

Number: WG25097



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Consultation Document

Future arrangements for the Welsh Government's Equality and Inclusion Programme for 2017-2020

Date of issue: 20 April 2015

Action required: Responses by 10 July 2015

Overview

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the future Welsh Government funding framework for equality and inclusion. We particularly want to engage with the Third Sector and organisations representing those with protected characteristics, as well as with interested individuals to ensure we hear the views of people with protected characteristics. We want to understand how the funding framework can best support organisations to remove the barriers which people face.

We will hold engagement events as well as inviting written responses to the consultation in order to have the greatest reach throughout Wales.

How to respond

Please respond to this consultation by completing an on-line form.

To reserve a place on one of the engagement events, please use our booking form. The engagement events will also include a consultation on the Welsh Government Equality Objectives for 2016-2020.

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

Consultation web address:

<http://gov.wales/consultations/people-and-communities/equality-inclusion-programme-consultation/?lang=en>

Contact details

For further information:
Equality and Inclusion Funding
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Welsh Government
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1UZ

e-mail: FairerFuturesMailbox@wales.gsi.gov.uk
(Please mark your query 'Equality and Inclusion Funding')

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Data protection

How the views and information you give us will be used

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full.

Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government.

This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

The Foreword

Wales is a country which is built upon the principles of fairness and equality. The Welsh Government is committed to the continuation of this inclusive approach and to the further development of equality of opportunity in Wales.

We have in place a Strategic Equality Plan which contains outcome-focused equality objectives. These objectives, published after extensive public engagement, highlight the practical differences we need to make to the lives of people in Wales.

The Third Sector has played a significant role in helping the Welsh Government meet our statutory duties in the development of our Strategic Equality Plan. As such, we recognise the importance of supporting the work of the Third Sector in assisting us with the delivery of this agenda.

The Equality and Inclusion Grant 2014-2017 funds 16 Third Sector organisations, delivering across Wales, reaching a variety of people with different protected characteristics and assisting in achieving the equality objectives. We now need to look forward to the future of this funding, post March 2017, to ensure we continue to deliver on this agenda.

Funding must provide solid outcomes and have a positive impact on those on whom it is focussed. With pressures on public spending, we must also provide the best value for money for the public pound within a robust governance framework.

We are now seeking your views to ensure our equality and inclusion funding for 2017-2020 can deliver for all.

Lesley Griffiths

Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

What is this consultation about?

The Equality and Inclusion Grant is due to end on 31 March 2017. This consultation seeks the views of all stakeholders on how funding for the Third Sector for equality and inclusion activities should be taken forward after this date. The aim of the consultation is to ensure the 2017-2020 funding is both strategic and outcome focused and also meets the needs of people with protected characteristics in Wales.

Equality Duties

The public sector equality duty is set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, and further duties are set out in the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 which came into force in April 2011.

The public sector equality duty in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 places a duty on public authorities to, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 place duties on the devolved public sector, including Welsh Government, covering equality impact assessments, publishing and reviewing Strategic Equality Plans, engagement, pay differences, procurement, reporting arrangements and equality and employment information.

The Welsh Government's equality objectives sit within the Strategic Equality Plan and underpin our work, ensuring a joined up approach to achieving better outcomes for the people. They are reflected within the Programme for Government and dovetail closely with our Tackling Poverty Action Plan. Progress against our equality objectives is captured and reported in our annual reports on equality.

Further details can be found using the following link:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/equality-diversity/?lang=en>

A consultation seeking views on the current Strategic Equality Plan 2012-2016 and the development of Equality Objectives for the next Plan 2016-2020 is running in parallel to this consultation. The Welsh Government Equality Objectives for 2016-2020 consultation documentation can be found using the following link: <http://gov.wales/consultations/people-and-communities/draft-equality-objectives-2016-2020-consultation/?lang=en>

Where are we now?

At present, funding is provided through the Equality and Inclusion Grant Programme 2014-2017. The 3 year programme funds 16 organisations (see Annex 1). A total of 191 applications were received for the grant which provides £1.64 million per year.

The programme contributes to the delivery of the Welsh Government's equality objectives within the Strategic Equality Plan and supports people across different protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

The funding demonstrates the Welsh Government's commitment to the principles of fairness and equality and we have ensured a strong balance of coverage across the protected characteristics, and a wide geographical spread.

Further details on the Equality and Inclusion Grant 2014-17 can be found here: <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/equality-diversity/equalities-inclusion-grant-2014-2017/?lang=en>

Future Equality and Inclusion funding – the need for change

We carried out a lessons learned exercise following the launch of the 2014-2017 grant and the feedback has informed this consultation. The feedback has raised the following considerations:

- Whether a grant scheme is the best tool for achieving our strategic equality objectives.
- Whether the scope of the scheme is right – should it be more focussed on specific areas, or alternatively should it be extended to support other frameworks or merged with other programmes.
- Whether there are alternative means of administering a grant scheme, e.g. outsourcing it to an external organisation.
- The need to review the application process to ensure the Third Sector has clearer expectations, given the large amount of applicants for the 2014 -2017 grant.
- The need to reduce the burden on organisations when completing their applications.
- Taking account of the fact smaller organisations have limited resource and expertise for completing applications, and do not have governance and financial control procedures to meet required standards.

We would like your views on the following proposal. We have highlighted the different aspects of the proposed funding programme on which, in particular, we would like your views:

1. A further three year funding programme
We propose to launch a further three year Equality and Inclusion funding programme from 2017 – 2020.

We propose to accept proposals for both core and project funding or a combination of both. Core funding refers to funding organisations to deliver their core business, i.e. running costs. Project funding refers to funding for specific activity i.e. the costs to deliver a project. The funding would be allocated to ensure a strong balance of coverage across the protected characteristics and a wide geographical spread.

2. Linking the Equality and Inclusion Funding to the Strategic Equality Plan

We propose to focus the purpose of the funding closely on the Strategic Equality Objectives. We are currently consulting on the Equality Objectives for 2016-2020. We are asking public bodies, Third Sector organisations and stakeholders for their views on the current equality objectives, and what the Welsh Government priorities for equality should focus on. Following the outcome of the Equality Objectives for 2016-2020 consultation, we will identify areas which we wish to target with Equality and Inclusion funding.

3. Allocating funding by policy theme

We propose to allocate funding by policy theme to attract proposals which are more focussed in specific priority areas. Following consultation on the Equality Objectives for 2016-2020, we may identify particular areas of work that support the delivery of the objectives. These areas will form the basis of our funding allocation. A similar approach was taken following the consultation for the Equality and Inclusion Grant 2014-17 and identified Centres for Independent Living and a National Hate Crime Reporting Centre, as specific priority areas in which further support and funding was required.

The funding would be open to organisations who can deliver proposals in line with the required themes.

We have given consideration to limiting our funding to organisations which state they provide support to people with a particular protected characteristic across the whole of Wales (sometimes known as 'umbrella' bodies). However, we do not think this option is workable as not all protected characteristics have a representative body and in some instances there is more than one organisation or there is a consortium of organisations which provide national coverage. Nevertheless, if you have a different view on this, please indicate this in your response.

4. Giving a greater emphasis to partnership working

We propose to specify the need for organisations to work in formal collaboration. Although partnership working was encouraged in the previous round of Equality and Inclusion funding, we propose joint working will be required in the 2017-2020 funding in order to be eligible for this funding. We see this as a way to strengthen Third Sector partnerships in Wales and assist more organisations through this funding. It will also enable smaller organisations to work together to make funding applications.

Consultation Questions

Consultation Response Form

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

email / telephone number:

Your address:

Section 1

Question 1: Is there a need for both core and project funding or should we fund only core or project funding? (see paragraph 1 above)

Question 2: Should the Equality and Inclusion funding support a balance of coverage across the protected characteristics?

Question 3: Should the Equality and Inclusion funding process take into account where activity will be delivered so we can ensure there is coverage of the funding across the whole of Wales?

Question 4: Should the Equality and Inclusion funding support the objectives in the Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020 (currently being consulted on)? (see paragraph 2 above)

Question 5: Should the Equality and Inclusion funding be allocated to proposals which are more focussed on specific priority areas? (see paragraph 3 above)

Question 6: Should partnership working be made a compulsory part of the eligibility criteria for this funding, ensuring only joint applications could be made? (see paragraph 4 above)

Question 7:

Are there any other points you think we should consider in relation to Equality and Inclusion funding?

Section 2

We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Please enter here:

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

Annex 1

Organisations who have received funding through the Equality and Inclusion Grant 2014-17

1	Age Concern North East Wales (ACNEW)
2	British Red Cross
3	Cardiff Circuit of the Methodist Church, on behalf of the Management Board of The Trinity Project
4	Disability Wales
5	Dynamix LTD
6	Women Making a Difference
7	North Wales Women's Centre Ltd
8	Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) trading under the name of Action on Hearing Loss
9	Save the Children
10	Stonewall Cymru
11	Swansea YMCA
12	Taking Flight Theatre Company
13	Victim Support
14	Welsh Refugee Council
15	Women's Equality Network Wales
16	Youth Cymru