

Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council

Your local county voluntary council



11. Campaigning and influencing

11.7 The National Assembly for Wales Commission

Overview

The National Assembly for Wales Commission was created by the Government of Wales Act 2006. It is the corporate body of the National Assembly for Wales and is responsible for the provision of property, staff and services to support Assembly Members. This information sheet provides further details about the Commission; its role and remit and its relevance to the third sector in Wales.

Role and Remit

The Commission consists of the Presiding Officer and four other Members nominated by the main political parties. The staff of the Commission are headed by the Clerk to the Assembly who is also the Commission's Chief Executive. The Commission staff includes all of the front of house staff at the National Assembly; the Assembly's internal and external communications staff, the Members Research Service and the Assembly Parliamentary Service such as committee clerks amongst others.

Membership

The Assembly Commissioners were elected by Members in Plenary on 25 May 2011. Along with the Presiding Officer, Rosemary Butler, who chairs the Commission, the members are: Sandy Mewies AM, Angela Burns AM, Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM and Peter Black AM.

Opportunities for the third sector

The Commission aims to improve both understanding of, and engagement with, the work of the National Assembly for Wales (NAfW). This means that there is an opportunity for the third sector to make suggestions to the Commission about how to achieve this aim and in particular how to effectively involve the sector in its work. The Voices for Change Cymru project will be concentrating on this as a key priority and we would welcome any suggestions from organisations who may have ideas on this topic.

It is also useful for third sector organisations to consider ways of engaging with the Assembly Business directorate. The committee service and member's research service in particular can be very helpful to organisations who wish to get involved with Assembly

Business. You may wish to consider providing a description of your organisation's activities and area of interest to committee clerks so that they keep you updated with committee business and can contact you if a relevant committee inquiry is coming up. (For more information on engaging with Committees see our separate information sheet.)

The members' research service is also a useful department to make contact with as it provides confidential and impartial research support to the Assembly's scrutiny and legislation committees, and to all 60 individual Assembly Members and their staff. If you produce any publications, research, reports or publicity it is worth sending it to member's research as well as the Assembly Members themselves. The Member's Research service have leads for different policy areas so it may be worth finding out who leads in your policy area (information available at <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-assembly-publications-research.htm#mrs>) and making contact with them highlighting your expertise and evidence base. You can also access a range of briefings and information produced by the Members' Research Service from their webpages. These are primarily aimed at Assembly Members, but can also be useful for external stakeholders.

Further information

Assembly Commission

You can find out more about the Assembly Commission on the National Assembly for Wales website at www.assemblywales.org/abthome

Or you can contact the Commission using the following contact information

Email: assembly.info@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0845 010 5500

Typetalk: 0845 010 5500

Minicom: 029 2089 8601

In writing: National Assembly for Wales, Tŷ Hywel, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA

Voices for Change Cymru is a WCVA project supported by the Big Lottery Fund. There are now more opportunities than ever to make your voice heard and this project provides services to help third sector organisations influence policy and legislation at local and national levels.

Tel: 0800 2888 329

vfcc@wcva.org.uk

www.voicesforchangecymru.org.uk

Disclaimer

The information provided in this sheet is intended for guidance only. It is not a substitute for professional advice and we cannot accept any responsibility for loss occasioned as a result of any person acting or refraining from acting upon it.

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