

## **Finance and Local Government planning meeting**

**06 September 2021, 10:15-11.30am**

### **Notes**

#### **Attendees**

- Catrin James, CWVYS
- Noreen Blanluet, Co-Production Network for Wales
- Michele Hunt, WEL
- Victoria Lloyd, Age Cymru
- Chris Johnes, Building Communities Trust
- Carl Cooper, CVC Cymru
- Iwan Thomas, PLANED
- John Gallanders, CVC Cymru
- Million Abesha, Wales Refugee Coalition
- Tabea Wilkes, RSPB Cymru
- Rocio Cifuentes, EYST
- Paul McDonagh, Welsh Government
- Ruth Marks, WCVA
- Anna Nicholl, WCVA
- Ben Lloyd, WCVA
- Alison Pritchard, WCVA

#### **Apologies**

- Phil Fiander, Chair, Funding and Compliance Sub-Committee
- Sheila Hendrickson-Brown, C3SC
- Ruth Power, Shelter Cymru
- Gethin Rhys, Interfaith Council for Wales
- Iestyn Wyn, Stonewall Cymru
- Helene Hayes, Citizens Advice Cymru
- Lee Ellery, Coproduction Network for Wales

#### **Minutes from previous Ministerial Meeting**

Noted the positive developments on some of the key issues the sector had been working on, such as carbon budgeting and gender budgeting.

BL noted that WCVA has been meeting the Third Sector Unit in Welsh Government and it had been agreed to focus on meeting outcomes and keep planning meetings on a regular basis but not attached to specific Ministerial meeting dates to make the best use of time. The sector can also request to meet with officials.

Some members expressed concern about the erosion of time that Ministers allocated to meetings but BL noted that times allocated varied by Minister but there was a need to be clear about the purpose of the meetings and the outcomes expected. These were changes that were noted in the Joint Improvement Plan agreed with Welsh Government officials.

### **Discussion re agenda item for the next meeting with the Minister**

PM noted that there is a standing item on each agenda re the Funding & Compliance Sub Committee at the request of the Minister.

Discussion on topics included:

**Funding & Compliance Sub Committee** – next meeting 14 September, need for further consultation from broader sector. Notes from the meeting to be circulated to the Finance & LG Planning Group members.

### ***Phil Fiander to lead update***

**Budget** – the next meeting is 14 October to allow members time to influence. Opportunity for the Minister to update the sector.

Members will also ask key points linked to the budget:

- How is nature being accounted for in the budget in light of the nature emergency? (**Michele Hunt**)
- How are Welsh Government strategies linked to equalities reflected in the budget (e.g., Race Equality Action Plan, Wales Nation of Sanctuary & LGBTQ+)? (**Rocio Cifuentes**)

PM noted that many decisions would be for individual Ministers within their portfolios, and they would inform the Finance & LG Minister.

Groups of officials do form working parties to discuss impacts of cross portfolio issues and then Cabinet decide on funding for the work.

Updates from the Minister who will admit there will be challenges to the

budget. Potential for informal session to brief sector networks on budget process.

**Grants Centre for Excellence** - plan to introduce longer term funding agreements. Welsh Government doesn't have long term funding arrangements from the UK.

Members welcomed plans in principle. The sector has been calling for this.

However, members flagged need to manage danger of unintended consequences in its delivery. For example, who benefits from longer funding terms? WG should also address short term funding calls – difficulty in creating partnerships with limited time. Concerns about monitoring systems & the need for more robust monitoring if longer term funding. Need funding to empower individuals and for communities to have confidence in the people delivering, need continuity to avoid losing skills

Concerns that the vast majority of the sector have no direct relationship with funding from Welsh Government – more influenced by LAs & LHBs. Need for Welsh Government to use its influence to encourage others to follow the principles of the Funding Code of Practice. Also, role of Town & Community Councils.

**Relationships with Local Government** –PM noted that the Minister is from a voluntary sector background but is new to issues around Local Government so would be good to raise issues at the meeting.

Relationships with local government are an important part of the TSPC Recovery Plan report. Third Sector Unit officials are establishing a working group to progress this.

Main is for local government officials to be part of this group. This should help ensure Welsh Government officials are able to collaborate internally, voluntary sector organisations have one route for engagement. It should also support co-ordination with WLGA and local authorities.

We propose that this working group reports back jointly to Jane Hutt and Rebecca Evans.

The meeting will also be an opportunity to show good examples of what is happening on the ground (WCVA can lead).

## **Actions**

- **WCVA to share notes from Funding & Compliance Sub Committee meeting on 14 September**
- **WCVA to share Joint Improvement Plan**
- **WCVA to draft cover paper for local government item**
- **WCVA to ask to meet Matt Wellington to discuss potential for joint work outside the meeting with the Minister**
- **WCVA and officials to consider potential for informal briefing for sector networks on how the budget process works**

**Ministerial Meeting Thursday 14 October 10:30 – 11:30 via Teams (pre-meet same day, 9.30am-10.15am)**

## **Agreed Agenda**

- Budget
- Funding & Compliance Sub Committee
- Grants Centre for Excellence
- Relations with Local Government