

MEETING BETWEEN THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITIES (MRS EDWINA HART) AND REPRESENTATIVES OF VOLUNTARY SECTOR NETWORKS

DATE: 31 October 2002

VENUE: Welsh Assembly Government Buildings, Cardiff Bay

PRESENT:

Mrs Edwina Hart, Assembly Minister

Voluntary Sector:

Gordon Gibson Community Networks Group

Patsy Richards Black Voluntary Sector Wales

Audrey Jones Wales Assembly of Women

Helen Buhaenko Anti Poverty Network Cymru

Daniel Boucher Faith Community Network

Tim Day Head of Policy, WCVA

Officials:

Kate Cassidy Local Government Modernisation

Chris Gittins Communities Directorate

Wayne Woodhall Housing Directorate
(Secretariat)

Action Points for Minister / Officials

Assembly Budget 2003-2004:

- The Minister had recently announced the Assembly's budget plans for 2003-2004 and beyond. Mrs Hart would arrange for a copy of the Community First funding streams to be sent to the voluntary sector (**Chris Gittins**).

Communities First and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups:

- It was acknowledged that there were communication problems between local authorities and BME groups (as well as with other organisations). Mrs Hart proposed funding Communities First seminars in north and south Wales - with a possible view to the development of Service Level Agreements. **Mrs Hart** would write to Sir Harry Jones with her proposals. [See also VS action point below]

Taking account of initiatives and funding streams in Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and/or England

- See VS action point below. The Assembly agreed to reciprocate.

Funding Faith Based Organisations:

- The Local Government Equalities Unit was still looking into the issue of funding faith based organisations (as raised at the previous meeting). Once this issue becomes clearer the Unit would look at (in consultation with the voluntary sector) the possibility of incorporating this into a local authority good practice guide on working with voluntary organisations (**Kate Cassidy** to take forward).

National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (NAPS)

- Mrs Hart agreed to look into the possibility of funding a part-time co-ordinator for Anti Poverty Network Cymru to assist in effective networking for NAPS. It was proposed that this co-ordinator would be based in north Wales and have a rural focus. **Mrs Hart** would discuss a possible funding stream with the Minister for Rural Development, Mike German following the receipt of a business case from Anti Poverty Network Cymru [See also VS action point below]

Local Authority money being put into community regeneration.

- In order to obtain a clearer picture, **Mrs Hart** proposed to produce a paper, with WLGA, on how community regeneration agenda was being taken forward. This paper would include a look at community strategies.

Welsh Women's Aid

- **Mrs Hart** explained that she is awaiting a report in the New Year from the task and finish group looking at the issue. In light of the findings of this report, consideration would be given to the allocation of funding towards the work of the WWA in 2003-04.

Actions Points for Voluntary Sector

Assembly Budget 2003-2004

- The voluntary sector had still to fully absorb the details contained in the paper on the Assembly's budget for 2003-2004. Once scrutinised the voluntary sector would get back to the Minister on any particular issues.

Communities First and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups:

- The voluntary sector (**Patsy Richards**) would draw up a list of key parties from BME groups, local authorities, and the Assembly, to enter into the potential tripartite agreement - which would be discussed at the seminars. It would be helpful to have a nominated BME contact person to take this forward.

Taking account of initiatives and funding streams in Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and/or England

- The voluntary sector agreed to advise (in writing) relevant Ministers of any initiatives / funding streams, within their portfolio, they became aware of which are active in other parts of the UK but not in Wales. These could then be evaluated as to whether they were appropriate to operate in Wales.

National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (NAPS)

- Anti Poverty Network Cymru would submit a business case to Mrs Hart for the funding of a part-time co-ordinator to assist in effective networking for NAPS. Mrs Hart would then discuss a possible funding stream with the Minister for Rural Development, Mike German.

