

## **Isle of Anglesey Partnership Agreement between the Local Authority and the third sector**

### **Introduction**

This is a partnership agreement between the third sector and the local authority on Anglesey. It provides a framework within which the development of shared aims, objectives, mutual respect and understanding will assist the ability of the Authority and third sector partners to improve the quality of life for the people of Anglesey. We recognise that we can achieve more for the people and communities of Anglesey by working together, particularly in times of financial constraint.

This partnership agreement and our partnership play a fundamental role in supporting the Council's corporate priorities. Our third sector partners tend to be 'in touch' with the community and play a key role in facilitating the involvement of citizens and engaging with them in the design, delivery and improvement of all public services.

The Partnership Agreement is intended to guide the process of working in partnership to deliver public services. The Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee has an important role in implementing the Anglesey Partnership Agreement

This Partnership Agreement was agreed by the partners for implementation from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2020. It will be reviewed and revised biennially.

### **The role of the Medrwn Môn**

Medrwn Môn will be co-signatories of the partnership agreement. They are the umbrella organisation that support, promote and advise local voluntary and community organisations. They support voluntary action by supporting volunteering, advising on good practice, providing information on funding sources along with a wide range of other services.

The term 'Third Sector' as referred to in this document incorporates voluntary and community organisations and volunteering interests including UK wide charities and their local branches, county based organisations, informal community groups, social enterprises, co-operatives and self-help support groups.

The partnership agreement will give opportunities for the voice of the Third Sector and their service users to be heard and ensure recognition of the significant impact that the contribution of voluntary organisations has on the individuals of Anglesey.

### **The aims of the Partnership Agreement**

Through the Partnership Agreement, we will develop our partnership between the local authority and the third sector on the Isle of Anglesey by helping us to:-

- Communicate better with each other;
- Understand and respect each other's views;

- Work together more effectively to support the people of Anglesey and develop services collaboratively.

Our shared aim is to provide quality services to the people of Anglesey. We recognise that there is added value in working in partnership towards common aims and objectives. Voluntary action and community involvement are an essential part of an inclusive and democratic society and add value to the quality of life on Anglesey. It is recognised that the third sector makes a valuable contribution to the economic, environmental and social development of Anglesey. The differences and diversity between the public sector and the third sector should be respected and valued. Each sector has its own set of responsibilities and constraints. A key focus of our partnership working will be on the wider good for Anglesey and its citizens. This will override individual agendas during our partnership work together.

The relationship between the sectors will be open and respectful and demonstrate trust. Each sector should strive for excellence, equity of access and embrace the principles of sustainable development. When working together, contributions from each sector should be given equal consideration and respect. Organisations in each sector have the right to contribute to, and challenge, matters that affect them.

**Together, through this partnership agreement ,we will:**

- Help to foster a thriving, diverse and independent third sector on Anglesey with funding and contracting arrangements which comply with the law and financial procedures;
- Promote the effective governance and management of both the local authority and the third sector. It will underpin a shared commitment to building the capacity of third sector organisations where consistent with a shared strategic direction;
- Help to ensure that the third sector not only participates in joint working and partnership structures but exercises a real influence on the planning and development of local services and public initiatives;
- Continue to develop the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee as a liaison mechanism which is integrated with the public sector's decision making processes and the wider joint planning arena. The Committee will have representation from both public and third sector partners;
- Encourage all sectors to learn from best practice and seek continuous improvement in the planning and delivery of services;
- Whilst noting that the third sector is not a unitary body, it is envisaged that all representatives will have appropriate authority to follow up any apparent breaches of the Compact within their own sector. In the case of the public sector partners, they will have the authority to seek resolution at a senior level if necessary;
- Develop a shared action plan to deliver the objectives of the Partnership Agreement and produce an annual progress report to the local authority and Medrwn Môn for distribution to third sector organisations;

- Help to ensure a wider and more sustained recognition of the social value of volunteering, in terms of both the personal and professional development of the volunteer and the public services provided.

### **Undertakings of Partners**

The local authority and the third sector will support the development, implementation and monitoring of the Partnership Agreement, in line with the agreed aim and principles. We will also implement the requirements of the Anglesey Code of Practice on Funding the Third Sector and the Volunteering Policy as endorsed by Executive in Spring 2020. This support will include:-

- The partners undertake to maintain high standards of governance and conduct and meet reporting and accountability obligations to funders and users;
- Partners will be encouraged to develop quality standards appropriate to the organisation, including promoting best practice and equality of opportunity in activities, employment, involvement of volunteers and service provision;
- Partners will involve service users wherever possible and carers where appropriate in the development and management of activities and services; Service user consultation and feedback conducted by the third sector will be communicated to the local authority to support service planning and delivery;
- Partners will ensure that key staff are able to participate in relevant partnership working arrangements to support this Partnership Agreement;
- The partners endorse the need for procedures for resolving disagreements;
- The partners will review the operation of the partnership agreement biennially;
- All partners must seek permission from the nominated officer beforehand if any funding is proposed as match-funding for any other funding stream;
- The partners undertake to respect and be accountable to the law. In the case of third sector charities, they will observe the accounting framework and other appropriate guidance as laid down by the Charity Commission and other regulatory bodies.

### **Communication and Engagement**

Isle of Anglesey and Medrwn Môn will operate within the Participation Cymru ten principles of engagement. The local authority has a joint engagement and consultation board with Medrwn Môn to ensure overview of local authority engagement and consultation, consistency and quality of activity with a range of stakeholders.

### **Annual Engagement Event**

Each year the Local Authority and Medrwn Môn will host an engagement meeting between third sector organisations on Anglesey. This event will be open to all and not restricted to organisations affiliated to Medrwn Môn.

The Local Authority and Medrwn Môn will organise an event to engage with third sector organisations. At the event we will:

- Share objectives for the coming year and outline immediate priorities.
- Take and respond to questions on each of the above.

- Take and respond to general questions

### **Third Sector Contact Database**

Medrwn Môn will maintain a database of community contacts in order to communicate relevant pieces of information to people in local communities. It is recommended that all third sector organisations register their details with Medrwn Môn in order to receive updates and relevant information regarding local issues.

### **Equality and Diversity**

The Local Authority, Medrwn Môn and the third sector will abide by the provisions of the Equality Act 2010. Both the Welsh and English languages will be treated equally by the Services.

### **Disputes and Concerns**

If the Local Authority or Medrwn Môn, either collectively or individually, have concerns regarding the implementation of the Partnership Agreement, they will agree to take part in mediation meetings for resolution either informally or formally by the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

### **Governance Arrangements**

Both the Local Authority and Medrwn Môn will have governance arrangements in order to deliver the partnership agreement and to protect individuals and staff. Any concerns and disputes will be discussed in the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

### **Review**

On a biennial basis, the local authority and Medrwn Môn will review the performance and effectiveness of the partnership agreement.