

Note of the planning meeting for Minister for Finance and Trefnydd, 25 March 2019

1. Present:

Katie McColgan, Interfaith Council for Wales

Helen Hayes, Citizens Advice Cymru, Independent Advice Providers Forum

Sheila Hendrickson Brown, CVC Cymru

Christopher Williams, Age Alliance Wales

Catriona Williams, Children in Wales

Paul Mc Donagah, Welsh Government

Sandra Stephenson, Welsh Government

[On the skype but meeting unable to connect to them: Anne Miekle, Wales Environment Link; Jessica Morgan, Planed; Catrin James, CWVYS]

Anna Nicholl, WCVA

Apologies:

Kate Evans, WSA

Derek Walker, Wales Co-operative Centre

Bethan Webber, Homestart

Uzo Iwobi, BAME Alliance

Cath Hicks, ALW

Oliver Townsend, Cymorth Cymru

Chris Johnes, BCT

Anne Marie Rogan, YMCA

2. Minutes and actions arising from last meeting, 24-10-18

Overall responsibility for delivering against the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act is no longer in this portfolio (it has moved to First Minister and Deputy First Minister).

Networks want to know how they can continue to be involved in this work.

Action:

- **Anna** to work with colleagues in WCVA to develop an open online platform where information across TSPC and all portfolios can be shared, and where people across the networks can contribute. This supports the TSPC action plan on digital participation.
- **Paul** to circulate link to the WWF-Welsh Government report on implementation of the Act
- **Anna** to explore links across the TSPC and each Ministerial meeting (ideally drawing on digital tool above)

3. Preparation for June meeting with the Minister

The **portfolio** has changed. Rebecca Evans is Minister for Finance and Trefnydd. The main changes to the portfolio are:

- No longer has overall responsibility for the Future Generations Act
- No longer has overall responsibilities in relation to the EU
- Has new responsibility of Government Business
- Has new responsibility of Digital Policy and Strategy

There are implications for the **Joint Action Plan**. Some outcomes no longer fit. In general, need to recap on actions to be clear they are achieving stepping stones towards the big outcomes.

Action: Agreed to have substantive part of the next meeting updating the action plan, making clear what difference we're trying to make through the actions, and how that links to the big outcomes.

All to prepare/ discuss with networks. **Anna** to update template and circulate in preparation.

a. Draft agenda

Agreed the following substantive items:

1. Welsh Government update on the finance and budget, to include:
 - o Implications of latest developments on Brexit
 - o Implications of UK Spending Review 2019
 - o Implications on third sector funding
2. Value of third sector and implications for government investment, to include:
 - o Role and contribution of sector, particularly in light of challenges and opportunities highlighted through Brexit debates
 - o Sustainable Resources for the third sector in Wales: current context
 - o Why (strategic) investment matters now and evidence of it being under threat/ withdrawing
 - o Wellbeing of Future Generations Act as a lens for budgeting:
 - i. Prevention
 - ii. Participation
 - iii. Longer term

[Potential for Wellbeing of Future Generations Act to be a separate item, pulled from action plan? Anne Mickle contribution via email. These issues are also specific and substantive. To discuss next meeting.]

For these papers, draw on existing evidence from across networks eg:

- Research Citizen Advice (and others) on rising demand
- Evidence from third sector EU Transition Fund projects
- Evidence from WCVA work on Sustainable Resources report (forthcoming)

Action: officials to prepare first item. **Anna/ WCVA** to lead on second item and paper. **All** to contribute examples etc and points they would want to make.

Other

The Digital Policy and Strategy will be important for the third sector, but not something this group has focussed on previously. Agreed to look at next time in context of action plan (including collaboration).

3. 4. Discussion re Action Plan

Agreed that this now needs updating and will be substantive issue at next planning meeting in early May. (**Action:** next meeting). Build on current approach, but be much clearer on specific outcomes we're trying to achieve that would contribute to the bigger items currently in the plan.

This group wants to know how to be involved in work on delivering the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and the third sector role in that.

Action: Anna and Paul to feedback to relevant Welsh Government officials.

Initial suggestions included:

- Long term – that funding is becoming increasingly short term
- Commissioning – needs to be in there; draw on previous resources and recent discussions
- Link to Funding and Compliance Sub-Committee
- Collaboration – Digital Policy and Strategy
- Minister has responsibility for Value for Money – could we ask for strategic investment to support the sector in evidencing its impact/ value for money (draw on previous reports)

We will ask Minister to agree at 20 June meeting.

4. Other discussion points

Actions from other discussion:

- **Anna** to circulate link to more info on Innovate to Save
- **Anna** to circulate a link to more info on the Regional Investment Boards
- **Anna** to circulate link on previous Commissioning toolkit developed by WCVA and partners (and make sure on Good Practice Wales website)