

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE (WALES)

Special Grant Report No. 4 (Wales) 2003

VOLUNTARY SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIPS

Introduction

1. This report is made by the National Assembly for Wales ("the National Assembly") under section 88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 ("the 1988 Act")¹. This report specifies a determination of special grants that the Assembly proposes to pay to county councils and county borough councils in Wales ("authorities").
2. This report specifies the National Assembly's determination of the authorities to which the grants are to be paid, the purpose for which the grants are to be paid and the manner in which the amounts of the grants are to be calculated. It also sets out such explanation as the National Assembly considers desirable of the main features of the determination and specifies the conditions the National Assembly intends to impose on the payment of the grants.

Purpose

3. Pursuant to section 88B(3)(b) of the 1988 Act, the National Assembly hereby determines the following purpose for which the special grant will be paid :

¹ Section 88B was inserted into the 1988 Act by paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Finance Act 1992. By virtue of the National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions) Order 1999, functions of the Secretary of State under section 88B are exercisable in relation to Wales by the National Assembly for Wales subject to the provisions of that Order.

- to enable authorities to support increased voluntary participation in Young People's Partnership activity.

Authorities and amounts payable

4. Pursuant to section 88B(3)(a) and (c) of the 1988 Act, the National Assembly hereby determines that £20,000 has been allocated to each authority in Wales for the financial year 2003-04.

Conditions for the Payment of Special Grants

5. Pursuant to section 88B(7) of the 1988 Act, the National Assembly hereby specifies as the conditions which the National Assembly intends to impose on the payment of the grants, the conditions set out in Annex A.

Main Features

6. Pursuant to section 88B(4) of the 1988 Act, Annex B contains such explanation, as the National Assembly considers desirable of the main features of the determination specified in this report.

Approved by resolution of the National Assembly for Wales on

ANNEX A

CONDITIONS FOR THE PAYMENT OF GRANT

1. The grants referred to in this report shall be issued in a single payment for use in the financial year 2003-04. A pre-condition of payment is that Young People's Partnerships have submitted a written proposal of planned expenditure agreed by the Partnership, and that the proposal is approved by the National Assembly.
2. Advances of grant shall be made based on agreed estimates of expenditure. Each authority is required to monitor how the special grant has been spent and the results of that expenditure, and shall ensure that a statement, in the form to be determined by the Assembly, showing how the grant has been used shall be certified by the authority's chief finance officer and submitted to the Assembly not later than 31 July 2004.
3. If the full allocation of £20,000 has not been spent by an authority for the approved purposes during the financial year 2003-04, the unspent amount will be returned by that authority on request.
4. The grant shall only be used to fund the authorities' contributions to the approved purposes as outlined in that authority's approved proposal, whether that is through the direct provision of services and associated arrangements for support, or through the making of lawful arrangements

with other persons to provide these.

5. Each authority shall supply to the Assembly such further information as may be required by it for the purposes of determining whether the authority has complied with these conditions.

6. If -

- a. an authority fails to comply with the conditions set out in this Annex; or
- b. the Assembly, having regard to any report or information received from an authority and any other information available to it, is satisfied that the authority have without reasonable excuse failed to comply with any other condition set out in this Annex,

the Assembly may require the repayment of the whole or any part of the grant monies paid to that authority as may be determined by the Assembly and notified in writing to the authority. Such sum as has been notified shall immediately become repayable to the Assembly.

Annex B

Background

1. Extending Entitlement cuts across all elements of young people's learning, economic and recreational activity and has implications for their health and wellbeing and the lives and vibrancy of our communities. It is the Welsh Assembly Government's overarching policy for providing support and services for all young people between the ages of 11 and 25. Through better co-ordination of planning systems and delivery, it aims to ensure a universal entitlement for all young people to a range of services designed to promote their attainment and development as individuals.
2. Young People's Partnerships have been established in each local authority area to co-ordinate planning and delivery of this basic entitlement, in close co-operation with a broad range of young people. The intention is that the Young People's Partnership will constitute a key component of the Strategic Framework for Children and Young People.

Main Features

3. Annex 2 of the Extending Entitlement Directions and Guidance July 2002 sets out the membership of the main Young People's Partnership; it includes voluntary sector representation on the partnership. There are a large number of voluntary organisations working with young people in each YPP area. These organisations can range from large national organisations such as Barnardo's and the Prince's Trust to Scouts/Guides, NCH, sports clubs and church-run youth clubs. Clearly, not all can, or

would wish to be represented on the YPP. However all have a part to play in planning and delivering services to young people to meet the “Extending entitlement” agenda. They also need to be kept regularly informed of, and have opportunities of commenting on and contributing to YPP activity.

4. Some organisations are affiliated to CWVYS (Council for Wales Voluntary Youth Services), or to their Local Voluntary Council, whereas others are not. The “umbrella bodies” (CWVYS and WCVA) and YPP co-ordinators as well as the voluntary sector more generally, have all expressed concern about the difficulties of engaging local voluntary groups in YPP activity, and the impact that this could have in failing to release the full potential for the voluntary sector to contribute.
5. The purpose of this grant is to begin to address this concern by supporting an increase in voluntary sector capacity. We expect the mechanisms for providing support to vary considerably between YPPs, according to local needs and circumstances.
6. This special grant is to support and strengthen the voluntary sectors’ involvement with Young People’s Partnerships.