



## **International Relations and Welsh Language meeting**

21 October 2019, 10am-11.30am

### Attendees

- Anna Nicholl, WCVA
- David Cook, WCVA
- Catrin James, CWVYS
- Gareth Coles, Voluntary Arts Wales
- Kate Evans, Welsh Sports Association
- Claire O'Shea, Welsh Centre for International Affairs
- Melda Grantham, Interfaith Council for Wales
- Elin Maher, Mentrau Iaith Cymru

### Apologies

- Suzie Ventris-Field, WCIA

Welcomes and introductions took place.

Anna summed up the Third Sector Scheme and the need to plan for the meeting with the Minister on 6 November. We are unsure if the Deputy Minister will be in attendance.

The group decided the Ministerial Meeting should look at:

**What are the Minister's priorities?** We will ask about the Minister's ambitions for working with the voluntary sector, and for an update on Creative Wales and Fusion/Cyfuno.

Anna to lead a verbal item on this. Gareth to lead on response to arts updates.

**Erasmus+:** What discussions have happened between UK and Welsh Government on opportunities following Erasmus+ post-Brexit. What does the Minister need from the sector to support her in those discussions? Susie has also noted sector concern about DEAR and European Solidarity Core Funding.

Catrin to lead a verbal item on this.

**The International Strategy:** A number of concerns were voiced about the draft International Strategy consultation, including:

- Lack of recommendations re a framework for sport
- Lack of consultation opportunities for the sector to make its voice heard
- It seems more like a trade brochure than a strategy
- Doesn't try to address what Wales might look like in 10-15 years
- Doesn't capture the breadth of what the third sector does
- Doesn't represent Wales as a vibrant, culturally diverse country
- Doesn't feel as if the Future Generations Act is embedded in it
- Lack of voice for young people
- Not enough planning around Brexit

Group would like to suggest pausing the strategy. If this is not possible, we would like to offer third sector help to reinforce the strategy.

Claire will lead a verbal item on this. Kate, Catrin, Elin and Dave to support with comments on the importance of soft power, including sport (Kate); the voice and recognition of young people as an asset for Wales (Catrin); Wales as a vibrant cultural bilingual nation (Elin); importance of any future international trade deals being underpinned by economic, social, environmental and cultural standards and rights (Dave).

**The Welsh language workforce:** The education workforce is reaching breaking point. Only 12 teachers qualified last year who could teach in both languages. Reassurance is needed re resourcing and general support for the bilingual workforce in sectors where they are specifically needed.

Elin will lead a verbal item on this. Kate to support with comments on good examples of bilingualism in sport and Catrin on youth provision and apprenticeships.

No AOBs.

*Actions*

- *Ask Welsh Government if the Deputy Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport will attend the meeting.*
- *Group to send any material on issues around the bilingual workforce to Elin.*
- *Group to send any draft International Strategy consultation responses to Dave before the Ministerial Meeting.*
- *Those leading items for the Ministerial Meeting to prepare bullet points outlining key points, then send to Dave, who will pass to Welsh Government officials ahead of the Ministerial Meeting.*