

CRONFA GYMUNEDOL Y LOTERI GENEDLAETHOL THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY FIRST WALES COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 11th February 2020

The National Lottery Community Fund, 10th Floor, Helmont House, Churchill Way, Cardiff,
CF10 2DY
10.45 - 14.30

Committee Members:

Adrian Webb (Wales Chair)
Rona Aldrich (Wales Committee Member)
Sian Callaghan (Wales Committee Member)
Nicola Russell-Brooks (Wales Committee Member)
Helen Wilkinson (Wales Committee Member)

Staff:

John Rose (Wales Director)
Ruth Bates (Head of Communications)
Andrew Owen (Head of Funding)
Rob Roffe (Head of Knowledge & Learning)
Awel Jones (Executive Officer, Governance - minutes)
Andrew Brown (Funding Manager) - (Item 5 & 6 only)
Ewan Davison (Knowledge & Learning Manager) - (Item 7 only)
Jo Woodall (Knowledge & Learning Manager) - (Item 7 only)

1.1 Chair's welcome and apologies for absence

1.1.1 The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from the new Wales Committee member, Fadhili Maghiya, due to a failed VC connection.

1.2 Review of Minutes of the Wales Committee meeting held on the 3rd December 2020 (WBM 20/01) & Matters Arising

1.2.1 Committee confirmed that they were happy with the previous minutes.

1.2.2 Committee stressed the importance of arranging the meeting with Adam Price AM.

1.3 Note of decisions made by written procedure

1.3.1 No decisions were made by written procedure.

1.4 Declarations of Interest

1.4.1 No declarations of interest were received.

2 Wales Portfolio Update (Presentation)

- 2.1 AO updated committee on the funding overview noting the success rates of programmes. AO highlighted the backlog on the National Lottery Awards for All (NLFA) programme due to a lower number of applications going through the system during the implementation of GMS. This backlog is reducing now that GMS has successfully been implemented.
- 2.2 AO confirmed the grant budget for 2020/21 that was presented and agreed by Committee at the previous Wales Committee meeting in December. JR added that this budget is for National Lottery funding only. RA notified Committee that due to the underspend at the recent Rural programme Committee there is a modest under commitment.
- 2.3 RB updated Committee on the engagement targets and performance and highlighted the AM survey results which showed a slight reduction in familiarity but very favourable and improving favourability. This is largely due to our name and logo change. Committee reflected that the results are positive considering the circumstances of the period.
- 2.4 RB presented the media highlights noting that some of the successful grants from the Celebrate National Lottery 25 will be announced on the 14th February. The 25th birthday was a digital highlight this quarter including an animation by Aardman and a comedic film featuring celebrities. Other highlights noted include the increasing amount of video content produced to highlight projects across Wales, as well as increased listeners to the Third Sector Insight podcast.
- 2.5 RB presented the upcoming and ongoing communications plans highlighting the soft launch of the Helping End Homelessness programme on the 29th January.
- 2.6 There was a discussion focusing on the Climate Action Fund top-ups. JR noted that there has been positive feedback from this so far with the possibility of another round of top ups next year. **AW suggested doing a deep dive on this at a future Committee meeting - Action JR**
- 2.7 There was further discussion on the importance of focusing on environmental issues and the adaptation of climate change. RR noted that environment is a Knowledge & Learning theme next year.
- 2.8 RR provided an update from the Knowledge & Learning team and highlighted the below:
- In partnership with Severn Wye and Bro we will host the Rural Future Stakeholder event on the 13th March in Abergavenny, promoting their work and highlighting the value of community development in rural Wales.
 - Calan DVS have delivered the COMPASS scheme which is a unique project that works with families who chose to stay together despite issues with domestic abuse and has been evaluated by Public Health Wales. We have successfully brokered and introduction between Calan and the Wales Audit Office, who are focussing on successful Domestic Violence interventions through their Good Practice exchange. Calan will be presenting at two WAO seminars in April and are also sharing their

learning with the ACE Support Hub, as well as showcasing the difference they have made at a Senedd event in June sponsored by Jeremy Miles. We hope to follow this up by making an introduction between WAO and Safer Lives, a project that we supported through our UK Portfolio operating in Merthyr that focuses on working with DV perpetrators.

AW asked to ensure that he is invited to the Jeremy Miles event - Action AJ

- The Invest Local Evaluation will be launched at the Senedd today (11th February). Committee members are invited to visit Invest Local projects.
- We will be holding the Helping Working Families event in Cardiff on the 26th and 27th February. The Third Sector Skills projects will convene in early March which will be an opportunity to engage the success of the projects and we will be reporting this back to Committee in June.

2.9 RR provided an update on our external environment covering the below:

- December General Election update
- Ambiguity over the level of delegation to the Welsh Government in administering Shared Prosperity funds in Wales.
- WCVA staff changes
- The Local Government settlement of £4.5 billion for core funding for local authorities across Wales.
- Child Poverty update

2.10 JR provided an update on internal developments covering:

- Accommodation options for the new office due to the lease in Helmont House expiring in November 2020.
- The Funds Strategic Operating Plan is currently being updated to cover the period 2020-23.
- We are reliably informed that the policy directions for Dormant Bank Accounts and National Lottery Funding have been agreed and will be issued shortly.
- The latest figures from Camelot mark a continued improvement in income from the National Lottery. No changes to budgets have been approved as yet, but this position will be reviewed by our finance team shortly.
- Following delays to the recruitment process Adrian's appointment has been extended by 6 months. Recruitment exercise for the UK, England and Scotland Chairs have still not concluded. We hope to begin further recruitment to Wales Committee shortly.

3. Supporting Great Ideas decision making

3.1 AO presented the paper asking Wales Committee to consider the assessment report and decide whether to award a grant to Co-production Network for Wales through the Supporting Great Ideas programme. AO invited Committee to provide their comments on the project.

3.2 Committee stressed that they like the proposal and felt that there is a need for the project, however they highlighted several concerns. Firstly, it was felt that partnerships

and engagement with other sectors is needed as there is too much focus on engaging with Local Authorities. Committee suggested engaging with Public Service Boards as key strategic partners. Committee also felt that the project was too ambitious by working with all 22 Local Authorities and it would be beneficial to start the project at a smaller scale first.

3.3 Due to the above points Committee decided not to award the grant, however they suggested having a detailed conversation with Co-production Network for Wales to discuss Committee's concerns and suggestions and consider a resubmission.

4. Draft UK wide operating plan 2020-23 & Wales Business Plan 2020-21 (presentation)

4.1 JR provided a presentation on the draft UK wide operating plan for the next 3 years highlighting our principles going forward as well as our goals and strategic focus areas.

4.2 JR also highlighted the main points from the draft Wales Business plan for the year ahead including the below:

- The delivery of funding programmes in Wales, including microgrants where there is an opportunity for countries to try something different. People's projects will also now be open to everyone rather than NLFA projects only.
- Looking at learning, improving and convening projects from Helping Working Families, Helping End Homelessness and Third Sector Support.
- Developing new funding programmes such as the Young Peoples Fund and funding from dormant bank accounts.
- Future work for the Communications team including enhanced public affairs work and events such as the Big Lunch and the 3rd Big Moment.
- Ongoing internal developments such as the recruitment of non-executives, the UK board's visit to Wales on the 24th & 25th June, the relocation of the Cardiff office and changes to our advice line.

4.3 There was a discussion on plans for the UK board visit. JR confirmed that we are looking to hold the visit in either the Cardiff or Swansea area.

Lunch

AB joined the meeting

5. Coastal Communities update (WBM 20/03)

5.1 AB presented the paper which reports on the current situation regarding the sixth round of Coastal Communities Fund. AB highlighted two key differences from previous rounds of CCF:

1. It has been agreed with Welsh Government that, if the sixth round goes ahead, a single-stage application process will be implemented with a conversation with applicants beforehand like the People & Places programme. This is due to experience from previous rounds of CCF that suggests that the stage one 'assessment centre' approach will no longer be fit for purpose due to high volumes of applications.

2. The Welsh Government have indicated that they will take more of a lead on the programme to make CCF more integrated with other WG policy priorities and funding initiatives. There will be a particular focus on town centre regeneration with 50% of the budget focusing on this.

5.2 Committee discussed the importance of keeping the community aspect of the programme considering the emphasis on town centre regeneration, and also the value of supporting good quality and skilled jobs. AB noted that further clarity on WG's proposals on this will be discussed at a meeting this week.

5.3 Committee also highlighted that external advisors to the decision-making Committee will be vital.

5.4 The potential risks at the time of when the funding will be announced was discussed due to next year's election.

6. Equalities Update (WBM 20/04)

6.1 AB introduced the paper updating the Committee on the progress made in relation to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) objectives in 2018/19 and outlines actions to take forward in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

6.2 AB noted that there has been good progress in Wales, however looking at Annex A of the paper it shows that success rates for minority applications aren't improving. There are however other factors that should be considered when looking at this data as AB emphasised that the success rates of general applications have declined. It was also highlighted that we still need to make improvements on the robustness of our data as GMS has only just been implemented.

6.3 Committee noted that we need to ensure that we are accessible to the Gypsy Roma travellers' community. AB noted that we are putting additional focus on this as they are proving to be the hardest community to engage with.

6.4 JR highlighted that we will be focusing further on young people involvement and external support will be bought in for the Young People Fund programme. Our Head of Youth Voice in England, Joanne Rich, is engaging with the young people panel.

AB left the meeting

JW & ED joined the meeting

7. Knowledge & Learning Co-production (presentation)

7.1 JW and ED presented a detailed presentation on co-production across our strategic programmes.

7.2 There was a discussion among Committee querying how the Fund can make a difference with the knowledge that the Fund has, rather than just through our funding.

JW & ED left the meeting

8. Forward work plan (WBM 20/05)

8.1 JR presented the paper to Committee which presents the emerging forward work plan for Wales Committee for the next financial year. It invites Wales Committee to make suggestions regarding future topics for discussion and agenda items.

8.2 There was a discussion on new proposals for the environmental agenda.

9. Feedback from Corporate Meetings

9.1 AW noted what was discussed at the previous UK Board meeting including the below:

- Feedback from the strategic operating plan
- Annual environment report
- The successful launch of GMS
- Update on the Scotland portfolio

9.2 SC provided an update from the previous UKFC meeting noting a change in staff levels. JR noted that there is an increase of applications benefitting Wales in the UK portfolio. Upcoming agenda items are:

- The second round of digital funding
- Review of the UK portfolio
- Celebrate ongoing successes
- Safeguarding issues
- International funding
- Legacy funding

10. AOB

10.1 The location of the strategy meeting on the 2nd April was discussed. **AJ will confirm the location as soon as possible - Action**