

Welsh Assembly Government – Consultations and Papers

Title of Consultation	Empowering active citizens to contribute to Wales
Date	January 2007
Web site location	http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/consultation/volschemeactionplan/?lang=en
Overview	<p>This is a strategic action plan for the voluntary sector scheme in Wales</p> <p>When the NaFW was established it introduced a voluntary sector scheme with statutory support. This is unique in the UK and has fostered a close working relationship between WAG and the voluntary sector.</p> <p>This document presents a vision for WAG's future work with the sector and shows how it will guide a range of activities and services through the voluntary sector to tackle some of the most deep-rooted problems facing Wales.</p> <p>The consultation looks at the ways in which the 'third sector' can become a more active partner in service delivery. The 'third sector' includes voluntary organisations, community groups, volunteers, self-help groups, community co-operatives & enterprises, religious organisations and other not for profit organisations. There are at least 30,000 third sector organisations in Wales of which 12.5% are directly involved in health and social care.</p> <p>The consultation identifies three key spheres of influence and interest for the sector:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sector's role as a catalyst and facilitator of self-help, citizen engagement and socially beneficial action in communities. 2. The contribution that the sector can make through its front-line experience to the design, evaluation and reshaping of policies, procedures and practices. 3. The role that the sector can play in helping implement Assembly Government programmes through the design and delivery of public services. <p>Voluntary organisations are being encouraged to look at how they can channel the views of their members and to maximise the opportunities for their voices to be heard and to make an impact.</p>
Implications for community pharmacy	It is important that community pharmacy remains aware of the WAG's commitment to <i>Patient and Public Involvement</i> . We have been aware for some time that the CHCs are becoming more important players in terms of priority setting and service re-design. This consultation demonstrates a commitment to give greater weight to the views of the voluntary sector and to involve them also in the design and delivery of public services.
Opportunities for community pharmacy	The voluntary sector is increasingly consulted on service re-design and can be a powerful advocate for community pharmacy. There are opportunities to develop closer links with selected voluntary organisations that overlap with our sphere of interest, at both a national, regional and local level.
CPW: action taken	There is no response needed to the consultation. CPW Regional Committees have been made aware of the opportunities to develop closer links with voluntary organisations at a regional level. CPW Central are developing working links at a national level.