

One Voice Wales : Welsh Government P I's for July to September 2016-17

1. One performance measure as an indicator of membership coverage.

One Voice Wales suggested indicator - % of local councils in membership (Population Indicator)

Currently 548 – 75% in membership...we are still chasing several Council's regarding membership.

The Swansea and NPT Committees have invited non-member councils to attend in an observer capacity on one occasion and this did produce one additional Swansea member – Pontlliw and Tircoed. Members have been asked to use their influence to encourage others to join and this did produce an invitation to make a presentation by Blaengwrach CC.

In RCT/Merthyr/Caerphilly/Newport/Monmouthshire and Bridgend/Cardiff & Vale we are encouraging them into membership attaching the Benefits of Membership leaflet and inviting the councils to send representatives to the next Area Committee or offering to go and speak to the council.

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2. One performance measure relating to income.

One Voice Wales suggested indicator - % of estimated income received (Performance Measure: how well did we do?)

Membership income for 2016/17 received to date: £181856

% Estimated Membership Income received 99.37%

What amounts have already been raised?

Training - £9733

Consultancy - £12306

Sponsorship - £1015

Conferences - £17072 (Less expenditure)

What total amounts for the year are expected?

Training - £17000

Consultancy - £17000

Sponsorship - £20000

Conferences - £18025 (Less expenditure)

3. One or two performance measures to show how OVW is effectively supporting the sector.

One Voice Wales suggested indicators:

a) % of members councils satisfied with advice services (Performance Measure: how well did we do?) *Annual Survey – no issues this year to date and none in second quarter*

b) % of member councils satisfied with our training services? (Performance measure: how well did we do?)

To date we have received 100% positive feedback on training courses run.

4. One or two performance measures to show how OVW is representing the sector.

One Voice Wales suggested indicators:

a) No. of consultation responses made on behalf of local councils (Performance measure: how much did we do?)

One Voice Wales on behalf of community and town councils across Wales have made representations on various consultations over the last three months and 4 other consultations remain under consideration, including:

- 1. Priorities for the National Assembly for Wales Equality,*
- 2. Local Government and Communities Committee,*
- 3. Draft Technical Advice Note 24 (The Historical Environment) and*
- 4. Fuel Poverty Scheme to Replace NEST.*

b) % of members satisfied with representational service? (Performance measure: how well did we do?)

Annual Survey – positive feedback via Area Committee's / NEC to date

Liaison between One Voice Wales officers and other external bodies continues to occur, delivering increased co-operation and partnership

working across sectors. Officers also attend numerous seminars and presentations in order to keep abreast with and contribute to current issues and activities. Elected members remain increasingly concerned with the agenda of potentially devolving services and facilities from unitary authorities to the local level (without necessarily having sufficient time, expertise or guidance in place to enable local members to consider the issues properly), and this entire issue is now critical in a number of counties, in particular in Powys.

Other representational activities

Cynnal Cymru planning to join forces with OVW to follow up work on climate change – subject to Big Lottery Grant application being successful.

Engaged with WG Finance Committee on land transaction tax legislation.

2 Pensions Seminars held (one in SE Wales and the other in SW Wales)

Charters – progress

North Wales

***Ynys Mon** member councils are keen to engage more actively with the County Council at this time. They have asked for the current charter to be reviewed. It is felt that the current charter is one sided, with the County Council stipulating when and how they will call upon the community and town councils to impart information or discuss working in partnership. We have a newly appointed representative on the Link Forum representing One Voice Wales which was initiated by myself in order to have a more coherent relationship with the County Council.*

South Wales

***Bridgend** has reviewed its charter with its c&tcs
Cardiff still has no charter ccs unwilling to sign over planning concerns
Vale of Glamorgan appears to be working well with its communities
Monmouthshire had concerns about lack of communication but through OVW liaison with CEO of MCC new working arrangements put in place and CEO due to attend next Area Committee meeting
Newport mixed reports some ccs say liaison is good others disagree*

Caerphilly there is good communication and support but on other occasions C&TC's aren't consulted on issues.

RCT members reported lack of liaison OVW CO met with Head Democratic Services who expressed concern about lack of agenda items for meetings further meeting to take place early Nov to discuss relaunch of Charter and joint working framework

Blaenau Gwent liaison meetings cancelled because of lack of agenda items.

Torfaen C&TC's report good working relationships

Swansea Charter in place – Democratic Services Officer has been requested to review its implementation.

Neath/Port Talbot – Almost at the stage of gaining approval and the Committee has been addressed by a presenter from the Young People's Co-ordinator in NPT CC.

(Community Liaison Committees in place in both Swansea and NPT areas)

Mid and West Wales

All five Area Committees have previously endorsed the model charter in principle as the way forward, with the missing stage in each area being to progress an agreed "action plan" to accompany this document. This process is still being progressed, against the back-drop of other pressures. Discussions are continuing at officer level between One Voice Wales and Ceredigion County Council in particular on the approach to taking these matters forward.

Specific talks in relation to the option of "clustering" councils for the purpose of running certain services have taken place at Powys and their leadership has engaged formally with One Voice Wales in order to progress this. In Carmarthenshire, the Liaison Forum, at which representatives and officers from both sectors come together to discuss common issues, continues its good work; this is seen as a model of good practice and is being recommended in other areas across Wales, with Ceredigion County Council in particular looking at introducing a similar model there. Pembrokeshire has recently introduced such a Forum, and its work has commenced with good feedback from members.

The charter between the Brecon Beacons National Park and Community and Town Councils in the park area continues in place, with local council members having attended monitoring and review sessions, and in addition One Voice Wales members participate in the Park's scrutiny

process on a regular basis, providing feedback to colleagues at Area Committee meetings. At Pembrokeshire, the Chief Executive Officer of the Pembrokeshire National Park has promised a series of regular meetings with Committee delegates.

5. One performance measure to show how OVW is working collaboratively with partners.

One Voice Wales suggested indicator - Number of joint working arrangements in progress?
(Performance measure: how much did we do?)

<i>Sustrans Cymru</i>	<i>National Access Forum</i>
<i>Cynnal Cymru</i>	<i>CAT External Advisory Group</i>
<i>Woodlands Division WG</i>	<i>Auto Enrolment Services</i>
<i>Planning Aid Wales</i>	<i>National Assets Working Group</i>
<i>PLANED</i>	<i>Neath PSB</i>
<i>Powys CC</i>	<i>WLGA</i>
<i>Vale of Glamorgan</i>	<i>Public Services Ombudsman</i>
<i>Health Boards x 6</i>	<i>Independent Remuneration Panel</i>
<i>Charters</i>	<i>Information Commissioners Office (Wales)</i>
<i>Gwent PCC</i>	<i>WAO Local Councils Liaison</i>
<i>SLCC</i>	
<i>NALC</i>	<i>Snowdonia Forum</i>
<i>Participation Cymru</i>	<i>Keep Wales Tidy</i>
<i>Diversity in Democracy</i>	<i>National Parks</i>

