

News and information for Wales from:

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The changing face of commissioning – a date for your diary

The commissioning of public services is undergoing a change. As public bodies seek to make efficiency savings in their processes and are collaborating more, third sector organisations are exploring the implications of larger, regional or generic public service contracts.

In some cases, moves towards joint commissioning will mean joint tendering for smaller service providers. Working in a consortium has been proposed as a useful vehicle for smaller organisations to engage in public service delivery - but how does this work in practice?

There is also a growing debate about the principles of co-production: how service users and communities work in partnership with professionals, to redesign services so that they are more responsive to needs - or even reshape the relationship between public bodies, citizens and communities.

The third sector performs a number of important roles that can contribute to the commissioning of public services: it acts as an advocate for citizens; as an expert in key service areas; and of course as a service provider.

And there are critical points in the commissioning cycle that can support or impede the involvement of third sector organisations in contributing effectively to the process.

These subjects will form the basis of October's Regional Policy Events. The morning will explore the changing context of commissioning, and where the third sector can be involved. The afternoon session will be dedicated to procurement: the problems and processes of tendering for public service contracts, and how third sector organisations might work together to deliver services.

The dates and venues for the next Regional Policy Events are:

- Tuesday 4 October - Morfa Hall, Rhyl
- Wednesday 5 October - The Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells
- Wednesday 12 October - Ivy Bush Royal Hotel, Carmarthen
- Thursday 13 October - Christchurch Centre, Newport

For further information, please contact Gareth Coles on gcoles@wcva.org.uk or 02920 431 771

Pre-legislative public consultation on bilingual services

The National Assembly for Wales Commission (Assembly Commission) has launched a public consultation about a new framework to govern its bilingual services. The (Draft) National Assembly for Wales (Official Languages) Bill would make provision about the use of the Welsh and English languages in proceedings of the National Assembly and in the discharge of the functions of the Assembly Commission.

The Bill would place a duty on the Assembly Commission to bring forward a Bilingual Services Scheme specifying the measures it proposes to

take in order to comply with its duties as outlined in the Government of Wales Act 2006. Those services were previously modelled on the Welsh Language Act 1993, which has since been replaced by the Welsh Language Measure 2011.

In line with fundamental constitutional principles, neither the Assembly nor the Commission is subject to the arrangements of the Measure, so the Assembly Commission decided to explore a new legislative framework to govern its bilingual services. The deadline for responses is **14 October 2011**. For more information please visit <http://tinyurl.com/3kl3lst>.

Take part in Trustees' Week

The second annual Trustees' Week will take place between 31 October - 6 November 2011, featuring events showcasing the work of trustees and highlighting opportunities for people to get involved and make a difference.

WCVA are proud to be working alongside the Charity Commission as one of the official supporters of Trustee Week 2011. You can

find out more about what is happening during the week at <http://bit.ly/plmAB5>.

The WCVA Trustee Conference 2011 will take place shortly prior to Trustees' Week, on October 26 in Llandudno. More information will come soon, but you can register your initial interest by emailing eventsadmin@wcva.org.uk.



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