion, coming before the Committee's report had been published, but not providing time for this to feed into the Committee's inquiry.

The Committee appreciates that this is a recommendation contained in the report produced by Trinity Saint David, but we strongly believe you should consider this recommendation carefully, and consult with CVCs and across the statutory and voluntary sector before putting any firm proposals in place to establish a grant for this purpose.

The Committee looks forward to receiving your response.

Yours Sincerely



Lynne Neagle AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

