SJR 06-05 (p.1) Annex A

Recommendations of the Independent Commission to review the Voluntary Sector Scheme - Implementation by the National Assembly for Wales, Social Justice and Regeneration Department: Implementation Pan – progress summary

Rec' no	Recommendation	Lead responsibility	Progress & target completion date
Rec 3; page 36 and Rec 4; page 36	In full consultation with the sector through the Voluntary Sector Partnership Council (VSPC), develop and publish a new strategic action plan, setting out the next steps in implementing the Scheme in the light of the Commission's recommendations. It should assign responsibilities, set deadlines, and identify milestones and indicators for monitoring and evaluation. Report at each meeting of the VSPC and annually at relevant Ministerial meetings on progress against the strategic action plan, and use the indicators in the strategic action plan as the basis for the next full review of the Scheme in 2007.	Joint working group	"Preparing the Strategic Action Plan" paper produced - currently being considered by JWG members (May 2005)
Rec 5; page 36	Actively promote consistent application of the Scheme and the Code of Practice for Funding the Voluntary Sector by the Assembly Government, ASPBs and health bodies. This should be taken forward through the strategic action plan.	Joint working group	Awaiting consideration by Joint Working Group. In the meantime, recommendations subject to budget considerations are being costed (Oct 2005)

Rec 6; page 37	Promote the application of the principles of the Scheme and the Code at the local level. This should be taken forward through the strategic action plan.	Joint working group	Draft WCVA and Assembly Govt communications strategies being considered by JWG (July 2005)
Rec 7; page 37	Map the policy areas and funding that are not devolved but impact on the voluntary sector in Wales, and enter into discussions with the relevant Whitehall Departments to establish concordats bringing their practice into line with the Scheme and Code.	SJR Dept.	A Research project has been included in the 2005-7 SJR Research Plan – to identify action required to improve sector's awareness of UK funding opportunities. (Oct 2005)
Rec 8; page 37	Ensure that the sector and the relevant parts of the Assembly Government have the capacity and resources to implement and benefit from the Scheme and the Code, for instance by developing training for officials working in the voluntary sector, located in centres easily accessible across Wales.	SJR Dept.	Discussions in progress with the Assembly's training provider to develop this programme (Nov 2005)
Rec 9; page 37	Ensure that the implementation of the Scheme and the Code, especially the provision of funding, acts as a driver for appropriate practice in the sector.	SJR Dept.	Work in progress on strengthening standard Terms and Condition of grant. Terms of reference for new Disadvantaged Communities Fund being drafted (April 2006).

Rec 14; page 54 and Rec 15; page 54	Develop, promote and monitor observance of a guide for officials on good practice in policy development and consultation. The guide should be linked to the Policy Gateway, and should reflect the requirements of the Scheme (see Annex M for further detail). Improve its use of IT in consultations (see Annex M for further detail).	SJR Dept	Guide in preparation – being led by Strategic Policy Unit. (July 2005) IT issue subject to availability and timing of appropriate technology
Rec 21; page 67	Review the Code as scheduled, in Summer 2004, taking into account the amendments already agreed by the VSPC and reflecting the Commission's recommendations, and consulting on any changes. The Code should be updated annually thereafter.	SJR Dept	Changes to Code being considered by VSPC's Funding & Compliance Sub-committee (June 2005)
Rec 23; page 67	Strengthen the requirements in the Code: • To consider granting core funding to organisations where a strategic role is envisaged or capacity building is an objective; • To include core costs in project funding where core funding is not otherwise provided; • For robust exit or continuation strategies to be agreed where long term funding is not envisaged.	SJR Dept	As above – these changes are being considered by VSPC's Funding & Compliance Sub-committee (June 2005)
Rec 25; page 68)	Develop, promote and monitor the use of an updated Manual of Guidance for Assembly officials to assist them in following the Code consistently. Make the Manual available to ASPBs and third party funders. The Manual should provide templates for standard arrangements for all stages of the bidding, assessment, award, payment, monitoring, and evaluation processes.	SJR Dept	Project brief for Guide being drafted (Oct 2005)

Rec 26; p 68	Introduce training on the Code and Manual of Guidance, for managers of grant schemes offering funding to voluntary organisations.	SJR Dept	This will be arranged once the Guidance is revised. (Nov 2005)
Rec 27; page 68	Regularly update the Guide to Voluntary Sector Grants. Include in the Guide ASPB and third party intermediary schemes, and consider feasibility of including schemes operated by Whitehall Departments but available to organisations in Wales.	SJR Dept End March 2005	A revised Guide will be available shortly. (May 2005). Extended Guide (ASPBs & UK schemes – March 2006)
Rec 28; page 68	Review the outcome of the pilots on eligibility "passports" in England with a view to introducing passporting in Wales.	SJR Dept	A project to develop a pilot is in progress. (Sept 2005)
Rec 29; page 68	Continue with more urgency the work on identifying and quantifying all grants paid to voluntary organisations by the Assembly Government, and its ASPBs, to establish a baseline of funding.	SJR Dept	Information on Assembly funding to the sector was put to the November 04 VSPC. Vol' Sector and Finance Divisions and WCVA are working to improve coding procedures to enable a more accurate diversity breakdown (Oct 2005).
Rec 30; page 68	Continue to use third party organisations in the voluntary sector as a channel for its money to local organisations, and require them to provide better communication, information and support for smaller organisations.	SJR Dept	Draft SLA between Assembly and WCVA under discussion & will incorporate this requirement. (July 05)

Rec 31; page 68	Consider the mechanisms and approaches to funding set out in the Treasury Cross-cutting review and Futurebuilders programme and their appropriateness in Wales.	SJR Dept	To be addressed in the Strategic Action Plan. Proposals are awaited and may be considered as part of budget planning round for 2006-07 (June 2005)
Rec 47; page 86	Work with partners, including further and higher education sectors, and through the strategic action plan to ensure that comprehensive suitable training at all levels is available for Trustees, non-executive directors and other volunteers and their managers, throughout Wales, through delivery methods accessible to volunteers.	Joint working group	WCVA & CVCs are compiling information on existing training, to identify gaps in provision (Oct 2005)
Rec 48; p80	Consider the use of national media to promote volunteering.	SJR Dept	A media campaign is in progress as part of 'the Year of the Volunteer'. JWG liasing with Volunteering Policy Forum re-long term promotion (Sept 2005)
Rec 49; page 93 and Rec 50; page 93	Continue to develop its frameworks for funding and supporting community development in full consultation with grass roots community groups and others. Give consideration to the impact of geographically focused community development programmes on adjacent areas experiencing similar problems but not similarly qualifying for assistance.	SJR Dept	Proposals are being developed by Communities Directorate (Sept 05)

Rec 51; page 93 and Rec 52; page 93 and Rec 53; page 93 and Rec 54; page 93	Review the level of staff resources within the Communities Directorate and the structure of the directorate. Explore ways of maximising community participation and consultation at the grass roots level in the implementation of Communities First. Establish and fund a community development monitoring and evaluation unit within a community development ethos, with officials undertaking appropriate levels of financial monitoring and the voluntary/community sector providing quality assurance, with joint assessment of outcomes. Develop a comprehensive programme of training in community development principles and practice for all agents involved in delivering Communities First and other initiatives related to community development at the national and local levels, including staff of ASPBs.	SJR Dept	Proposals are being developed by Communities Directorate (Nov 2005)
Rec 55 page 93	Commission research into practical and realistic ways in which Assembly Government working practices across the board can be made more conducive to genuine community involvement.	SJR Dept	Proposals are being developed by Communities Directorate (Nov 2005)
Rec 56; page 93	Ensure that the strategic action plan specifically address the need to implement the vision and principles set out in the community development chapter of the Scheme.	SJR Dept	Communities Directorate will be advising the Joint Working Group as it develops the Strategic Action Plan
Rec 58; page 95	Follow the precedent of independence set by the first review.	SJR Dept	For a future Government

Rec 59; page 95	Ensure that future reviews do not create undue uncertainty within the sector about future funding, or to lead to unnecessarily short-term funding decisions.	SJR Dept	For a future Government
WCVA Rec 17; page 54	Review the arrangements for cascading consultation papers, including the information provided to County Voluntary Councils (CVCs), the use of events to produce informed sector wide responses, and the effectiveness of the sectoral networks in this regard.	SJR Dept	Completed – for sign-off at June VSPC
Rec 18; page 54	Take steps to encourage every voluntary organisation operating in Wales to belong to a formal consultative network.	SJR Dept	As above –being addressed in WCVA's Communications Strategy. Vol' Sector Division will begin work in April on negotiating SLAs with all CVCs (by Dec 2005) – to include a requirement to encourage local groups to form local sectoral networks.
Rec 19; page 54	Develop a system for ensuring that National, UK wide voluntary organisations operating in Wales are aware of the Scheme and Code.	SJR Dept	Completed - part of WCVA's new Communications Strategy -– for sign-off at June VSPC
Rec 20; page 54	Advise the Assembly Government on the compilation of the "who to consult" list and the central database of contact details.	SJR Dept	Work in progress (July 2005)

Rec 40; page 76	Work with VSPC sectoral representatives, in consultation with each sub-sector, to improve the reliability and comprehensiveness of the systems for dissemination of information and seeking and representing the views of the sub-sector, with particular emphasis on inclusion of views from local groups and the grass roots.	Joint working group	Work in progress - JWG has produced an initial paper (More more information re gaps is being sought. (May 2005)
Rec 43; page 80	Review and consult on the "Ministerial map" and arrangements for Ministerial meetings, to ensure that a range of sizes and types of voluntary organisations is represented at meetings, that views presented are representative of the whole sub-sector, and that information about Ministerial meetings is cascaded to interested parties.	Joint working group	WCVA compiling consultation responses re current Ministerial Map. (May 2005)
Assembly & WCVA			
Rec 10; page 37	Develop a strategy for raising awareness of and promoting the Scheme, the Code, the VSPC and Ministerial meetings at the national and local levels, including to organisations not currently on WCVA and CVC databases.	Joint working group	WCVA has developed a Communications Strategy to address this – approved at March 2005 VSPC. A draft WAG Communications Strategy has been circulated for comments. (June 2005)
Rec 41; page 76	Ensure that sufficient resources are available to facilitate the efficient and effective operation of the sectoral networks.	SJR Dept	Completed – the networks will continue to be funded via the Partnership Capacity Building Fund. For sign-off at June VSPC

Rec 42; p 76	Encourage greater participation by AMs in the VSPC, for instance by writing to all AM VSPC members and party leaders: • Reporting the disappointment felt by the sector at the low levels of attendance; • asking whether any practical changes might address this (e.g. linking with regional committee dates, or holding meetings on a Friday); • clarifying the procedure for raising items at the VSPC.	SJR Dept February 2005	There have been recent changes to the AM representatives; a letter will be sent to the new group of AMs . (April 2005)
Rec 44; page 80	Arrange for the adoption, following consultation, of new protocols for the conduct of Ministerial meetings, based on the drafts agreed in 2003. The new protocols should also reflect the detailed points made in the Annexes to the Commission's Report.	Joint Working Group	Completed – revised protocols drawn up by JWG. To be signed off at June 2005 VSPC (June 2005)
VSPC			
Rec 11; page 37	Take responsibility for taking equality of access to funding, recognising the cultural, rural and urban diversity of Wales, through its strategic action plan and, if established, its monitoring and evaluation sub-committee.		Funding & Compliance Sub-committee in place. Strategic action plan in preparation (Nov 05).
Rec 33; page 76	Agree a schedule of key issues and map out its agendas well in advance, with no more than three major items on any one agenda.	Joint Working Group	JWG compiling list of standing agenda items (May 2005)
Rec 34; page 76	Improve the tracking of decisions made by ensuring that agreed decisions and action points are clearly recorded, with clarity about who will do what and by when. There should be a report back to the VSPC by the Minister at each meeting on progress of decisions made at previous meetings.	SJR Dept	Completed – new reporting in place: for sign-off at next VSPC (June 2005)

Rec 35; page 76	Note the minutes of Ministerial meetings and take responsibility for identifying and progressing any common issues or themes, monitoring the success of the meetings, and making proposals to the Assembly Government for issues to be tabled at Ministerial meetings or ways of improving meetings.	SJR Dept	Completed – notes of Ministerial meetings will be tabled for information at future VSPC meetings (June 2005).
Rec 36; page 76	Amend the VSPC protocols to reflect the Commission's recommendations - to include: • In setting agendas and circulating papers, allow sufficient time for consultation with networks; • hold 3 meetings a year, on dates agreed 12 months ahead, at venues across Wales.	Joint working group	Completed – revised protocols drawn up by JWG. To be signed off at June 2005 VSPC
Rec 38; page 76	Ensure that the Policy Gateway reflects the requirements of the Scheme.	SJR Dept	Guidance in preparation – being led by Strategic Policy Unit. (July 2005)
Rec 39; page 76	Consider potential value in developing links with other Partnership Councils.	Joint working group	JWG to meet with WAG Partnership Council secretariats and JWG members (June 2005).