

2016 ASSEMBLY ELECTION

Thriving communities for Wales' sake

WCVA's 2016 election prospectus sets out a series of asks for a new Welsh Government, which, if delivered, will strengthen the third sector's contribution to not only tackling poverty, but improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The challenges facing Wales cannot be met by government working alone: they require partnership with a vibrant and diverse third sector.

We ask the new government

To ensure a **fairly and sustainably resourced third sector in Wales**, by:

- Upholding the unique mechanisms of the Third Sector Scheme and the Funding Code of Practice thus enabling the sector to grow and thrive, but also look at where the sector and government's priorities meet
- Making intelligent use of both grants and procurement in the right circumstances
- Extending the successful role the third sector has played in delivering European programmes and objectives
- Statutory partners recognising and investing in communities and the third sector
- Building on volunteering grant schemes

We ask the new government

To help create **strong and active communities**, by:

- Increasing the number of, and support for, volunteers
- Supporting communities and social businesses to develop sustainably
- Developing Community Asset Transfers and help enable third sector organisations to manage the process of asset transfer successfully
- Continuing to work towards tackling poverty and inequality and recognize the role of the sector in achieving this
- Continuing to promote the Welsh language, arts and culture

We ask the new government

To **put people at the centre of our public services**, by:

- Investing in preventative and early intervention, with people at the centre of design and delivery, ensuring that public services are truly citizen-centred

- Maximising support by communities to enable services to be delivered at a time when the public purse is being stretched
- Investing in real engagement with people, their communities and third sector organizations to unlock their potential
- Embracing new models of delivering and financing public services
- Using the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to demonstrate leadership throughout Wales and beyond

We ask the new government

To help create **an equal Wales**, by:

- Resourcing equalities and human rights organisations to provide support to the most excluded citizens
- Strengthening the third sector's equalities voice in strategic planning and commissioning decisions
- Ensuring the mainstreaming of equalities issues in all policy and service delivery areas, particularly delivery of public service and public engagement
- Protecting the most vulnerable in our society and speak out against the repeal of the Human Rights Act

We ask the new government

To work together **to tackle climate change**, by:

- Increasing community-owned energy generation and recycling initiatives as part of the civil economy
- Working with the sector to encourage and support organisations to improve their own internal practice to reduce their carbon footprint
- Working with and support organisations able to raise awareness of and change behaviour amongst the widest range of target groups