# Cronfa Gymunedol y Loteri Genedlaethol / The National Lottery Community Fund

# PWYLLGOR CYMRU / WALES COMMITTEE

2024 / 10th June 2024

Teams

**Agenda**

**In Attendance:**

Simone Lowthe-Thomas Wales Committee Chair

Nicola Russell-Brooks Wales Committee Member

Gwenllian Lansdown Davies Wales Committee Member

Fadhili Maghiya Wales Committee Member

**Officers**

John Rose The National Lottery Community Fund

Rob Roffe The National Lottery Community Fund

Andrew Owen The National Lottery Community Fund

Ruth Bates The National Lottery Community Fund

**Attendees**

Lewis Brace Public Health Wales

Jo Peden Public Health Wales

Derek Walker Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Joe Redmond The National Lottery Community Fund

Lisa Tomos The National Lottery Community Fund

Flow Mascord The National Lottery Community Fund

Jess Hey The National Lottery Community Fund

Jay Calderisi The National Lottery Community Fund (Minutes)

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
	1. Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
	2. Apologies were received from Trystan Pritchard and Kate Young.
2. **Review of minutes from the Wales Committee held on the** **12th March 2024 (WBM 24.10)**
	1. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of proceedings.
3. **Matters arising from previous meeting**
	1. Point 9.5 - Rob Roffe and the K&L team carried out further research on the first 1000 days. See paper WBM 24.17.
	2. Point 13.1 - The strategy days in April were cancelled and replaced with a single day event.
4. **Papers by written procedure**
	1. n/a
5. **Declarations of Interest**
	1. No declarations were received.
6. **Wales Portfolio Update** **(WBM 24.13)**
	1. Officers provided an update on work over the last 3 months ending 1 June 2024. Highlights included:
		* The success rate for A4A has gone down to 47%, which is below target. This is due to a period of increased application rates, which are now starting to level off.
		* Since the last Wales Committee meeting, we have funded 5 applications addressing the COL crisis amounting to £191,806 with an average grant size of £38,361.
		* Assessment of Sustainable Steps applications is underway, and Stage 1 decisions are scheduled to be made on 26th July.
		* The customer satisfaction survey showed 87% of customers were very happy with service received, which is higher than the corporate target of 80%.
		* The Dormant Assets consultation summary report has been published.
		* Rob Roffe has been leading an Evidence & Impact Improvement Project, which is due to be published in January.
		* The Fund has had 102 media mentions and 88,000 digital media impressions, including 2,222 for a post showcasing the annual staff away day.
		* The corporate plan published in May sets out clear objectives, with refreshed KPIs. We are currently well-placed to meet a number of these.
		* The People & Places refresh is on-track, and upcoming work includes training staff to understand the equity-based approach and adapting outreach to target disadvantaged areas.
	2. The Committee commented on the Funds potential to share learning regarding specific themes which could be considered in relation to 30th rthday events. Officers suggested that we could further promote our Insight page (after the election) which is available [in English](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/insights) and [in Welsh](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/welsh/insights).
	3. The Committee thanked the team for their presentation and wished leavers, Awel and Lisa, well. They thanked the comms team for maintaining a good media presence, particularly on the new LinkedIn page.
7. **Supporting Great Ideas decisions (WBM 24.14)**

*Joe Redmond joined the meeting.*

* 1. The Committee considered the funding request from ***Arts Active Trust*** and agreed to fund at £290,875. It was felt that the idea was innovative, although more evidence of their consultation with young people would have further strengthened the application. The organisation should examine their partnership approach and consider their next steps after having built up the skills of the cohort. The results of the project should be analysed for future learning.

*Joe Redmond left the meeting.*

1. **Addressing need through the Wales Portfolio (WBM 24.15)**
	1. Wales Committee was invited to:
		* Note the developments across the Fund in relation to addressing need
		* Consider the factors that we could take into account when defining an equity-based approach to addressing need (paragraph 8.4)
		* Express its views as to how need could be considered through National Lottery Awards for All (paragraph 9.3)
		* Express its views on how consideration of need should be considered as part of assessment and decision making (paragraph 9.8)
		* Note that we must consider the geographical reach of People & Places applications as part of decision-making (paragraph 9.9)
		* Note and discuss the implications of need in relation to regional working (section 10).
	2. The Committee discussed how need is considered and the role of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD). They agreed that whilst the WIMD gives a crucial snapshot of communities, we should take a more nuanced and consider intersectionality, utilizing individual domains where appropriate, for example in rural areas, where basic services might not be available. The Committee agreed that a framework of different data sources will help us outline community needs and inform assessments.
	3. Committee members suggested that it might be useful to target locations based on indicators linked to our KPIs; and it was also suggested that tackling social injustice, in addition to poverty, could be beneficial. We should also be mindful of the fact that the consequences of an issue may be felt in one place, but the root cause of the issue may be somewhere else, and we should consider this possible transference when considering need.
	4. The Committee agreed that being too prescriptive about requirements would be limiting, as this can curtail innovation. Grant applicants should continue to be given the opportunity to define their own needs, whilst retaining a focus on a strength-based approach is important.
	5. The Committee agreed that applications should not come to grant making committees unless they have adequately demonstrated their commitment to an equity-based approach but acknowledged that this may take time and that clear guidance on our requirements would be necessary.

**ACTION:** Rob Roffe to take the perspectives of the Committee to the project lead to feed into the project.

1. **Impact and learning from Rural Futures and Invest Local (WBM 24.16)**

*Lisa Tomos joined the meeting.*

* 1. The Wales Committee was invited to note and discuss the findings of the community development impact review.
	2. The Committee noted that both programmes took an asset-based approach and aimed to build capacity. The evidence that existing local capacity is key and highlights the importance of the strength-based approach. The Committee considered the nature of existing capacity and noted that there are often community ‘anchors’ who take on the role of advising and coordinating the community.
	3. The paper also confirmed that longer-term approaches are vital in community development.
	4. The Committee discussed how projects maintain a good rate of community development over a longer period, and the role of development workers. Professional, paid development workers/place co-ordinators could be seen as a societal investment which is worth making to enable active, happy more self-reliant, resilient communities. However, having a paid worker in this role may hinder communities from taking the lead themselves if delivered incorrectly. This is also dependent on the individual community development worker, and their ability to enable and empower others to take the lead. It was also noted that a lot of evidence suggests the community loses interest when a paid worker pulls out, especially where they have been playing a very active role.

*Lisa Tomos left the meeting.*

1. **Procurement and Socio-Economic Duty**

*Lewis Brace and Dr Jo Peden joined the meeting.*

* 1. Lewis Brace and Dr Jo Peden presented an overview of how Public Health Wales implements the Socio-Economic Duty (SED).
	2. The Committee thanked Lewis and Jo for their presentation and reflected that as we are trying to take an equity-based approach as part of the new strategy, it would be beneficial to see how the Fund could work with Public Health Wales to understand the implications of SED. Some points for reflection were:
		+ is it the Fund’s responsibility to apply SED, or the grant holder’s?
		+ does it apply only to larger awards?
		+ is it the Fund’s duty to signpost people towards SED resources?
		+ Is it feasible to include consideration of the SED in grant criteria?

*Lewis Brace and Dr Jo Peden left the meeting.*

1. **The Wellbeing of Future Generations Commissioner:- Cymru Can**

*Derek Walker joined the meeting.*

* 1. Derek Walker presented the missions and areas of focus of the Cymru Can strategy of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Commissioner.
	2. The committee reflected on how the Fund can integrate more consideration of those missions in our work.
	3. The Committee noted that there is a challenge to focus on grant criteria and ensure that funding is contributing to our organisational goals, whilst avoiding applying excessive requirements on applicants.

*Derek Walker left the meeting.*

1. **Children strategic initiative initial proposals (WBM 24.17)**

*Flow Mascord joined the meeting.*

* 1. Officers presented the paper and The Wales Committee was invited to decide on the recommendations in relation to the following outstanding issues:
		+ The role that the natural environment should play in this initiative in light of the further research undertaken since the last Committee meeting (Paragraphs 4.10 – 4.11)
		+ The age range at which the initiative should be targeted (Paragraphs 7.2 – 7.6)
		+ The approach that the initiative should take in addressing need (Sections 7.8 to 7.12).
	2. The Committee discussed age ranges and noted that the age at which children start school varies between four and five, depending on the local authority. The Committee agreed that the age group to focus on should cover the pre-natal period to roughly five years old.
	3. The Committee also agreed that the link between the environment and wellbeing should be the focus of the whole initiative, not just the older age group, as was proposed. The Committee noted the following points were very important:
		+ How we structure evaluation of the projects should be carefully considered in order to establish a UK-based evidence base.
		+ We should provide guidance without defining too strictly what ‘nature’ or a ‘natural environment’ comprises as this may vary between communities.
		+ Co-creation of projects was felt to be very important, which means engaging with very young children. It was noted that The Children's Commissioner has developed tools for engagement with this age group.
	4. The Committee raised the following questions for further consideration:
		+ Will we require experienced partners or provide support to the projects?
		+ Will we focus on local access/asset development and/or will we support children being transported to different locations?
		+ What type of partnership approach are we looking for?

**ACTION**: Rob Roffe and the K&L Team to provide further research on this topic

*Flow Mascord left the meeting.*

1. **Forward Work Plan (WBM 24.18)**
	1. The Committee strategy days are scheduled for 6th/7th November but these dates may be reviewed if they are too close to other confirmed meeting dates in November.
	2. The Committee suggested they invite Dr. Lindsay Cordery-Bruce (Chief Executive of WCVA) as an external speaker to a future meeting.

**ACTION**: John Rose to mention this request in his next catch up with Dr Cordery-Bruce.

1. **Feedback from Corporate Meetings**

14.1 UK Board

* + - The last Board was in March and it was agreed that the interim chair, Paul Sweeney, would continue for a short time, due to the election period.
		- The corporate plan and KPIs, as well as strategy implementation, were discussed. We are on track with regard to the forward plan.
		- A ‘people dashboard’ is being developed to illustrate skills and training gaps.
		- ARC looked at an income and cyber-security deep-dive to identify risks.
		- A forward plan of the internal audits is progressing.
		- The CAF programme has already allocated £94 million of the budget ahead of schedule.
		- The Nature and Climate fund is in high demand. Two of the successful projects are located in Wales.
		- The Board will next meet in Belfast on 26th - 27th June.

14.2 UK Funding Committee

* They will next meet on 4th July.

14.3 UK Funding Panel

* Nicola Russell-Brooks gave an update on the UK funding panel, which looks at applications from across the UK for scaling up. £4.8 million was awarded and one project – Active Community Networks – will include Wales. They engage grassroots leaders to promote young people’s voices.
* There was a debate about whether applicants should fulfill all three aims as a primary or a secondary function – it was agreed that they should all be primary aims.
* Tips for assessing applications over £10 million were circulated by Nicola Russell-Brooks.
1. **AOB**
	1. The Chair thanked all present for their attendance.