

Minister for Finance & Trefnydd Meeting with Third Sector Representatives

5 November 2020

Attendees:

Chair:

Rebecca Evans MS - Minister for Finance & Trefnydd

WCVA:

Ruth Marks - Chief Executive

Ben Lloyd

Alison Pritchard

Anna Nicholl

Third Sector:

Gethin Rhys - CYTUN Cymru

Alice Coleman - Planed

Iwan Thomas - Planed

Iestyn Wyn - Stonewall Cymru

Paul Glaze - CWVYS

Catrin James - CWVYS

Andrea Cleaver - WRC Wales

Derek Walker - Wales Coop

Helene Hayes - Citizens Advice

Cathy Groves - Children in Wales

Owen Evans - Children in Wales

Ruth Power - Shelter Cymru

Mandy Powell - Cymorth Cymru

Rocio Cifuentes - EYST

Third Sector Partnership Council - Funding & Compliance Committee

Phil Fiander - Interim Chair

Welsh Government Officials:

Matt Wellington - Strategic Budgeting

Sara James - Strategic Budgeting

Liz Matthews - Senior Private Secretary to the Minister

Chris Buchan - Community & Third Sector Policy

Paul McDonagh - Secretariat
Sandra Stephenson - Secretariat

Introduction

The Minister extended her appreciation to Third Sector colleagues for all their tireless efforts in the current climate of unprecedented pressures. The Third Sector expressed gratitude for the additional funding received from the Welsh Government and for the help and support of officials.

1. Third Sector Partnership Council Meeting 2 November 2020

Third Sector representatives gave feedback throughout the meeting.

Phil Fiander advised that the Funding & Compliance Committee had revisited its Terms of Reference and was in the process of preparing a work plan. Phil suggested that the work of the Committee might be a standing item on the agenda of future meetings between the Minister and Third Sector representatives. The Minister agreed.

Action: Secretariat to include the Funding & Compliance Committee in future agendas

2. Welsh Government Budget 2021-22:

i. Update from the Minister

The Minister provided an update on the financial allocations made in response to the Covid-19 crisis and stressed the extraordinarily difficult circumstances for the Welsh Government's budget next year; the full extent of the challenges next year would not be known until the UK Government's Comprehensive Spending Review on 25 November. Publication of the Welsh Government's Budget had therefore been deferred until 21 December, with priority expected to be given to the NHS and ensuring the best possible settlement for local authorities.

The Minister confirmed that the issue of furlough during the Welsh firebreak was being pursued with the Treasury.

The Third Sector supported the Welsh Government's recovery proposals and welcomed the flexibility of funding, which they requested continued.

Action: Ruth Marks to share the Third Sector paper on the EU Shared Prosperity Fund.

ii. Involving Voluntary Sector in the Budget Process

The Third Sector led this discussion and highlighted the need for clear communications during the planning process. They also stressed the need for innovation in the areas of equalities and called for different parts of Government to work together, especially in relation to the effects Covid-19 had had on marginalised communities.

3. Covid-19: Financial Impact on the Voluntary Sector

Ben Lloyd, Head of Policy at the WCVA introduced the Third Sector paper and Third Sector representatives drew the Minister's attention to specific issues including:

- Increase in requests for advice on benefits, employment and redundancies;

- Diversification of income streams and joint funding portals;
- Funding for homelessness;
- Recognition and reward for social care workers;
- Asylum seekers poverty; and
- The bespoke requirements of communities and the need for long-term funding.

The Minister welcomed the feedback from Third Sector colleagues and suggested that they also contact their portfolio Ministers.