

International Relations and Welsh Lang Planning Group meeting

29 March 2019, 2pm-4pm, Cardiff

Minutes

Attendees

- David Cook, WCVA
- Anna Nicholl, WCVA
- Melda Grantham, Interfaith Council for Wales
- Elin Maher, Mentrau Iaith Cymru
- Glenn Bowen, Wales Coop Centre
- Susie Ventris Field, Wales Centre for International Affairs
- Catrin James, CWVYS

Apologies

- Kate Evans, Welsh Sports Association
- Paul Glaze, CWVYS,
- Elspeth Jones, Size of Wales
- Kathryn Robson, ALW
- Gareth Coles, Voluntary Arts Wales
- Uzo Iwobi, BAME Alliance

Action point	Action - see full minutes for more detailed description	Owner	Deadline
1.	Disseminate group's work to TSPC	Dave	As required
2.	WCIA to share their draft strategy with TSPC	Susie	May 2019
3.	Link group conversations around Welsh procurement with Lloyds	Anna	May 2019
4.	Invite Ian Gwyn Hughes to speak to the sector on bringing best out of third sector in front of global audience	Anna	May 2019
5	Request meeting with Minister ahead of publication of International Strategy	Anna	April 2019

Welcome and introductions

The group discussed exactly what the make-up of the portfolio is, establishing that Welsh Education sits with Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education. However, clarity is

needed on how work is split between the Minister for International Relations and Welsh Language and the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism.

Ongoing issues from previous group members work.

The group discussed the planned Welsh Government International Strategy, which is cross-departmental, coordinated by Eluned Morgan AM. WCIA was asked to convene the sector to feed into the development of the strategy. It called for the strategy to be values-driven, inclusive, respectful, equal and cosmopolitan. Welsh Government do not plan to consult on the strategy.

The group thought the delivery plans should be consulted on, but also recognised the risks in delaying its publication given the UK's current fluid position in Europe. It is suggested we ask for a brief meeting with the Minister between April and June and where at least there would be some opportunity for organisations to comment before the strategy was finalised.

It is suggested we ask the Minister for her priorities and how the sector can respond, to try to become a supportive partner designing from within. It's vital to show the importance of this strategy to the sector.

Group noted links between this and other portfolios and would like to encourage other portfolio representatives to attend their meetings with the Minister where appropriate.

Group noted that contracts often go to organisations outside of Wales and there is a need to sell and develop Welsh expertise.

Group discussed World Book Day, noting that it is always around the time of St David's Day, occasionally a direct clash. They would like Wales to celebrate World Book Day in April, aligning Wales with rest of the world besides England/Scotland/Northern Ireland. This allows schools to celebrate St David's Day in more depth.

Group discussed the Welsh workforce and the benefits of bilingualism. They wonder how the strategy will impact the push for a million Welsh speakers. They would like to see a path from pre-school to working age. They think it is a good idea to host a joint meeting with Kirsty Williams and Eluned Morgan.

The group discussed how we can all unite as 'team Wales' to progress the international strategy. Could Welsh Government use somebody like Ian Gwyn Hughes with his track record with the Welsh football team to inspire Welsh organisations and individuals cross-sectors to communicate our best to a worldwide audience. This could be at the Pierhead and sponsored by the Minister. Or it could be done jointly with the Welsh Language Commissioner.

Catrin said the Urdd would be happy to host a Ministerial Meeting.

The group set out its agenda for an upcoming meeting with the Minister:

- An outline of the Minister's priorities
- The new curriculum and achieving welsh language and global citizenship (with Kirsty Williams)
- The international strategy - what does the Minister want of the sector?

Actions

- Disseminate actions of group's work to TSPC.
- WCIA to share their draft strategy with TSPC
- Link conversations around selling and developing Welsh expertise into work with Lloyds and hear how they work with the sector.
- Propose Welsh Government invite Ian Gwyn Hughes to an event to speak about how he brought best out of Welsh football team in front of a worldwide audience and how these ideas can transfer to bringing best out of Welsh third sector and how Wales can communicate its work globally.

Next meeting: TBC