

## WALES COMMITTEE FOR THE CLS

### Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at City Hall, Cardiff .

**Present:** Tom Jones, Commissioner for Wales, LSC (Chair)  
Paul Newell, Head of Civil Policy, LSC  
Nick Bowment, Age Concern Cymru  
JJ Costello, Shelter Cymru (Chair of CLS National Forum)  
Celia Davies, Bro Ddyfi Advice Centre  
Simon Ellington, Caerphilly CAB  
Tana Hall, WCVA  
Phil Jew, Advice UK  
Barbara Kerridge, Riverside Advice Centre  
Ann Lewis, Advice Services Alliance  
Lowri Morgan, Law Society Wales  
Roy Morgan, Morgans Solicitors  
Kay Powell, Law Society Wales  
Jenny Simmons, Neath CAB  
Susan Smith, CLS National Forum, Secretary  
Fran Targett, Citizens Advice Cymru  
Kim Walsh, Speakeasy Advice Centre  
Cemlyn Williams, CAB Gwynedd & De Ynys Môn  
Tiana Williams, Wales Policy Developer, Legal Services Commission

**In Attendance:** Elaine Bennion, Legal Services Commission, Minute Taker  
Emma Rouse, Legal Services Commission

**Apologies for Absence:** Julie Burton, Julie Burton Law  
Mark Powell, Huw James Solicitors

1.	<p><b>Introductions, Apologies and Welcome</b></p> <p>Chair welcomed the Chair of the CLS National Forum and representatives of Provider organisations to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Where are we now?</b></p> <p>Chair gave some background to the formation of the Committee for the CLS in Wales and it was noted that the Terms of Reference should be circulated to Forum members as the Committee has now approved them.</p> <p>A comment was raised as to the concern of providers that their comments on the consultation have not been considered because they responded by saying that the Committee needed provider representation.</p> <p>Chair replied by saying that the results of the consultation have not been published yet and a joint response with Welsh Assembly Government will be published in the summer.</p> <p>It was noted that at the Committee meeting preceding this in order to have client</p>	EB

	<p>representation on the Committee the WCVA have been invited to join and it was also agreed subject to approval from absent members, that the Chair of the CLS National Forum would be invited to join the Committee also. However if the Committee were to discuss items on the agenda that could possibly be a conflict of interest then the CLS National Forum Chair would need to agree to be absent from that item.</p> <p>Provider representatives welcomed this news and all members were encouraged to bring items to the agenda.</p> <p>It was reiterated that the work of the Committee was wider than just legal aid.</p> <p>A discussion followed about the previous National Forum taking their steer from local partnerships and the question was asked whether the new Committee was going to be narrower only looking at CLACs &amp; CLANs. It was noted that the Committee brief was actually going to be wider than the previous Committee in that it will be talking to other funders. It is the intention of the Committee to be on 2 levels, talking to people locally &amp; discussing issues with the Welsh Assembly and Westminster therefore developing better relationships between funders and providers.</p> <p>A comment was raised that the Committee should look at more than just advice for example civil policy and development that is covered by other funders.</p> <p>It was noted that the Committee would be able to commission joint research &amp; pool resources to produce joint statistics. It will also be aiming to organise an annual conference &amp; produce an annual report. A summary of the Committee minutes would also be available to be viewed by non-members.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Committee should also organise consultation events.</p> <p>A concern was raised about WCVA representing clients and it was noted that it is intended that WCVA will be a facilitator and they will also be able to access non users as it is important to get the right mix of users &amp; non users.</p> <p>A question was raised as to whether there were any resources to facilitate the CLS Forum. Chair advised that he was happy to support any bids for funding for this but there were no resources available from the LSC as previously. It was suggested that this could be brought to the next meeting of the Committee for them to look at possible funding streams.</p> <p><b>Action – to be tabled at the next meeting</b></p> <p>At this point part of item 4 was brought forward.</p>	<b>All</b>
3.	<b>LUNCH</b>	
4.	<p><b>Procuring social welfare and family law services within the Community Legal Service</b></p> <p>Paul Newell gave a presentation on the development of jointly commissioned integrated social welfare and family law services (also known as CLACs and CLANs). The presentation focussed on the key objectives of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint commissioning.</li> <li>• Full range of the five social welfare law categories plus family.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full range of services from general advice to representation at court.</li> <li>• Fixed legal aid budget per procurement area.</li> <li>• Specific service specification for each procurement area.</li> <li>• Single contract per area – ultimately following best value tendering.</li> </ul> <p>There was also a general update on the establishment of a centre in Gateshead and a Network in Cornwall and also an outline of the evaluation process and timescales for roll out.</p> <p>There was general discussion on a number of areas. Many aspects of policy thinking have developed since the publication of the CLS Strategy in March 2006 and this will be reflected in the forthcoming publication of both “Making Legal Rights a Reality in Wales” and a policy paper on “Accessing Social Welfare and Family Law Services”.</p> <p><b>Action: All committee members to receive a copy of both papers.</b></p>	
5	<p><b>Presentation on the role of Legal Advice Services in Offender Pathways</b></p> <p>It was noted that a strategy has been produced on joining together in Wales and the actions in the strategy address 7 intervention pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodation</li> <li>• Education, Training &amp; Employment</li> <li>• Health and Social Care</li> <li>• Substance Misuse</li> <li>• Finance, Benefits &amp; Debt</li> <li>• Children and Families</li> <li>• Attitudes, Thinking &amp; Behaviours</li> </ul> <p>A Commissioning Plan has also been produced and services are currently being commissioned from providers for the 7 intervention pathways.</p> <p>Further information can be obtained from Earl Smith <a href="mailto:earl.smith@justice.gov.uk">earl.smith@justice.gov.uk</a></p>	
6	<p><b>A.O.B</b></p> <p>It was noted that the Specialist Support Consultation paper will be available within the next couple weeks and it will have specific issues about Wales.</p> <p>Finally, Chair thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting.</p>	