



Huw Irranca-Davies AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Gofal Cymdeithasol a Phlant
Minister for Children and Social Care

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref : MA-P/HID/2911/18

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair of Children, Young People and Education
Committee National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

22 August 2018

Dear Lynne,

Children and Families Delivery Grant

Thank you for your letter of 18 July seeking clarification on a number of additional points in respect of the Children and Families Delivery Grant (CFDG).

As I have already outlined, the funding previously allocated via the CDFG will be provided to Cwlwm, Play Wales and Children in Wales in 2018-19. Funding will also be available to support the wider play agenda and our commitment to Early Years as set out in *Prosperity for All*. There is no intention to reinstate a bidding/grant process for 2019-20, and the core funding arrangements in place for these organisations will be subject to ongoing monitoring against agreed business plans.

In your letter, you asked about the outcomes delivered under the CFDG projects such as Tros Gynnal Plant, Promo-Cymru and Groundwork Wales.

Tros Gynnal Plant was awarded a total of £882,000 under the 'Engage' aspect of CFDG for the purpose of delivering the All Wales Restorative Approaches Family Engagement Project (RAFEP) over a period of 3 years, commencing October 2014.

The project met and exceeded expected delivery targets as the final project report showed a total of 1,762 individuals were involved (336 Practitioners and 339 families and 75 groups) and successfully promoted and supported the use of Restorative Approaches with families and professionals to improve the effectiveness of engagement with services.

As part of the grant terms and conditions, reports on progress were submitted to Welsh Government officials. Tros Gynnal also commissioned an evaluation from CASCADE at Cardiff University during the second year of the contract. A copy of the evaluation can be requested via the following link <http://www.rafep.wales/cueval.aspx>

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Huw.Irranca-Davies@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Promo-Cymru was awarded a total of £1,597,392 under CFDG from October 2014 to December 2017. The purpose of the grant was to deliver an all-Wales bilingual online information and communications solution for families, known as Family Point Cymru.

As part of the grant terms and conditions, quarterly reports on progress were submitted to Welsh Government officials. The data received in the final quarterly report (October – December 2017) from Promo-Cymru showed that there was a clear month-on-month growth in the use of the Family Point Service, with a threefold increase in the number of contacts since the helpline was launched in November 2015. Promo-Cymru continue to connect parents and anyone responsible for a child or young person to key services in Wales via their website and helpline.

Groundwork Wales was awarded a total of £1,410,028 to develop a Sustainable Play project as a Service of General Economic Interest to increase and enhance the accessibility and quality of children’s outdoor play experiences across areas of Wales suffering from high levels of deprivation. The project was funded over a period of 3 years commencing October 2014 to October 2017.

The project exceeded delivery targets, and the breakdown is outlined below:

Output name	Target Output	Output Achieved
No. of Children & Young People Engaged in Outdoor Play Sessions	18,000	22,450
No. of Workshops / Advisory Sessions Delivered to Partner Organisations	90	94
No. of Disabled Children & Young People Engaged into Outdoor Play Sessions	600	1,361
No. of Play Events Delivered for Families	90	120
No. of Families Attending Play Sessions	720	5695
No. SNAP Training Sessions	90	94

As part of the grant terms and conditions, reports on progress were submitted to Welsh Government officials.

Turning to **Cwlwm**, as I noted in my previous letter, Arad Research was commissioned by Cwlwm in 2017 to undertake a review of the development and effectiveness of the partnership working of Cwlwm. The published report presented the findings of the review and included key lessons and recommendations for Cwlwm and stakeholders, such as the Welsh Government and local authorities.

<http://www.meithrin.cymru/news/i/115656/desc/cwlwm-report/>

These findings are being taken forward as part of Cwlwm’s business plan for 2018-19, which focuses on the following areas of work in order to support the members and non-members of the Cwlwm partnership organisations, taking a ‘whole sector approach’ to support the Early Years, Childcare and Playwork sector in Wales:

- Promoting the Childcare Offer;
- Workforce Development and Training;
- Delivering Business Support;
- Contributing to work related to Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)
- Supporting the Additional Learning Needs and Education (Wales) Tribunal Bill;
- Reviewing the National Minimum Standards; and
- Contributing to realising 'Cymraeg 2050' targets.

In terms of **Play Wales**, your letter rightly highlights that they were not awarded a CFDG grant, but that funding was provided separately given their valuable role in providing strategic support to the Welsh Government, the local authorities and the play sector to increase and improve children's play opportunities throughout Wales. There are no specific criteria for the allocation of funding to Play Wales. The award is for Play Wales to:

- provide specialist advice to Welsh Government on all policy areas where there are links to play;
- support local authorities and their partners in the implementation of the statutory Play Sufficiency Duty;
- maintain a library of, and disseminate research and best practice;
- represent Wales at international fora; and
- contribute to the professional development of the play and playwork workforce in Wales.

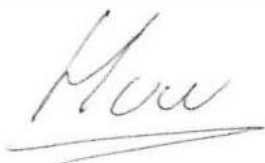
As to how the grant provided relates to the Welsh Government's priorities, we know that play and recreation are essential to the health and well-being of children and promote the development of creativity, imagination, self-confidence, self-efficacy, as well as physical, social, cognitive and emotional strength and skills. Play develops children's resilience and mitigates the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences. The work of Play Wales is particularly relevant therefore to the delivery of the Healthy and Active and Prosperous and Secure wellbeing objectives in our national strategy Prosperity for All, along with the Early Years cross cutting priority.

Finally, you asked for clarification on when a decision was likely to be made regarding **Children in Wales** funding. Following the Welsh Government's internal review of the grant to Children in Wales (CiW), the key findings have been shared with CiW and will be shared with the stakeholders who participated in the review.

In July 2018 the Welsh Government issued a letter to Children in Wales approving the continuation of funding (£335,000) for the purposes set out in the terms and conditions of the grant. The funding will be for the period from 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019. Therefore, the total funding awarded for this financial year to Children in Wales, including the £50,570 to facilitate a consultation on Brexit is £724,860.

I hope this response deals with the additional queries in respect of CFDG.

Yours sincerely



Huw Irranca-Davies AC/AM

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