

Finance and Local Government planning meeting

September 8 2022

Notes

Attendees

- Anna Nicholl, WCVA
- David Cook, WCVA
- Ben Lloyd, WCVA
- Phil Fiander, Funding and Compliance Sub-Committee
- Iwan Thomas, PLANED
- Ruth Power, Shelter Cymru
- Michele Hunt
- Megan Bowler, Siawns Teg
- Selima Bahadur, EYST
- Chris Johnes, Building Communities Trust
- Alison Pritchard, WCVA
- Sheila Hendrickson-Brown, C3SC
- Uzo Iwobi, Race Council Cymru
- Gemma Lelliot, CTA Cymru

Minutes and actions from last MM Meeting 04.05.22

Actions

- *Follow-up with Janine Downing re infrastructure strategy briefing.*
- *A sub-group will be formed from the Funding and Compliance Sub-Committee, working thru existing Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector, with the intention of coming up with high level principles that should lead the Code.*
- *Alison to ask Janine from Third Sector Unit to engage with Michele.*
- *Ben to follow-up with Welsh Government on progress re roadmap guidance for relationships between the sector and public bodies.*

Preparation for special Budget session with Minister, September 22

Group noted that UK Government's Fiscal Statement is due on 21 September, which will impact the fiscal context.

Group discussed need for sustainable pathways to develop relationships with the statutory sector. Prevention and stronger communities can't happen if the sector takes the fiscal strain. Welsh Government needs to engage with the sector, asking what communities need to get through the Cost of Living Crisis. Chris noted that larger organisations may need support, as well as smaller ones. Ruth noted recruitment and retention of staff issue, amid unprecedented demand for services.

Uzo noted the opportunities the sector could play in advisory and contributory roles for Welsh Government. Welsh Government should be asked to enable this.

Actions

- *Share any relevant bullet points from Wales Fiscal Analysis Partnership ahead of meeting on 15 September.*
- *Ben to put together some bullet points from meeting conversation, looking at the declining value of funding amid the Cost of Living Crisis and the impact of this on services, and engagement with grassroots groups, Ruth, Sheila and Iwan thought to be most immediate people to respond in meeting on 15 September.*

For November 2022 Ministerial Meeting

Phil said we need the Minister to remind people of the current Code of Practice, but there are issues with UK Government bypassing some areas if it, for example in the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Sheila talked about increasing focus on outcomes and impact, and how the sector can help Welsh Government in taking a leadership role to ensure their policies, including the refreshed Code of Practice, are implemented. Joint approaches will help influence system change and articulate the barriers to achieving shared goals.

Michele said we need to think how we solve medium and long term issues too. So instead of being reactionary, how can we align together and benefit nature and communities. Where are the opportunities to collaborate?

Alison said the Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector needs to be more accessible, and more work done monitoring how it's used. She also noted that sector buildings could be used for Warm Hubs, as these buildings are likely to be closer to communities than local authority buildings.

Potential November agenda items

- Standard Funding and Compliance Sub-Committee update/Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector
- Relationships and regional partnerships - how we work locally regionally