

Third Sector Partnership Council

The Third Sector and Europe

13 February 2017
Pierhead Building, Cardiff Bay

Introduction

Amelia John, Head of Communities Division, Welsh Government and Ruth Marks, Chief Executive, WCVA

Amelia opened the session, making reference to the principle of involvement as one of the five ways of working of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) (WBFGA) and the crucial role for the third sector in helping government to involve citizens in public services.

Ruth describe the unintended consequences of Brexit experienced within our communities, highlighting the important role for third sector organisations in providing strong and positive leadership, working proactively on the front line, and highlighting relevance to the policy narrative around building resilient communities.

Presentations from third sector networks

The impact on advice and advocacy following the referendum

Fran Targett, Citizens Advice Cymru



The information and advice sector is uniquely placed to provide insights about the issues people are experiencing and are concerned about. Since the Referendum in June 2016, there has been a 30% increase in discrimination and 28% increase in hate crime. There was also a spike in immigration issues after June, mostly from EU migrants enquiring about their status.

Brexit has caused and will cause uncertainty e.g. re status; this gives rise to a risk of scams and potential for people to be abused. There are also policy implications regarding benefits, housing and debt e.g. rights of access, employment rights, human rights.

The biggest increases in enquiries have been about national citizenship and qualifying and applying for immigration and asylum statuses, plus enquiries about rights in the UK, and registration for naturalisation, racial harassment and verbal abuse.

The response of Citizen's Advice has been to provide information about Brexit and how it affects you, emphasising that nothing has changed until new laws have been made. The third sector has a role to monitor changes to legislation.

Welfare reform, PIP, ESA and impacts on financial circumstances - e.g. homelessness - remain pressing issues. Thought needs to be given to how these changes impact on people and consumers: that is what matters.

The impact of the referendum on BME children and young people and the wider BME community

Rocio Cifuentes, Ethnic Youth Support Team (EYST and a member of CWVYS)



The 2011 Census records the BME population of Wales at 6%, with concentrations in Cardiff, Swansea and Wrexham. There is a mix of communities who have been here for generations and newer communities e.g. EU migrants, and a new wave of refugees and asylum seekers. The BME population is predominantly young - e.g. in Cardiff 25% of school age population is BME.

Wales has a long standing welcoming and inclusive identity, which has been challenged by Brexit. The Remain campaign failed to address the concerns of voter's about migration.

There was a stark contrast in how young people voted compared to over 65's, leading to questions about whether a fair process is being enacted, which did not have the support of young people.

The impact of Brexit on BME young people has been:

- Unclear whether they are allowed to have a Welsh identity
- Incidents widely reported and amplified on social media - impacting on how young people feel.
- Activists against Xenocide (EU-wide project) - capturing how the sense of belonging has been affected following Brexit.

Brexit is a symptom, rather than a cause: anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim sentiment has been growing steadily since 9/11; this has defined how young people, born after 9/11, feel about themselves and their culture. There has been a lack of counter-narrative against perceptions about Muslims and asylum seekers and a general feeling that there hasn't been enough investment in racism, religion and refugees in educating young people and the education workforce.

Dangerous notions need to be tackled urgently and pro-actively, especially in the media. To make our communities resilient against extremism, we need to invest in educating our young people - opportunities exist through the WBFGA and the development of the new curriculum.

Address, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, Carl Sargeant AM



Janine Downing
@JanineDowning

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@wgcs_community Wales has the tools to create more resilient communities, the 3rd sector is needed to help it work on the ground #TSPCCymru

11:30 AM - 13 Feb 2017

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Wales has a great opportunity, with ground breaking legislation: WBFGA, VAWDASAV - the challenge is making the tools work effectively on the ground and government cannot tackle this alone.

The shape of communities across Europe is changing; and - we need to build our strength from within. Hate crime reporting is increasing and the issues must be tackled head on - politicians and press have a key role to play.

The Cabinet Secretary will make a statement in the National Assembly for Wales tomorrow (14 Feb) on resilient communities.

TSPC Network questions for the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children

Mair Rigby (gender network): can the Cabinet Secretary comment on how you see gender equality and equality and diversity in general fitting into the resilient communities agenda?

Equality lies at the heart of this agenda. We need a radical re-think about how we address poverty; we need to do more. The Cabinet Secretary has challenged his team to look at Welsh Government's processes - e.g. equality impact assessments, WBFGA assessments -

and believes that policy interventions should be based on these principles as a starting point, as opposed to reverse engineering policy to fit the assessment framework.

Catriona Williams (Children and families): amid budget cuts and uncertainty, what can WG do to ensure third sector activity is not cut disproportionately by local government and LHBs? Early intervention, prevention and citizen's voice are central principles of the new legislation?



Investment in young people is morally and fiscally right for the public sector to do. Two focal areas for the Communities and Children's Division are economic prosperity and well-being, simultaneously. WBFGA and Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act have to plan for the well-being of communities; there's a clear space for third sector delivery, where public services are unable to deliver. Further difficult discussions about funding are expected in terms of how we use our available resources to make a change.

John Puzey (Homes for All Cymru): The Cabinet Secretary rightly wants providers of social housing, supported accommodation and housing related support to help tenants/service users to engage with Education Training and Employment (ETE) programmes... but while the sector is keen to engage, there are worries that there will be less provision out there post-Brexit to enable this to happen. The question is, how can the sector engage in their ETE priorities when the EU funded schemes get removed?

It is impossible to plan on a firm basis in respect of back-filling EU funded interventions, when so many unknowns still exist. The housing sector is nimble and adept at doing things differently; but it is unclear to the Cabinet Secretary whether the 'housing plus' model is effective.

Barbara Natasegara (Community Justice Cymru): Within the changing commissioning environment in Wales - Brexit, regionalisation, local re-commissioning - how will the Cabinet Secretary ensure that all Third Sector VAWDASV Services are safeguarded and able to continue to deliver services to all victims of VAWDASV, particularly in light of Welsh Government monies delivered through Local Authorities?

The Cabinet Secretary acknowledged this as an important question as the Welsh Government has legislated in this area. There is need to consider which services work well, where and what services are required. The Cabinet Secretary is working with the VAWDA Working Group to review funding mechanisms.

Maria Mesa (Women Connect First): how will the Welsh Government and third sector work together on Brexit on the worsening situation for BME communities? The BME sector has been shrunk; the presence of BME representatives in public services - e.g. Cardiff has a BME population of 20%, whereas the workforce of Cardiff Council represents 4%.

The understanding of refugees, asylum seekers and religion is generally very low and education is crucial - across all ages. The Cabinet Secretary expressed frustration about the lack of diversity on public bodies and boards. He referred to the Planning Act, which includes a requirement to ensure gender balance on Boards for regional planning committees.

Sheila Hendrickson-Brown (C3SC, representing WACVC): what will be the successor arrangements to Communities First; and how do we bring community voice into the new approach?

Join ups between existing programmes need to be made to ensure they are reaching the people who need the services most. More than £300m has been invested in the Communities First programme, and poverty statistics remain high. The Public Health Wales evidence on ACEs shows dramatic effects of adverse childhood experiences. Welsh Government has piloted intensive work in Flint, mapping ACEs, and treating and supporting young people to address those issues, rather than re-offending. The result has been 19 of the 20 most prolific re-offenders in North Wales have not re-offended. If the equality impact and WBFGA assessments are done properly, at the heart of the process, change is possible. More detail will be published in the statement tomorrow (14 February).

Presentation on EU Transition

Desmond Clifford, Director of the Office of the First Minister



WCIA

@WCIA_Wales

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EU migration is positive & Wales will still need migrant workers post #Brexit - Desmond Clifford, director of @fmwales office.
#TSPCCymru

12:23 PM - 13 Feb 2017 · The Pierhead

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Whitehall is using the word 'exit' from the EU, whereas the focus for Welsh Government is on 'transition' from one kind of relationship with the EU to another with EU colleagues, friends and collaborators. The perspective of Welsh Government is to ensure the terms and conditions are as advantageous as possible for Wales.

The EU that we will leave is very different from the one that the UK joined in 1973, and the UK is a different nation, including as a result of devolution - with impacts on public policy and funding mechanisms. Therefore returning to the status quo of 1973 is not possible.

Welsh Government has produced a [White Paper, Securing Wales' Future](#), which outlines our key areas of interest:

- **Single Market** - the closer we remain to the Single Market, the better off we will be; Wales is calling for 'un-fettered access' to the Single Market (e.g. import/export tariffs)
- **Migration from the EU** - Welsh Government is very positive towards migration. The White Paper sets out the facts - e.g. under 70,000 EU migrants working in Wales and they are on average more likely to be in work, than not in work and contribute to our economy. A continuing need for migrants is forecasted to fill skills gaps and demands in specific sectors and the long term employment needs of our economy. Welsh Government believes that current EU citizens living in Wales should be legally supported to remain.
- **EU finance model** - is favoured by Welsh Government because it takes into account need, not just population. Wales uses approx £680m of EU funding p/a through e.g. Structural Funds, Rural Development Programmes, Horizon 2020 and other smaller pots of funding. Funding is guaranteed, more or less, until 2020, even if the UK exits the EU beforehand. Wales needs to be compensated within the Welsh Block Grant; the UK Government should be able to support this as a result of not having to £12bn to the EU p/a. This would enable us to continue agricultural and regional development.
- **Impact of EU exit on devolution in Wales** - it is expected that in 2019 EU level of governance will be removed, and legal competence will be returned to the UK. Some areas of UK legislative competence will have a specific Welsh dimension and Wales will need an open dialogue with the UK government about the resulting legislative/regulatory framework. State Aid machinery will also need to be built consistently across the UK Nations.
- **Values** - the gradual expansion of equalities, human rights and environmental legislation has been positively impacted by a significant body of EU legislation. Welsh Government supports these principles, and believes the UK's exit from the EU should not adversely impact on progressive legislation.
- **Transition** - the UK Government has indicated it will trigger Article 50 by the end of March 2017. As yet, we don't know much about how the EU will approach the negotiations. Elections are coming up this year in key EU Member States- France, Germany, Netherlands. This will impact on the negotiations. We need to consider what kind of country do we want to be, and can we be, outside of the EU? How do we continue to be good EU citizens? We will need to work harder to work with our European neighbours - how do we resource this, etc.

This is the beginning of a dialogue, with answers unfolding over the next five years.

A Brussels perspective on the EU transition process

Jana Hainsworth, President, Platform of European Social NGOs and Secretary General of Eurochild

Jana explained her role of Secretary General of EuroChild, as well as President of the Social Platform of European NGOs', a network of [48 EU networks](#) active in different thematic areas.

The migrant crisis, Greek Debt crisis and terrorism have resulted in national governments rolling back human rights and principles of our democracy, leaving scope for identity politics to play a destructive role in the politics of fear.



Sandra Clubb

@tywodyd



'Voices of young people more important than ever given the generational divide in the #brexit vote' @JanaHainsworth

@eurochild #TSPCCymru

1:03 PM - 13 Feb 2017 - Cardiff, Wales



The EU's capacity to adapt and react to these kinds of changes is being tested - e.g. forthcoming elections in the Netherlands, France and Germany.

In relation to the UK's exit from the Union, the EU will want to prove itself as a tough negotiator to protect the interests of the remaining 27 Member States, and present a solid, united bloc of members.

The negotiation will be through the European Commission, so the Member States will not be around the table. The EU Parliament will have access to all information on the negotiations (Member States do not) and will be entitled to vote - important point of influence for civil society. The impact of the loss of the UK Government's financial contribution of £12bn and what it means for the EU's budget must be considered.

Negotiations are expected to start in June - October 2018, with time for the European Council and Parliament to vote. There may need to be an EU transitional treaty.

The EU has encouraged and facilitated the exchange of good practice to promote progressive approaches - e.g. what works in addressing child poverty and social exclusion - with an outcome of creating a UK alliance on investing in children. It is hoped that the UK Government will support the continuation of those channels for communication. EuroChild has members from outside of the European Union, but it can be difficult for the EU to fund that activity.

EU wide NGOs networks are working with UK members to ensure the progressive legislation is retained. Welsh civil society networks will have counterparts in EU networks that can help with the transition process. Please see [list of Social Platform members](#).

The possibility for the UK to remain involved in Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+ has wider positive impacts on EU Member States, and should be encouraged to continue.

Investment in opportunities to educate young people, to engage and debate is crucial. The need to activate citizens to be more engaged and challenging of negative discourse is an opportunity. Strong leadership is required from civil society and government.

Social Platform members and EU NGOs are committed to continuing dialogue with UK partners during this transition process.

Discussion Groups

Themed discussion groups were asked to consider seven standard questions:

- 1. What are the main concerns of your networks and the recipients of their services of leaving the European Union?*
- 2. What are the implications for your networks if the UK were to leave the single market?*
- 3. What are the implications for your networks if the free movement of people arrangements change?*
- 4. How would an approach to immigration linking migration to jobs impact on your networks' organisations?*
- 5. How important is it to your networks that Wales does not lose funding as a result of leaving the EU?*
- 6. What are the social and environmental protections most valued by your networks?*
- 7. What are the advantages for your networks of leaving the EU?*

The following points are a summary of the issues raised in the discussions and any figures utilised have not been checked and are representations of the individuals view.

Well-being in Wales, implications for the environment, sport, arts and volunteering

- Transfer of EU legislation into UK law may result in environmental protection becoming weakened or not kept updated. Risk of loss of accountability for breaches of legislation.
- Sport gets a high level of funding from the EU and currently saves the NHS £63m in preventing obesity, mental health & well-being.
- There is a role for WCVA in showcasing the impact that the sector makes, more resource needs to be put into things like SROI.
- Most of the current environmental legislation is derived from the EU and all of it is extremely important. Air Quality, Water Framework directive etc
- Working time directive - key for our health and wellbeing. Most EU legislation focussed on things that directly or indirectly help look after health and well-being e.g. working hours directive, Holiday pay, SMP etc. How will these rights be effected?
- Leaving the single market would result in changes to agricultural tariffs for farmers. This could lead to farms becoming abandoned, which has economic and environmental implications.
- Volunteers from all over the world have come to large sporting events held in Wales - e.g. championship league finals. Brexit may hinder the ability to do so and lead to loss of cultural exchange.
- WG are discussing a proposal based around economic migrants rather than EU migrants which may lead to the loss of valuable cultural exchanges brought about previously by hosting international volunteers.

- Welsh Government funding should reward success, collaboration and integration, to maximise efficiency.
- Brexit offers the opportunity for a new take on CAP - which offers genuinely sustainable land management policy.
- It's possible that the level of third sector engagement/influencing ability may increase if policy is more localised.
- No advantages could be identified in terms of arts, sports and volunteering specifically.

Community safety and cohesion with a focus on hate crime and equality and diversity

- The rise in hate crime is causing damage to community cohesion. This has an effect on children in schools, who are asked things like 'how long have your parents been here?' Hate crimes are still being unreported.
- People feel they have been given permission to say the unsayable.
- Muslim women and EU migrants are being targeted. People are being abused in the workplace as well as within the community.
- There is an emotional and physical effect on people, who feel they don't belong any more. Their Welsh identity is being questioned.
- There are social divisions between voters, divisions in class. But we can't turn condemnation into vilification of people and must take care not to inflate divisions. People are looking for scapegoats.
- There is a risk of increased poverty if investment leaves Wales, with unintended consequences relating to jobs.
- There's an issue for the universities around both income and labour - they are a major employer. They will recruit from further afield than EU.
- There will be an impact on health services and the care sector.
- There will be an expense for employers in bureaucracy
- Opportunities for young people will fall - e.g. ERASMUS. Funding for exchange programmes should be protected.
- The stories of people who were asked to come to UK are important - people have short memories. Is there a role for the third sector role to give voice to these stories?
- The immigration debate should be broadened.. There is a false notion that society was monochrome until migrants arrived and there is a need to counter the desire to restore that false perception of the past. .
- There is an assumption that the problem is getting 'them' to be like 'us', but societies have always been diverse. Exclusion leads to one outcome. There is a need for positive message about migration.
- What's the role of the media? Is there a role for the third sector in educating the press?
- Suggestion of hearing more from English, Irish, Scots who have moved to Wales - they are migrants into Wales. Would help change the language.
- The impact of trafficking hard to trace. EU exit may make it harder to share intelligence. Trafficking could increase if forced labour 'needed' following exit.
- The police are reacting, not preventing, hate crime. The view was expressed that the Hate Crime Criminal Justice Board is less focussed on education about the issues and preventing bullying.
- We don't know what the opportunities are, having been with EU for so long.
- There is the potential for the sector to shape the agenda going forward.

- A figure was quoted of 55% of Europeans would vote for something similar to America's Muslim ban - the feelings are there.

Children and Young People

- Concerns about lack of funding opportunities, to finance projects which create opportunities for young people to travel, learn, work and volunteer abroad eg Horizon, Erasmus +, ESF
- Lack of funding means narrowing of horizons, putting young people at risk of missing out on cultural experiences.
- Opportunities for young people to study in EU countries are already being restricted and many looking elsewhere eg USA. What will be the role of the PISA standards moving forward.
- The change to freedom of movement will impact on employment - certain skill sets not available in UK. Will people want to work here if UK not part of the EU?
- The new curriculum looks at developing global citizens. How will this be delivered following Brexit? Does this present an opportunity for us to look at more international funding?
- Feeling that the EU is more sympathetic to the needs of young people than the UK particularly in terms of language skills
- Brexit has meant more people have become engaged in politics - how can we empower practitioners to facilitate effective conversations with young people - more information & skills needed to have informed debate. Social media offers an opportunity for young people to react to things that are happening.
- Recognition of intergenerational split about EU. Many young people have grown up belonging to the EU so now need to know 'what is my place in the world'
- How do we keep certain EU legislation that benefits us - safety of toys, car seats, phone roaming, health insurance.
- Education is the key to helping young people and should be an entitlement for migrants along with language support. There are mixed message around migration - WG welcoming of migrants but different messages in media & various parts of Wales. There has been no conversation from those that voted to leave/stay to understand reasons behind votes.

EU funding, focus to include Structural and Investment Funds and other sources e.g. Erasmus, Horizon 2020

- The UK Government has guaranteed current funding (Structural Funds, Horizon 2020, ETC programmes) to cover the funding for all projects agreed before the point at which the UK leaves the EU, even where funding continues beyond the point of departure.
- There are no guarantees around what will happen after the current programme ends, and how the money will be repatriated. WEFO are currently working on the assumption that there will be some replacement although there is no idea what this will be and how it will be administered.
- To help plan for what could come next WEFO is considering what aspects of the current programmes are worth preserving, with a focus on thinking about *how* the money should be deployed rather than *what* the money should be spent on. Questions that are being considered are:
 - Should future funding be around set programmes as the current rounds are?
 - Should the areas that funding is currently distributed within e.g. WW&V and East Wales be kept or should Wales be looked at as one?

- Should the funding be based on need or opportunity?
- The current EU funding arrangements offer benefits in terms of length of funding agreements. Welsh Government funding tends to be annually whereas EU funding is over longer periods. If funding was to become more regionalised it could be linked to similar arrangements as the city deals (20 year funding with reviews every 5 years to ensure impact).
- Anecdotally there is a feeling that access to Erasmus+ will continue but no guarantees can be made.
- Cross border working was considered to be key to maximising future impact and this must be preserved where possible through programmes like the current ETC programmes, including the Ireland Wales cross border programme with Ireland.
- Involvement in EU networks is key and it is possible that engagement in some networks will still be possible once we are no longer a member state. For example, Euro child was set up to not to be member state specific.
- To continue involvement participation resource is key and should be considered. An example was given around the introduction of the Children's Commissioner in Wales. This followed a piece of work around transnational co-operation and best practice sharing. It was felt that the commissioner would not have been introduced in Wales without this co-operation.
- It was felt that any future funding should have a specific focus on evaluation with the potential to transfer good practice into the mainstream.

Public services

- The replacement of EU funding and concern that the repatriation of funding to the third sector would not be a priority, and the funding may be more difficult for smaller organisations to access.
- There could be more competition for funding post Brexit - strained funding pots
- The third sector needs to support and empower Welsh Government in the transition process,
- The potential loss of relationship we have with Europe (not EU)
- Concerns over future membership of European Networks - do you have to be a Member State to be a part of some of these networks? Can UK organisations be associate members? If so, which networks? This is not clear at the moment and concerned the group.
- Third sector groups are preoccupied and concerned with the next 12 months and can't foresee to 2020
- 20% import/export hike on aids and equipment will be catastrophic to the sight loss community
- NHS - increase cost of medical/diagnostic equipment
- Consumer law will be impacted. CAB will be under even more strain.
- Lower quality standards will seem like the favourable option due to higher import/export tariffs - detrimental for medical equipment
- Young people - geographical proximity to EU countries - concerns over what Wales will put in place to replace the benefits of the freedom of movement of people.
- When faced with adversity there is a surge in 'British spirit' - capturing that energy in a positive manner is an opportunity
- Immigration linking migration to jobs and employability should not be the only narrative - life, education, family - we are all human beings and should be treated as such.

- It would have a massive impact on agriculture - food chain. Movement of people and the impact on immigration of farmers, pickers, labourers
- Tourism in Wales. Wales has many beautiful beaches thanks to EU environmental standards.
- The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) will be harder to deliver this act if environmental standards are dropped.
- Uncertainty is the opportunity to reunify
- Radical - write our own legislation, no more procurement (potential for 3rd sector to be treated differently)
- Opportunity to reprioritise funding