

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MB/HL/04828/12

Ann Jones AM
Chair
Communities Equality and Local
Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

27 November 2012

Dear Ann

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Communities Equality and Local Government Committee with responsibility for Culture and Heritage matters.

As you will be aware, during 2010 the Communities and Culture Committee undertook an Inquiry into the accessibility of Arts and Cultural Activities in Wales. The Committee published a report of the findings of this Inquiry in February 2011. The report outlined 16 recommendations, 14 of which were accepted, in whole or in part, by my predecessor the Minister for Heritage.

I have indicated previously that I fully recognise the importance of the issues covered in the report and I have confirmed my commitment to taking forward the agreed recommendations for the benefit of the people of Wales. I first provided the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee with an update on the progress being made in taking forward these recommendations in December 2011. I am now pleased to enclose a further update on the significant amount of additional progress made during the last 12 months.

This Action Plan (attached) sets out the detail of each recommendation and identifies which organisation has been tasked with delivering it. The comments / progress section provides a comprehensive update on the activity that has taken place and an outline of future activity. The individual actions cover a variety of different initiatives and require a number of different approaches if they are to be successfully delivered.

You will note the comprehensive nature of the responses obtained from each organisation. This reflects the significant level of commitment each organisation is continuing to show in ensuring the recommendations are delivered and levels of accessibility and participation are maximised amongst the people of Wales.

You will note also that the recommendations within the initial report are wide-ranging and in many cases will take some time to fully implement if they are to achieve their maximum potential. In order to ensure that these improvements can be seen and measured effectively and following an internal review by my officials, I now propose to review this Action plan on an annual rather than a six monthly basis. This will tie in with the annual update I provide to the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee.

I hope you will find this approach satisfactory and trust you will find the progress outlined in the Action Plan both informative and reassuring.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis', with a small mark above the 'i'.

Huw Lewis AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

Communities and Culture Committee Report into the Accessibility of Arts and Culture: ACTION PLAN (2012 Update)

Recommendation	Comments / Progress
<p>Recommendation 1. We recommend that the Welsh Government facilitates a sharing of good practice (for increasing accessibility) between organisations involved in delivering arts and cultural experiences. (Page 31)</p>	<p>ACW: the ACW continues to encourage more people to enjoy and take part in arts events, and this is a priority in ACW's future plans. Key actions ACW is taking include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Publication of an Annual Equalities monitoring report (ii) Equalities Strategy – this commits ACW to a series of actions designed to broaden the range of those who benefit from its funding and services (iii) Work with specialist agencies such as Disability Arts Cymru, Voluntary Arts Wales and BVSN Wales on targeted projects to improve accessibility (iv) An annual Marketing Symposium: this focuses on a range of audience development initiatives (v) Investing more money in touring, and extending the reach of its 'Night Out' initiative. (vi) Roll-out its Digital Cinema Programme in venues across Wales <p>ACW has a Strategic Equality Plan outlining 16 key actions it will undertake to improve equality within the Arts. A more detailed action plan setting out how it will do this was published in October 2012. Further detail regarding this Plan may be found in the response to Recommendation 4 below.</p> <p>Additionally ACW's revenue funded organisations have, as part of their annual agreement, a responsibility for promoting and supporting equality, and making the Arts accessible to all. They have also been invited to attend regional advice surgeries and advisory workshops, set up across Wales, the first of which took place in September.</p> <p>Disability Arts Cymru has made significant progress in terms of widening access for young disabled people throughout Wales. This development work has been made possible as a result of the LTUK funded cultural Olympiad programme in Wales</p> <p>ACW has entered in to service level agreements with both BVSNW and Voluntary Arts Wales to support programmes aimed at increasing opportunities for artists from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds and voluntary arts groups. These programmes will be reviewed at the end of the year.</p> <p>The programme for ACW's Annual Conference in October covered a range of subjects including equality and diversity. Examples included information on the Unlimited Festival, and sessions with disabled artists Caroline Bowditch and Chris Tally Evans.</p> <p>ACW is in the process of rolling out its Digital Cinema Programme in 11 venues throughout Wales. Additionally venues such as Riverfront (Newport) and Clwyd Theatr Cymru (Clwyd) also provide cinema</p>

and film screenings. This scheme will enable venues to present a more varied programme, and develop their programmes through digital 3D and alternative content screenings. Film screenings provide a valuable income for the venues and this income supports the delivery of other arts activities. Hence this programme is a national approach, covering venues across all of Wales.

ACW's forthcoming review of its Arts Strategies will include consideration of policy priorities around Equalities. The new guidelines will also include information on new areas of work such as Digital Arts, Creative Industries, Arts and Regeneration. Given its wider ranging nature, the review has been renamed *Creativity and the Arts*.

Please see the response to Recommendation 3 for comments on the 'Night Out' scheme.

Cadw: The Minister's new Historic Environment Strategy, launched on 23 October, advocates closer partnership working in the heritage and culture sectors to deliver larger and broader audience, through better interpretation and community engagement.

The National Museum has suggested joint work to evaluate visitor responses to the current ways in which the sector presents Welsh history to the public. Meetings on the 'History Agenda' were held in 2011 and 2012 and Cadw is actively supporting this. Cadw and partners worked with the BBC to support 'the Story of Wales' TV series, which aired in Wales in February and across the UK network in October 2012. Cadw is also looking for further opportunities to work with television.

Cadw's research priorities for 2011-16 are to support:

- Best practice in engaging young people and families in history and the wider historic environment and character of place.
- Best practice in engaging with communities and maximising socio-economic benefit.
- Best practice in tackling 'barriers to access'.
- The measuring and monitoring of visitor attendance, satisfaction and outcomes, ideally in partnership with other partners in the sector.
- A programme of research which helps Cadw understand user and non-user attitudes to Welsh history and heritage sites.

CyMAL: Amgueddfa Cymru, The National Library, the Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW), and other partners are working together to deliver 'The People's Collection Wales' (PCW). The PCW website follows accessibility guidelines and the project provides advice on good practice relating to digitisation and ensuring accessibility.

	<p>As public bodies, the National Library and National Museum are required to comply with statutory duties such as the 2011 public sector equality duty, and as part of this duty are required to develop a Single Equality Scheme. For example the Library's Equalities Plan is reviewed every 4 months. The Library is also participating in the Welsh Government Sponsored Body network on sexual equality and disability which is being led by the National Museum. The Library has extensive accessibility information on its website: http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=accessibility</p> <p>Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales instigated pioneering work on tackling child poverty. The Museum consulted on its child poverty strategy, <i>Transforming Children's Futures</i>, which shows breadth of vision and focus on real, practical measures that will benefit our nation's less well off young people. In July, the Museum hosted a Child Poverty Symposium for other public bodies in Wales to share best practice and discuss how cultural organisations can help to tackle child poverty and increase participation in cultural events.</p> <p>CyMAL is supporting professional bodies in Wales to deliver seminars and conferences, to facilitate best practice sharing. CyMAL also publishes a twice yearly magazine to highlight best practice.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2. We recommend that the Welsh Government seeks to increase media coverage of Wales' arts and cultural experiences, and to challenge the perspective that arts and cultural experiences are for "an élite few". (Page 35)</p>	<p>ACW: persuading the media to report on culture in a more informed and more comprehensive fashion is a difficult challenge. However ACW is working to build interest by funding and promoting excellent projects that the media <u>wants</u> to feature. Previous projects include National Theatre Wales' <i>Passion</i> in Port Talbot, the winning of WOMEX 2013 for Cardiff, the launch of the Cultural Olympiad programme in Wales, and the Literature Wales' launch of the Young People's Laureate.</p> <p>ACW has held initial discussions regarding the establishment of new strategic partnerships with BBC Cymru Wales and S4C. Both organisations agreed to look at ways in which to further promote the Arts in Wales. ACW expect further progress as a result of these discussions in Quarter 3.</p> <p>Meanwhile ACW officers continue to flag projects they fund that may be considered newsworthy, and these are included in ACW's monthly published Newsletter and are promoted on its website.</p> <p>Cadw: the acquisition of a traditional Valleys terraced house as Cadw's latest property in care provides an opportunity to showcase through traditional and new media, the importance of conserving and interpreting the homes and stories of 'ordinary' people.</p> <p>Cadw launched its new website in August 2011 and a new Cadw 'app' in August 2012. Also, two new sites specific 'apps' for Conwy and Denbigh, aimed at families with children, were launched during the recent October half term. Increasing use of social networking has started to transform Cadw's capacity to engage more directly with diverse audiences.</p>

	<p>CyMAL: CyMAL actively supports the museums, archives and libraries sector to develop its skills and to provide assistance in promoting its contribution to arts and cultural activities. For example, CyMAL is supporting an all-Wales audience development initiative for libraries – this includes the issuing of national press releases, and templates to assist regional and local press releases by services and an annual all-Wales Library Festival. The National Museum and the National Library also have successful public relations programmes, to increase media coverage of Wales’ arts and culture. As part of delivering <i>A Museums Strategy for Wales</i>, CyMAL is supporting the development of an all-Wales marketing strategy for museums.</p> <p>The National Museum has contributed to a number of recent television productions. For example, <i>The Exhibitionists</i> was a collaboration between Amgueddfa Cymru, BBC Cymru Wales and the TV production company Cwmni Da. The project gave unprecedented access to the national art collection to five members of the public from across Wales. Based on their participation in a series of collections-based tasks, assessed by two external mentors, two of the five curated their own exhibition at National Museum Cardiff. The four-part series was aired on BBC 2 Wales between 27 June and 18 July 2012. The exhibition was shown from 23 June to 19 August at the National Museum Cardiff. In addition, Amgueddfa Cymru provided substantial input to the BBC Wales series ‘the Story of Wales’ presented by Huw Edwards.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3. We recommend that the Welsh Government continues to prioritise supporting the development of arts and cultural experiences (including those taking place within “community venues”) over and above the development of new, “purpose-built’ art venues. (Page 40)</p>	<p>ACW: ACW attaches great importance to encouraging more people to enjoy and take part in the arts. It broadly accepts the recommendation that new purpose-built facilities should not be a priority, and its new Capital strategy issued in 2012 endorses this. However having accessible, fit for purpose venues of quality can be a very effective way to increase access. Whilst the new strategy concentrates on improving and repairing existing buildings, ACW does not wish to dismiss the possibility of new build projects, especially if they can improve access in areas of cultural or geographical disadvantage.</p> <p>ACW’s new Capital programme for 2012-2017 was opened in August. To date, 14 project proposals have been submitted for consideration. Five of these relate specifically to the creation of dedicated spaces for young people, and four have been presented by organisations whose work focuses on making the Arts more accessible to local communities. One scheme in particular is felt to have the potential to be an exemplar; this partnership project between RCT Community Arts and Pontypridd YMCA to create a new facility at Pontypridd YMCA is now moving forward to the detailed planning stage</p> <p>The ‘Night Out’ Scheme continues to bring productions to all areas of Wales, including many Communities First areas. The scheme uses community halls and similar local venues, thus increasing the opportunity for people to engage with the Arts. By the end of September 2012 a total of 207 Night Out events had taken place in 2012/3, 46 of which were in Communities First areas.</p> <p>‘Night Out’ is continuing to target areas of deprivation and to tour high quality work. There is some difficulty currently, as the review of Communities First is resulting in some areas not being able to participate as</p>

normal, however overall numbers remain robust. The Night Out 'Young Promoter' Scheme has been extended, and continues to work with groups in deprived and rural communities.

Cadw: Cadw is working with a number of communities and arts organisations to enable venues to be used as much as possible for cultural events. All Cadw staff are encouraged to be proactive in seeking such opportunities. At the national level, Cadw was supported by ACW to develop its own arts policy, and launched its Heritage and Arts Framework on 25 September 2012. For 2012, Cadw has also introduced partnership programmes with Literature Wales and the Wales Millennium Centre.

Five key programmes for development and arts activity took place at selected Cadw sites in summer 2012:

- Cauldrons and Furnaces activities took place at 8 Cadw sites across Wales as part of the Cultural Olympiad, involving over 26,000 young people over 4 years.
- Work with Sculpture Cymru on a sculpture exhibition inspired by Kidwelly Castle (summer 2012).
- The Cadw Festival of Heritage Arts & Crafts – an annual programme of 8 one day events, offering opportunities for visitors to work with artists to create artwork inspired by Cadw sites.
- Songs From Stones - a 5 year arts based Cadw education programme involving 125 - 150 young people each year, to produce animations interpreting Cadw sites. These films will be shown at an annual 'grand premiere', and will be uploaded onto the Songs From Stones website.
- Storytelling & literacy - an annual creative writing project, involving primary school classes in creative writing. The stories are uploaded on to the learning pages of the Cadw website.

New programmes beginning in 2013:

- Cadw is contributing towards the development and promotion of storytelling across Wales, facilitated by the George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling. Cadw has agreed to organise and run a nationwide storytelling event at its properties as part of National Storytelling Week, 26 January – 2 February 2013.
- Cadw is hosting an artist in residence in partnership with ACW at Valle Crucis Abbey for 2013.
- Cadw's 2013 events programme is being developed to engage with hard to reach audiences, especially those aged between 16 and 34, those in Community First areas as set out in the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

The Minister's Strategy for the historic environment announces his intention to hold a popular Festival of Welsh History in 2015, which will bring together heritage and cultural activities.

CyMAL: The Welsh Government grants programmes administered by CyMAL division and its advisory services support existing local museums, archives and libraries to provide arts, culture and heritage activities in over 400 locations across Wales. The Museums Strategy commits the Welsh Government to support existing museums and will not normally support the foundation of new museums. Funding through

	<p>grants for museums in Wales is only available to those that meet the Accreditation standard.</p> <p>One of the aims of the Welsh Government's Community Learning Libraries Capital Grant Programme (administered by CyMAL) is to enable public libraries to develop attractive flexible spaces to stage more community activities. This has been extremely successful in increasing the number of community activities, often held in partnership with other organisations, in our public libraries. Almost 80 public libraries across Wales have been modernised as part of this grant programme.</p> <p>The National Museum and the National Library are providing access to high quality cultural experiences in their buildings, online, and through a series of outreach events in communities across Wales.</p> <p>CyMAL and the George Ewart Evans Centre for storytelling at Glamorgan University have formed a steering group, which includes interested organisations. CyMAL is now leading on the development of an action plan that will take work forward to help open up heritage to more people through storytelling.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4. We recommend that the Welsh Government ensures that decision makers determining the public funding provided to particular arts and cultural experiences, effectively and thoroughly take into account the accessibility of such experiences for people with disabilities, and LGB people. (Page 49)</p>	<p>Welsh Government: We have delivered on our commitment to emphasise the importance of equality and accessibility issues in the 2012/13 Remit Letters to our Sponsored Bodies. Equality Action Plans are being assessed and monitored throughout the year.</p> <p>Welsh Government (Cadw): Cadw is considering applying CyMAL's access summary template to ensure that its access information is meaningful to potential visitors.</p> <p>The Cadw Interpretation Planning process seeks to improve intellectual access to heritage sites. There is a rolling programme of work on site interpretation improvements.</p> <p>In September 2012, Cadw launched new arts based interpretation at Conwy Castle, and a new family-friendly interpretation at Denbigh Castle. Further works area planned at Blaenavon Ironworks, Caerphilly Castle and St Davids Bishop's Palace in 2012-13.</p> <p>To date pan-Wales interpretation plans have been created to provide a platform for a co-ordinated and cohesive interpretation of the stories of Wales. A further two have been commissioned this year: Maritime Wales and Princes and Lords of the Borderlands. These will be completed by March 2013.</p> <p>Work is under way to review Cadw action on access to its sites, and to benchmark this against other heritage organisations' access plans by March 2013.</p> <p>Welsh Government (CyMAL): Both the National Museum and the Library have invested heavily in ensuring that their buildings, online resources and services meet and exceed accessibility standards.</p>

CyMAL has run consultation sessions to identify the access priorities of disabled people across Wales. Representatives from access and disability groups as well as museums, archives and libraries identified the need for better information about access provision. In response, CyMAL has awarded a tender to Enable UK to develop an Access Summary Template. The project is on target for delivery of phase 1 in March 2012. The draft template was tested in November 2011. The Access Summary Template content and structure has been finalised and an on-line interface is being developed to enable organisations to input and manage access information about their sites effectively. This work is on track to be completed during 2012-13.

A survey for the research project 'Spotlight on Museums 2011' resulted in information being submitted by 106 organisations. The final publication is on track to be published by December 2012/January 2013. The study includes information on current physical and sensory access to museums and museum collections.

One of the main aims of the *Community Learning Libraries Capital Grant Programme* administered by CyMAL is to improve accessibility through the library modernisation programme. Promoting access and equality is a key priority within all CyMAL grants schemes. Libraries across Wales are also providing assistive software and hardware to help disabled people to access library resources.

ACW: ACW wants more people in Wales to be in a position to choose to make the Arts a part of their lives and have greater access to them, both as audience members and as participants. However, ACW is also aware that access to the Arts is very unequal, for social, economic, geographical and financial reasons. To help address this, ACW has produced a Strategic Equality Plan. This is designed to make sure ACW treats everyone equally. It details 16 key actions it will take to increase equality and diversity in the arts in Wales. These actions are monitored and progress is reported to the Council quarterly.

ACW has worked hard to ensure that its funding strategy continues to attach, as a priority, support for organisations across the full range of communities in Wales. These include Disability Arts Cymru, the Black Voluntary Sector Network Wales, Voluntary Arts Wales and a number of locally based community arts groups. Each year, ACW's Night Out scheme provides nearly 600 high quality performances to small local communities across all parts of Wales.

As is often the case, smaller companies working with minority communities sometimes require proportionately higher levels of subsidy. Nevertheless, ACW continues to fund an extensive network of organisations working in local communities across Wales. Additionally, ACW is trying to reach further into new communities; its newly introduced 'Creative Steps' fund is specifically designed to invest in individuals and groups who have not previously found themselves able to access its funding.

In addition, ACW has recently undertaken a survey of its revenue funded organisations on venue access for people with disabilities; a summary report has been compiled. The survey findings are to be discussed

	with key stakeholders, prior to publishing a final report. Recommendations from the survey will inform future plans.
<p>Recommendation 5. We recommend that the Welsh Government ensures that an audit is taken of the accessibility of all publicly-funded sites intended for the provision of arts and cultural experiences. (Page 50)</p>	<p>ACW: See recommendation 4 above.</p> <p>Any projects which are part of ACW’s 5 year capital programmes are automatically assessed in terms of physical accessibility. Applicant organisations must satisfy the requirements of the Equality Act before any grant monies are provided.</p> <p>Cadw: Work to review access to Cadw sites is under way, with a report expected by March 2013.</p> <p>CyMAL: Access audit –see information re: the Access Summary Template under Recommendation 4.</p> <p>The Remit Letters issued by the Minister to the National Museum and National Library contain a reference to the requirement for both institutions to comply with the Single Equality Duty. The information received about museum accessibility through the ‘Spotlight on Museums’ survey is being used to target museums that have not gone through an access audit. Museums are being offered audits by qualified assessors, and will be expected to develop a costed action plan following receipt of the auditor’s recommendations.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6. We recommend that the Welsh Government accepts that it has accountability, at a strategic level, for the funding decisions undertaken by Assembly Government Sponsored Bodies, such as the Arts Council of Wales. (Page 59)</p>	<p>Welsh Government: This has always been the case, and the Welsh Government accepts its responsibility in this area. We will continue to convey Welsh Government strategic priorities through the Minister’s annual Remit Letters to our Sponsored Bodies. This will assist those bodies to focus their resources at specific areas. However, the Welsh Government does not accept responsibility for individual or programme funding decisions taken by sponsored bodies. These remain the responsibility of these bodies, who are ultimately best placed to make these decisions and to assess their impact and benefits.</p>

Recommendation 7. We recommend that the Welsh Government works with partners to enable the identification of geographic areas in Wales where people have particularly limited access to arts and cultural experiences. Following this work, we anticipate that the Welsh Government would then encourage partners to strategically utilise such information to develop increased access to arts and cultural activities in areas where people have particularly limited access to arts and cultural activities. (Page 70)

ACW: during its Investment Review, ACW identified an opportunity to improve digital interconnectivity, to encourage virtual shared programming. Live screenings are already happening - productions from London's National Theatre and the New York Metropolitan Opera are regularly screened at venues across Wales. There are three issues here: the hardware (the digital satellite kit), the content (and the contract conditions that apply), and the production costs. As part of its new Capital strategy ACW is looking at providing funds for venues to acquire the hardware, in effect creating a digitally connected *One Wales*. It is exploring a pilot with Theatr Mwdan, where the Theatre will lead a consortium of potential venues. The contractual and rights issues are challenging as some companies put restrictions on what venues are able to show. However ACW is continuing to investigate this issue.

Through its Night Out Scheme, ACW is able to bring increased opportunities via touring productions to residents across all areas of Wales, including Communities First and other targeted areas, utilising church and village halls. (For more detail, please see the response to Recommendation 3 above).

ACW's survey of its 'Revenue Funded Organisations' for 2011/12 is complete; the final report will be published in November. This includes details of numbers of performances and audiences / participants for each RFO, as well as the geographical areas served. ACW is undertaking a detailed mapping exercise, which will illustrate levels of activity, and identify current 'cold spots' where little activity is taking place. Using this evidence it will hold open funding surgeries, to stimulate further activity.

To monitor overall levels of attendance and participation in the Arts across Wales, ACW has commissioned an Omnibus Survey. The work is scheduled to take place in November, with an initial report scheduled for February 2013.

Cadw: Audience development is a priority in the Minister's new Historic Environment Strategy. Cadw continues to take steps to ensure that historic sites are increasingly accessible and enjoyable to visit - for visitors and people who live in Wales and, particularly, for people from groups currently under-represented in its visitor profile. Visitor surveys are used to inform its visitor profiling and targeting.

Following an internal review of audience development, events, education and lifelong learning programmes which concluded that the staff resources available to deliver community focused programmes were inadequate. Cadw has recruited a new Head of Marketing and Audience Development, a Public Engagement and Welsh Language Manager, a Head of Lifelong Learning and Lifelong Learning Manager for north Wales, to complement the one already in place in south Wales.

The 'Tackling Child Poverty Action Plan' is one of the key guiding principles of the development of the Learning Strategy. Cadw is also working with the Communities Directorate to map Cadw activity against the new Communities First clusters.

	<p>CyMAL: Museums, archives and libraries provide local access points to the arts, culture and heritage in over 400 service points across Wales. In addition public libraries provide mobile and/or housebound services for those people unable to utilise their local static library - albeit that there has been some reduction in mobile library services in Wales as a result of funding reductions. There are also innovative schemes such as the <i>Fan Hyn Fan Draw</i> mobile library service in Ceredigion that delivers access to a wider range of services such as information on public services, including the arts, and internet access.</p> <p>The 'Sharing Treasures' programme, administered on behalf of the Welsh Government by CyMAL in partnership with the National Museum, provides grant funding to enable the national collections to be displayed at local museums across Wales. For 2012/13 CyMAL has negotiated a joint initiative with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), which has doubled the grant funding available. This has led to projects being funded across Wales at Buckley, Wrexham, Llangollen, Abergavenny, Chepstow and Merthyr Tydfil. A range of exhibitions at these sites will enable collections from a number of national institutions, including National Museums Liverpool, Amgueddfa Cymru and the National Library to be seen in local museums.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8. We recommend that the Arts Council of Wales continue to prioritise the development of a strategy for Children, Young People and the Arts as urgent. (Page 76)</p>	<p>ACW: <i>Young Creators</i>, ACW's strategy for children, young people and the arts was published in November 2011. A companion document related specifically to targeting Child Poverty was also published alongside <i>Young Creators</i>. Regular updates on progress and the impact of these documents are being provided to the Welsh Government, to ensure that accessibility to the arts for children and young people is at the heart of ACW's agenda. Implementation of the strategy is progressing well, and a detailed action plan will be published on ACW's website before the end of 2012.</p> <p>ACW is progressing 3 proposals for its 'Creative Spaces' initiative, and has begun work on establishing a baseline for RFOs' work around Child Poverty.</p> <p>Additionally ACW continues to progress its 'Reach the Heights' programme, which engages 'hard to reach' young people. ACW is on target to achieve its forecast for participants for 2012/3.</p> <p>For 2012/13 ACW is also funding 18 'Splash Arts Cymru' projects. These involve working with young people at risk of offending. £77,571 has been allocated to this activity.</p> <p>Welsh Government: We are continuing to monitor closely the impact of ACW's <i>Young Creators</i> strategy (and Child Poverty annex) to ensure it delivers on its ambitions in accordance with Welsh Government priorities for Children and Young People. A full assessment of progress will be provided during the next update.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9. We recommend that the Welsh Government brings forward a</p>	<p><i>We did not accept this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>(Nonetheless the Welsh Government is encouraging sponsored bodies to develop their links with local</i></p>

<p>measure to place a statutory duty on local authorities to support arts and cultural experiences in their local areas. (Page 83)</p>	<p><i>authorities through partnership working and sharing of good practice; this will be reflected in the Minister's annual Remit Letters).</i></p>
<p>Recommendation 10. We recommend that the Welsh Government has dialogue with the Arts Council of Wales to ensure that reductions in funding for its revenue funded clients are limited to around 4% over a three year period from 2011-2012, as set out by the Minister for Heritage. (Page 86)</p>	<p><i>We did not accept this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>(Nonetheless, we understand that provided that its funding is maintained at intimated levels, the ACW has no plans to reduce its funding to its Revenue Funded organisations over the three years from 2011-12).</i></p>
<p>Recommendation 11. We recommend that the Welsh Government continues to seek to persuade the UK Government to enable them to provide three-year funding deals to bodies such as the Arts Council of Wales, with year-end flexibility. (Page 92)</p>	<p>Welsh Government: Continued uncertainty over the UK Government's deficit reduction plans makes a positive decision on this issue unlikely in the short to medium term. Consequently no formal discussions have taken place on this issue to date.</p> <p>In the meantime, the Welsh Government has been able to provide indicative budget figures to WGSBs in line with its own three year budget management programme covering the years 2012-13 to 2014-15. While these budgets are indicative only, they do allow the sponsored bodies to plan their funding over the coming years. It is hoped that this can be built upon following the next three-year cycle.</p> <p>Welsh Government Heritage officials will continue to monitor this situation closely with their Central Finance colleagues. The Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage will review the position at the beginning of 2013-14 and, if necessary, will ask the Finance Minister to open discussions with the UK Government to resolve this matter.</p>

<p>Recommendation 12. We recommend that the Welsh Government clarifies its total current expenditure towards arts and cultural experiences, across all Government Departments. (Page 93)</p>	<p>Welsh Government: Unfortunately, there is no existing mechanism in place to facilitate compliance with this recommendation although officials have been actively seeking a way forward. Following initial scoping work on the new Welsh Government Grants Management System it became apparent that the level of input required to break down funding activity across the whole of the Welsh Government would be disproportionate to the benefits of having this information to hand. There are fundamental difficulties in providing an accurate figure, not least (i) the definition of precisely what should be classed as an arts/cultural activity, and (ii) how to determine what portion of a grant should relate to arts/community/equality/education etc.</p> <p>For this reason, we are unable to make significant progress with this recommendation at present, although we will continue to review this issue with a view to taking action in future. In the meantime, we will be closely monitoring spend on arts and cultural experiences within the Heritage MEG, and will continue to seek to incorporate funding from other sources into the cultural sector.</p>
<p>Recommendation 13. We recommend that the Welsh Government continues to promote a co-ordinated approach between its various departments in their support for the arts and culture experiences in Wales. (Page 94)</p>	<p>Welsh Government: This is an ongoing commitment that is inherent to the work undertaken by individual departments. Existing collaboration includes work with Health Department colleagues on the Arts and Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, and with Education colleagues on 'Reach the Heights' and the joint Review of Arts in Education. This commitment is being monitored closely, in order to identify additional opportunities to work with other Departments and organisations from within the Culture/heritage sector. The Minister for Housing, Regeneration & Heritage wishes to see closer co-ordination and joint working between individual departments within his portfolio, while initiatives such as SCIF funding in Bangor and Swansea are bringing economic, artistic and educational benefits across the country.</p> <p>Cadw: Cadw is an active member of the Visit Wales Cultural Tourism Steering Group/Partnership and the NE Wales Cultural Partnership, and is engaged in joint planning work with NMW and ACW (as outlined above). It is now also working with the Communities Directorate.</p> <p>CyMAL: CyMAL actively contribute to cross departmental priorities such as child poverty, literacy, digital inclusion, health and well-being and Welsh language, and works closely with Cadw to protect our cultural heritage.</p>

<p>Recommendation 14. We recommend that the Welsh Government continues to encourage the development of regional arts services across local authority areas. (Page 96)</p>	<p>ACW: ACW is continuing to promote the value of partnerships such as the 'Arts Connect' consortium of local authorities, and is keen to develop other initiatives elsewhere in Wales. Work is in progress to assist WLGA, CORL and individual local authorities to implement the 'Simpson Compact' commitment for <i>'local government...to review the scope for collaboration in the future delivery of culture and leisure services.</i> ACW is taking advice from the WLGA in developing its new approach, but has committed in principle to putting in place partnership agreements with local government, nationally, regionally and individually.</p> <p>As part of its 'Simpson' work, ACW continues to assist in the development of strategic local/regional arts partnerships. A Results Based Accountability Scorecard has been approved and published by ODSI, Four Directors from ACW's Senior Management Team have agreed to have an over-arching lead role with respect to each of the 4 new regions. Arts Development Officers have begun to undertake a programme of 1:2:1 meetings with each local authority.</p> <p>ACW has adopted a new approach to its engagement with the regions. It has established <i>Sgwrs Gelfyddydol</i>, a rolling programme of meetings across Wales, which it hopes will result in a more meaningful level of engagement between stakeholders, Local Authority representatives, artists and arts organisations. Agendas will include opportunities for discussion on ACW's key policy issues, prior to these being debated at Council.</p> <p>CyMAL: CyMAL is supporting local, regional and national partnership working in promoting access to the collections of museums, archives and libraries across Wales. CyMAL has worked with public and academic libraries in opening-up public access to their collections including supporting regional inter-library loan schemes. CyMAL is supporting regional co-operation between museums in delivering educational activities. CyMAL is also working closely with the WLGA in order to encourage closer regional working between museums, archives and libraries across Wales.</p>
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<p>Recommendation 15. We recommend that the Welsh Government sets out a strategic message that all public funding arrangements for arts and cultural experiences should be reviewed to ensure that they promote, rather than prevent, partnership working between organisations delivering arts and cultural experiences. (Page 102)</p>	<p>Welsh Government: Partnership working is being encouraged at every opportunity and will again be included as a specific requirement within the 2013-14 annual Remit Letter. Similarly, ACW will again be required to include this as a standard term in its agreements with its funding clients. This will continue to be emphasised during discussions with ACW and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>Cadw: Cadw has embraced collaborative working; for example it is already working closely with ACW and launched its Heritage and Arts Framework in September 2012. This focuses on the arts as a means of engaging communities and connecting with audiences who are typically hard for the heritage sector to reach. Cadw also provides the Secretariat to the HRH Minister's Historic Environment Group which brings a number of key partners together including ACW. Since 2007 HEG has been supplemented by regular "Treftadaeth" conferences and a series of thematic "summits" which have fostered dialogue across a very diverse interest base, including national and very local organisations. In November 2012, Cadw, in association with Dehongli Cymru, is holding a conference and practitioners' workshop to launch and implement the Pan-Wales Heritage Interpretation Plan.</p> <p>CyMAL: The Welsh Government's grant schemes, administered by CyMAL to support the museums, archives and libraries sector, actively encourages partnership working in improving access to our rich and diverse culture and heritage.</p> <p>Partnership is highlighted as a Ministerial priority in the National Museum and the National Library's Remit Letters for 2012-13, and will be continuing requirement within the Remit Letter going forward. The Remit Letters provide specific examples of partnerships in which the Museum and the Library are involved.</p> <p>The National Museum, the National Library and the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales are working together to deliver the People's Collection Wales (PCW). This is an innovative bilingual digital platform to collect, interpret and display the story of Wales' history, culture and heritage. It also encourages individuals and community groups to contribute to the story of Wales alongside our cultural heritage institutions.</p>
<p>Recommendation 16. We recommend that the Welsh Government continues to emphasise the obligation of Wales' National Arts and Cultural bodies to the people of Wales as a whole. (Page 104)</p>	<p>ACW: In its post Investment Review document '<i>Renewal and Transformation</i>', the ACW stressed its expectations for national companies to act as exemplars and leaders across the full range of arts development functions. A detailed list of expectations is set out in <i>Renewal and Transformation</i>. ACW is currently in dialogue with the six National organisations it supports about extending the range and extent of their educational and outreach programmes. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Welsh National Opera's highly regarded WNO MAX programme – National Theatre Wales' touring to locations of all scale across the country – BBC NOW's work in providing Teachers Resource packs as part of its wider educational activity – Literature Wales promotion of Writers Squads and the Young Person' Laureate

- The Film Agency Wales's 'Cinema Club'
- Wales Millennium Centre's Learning and Participation Programme

National Dance Company Wales: NDCW's work in this area includes innovative social engagement projects and initiatives, such as delivering a wide range of young people's programmes, as well as inviting artists in to paint or photograph company class and rehearsals. The company has developed a series of interactive matinees specifically for disabled and non-disabled students. NDCW is also offering performances to smaller venues in Wales, such as the recent planned tour/exchange with STEM Dance Kampni from Bangalore in India. ACW continues to be very supportive of the company's social contract work.

Theatr Genedlaethol: Theatre Gen' has recently appointed a webmaster as the need to improve and re-launch the website was agreed as a major priority. The work that had been done to engage young people with the production of Deffro'r Gwanwyn through use of social media had demonstrated that this is a very effective way of engaging people with the work of the company. The company aims to attract new audiences of Welsh learners and of non Welsh speakers. It will continue to explore creative and dynamic ways to ensure that translation is used where and in a way that is appropriate for each production. It will also use its bilingual web-site to create a dialogue and relationship with these new audiences

National Theatre Wales: from the start NTW has seen public engagement as at the heart of its work. Its philosophy is that there should be no separate outreach department. Plans for community engagement and audience development are formulated for each project as part of the artistic concept. During its first year the company recruited interested individuals in each community where it was working to be part of the team involved in creating, developing, marketing and running the show. The company has remained in touch with these team members and has involved them in on-going activity such as the recent evaluation process. National Theatre Wales is continuing its Promoter Programme, an initiative which links an experienced promoter to touring venues, to work with each venue to ensure community engagement is linked to the company's visit.

Wales Millennium Centre: the evidence of WMC's success in this area is that numbers are growing year on year, with over 20,000 people drawn now into participatory programmes run by the centre largely through the Dy Le Di Make it Yours strand of activity. Through its website, WMC is developing a more sophisticated approach to the ways in which it interfaces with potential audiences and distinct demographic groups. It has also been able to develop a more bespoke approach to mobilising the Welsh language audience and other potential attendees and participants. Additionally ACW's work in partnership with the WMC on the monitoring of Pontio is an excellent example of one of its National organisations sharing expertise, and assuming a leadership role.

CyMAL: The charitable object of the National Museum, as stated in the Royal Charter, is the advancement

	<p>of the education of the public:</p> <p>(i) primarily, by the comprehensive representation of science, art, industry, history and culture of, or relevant to, Wales, and</p> <p>(ii) generally, by the collection, recording, preservation, elucidation and presentation of objects and things and associated knowledge, whether connected or not with Wales, which are calculated to further the enhancement of understanding and the promotion of research.</p> <p>The National Library was also established by Royal Charter. Its key purpose is to collect, preserve and give access to all kinds and forms of recorded knowledge, especially relating to Wales and the Welsh and other Celtic peoples, for the benefit of the public including those engaged in research and learning.</p> <p>The National Museum and the National Library meet these objectives by operating comprehensive education and outreach services, covering formal and informal learning.</p> <p>The National Museum is a key partner in the delivery of <i>A Museums Strategy for Wales</i>, sitting on the strategy steering group, and working in partnership with organisations across Wales to improve services to the public. It offers the benefit of its skills and experience in the areas of developing professional skills, learning, conservation, and collections knowledge.</p> <p>The National Library will be a key partner in the delivery of the Welsh Government's <i>Libraries Inspire</i> strategic library development framework and is a member of the strategy steering group. The National Library is leading on the procurement and delivery of all-Wales online resources for Welsh libraries.</p> <p>A section of the People's Collection Wales website is dedicated to formal and informal learning audiences – tools, resources and material for this section is currently being developed as a key area of programme activity, working with learning professionals.</p>
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