Welsh Assembly Elections 2016
Post-election briefing for the third sector in Wales

1. Introduction

Elections were held on 5 May 2016 to elect Welsh Assembly Members (AMs) and the Police and Crime Commissioners; a by-election also took place in Ogmore.

The purpose of this briefing is to:

- provide information about the election results; and
- identify key issues for the third sector.

2. Outcome of election

Welsh Labour remains the largest party in the Senedd with 29 seats, but fell short of being able to form a majority. Plaid Cymru gained one crucial seat in the Rhondda, with Leanne Wood taking the seat from Labour’s Leighton Andrews, former Minister for Public Services. The Welsh Conservatives lost three seats and the Liberal Democrats lost four seats, leaving Kirsty Williams, AM for Brecon and Radnorshire and former leader of the party, as the sole representative in the Senedd. UKIP gained their first seats, with the election of seven AMs through the regional list.

The balance of influence between the parties has shifted significantly. This was demonstrated in the days following the election by the challenge in the Senedd from Leanne Wood, Leader of Plaid Cymru and Assembly Member for the Rhondda, to Carwyn Jones, Leader of Welsh Labour and AM for Bridgend, for the role of First Minister.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>2011 seats</th>
<th>2016 seats</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plaid Cymru</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservatives</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Democrats</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UKIP</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>+7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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3. Party manifesto’s
Prior to the election WCVA published a one page analysis from a third sector perspective of the manifesto for each political party, providing an indication of some of the areas of interest that the parties may be seeking to progress in the Senedd.

WCVA’s website contains a copy of each party’s manifesto, together with our analysis:

**Welsh Labour**

**Plaid Cymru**

**Welsh Conservatives**

**Welsh Liberal Democrats**

**UKIP Wales**

4. **Welsh Assembly Members (AMs)**

The National Assembly for Wales’ website contains details of all newly elected Welsh Assembly Members.

The following AMs have been identified as having interests and expertise that may be of relevance to the third sector:

**Hannah Blythyn** (Labour - Delyn); @hannahblythyn has a Young Labour background and has been vocal in her support of equalities, healthcare, communities and local services.

**Lesley Griffiths** (Labour - Wrexham); @lesley4wrexham is former Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty, including responsibility for the third sector; with interests in health, economic development, housing and children’s issues.

**Ken Skates** (Labour - Clwyd South); former Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, has interests in improving job and training prospects for young people and mental healthcare, protecting crucial services for the vulnerable. Ken is a supporter of the arts in Wales and has a keen interest in physical fitness.

**Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas** (Plaid Cymru - Dwyfor Meirionnydd); @ElisThomasD has links with the National Trust, heritage, conservation and sustainable farming.

**Elin Jones** (Plaid Cymru - Ceredigion); @ElinCeredigion has a strong background in health, as the former Plaid Cymru spokesperson for Health and Social Care.

**Angela Burns** (Conservative - Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire); @AngelaBurnsAM has political interests in the economy, health, schools and the rural community.

**Lee Waters** (Labour - Llanelli) has a background in media and broadcasting, and is former Director of Sustrans Cymru and the Institute of Welsh Affairs.

**Rebecca Evans** (Labour - Gower); @RebeccaEvansAM has political interests including health, social care, equalities, welfare reform, and tackling poverty - including rural poverty; she has a background of working in the third sector.
Jeremy Miles (Labour - Neath) during his legal career has specialised in housing and community engagement.

Leanne Wood (Plaid Cymru - Rhondda); @LeanneWood has links with Women’s Aid and is honorary President of Rhondda Cynon Taf Women’s Aid.

Jane Hutt (Labour - Vale of Glamorgan); @JaneHutt has her roots in the third sector as the first National Co-ordinator of Welsh Women’s Aid in 1978 and as a founder of South Glamorgan Women’s Workshop. She went on to become the first director of the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS Wales) and was subsequently Director of Chwarae Teg. She has held cabinet positions as the Minister for Budget and Assembly Business, and for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning.

Julie Morgan (Labour - Cardiff North); @JulieMorganLAB was a social worker in Cardiff and Barry, She set up the first Family Placement Scheme in Wales for teenagers in trouble and was an Assistant Director for Barnardo’s. She was chair of several groups - the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Children in Wales, working with children’s voluntary groups across Wales, the APPG for Gypsy and Traveller Law Reform, and the APPG for Sex Equality (working with the Equality and Human Rights Commission).

Vaughan Gething (Labour - Cardiff South and Penarth); @vaughangething has a keen interest in sport, as a retired cricketer. He has also been a school governor, a community service volunteer and is former president of NUS Wales.

Lynne Neagle (Labour - Torfaen) has held a number of posts within the voluntary sector in Wales, working for organisations such as Shelter Cymru, Mind and the CAB. She was Carers Development Officer with Voluntary Action Cardiff. Her political interests include health, housing, social services, Europe and the future of the valleys in south Wales.

Nick Ramsay (Conservatives - Monmouth); @NickRamsayAM is involved in charity work.

Rhiannon Passmore (Labour - Islwyn) has been recognised for her work within community regeneration and has led various voluntary organisations.

John Griffiths (Labour - Newport East); @JGriffithsLab was previously Minister for the Environment and Sustainability in the Welsh Government, and has served in several Deputy Ministerial roles. His political interests include economic development, social inclusion, education, Europe, sport and sub Saharan Africa.

5. Next steps

WCVA will publish a further briefing following the establishment of the new Welsh Government.

In the meantime, please look out for forthcoming opportunities to engage in consultation on WCVA’s strategic review of our role in supporting the third sector in Wales, including how the sector engages with the Welsh Assembly through the Third Sector Scheme and other mechanisms.