



Communities and the public sector: a marriage made in heaven?



Our Conversation: Nov 2019 - Feb 2020

- Swansea
- Pontypridd (Interlink AGM)
- Wrexham (x 2)
- Cardiff (open event)
- Cardiff (EYST event)
- Narberth
- Bridgend (BAVO AGM)
- Ruthin
- Bethesda
- Neath
- Merthyr Tydfil
- Ebbw Vale
- Llandrindod
- Aberystwyth
- 13 Invest Local areas

Whose work affects you?



**Department
for Work &
Pensions**

How do these words make you feel?

If we are to succeed
local communities and
local people must be
at the heart of our
work

People value the
strength and quality of
their local communities

We want to
provide
opportunities for
people
throughout all
the communities
we serve

Our
communities
remain a natural
asset

Our aim is to
build a nation
where people
take pride in
their
communities

Increasing
preventative
services within the
community

Creating the conditions where
people can do the things that
matter to them

How do Public Bodies see the communities you work with?

Our Goals

- We want communities which are strong, supportive and provide local opportunities
- We want communities able to work in partnership with the public sector and to be able to act independently

How do the actions of public bodies affect achieving these goals?

- What have we got that works? *Clear examples*
- What does brilliant look like?
- Why is it not more widespread?
- How do we get there?
- Are there particular enablers of good work we can identify?
- What are the barriers/blockers?

What are we learning?

What should
we do more
of?

What should
we stop doing?

Lunch!



Community Wealth Fund: The English Proposal



The Community Wealth Fund Alliance have identified the next wave of dormant assets as source of funds for a Community Wealth Fund.

Dormant assets from insurance & pension policies, bonds, stocks and shares are estimated to be worth almost £2bn by the Dormant Assets Commission **(this would amount to about £100m in Wales)** .

The government is currently working with the financial service industry to release these funds for ‘good causes’.

We are calling for new primary legislation to set up the Community Wealth Fund as an independent endowment which would be invested into communities in perpetuity.

Principles – the English proposal

The **Community Wealth Fund** would be a new permanent endowment, going to those areas most in need. Its distribution should be guided by the following principles:

- Long-term funding (10-15 years)
- Hyper-local investments (money given directly to communities of C.3,000-10,000 residents)
- Resident-led decision making with appropriate support provided to build community confidence and capacity

The Community Wealth Fund would increase economic and social capital within deprived areas whilst giving power back to individuals within communities that have felt disenfranchised for many years.

Initial Discussions in Wales

- Agreed that funds need a clear purpose
- Agreed that there should be a Welsh allocation with Welsh control
- Agreed funds should be flexible, able to fund long term work, and independent of Government at all levels
- Agreed fund should be able to support existing work
- Agreed any eligibility criteria should allow for coverage of rural areas

Initial Discussions in Wales

- Less clear as to whether specific communities should be funded or how they might be identified
- Less clear about whether fund should focus on “priority themes” (eg young people)
- No discussion about how Fund should work
- Less clear about how community participation in decision making would work

Purpose of a Community Wealth Fund for Wales

What difference could a fund of this type make in communities you work with?

What should its priorities be?

How could we run a Community Wealth Fund in Wales?

What are the pros and cons of these models in achieving what you want the Fund to achieve?

Next steps

- Complete workshops – pull together findings
- Share the findings via Community Sector Network
- Follow-up discussions on Community Wealth Fund
- Prepare proposals for Party Manifestos
- Potentially more community sector network discussions on delivery arrangements