

VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE, 13 OCTOBER 2016

Report by Medrwn Môn

Strategy/Vision regarding working in partnership with the voluntary sector in Anglesey.

1. Why create a strategy / vision?

There are significant changes in circumstances which affect the relationship between Anglesey County Council and the voluntary sector on the Island e.g. financial, legislative, social (*specific examples*) requiring a better understanding regarding what the sector has to offer to work more effectively in partnership with the Council for the benefit of the community and Anglesey.

The challenge that faces us is to transform the way we sustain and develop the services in the community and, where appropriate, use the strengths within the sector and the community.

This strategy will harness the social capital of our communities, create new useful contacts by developing and improving resilience and welfare.

Also, the strategy will co-ordinate what has previously been developed e.g. the Compact, the Funding Code and Voluntary Policy and Partnership Policy.

2. What is our understanding of the voluntary sector?

The voluntary sector in Wales is defined as: 'voluntary bodies, community groups, volunteers, self-help groups, co-operative companies and social enterprises, religious organisations and other bodies and organisations that do not operate for profit and which benefit the communities and people of Wales.

(See also the definition in the Financing Code)

Social capital refers to the network of contacts amongst individuals and organisations who live and work in that particular community so that it can operate effectively.

This strategy will enable us to understand which services the voluntary sector can offer but on the other hand there will be an understanding regarding what is not suitable for them to undertake.

3. Purpose – How will this assist us?

The strategy/vision will enable us to work more effectively with our partners in the voluntary sector and to develop structured opportunities for them to provide services that will benefit the community.

This will be achieved through the following:

- i. **Public Engagement** – the right for individuals and organisations to voice an opinion; engage with individuals and ascertain

opinions; make a difference to individuals/organisations by enabling implementation; improving equality through a strong joint voice.

- ii. **Increasing Support** – discover local needs and aspirations; understand local gaps and needs; plan and co-ordinate services to respond to gaps and local needs; trust and develop the local ability to respond; look at sustainability resources; support continuity by strengthening local networks.
- iii. **Collaboration** – create a relationship with partners; build a cross-sector relationship; support the provision of services by one or more providers in the voluntary sector; reduce the cultural barriers and work in partnership.

4. Benefits – What difference will this make?

The following differences will be made by developing the strategy/vision:

Better understanding of the number and size of activities the voluntary sector provides on Anglesey.

Better understanding of needs without response leads to better planning.

Create a response framework

Recognise the right of the voluntary sector to challenge decisions through the Citizen Panel /

Contribute and enrich the Scrutiny Structure

Arrange to co-ordinate and create new structures in response to needs

Current analysis of gaps in services

Improve the cross sector working relationship

Improve planning to expand finance and resources

Recognise which partner can deliver a service most effectively

Better co-ordination to assess and finance the needs that arise

More opportunities to develop the skills of volunteers

Create a quality assurance framework for the sector

Consistent approach to solving problems in Anglesey. Co-ordinate additional external resources.

5. Current supporting Plans / Policies

National:

Alternative delivery models in public service delivery

The Principles for Working with Communities

Volunteering Statement

Local:

a. Compact

b. Financing Code

- c Volunteering Policy
- ch Partnership Strategy
- d Local Voices
- dd Engagement Board
- e Citizenship Panel
- AYB etc.

6. Current Contacts

Contact Committee
Engagement Board
AOHN
Partnership and Young People Board
IDB
Partneriaeth Môn Partnership
Language Forum