

## Response to Dormant Accounts Consultation

### Questions

**Which specific areas of need should be targeted within this investment area so that the money makes the most impact?**

The transitional period in a children and young person's life such as transition from primary to secondary school, secondary school to employment/ higher education; young carer to an adult carer, moving out from the family home/care into accommodation, divorce, bereavement, exams, child and adolescent mental health services to adult mental health services etc. can be the most difficult times. Irrespective of age, children and young people require extra support to assist them through these most difficult and challenging times. The funds should be used to target schemes that aim to mitigate the emotional, financial, 'fear of bullying', loneliness, strain at these transition periods e.g. such as peer support, mentoring, counselling.

**How can the four policy aims identified above contribute to addressing need within this investment area?**

Whilst it is recognised that sport can have a role to play with working with children and young people, in order to access and reach the most vulnerable this should be widened to include health and wellbeing.

**Please provide examples of good practice that can help to achieve the aims of this investment area.**

In Neath Port Talbot there are a variety of organisations that work with young people. These include:

- Dewis – provide young people with supported accommodation, bond board accommodation and support with college fees.
- Carers Service and Crossroads – meeting the needs of young carers.
- The Hideout – young persons information and advice facility

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**Which specific areas of need should be targeted within this investment area so that the money makes the most impact?**

Access to easy to understand information would enable more community groups to be aware of their contribution to climate change. There is much work already being done around climate change by specialists, however many environment groups and volunteers are not aware of this. It is important that information is made available and that groups and individuals know where to look for it e.g. The Environment Forum Website, Environment Agency, Swansea Environment Centre. Signposting would play a big part in a much larger area of need supporting community groups and volunteers. These groups put time into rubbish clearance, habitat work, biodiversity and conservation, all of which improve local environments and climates. Consistency across local authorities around recycling policy is also an area of need.

**How can the policy aim identified above contribute to addressing need within this investment area?**

The policy aim talks about community action achieving clean healthy and sustainable local environments. Local action, in itself would only affect a small area, but the more groups that are supported and sustained mean larger areas of healthy environment promoting a cleaner climate. Several major initiatives around specific geographical areas have come as a result of local groups and volunteers joining forces. Facilitating joint community action and targeting specific projects would contribute substantially to addressing climate change issues locally.

**Please provide examples of good practice that can help to achieve the aim identified for this investment area.**

Neath Port Talbot CVS services a number of interest forums including an Environment Forum. These networks can be used to exchange information, promote co-operation and initiate action. Key funds have played a big part in enabling community environment groups to move forward.

**Questions:**

**Which of the above distribution mechanisms do you think is the most appropriate for distributing these funds? Please say why.**

It is important that grants are available to support local community activity and that the process is straightforward. It is also important that funded activity complements other local activity and meets demonstrated needs. CVCs already have mechanisms in place to distribute local grants, e.g. CFAP, Under 8's Small Grants, youth led grants, etc. It would be helpful if there was some connection to these processes, e.g. as delivery partners.

**Are there any other mechanisms which you feel should be considered, and why? (For example, a mix of grants and loans, expendable endowments)**

It is important to use this funding in ways that provide lasting benefits for Wales and we feel that this could be achieved by using a significant part of funds available to create endowment type investments for each of the two priority areas of young people and climate change. Such endowments could provide, from the interest earned, an income stream forever for small-scale community action for as long as such action is assessed as achieving practical outcomes for both priorities. It has also been suggested that the funds be administered/agreed locally e.g. Key Fund.