



Ein cyf/Our ref MAP/ARD/6906/16

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair of the Committee
Children, Young People & Education Committee

9 November 2016

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter of 2 November seeking clarification regarding funding arrangements for the Council for Wales Voluntary Youth Organisation (CWVYS).

When I attended Committee on 12 October I explained that I would be attending the Ministerial Youth Work Reference Group in December and would use that opportunity to discuss different models for youth work delivery, this follows from work commissioned by my predecessor Julie James, following the launch of the Wales Charter for Youth Work. This remains my intention.

I want to move to a more open and flexible approach to delivering appropriate and effective support for the youth work sector. Part of delivering on that vision requires us to rethink the way we fund support for the voluntary sector. I believe that this is the right direction of travel.

My officials and previous Ministers, have maintained regular engagement and dialogue with CWVYS and the Youth Work Reference Group. Officials met with the Chief Executive of CWVYS in December 2015, there was a further informal meeting with officials and the Chair during the period when grant objectives were being negotiated. Current and future funding arrangements with CWVYS were not discussed with the Youth Work Reference Group, or the wider sector, this was felt to be inappropriate.

Best practice requires us to evaluate funding programmes at least every 3-5 years. Our Third Sector document highlights that we have a commitment to maximise the period of funding where ever possible, to minimise any administration costs and improve efficiency of the funding.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Our National Youth Work Strategy (2014-18) sets out that grant funding for CWVYS would be retained for at least two years, at which point it would be reviewed in line with development of support to the broader voluntary sector. It has, in fact, received three years of funding. It is therefore timely that we review and consider the most effective way to achieve our objectives in an efficient and cost effective manner.

The landscape, in terms of number and variety of stakeholders and in terms of funding streams, across the voluntary youth work sector in Wales is complex. It is my desire that we move to a more streamlined, open and flexible approach to delivering appropriate, representative and effective support for the sector. Part of delivering on that vision requires us to rethink the way we fund this support.

However, in view of the representations that have been made I am willing to review my approach to this transition.

I have therefore asked my officials to make the necessary changes to the funding model to allow sufficient time for more detailed discussions on an action plan that supports CWVYS as an organisation to become self-sustaining. They will also commence work, in partnership and consultation with relevant stakeholders, to consider the options for delivering future support.

I have, today, written to CWVYS setting out my revised approach to this transition. I reiterate my absolute support for the valuable role of youth work in Wales and the vital work the voluntary sector organisations undertakes in its delivery and look forward to meeting with the Youth Work Reference Group in December. In the interim I intend to meet with the Chief Executive and Chair of CWVYS to discuss how we can work effectively with them to the best advantage of voluntary organisations and young people in Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alun Davies AC/AM

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language