

Third Sector Partnership Council – Covid-19 Recovery sub-group

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

To provide a formal structure to support engagement between Welsh Government and the voluntary sector in Wales in relation to recovery from Covid-19. It will support engagement on the journey towards a better future.

The Third Sector Partnership Council (TSPC) is a formal forum for engagement between the voluntary sector in Wales and the Welsh Government. It is chaired by Jane Hutt, Minister for Social Justice. The sub-group will provide a mechanism for strategic engagement on recovery planning.

The sub-group will draw on the input of the full TSPC to provide views and advice to Welsh Ministers on planning the recovery. It will provide reports to the TSPC to inform its work. The sub-group aims to ensure voluntary sector voices are heard and contribute across the recovery workstreams supported by Welsh Government. This includes the work on crisis response being coordinated by the Counsel General and Minister for European Transition and supported by the Welsh Government Recovery Board.

The sub-group does not seek to be a separate work stream. Where relevant it will advise where detailed workstreams can be developed through existing mechanisms (eg Partnership Council Sub-Group, Funding and Compliance Sub-Committee).

Engagement with the diverse voluntary sector networks will strengthen our collective effort towards recovery, building on their assets:

- Voluntary organisations and volunteers are generally embedded in the communities they work with, whether communities of interest or place. They are connected to the diverse voices of people across Wales.
- TSPC networks work across the diversity of environmental, economic, social and cultural issues that are important to people.
- Working together as a whole, TSPC networks can support integrated thinking to develop innovative solutions.
- Engaging with the voluntary sector is essential to realise Welsh Government's ambition for a recovery that strengthens voluntary and community action.

2. Remit and objectives

In *Leading Wales out of the Coronavirus Pandemic: A Framework for Recovery*, the First Minister set out his approach to be open about decisions and to involve and engage people. Voluntary organisations have an important role to play across all aspects of recovery.

In *Unlocking our society and economy: continuing the conversation* Welsh Government underlined its belief that we need to plan for our future as part of a collective effort that recognises the contribution that each of us can make, including the voluntary sector.

‘The voluntary sector has stepped up to meet the unprecedented challenges of the last few months and is a vital partner as we address our future.’

The document is clear that, as the lockdown is eased further and we focus more on recovery, we are not moving back to the pre-Covid world. We will all need to learn, adapt and innovate. In building that new future, Welsh Government wants a strong and sustained emphasis on the contribution of voluntary and community action. Advising on this will be a clear focus of the sub-group’s work.

The subgroup will:

- set out shared ambitions for recovery and advise on how these can be measured
- identify learning that can enable better outcomes now and for the longer term
- advise on who needs to do what to achieve our shared ambitions and enable voluntary organisations to play their full role in recovery

It will focus on:

- Helping us to work together across our sectors and areas of interest towards a green, just and equal recovery.
- Helping voluntary organisations to adapt so that they are still able to support people and communities in the face of different crises.
- Building on learning during the Covid crisis where public bodies, voluntary organisations, businesses and citizens worked well together and consider how we lock-in positive changes for the longer term.
- Building on learning from the Covid-19 crisis to strengthen volunteering and community-led action.

The sub-group will consider the implications of digital opportunities and challenges across all its work.

3. Mode of operation

The sub-group will meet frequently for the remainder of this government term. The frequency will be determined by the business and is expected to be at least monthly.

The sub-group will ensure priority areas can be progressed at pace and within the necessary timescales to support recovery.

Wherever possible the group should use processes that are open, inclusive and involve all the TSPC networks. The group will draw on wider evidence available, including government data and research. It will report to TSPC meetings.

4. Resources

The secretariat will be provided by Welsh Government.

5. Membership

The group will be made up of Welsh Government officials and representatives from the TSPC voluntary networks. Total membership will be no more than 10 people.

The group will be chaired by Claire Bennett, Director of Communities and Tackling Poverty Department. It will be made up of Welsh Government officials from the Communities Division, with officials from other divisions joining based on the agenda. Attendance should make sure there's a clear link to relevant discussions in the Recovery Board and Partnership Council Recovery sub-group.

Voluntary sector members of the group should reflect the collective voice of the TSPC and wider sector, rather than their own networks or organisations. WCVA will invite representatives to put themselves forward but these should aim to bring a diversity of perspectives and expertise across the specific areas of focus. Members do not have to be the same person as the TSPC representative if others in the network are best placed to lead this work.

Wherever possible, the group will use participative methods so that all TSPC networks can contribute to its work and solutions benefit from integrated efforts across the sector.

6. Delegations

The group may set up delegations to explore specific issues. Membership will be based on knowledge and expertise and may include people from beyond the TSPC or working group.

7. Timeframe

This is a task and finish group which will complete its work by 31 March 2021.

8. Review

The terms of reference and work plan of the sub-group will be reviewed quarterly and adjusted if needed.

9. Communications

The agenda, papers and minutes of each meeting of the sub group and any reports commissioned by the sub group will normally be published by the Welsh Government on its website in accordance with legislation governing public access to information. They will also be published by WCVVA to support openness and transparency and encourage wider involvement.