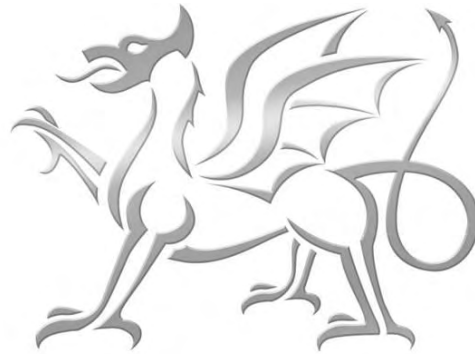


Trish Fretten

Welsh Assembly Government
Social Economy Unit



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

**Communities
Directorate
Y Gyfarwyddiaeth
Gymunedau**



**Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government**

Trish Fretten

**Head of the Community Enterprise
and Financial Inclusion Unit**


Gwneud Mentrau

Cymdeithasol yn

Well Busnesau

**Making Social Enterprises
Better Businesses**





The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) is responsible for a budget that provides many of our most important services: education, health, local government, transport, planning, economic development, social care, culture, environment and rural affairs.

In Spring 2001 WAG launched the Communities Directorate to drive forward the Communities First Programme and tackle other issues related to social inclusion, poverty and social disadvantage in the most deprived areas of Wales.

Since May 2003 the Communities Directorate has formed part of the Social Justice and Regeneration Department.

Communitites Directorate's Mission

Committed to supporting WAG in its drive to achieve social justice and putting sustainable health and wealth creation at the heart of policy making in Wales.

Wales: A Better Country

Sets social inclusion as a guiding theme for the Welsh Assembly Government's work alongside equal opportunities and sustainable development.



The Vision

WAG's overarching vision: to help those communities that have been on the receiving end of the negative impacts of economic and social change in the twentieth century, and address our remaining big challenges ie:


the need to help more people into work;

create better jobs and skills;

improve health, and

build strong and safe communities that people want to live and work in.






Community development and Social/Community Enterprise are at the heart of the Assembly's programmes and vision for building a better Wales.

So what do we do - our job....

To ensure all relevant WAG's policies and programmes are focused on tackling social exclusion;

To ensure an integrated approach to regeneration;

To manage a number of programmes including: the Community Facilities and Activities Programme, the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and the Communities First programme.



Specifically the Community Enterprise and Financial Inclusion Unit is responsible for taking forward the commitments in the Social Enterprise Strategy for Wales.

SE Strategy provides a strategic framework within which social and community enterprises including co-operatives and development trusts can develop, grow and flourish. We work closely with the Social Enterprise Joint Working Group. Current priorities include procurement; access to appropriate finance, mentoring and asset development.

We work hard to remove barriers (eg State Aids!) and create opportunities.

Principles Underlying the Social Enterprise Strategy



Creating and enabling environment



Making social enterprises better businesses



Establishing the value of social enterprise and

Encouraging the development of new opportunities.



NB - It is the Sector's document, targets set by SEJWG, with annual reviews and full revision after 3 years.

Our success depends on working closely with colleagues throughout WAG; and developing and maintaining links with external bodies, including local government, voluntary and community organisations, the private sector, and other Government Departments. Recent cross Dept working includes: RDP, Mental Health Strategy Environment Strategy Local Government Finance re rural rate relief for Social Enterprises.



How can local communities help to achieve WAG objectives?



Get involved



Learn from and share your own best practice



Build and strengthen local partnerships



Give feedback - tell WAG what is effective so that we can build on it and what the barriers are so that we can jointly find solutions.



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