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

# PWYLLGOR CYMRU / WALES COMMITTEE

12 Mawrth 2024 / 12th March 2024

Swyddfeydd CGYLG Tŷ Ladywell, Y Drenewydd

TNLCF Offices Ladywell House, Newtown

**Agenda**

**In Attendance:**

Simone Lowthe-Thomas Wales Committee Chair

Nicola Russell-Brooks Wales Committee Member

Trystan Pritchard Wales Committee Member

Kate Young 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**

David Knott (Teams) The National Lottery Community Fund

Sally Williams (Teams) The National Lottery Community Fund (WBM 24.04)

Joanne Rich (Teams) The National Lottery Community Fund

Flow Mascord (Teams) The National Lottery Community Fund (WBM 24.06)

Jess Hey (Teams) The National Lottery Community Fund (WBM 24.06)

Jay Calderisi The National Lottery Community Fund (Minutes)

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
   1. Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Review of minutes from the Wales Committee held on the** **12th December 2023 (WBM 23.41)**
   1. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of proceedings.
3. **Matters arising from previous meeting** 
   1. Action point 6.2 of the previous minutes - The Additionality policy was circulated to Committee members for information.
   2. Action point 12.2. Research into the funds contribution to the foundational economy will be paused whilst the UK insight strategy is being developed.
   3. On action point 12.4 of the minutes, speakers on the topic of procurement and public sector duty have been added to the agenda for June.
4. **Papers by written procedure**
   1. Committee noted receipt of the papers:
      * WBM 24.01, Community Assets and Social Enterprise Committee Paper;
      * WBM 24.02, Sustainability of Third Sector Umbrella Orgs
5. **Declarations of Interest** 
   1. No declarations were received.
6. **Wales Portfolio Update**  **(WBM 24.03)**
   1. Officers provided an update on work over the last 3 months ending 1 March 2024. Highlights included:
      * NLA4A applications are high in volume and the £5 million allocated to our COL response in 23/24 has been fully committed.
      * Funding data has been sent to every Senedd Member about their constituency.
      * For Sustainable Steps, 5 face to face events have been held across Wales, as well as an online event.
      * There had been an exceptional response for the dormant assets consultation, with over 300 responses received. The draft report will be delivered to the Welsh Government in April.
   2. The Committee thanked the team for their presentation, and Ruth and the Communications team for maintaining a good social media presence, additionally noting the success of the recent Sustainable Steps green careers events.
   3. The Committee questioned whether the dormant asset consultation would result in an overlap of funding between the Fund and Welsh Government. The committee were advised that whilst the decision on final policy directions will be made by Welsh Government, further stakeholder engagement will be undertaken during the programme development phase which will seek to ensure any new funding streams developed will be complementary and additional to other sources.
7. **Wales Annual Equity Diversity and Inclusion update (WBM 24.04)**

*Sally Williams joined the meeting.*

* 1. The paper provided an overview of recent activity and statistics, advised that an EDI dashboard is being developed to support decision making and set out priorities for the coming year.
  2. The committee reflected on the extent to which we are following an equity-based (rather than equality) and anti-racist approach, the use of both quantitative and qualitative data to identify particular barriers to application faced by minorities, and to what extent EDI figures could be skewed by applicants not selecting specific beneficiary classifications if their project is not specifically targeted at those groups.
  3. The committee drew attention to similar dashboards produced by Public Health Wales showing population data to support decision-making. They noted positively that even though some of the figures in the paper are lower than population proportions, they may be more proportionate considering the general rate of engagement in community activity in most communities.
  4. In response to questions about an equity-based approach, the committee was advised that there is an ongoing discussion about redeploying resources to support underrepresented geographies and communities of interest. The committee suggested that it would be good to use local knowledge to set local priorities and then track success on a higher level with data.
  5. In terms of the application process, Officers noted that the Fund has piloted alternative application/evaluation processes before and that our fund wide team were looking further at accessibility.
  6. The committee AGREED the next steps in taking forward our EDI agenda in Wales namely:
     + Apply a regional approach to assessing progress
     + Increase outreach targeting groups supporting people from ethnically minoritized communities
     + Increase outreach targeting groups supporting people with a disability

**Chief Executive’s Update**

* 1. David Knott gave a short update.
     + We will focus on EDI and funding practice this year. For change to be successful, we need robust commitment and systems, with a mix of coordinated national and local action.
     + Next month we will publish our corporate plan (2024-2027) with KPIs and how we will support our colleagues to deliver the new strategy.
     + The general election will potentially impact social policy.
     + The National Lottery will mark its 30th birthday celebration this year.
     + Cost of Living Challenges are likely to be a dominant backdrop for years to come as there will be a gap between expectations and needs in communities and the statutory services available.
     + We need to think about how we can partner effectively with other organisations.

*Sally Williams left the meeting.*

1. **Cost of Living (COL) response: next steps (WBM 24.05)**
   1. The paper presented findings of a review on COL responsive funding and explained that whilst the demand for our funding appears to be receding, prices remain high and are exacerbating existing socio-economic challenges.
   2. The Committee APPROVED the paper recommendations to:-
      * attach fresh priorities to the £1 million allocated in the 2024-25 Wales Grant Budget for a response to the ongoing impact of the Cost of Living (CoL) on communities across Wales specifically
      * support people with the direct impact of the cost-of-living crisis in relation to food and heating
      * support organisations and community facilities experiencing current cash flow problems resulting from losses or short-term liquidity challenges as a direct result of the cost-of-living crisis
      * formally end proactive marketing of CoL grant ‘top ups’ and implement a ‘managed exit’ from a dedicated CoL budget
      * support applicants to transition away from crisis-intervention activities into building community resilience
2. **Children/ Wellbeing and the Natural Environment (WBM 24.06)**

*Flow Mascord and Jess* *Hey joined the meeting.*

* 1. The paper provided an update on recent research looking at relevant policies and practice supporting children’s wellbeing, set out a number of recommendations and sought a further steer from the Committee.
  2. The Committee highlighted their support for preventative approaches and debated the approach of adopting a broad programme, which would risk overlapping with other funders, and would like to know the parameters of a broad programme before approving as they feel this would continue ‘business as usual’. There were concerns around ‘propping up’ existing services and additionality and it was agreed that there was a desire to be innovative and identify what is missing from the current landscape to complement existing funding with special and targeted new work or pilot schemes. Particular points of interest were: developing emotional and social skills, co-production/co-creation, listening to children, and community-led social groups. It was noted that the Children’s Commissioner for Wales has created resources for engaging with and consulting children.
  3. The Committee highlighted their support for preventative approaches, highlighting the importance of the first 1000 days of a child's life due to the long-term impact at this life stage and the lack of statutory support in this area. They reiterated their desire to consider the role of the natural environment in supporting childhood wellbeing since evidence shows being outside in greenspaces in the early years is highly beneficial. It was also recognised that an outdoors focus on places and spaces would need to be adapted to local context in urban areas where green spaces may not be available.
  4. In progressing further programme development, the Committee advised of the need to focus on new and developing practice that might attract new as well as existing organisations, whilst also being conscious of historical and community led approaches to supporting child development. They advised against simply topping up existing activity funded through public bodies in order to ensure adherence with the principle of additionality.
  5. The Committee AGREED on a focus including, but not limited to, the first 1000 days and requested further research on what is and is not currently available in communities. Points to consider are:
     + How can we target innovative projects to make a bold intervention and generate learning?
     + How can we best ensure support for, developing emotional and social skills, co-production/co-creation reflecting children's voice and encourage innovative approaches?

**ACTION**: Rob Roffe and the K&L team

*Flow Mascord and Jess* *Hey left the meeting.*

1. **Final Grant Budget 2024-25 (WBM 24.07)** 
   1. The final grant budget for 2024/25 was AGREED. It was noted that allocations for future years can be flexibly moved across the years to respond to internal/external pressures.
2. **Portfolio Overview for the year ahead (update) (WBM 24.08)**
   1. The paper provided an overview of recent portfolio development and how this aligned with the Funds UK wide strategy “It Starts with Community”. It highlighted a number of themes currently under consideration and sought the Committee’s feedback.
   2. The Committee noted that analysing data pertaining to ‘need’ effectively will be key to how we prioritise people and communities who experience poverty, disadvantage, and discrimination during assessment, when making funding decisions. Enabling people to take risks in their projects by not focusing on outputs, but potential outcomes, could lead to more impactful work.
   3. The Committee specifically considered what organisations the Fund might partner with noting that the Fund could offer real value to public sector collaborations working as flexibly as we do whilst also cautioning about partnering with organisations (particularly public sector bodies) which have very different values and methods of working than the Fund and could slow down projects significantly. Suggestions for specific partners included strengthening our relationship with Public Health Wales, the arms-length charities run by public bodies and health boards, and alliances of carer organisations.

*David Knott left the meeting.*

1. **TNLCF and Youth Voice: next steps**

*Joanne Rich joined the meeting.*

* 1. Joanne presented an update and presented two options for moving forward with the Youth Voice project.
     + Option 1 = work with a trusted organisation who will provide tailored recruitment, mentoring, training, and pastoral support for young people. The roles would be remunerated equivalent to other committee members and the cost of the programme will be a further 1.5-2k per young person.
     + Option 2 = a board room apprentice scheme which has previously been adopted by the Northern Ireland directorate and is endorsed by DCMS. But the position is unpaid and has no voting rights
  2. The Committee agreed unanimously for Option 1 despite the higher cost. There were concerns about asking young people to do unpaid work in Option 2, and it was agreed that the level of pastoral support and training offered in Option 1 would better facilitate connections and development. Simone gave a positive review of the organisation from personal experience. In response to a query about attracting sufficient candidates, Joanne reassured the Committee that they have a large pool of potential candidates and work actively within the sector to create an application pipeline.

*Joanne Rich left the meeting.*

1. **Forward Work Plan (WBM 24.09)**
   1. The agenda for the West Wales strategy day in April will be shaped in the coming weeks.

**ACTION**: John Rose

* 1. External speakers from Public Health Wales will be attending the June meeting to give an overview of Socio-Economic Duty.

1. **Feedback from Corporate Meetings**

14.1 UK Board

* + - A workshop was held with DCMS in January to discuss governance review.
    - The sub-committee met and reported wellbeing survey and engagement figures.
    - Audit and risk committee will meet soon.
    - CAF meeting end of March

14.2 UK Funding Committee

* They will meet on 19th March.

14.3 UK Funding Panel

* Nicola gave an update on the UK funding panel, which looks at applications from across the UK for scaling up. The biggest area of discussion was appetite for risk. Local Authorities applying for funding will become a sensitive area of discussion as more applications come through the pipeline. There will be a dedicated Children and Young People strand coming in in June.

1. **AOB**
   1. The Chair raised the issue of the forthcoming appraisals and reappointment process of Committee members.
   2. The Chair thanked all present for their attendance.