



Mantell

NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN GWYNEDD

Issue 40
February 2008

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Further news articles and information can be found on our website!

Mantell Gwynedd

supporting voluntary and community groups

New Pilot Grant Fund 'Go For It'

Mantell Gwynedd in an innovative partnership with Sports Council Wales has established a new pilot grant fund worth £15,000 for a year called 'Go For It'. This fund is aimed only at the non-sporting voluntary and community groups throughout Gwynedd who do not have direct involvement with sports and keeping fit.

Applications for revenue and/or capital grant up to a maximum of £1,000 can be made towards new sporting and keep fit activities and/or equipment within communities.

Bethan Russell-Owen, Chief Officer, Mantell Gwynedd commented :

"I see this as an exciting project for non-sporting organisations to start up a new activity. We're all interested, these days, in improving our health and I'm sure that organisations like the WI, village hall committees and Young Farmers will find this a great opportunity to include a new and interesting activity into their yearly programme. For Mantell Gwynedd, we look forward to forge closer links with the Sports Council of Wales and we welcome this invitation/opportunity to work more closely together."

There will be no formal closing dates to submit applications and the fund will be

opened until early December 2008.

To discuss any ideas for a new project which would benefit your community or for more information or application form please contact Delyth Vaughan, Grants and Support Officer, Mantell Gwynedd on 01286 672 626 or delyth@mantellgwynedd.com or please visit www.mantellgwynedd.com

sports
council
wales



cyngor
chwaraeon
cymru

A note from the Chief Officer

Welcome to another edition of Mantell.

With many local, regional and national developments underway, I am going to use my column this time to alert you to some developments of importance which you might be able to participate in to help make a positive difference to the Third Sector in Gwynedd.

I've previously mentioned the Wales Spatial Plan in our newsletter. The Spatial Plan, entitled 'People, Places, Futures' will shape how each part of Wales will develop economically, socially and environmentally over the next twenty years and guide the way the Assembly Government spends its money over the coming years. The Third Sector has representation on the Officers Groups throughout Wales and as Gwynedd falls into the North West and Central region we have seats on both groups. As the Officer representing the Third Sector for the North West region I have been feeding your concerns and comments to the Spatial Plan Team and many of you have taken part in the numerous consultation exercises which have taken place in the region. A further **consultation** is now underway **between 31st January and 24th April** and it is a crucial time for the Third Sector in Gwynedd to ensure our views are heard. More information on this is available on the Assembly's website and also on our own website where you will find our previous correspondence relating to this

subject on behalf of the Sector. **A key Consultation event takes place on March 4th, 2008 at Venue Cymru** and I would urge you to participate in this event. It is an excellent opportunity to feed our views into the consultation. On Mantell Gwynedd's website www.mantellgwynedd.com you will find details of how to register to attend the event. A small group of us from the Third Sector in Gwynedd have invested some considerable time on the spatial plan subject and we would welcome any input you might have and any contributions you would like to make. I really cannot over emphasise the importance of this consultation event.

Secondly, I can now inform you that the document 'The Third Dimension' has been launched by the Welsh Assembly Government. This is the strategic Action Plan for the Voluntary Sector Scheme. It identifies a range of actions for WAG and the Sector to take and includes valuing voluntary action, strengthening communities, facilitating citizen voice, accelerating social enterprises, personalising public services, strengthening public/third sector engagement and enabling raised performance and growth. Copies of 'The Third Dimension' are available at our offices in Caernarfon and Dolgellau and I would urge you to have a look at it - the contents are extremely important to the sector and includes an Action Plan for 2008-2011.

Finally, once again, I mention the Local Service Board. This is part of the wider 'Gwynedd ar y Cyd' framework and will be concentrating its efforts on those elements of greatest strategic significance to the County. Chief Executives and Senior Officials from the most influential agencies across Gwynedd are members of the Board. Currently there are 8 Chief Executives and a Senior Civil Servant from the Assembly. I represent the Third Sector on this Board. Two priorities have been allocated to the Local Service Board - Gwynedd's Carbon Footprint and Re-modelling Health and Social Care Community Services. Project Boards have been set up to move forward on both projects and I would ask you to contact me if you are interested in inputting information to either of these projects. Full details of the Local Service Board and priority projects are on the verge of appearing on our website.

And that's it for this edition. I hope you find it useful and remember to keep an eye on our website for updated information.

Until Next Time,

Bethan



A Young Gwynedd Volunteer voicing her opinion

On the 21st of November 2007 Erin Mansell as a young representative of the volunteer sector in Gwynedd was given the opportunity to attend the Funky Dragon Annual Conference.

Funky Dragon aims to involve young people in decision making at local and national levels, especially with the Welsh Assembly Government.

There was around 100 young people in the event, representing local forums, volunteer sector and young people representing special interest.

During the first day a presentation was given to Funky Dragon and the purpose of the event.

Cardiff Bay was the venue for the second day. The young people were welcomed by 1st Minister of the Welsh Assembly, Rhodri Morgan. After his

speech, everyone headed off to the 'Open Question Debate' with Ministers and Officials from the Assembly.

The rest of the afternoon was the official AGM business. Young people were able to listen to and vote on the themes for 2008/09. The 2 themes chosen were 'Votes @ 16' and 'Environment'.

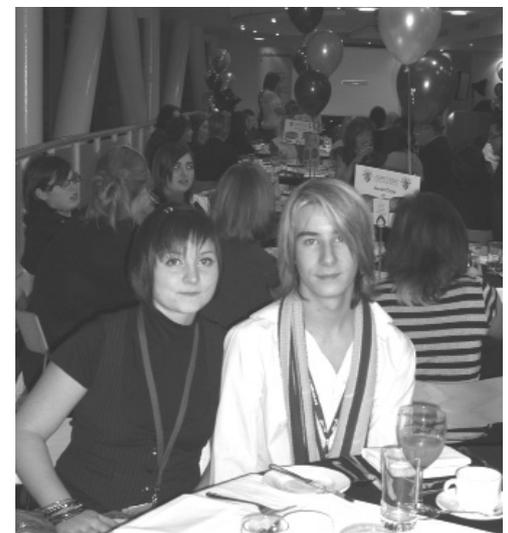
The Conference was a success and Erin did enjoy being a representative for the young volunteer sector.

'I am now ready to hear the opinion of young volunteers in Gwynedd on the themes 'Votes @ 16', 'Environment' and any other matter that's important to them.'

Are you a young person and interested in passing your views on to Erin?

You can do this by e-mailing volunteer@mantellgwynedd.com, or phone

Mirain Roberts (01286) 672626.



In the photo: Erin Mansell and another representative from Gwynedd, Alan Tomos.

To view and download news and information for Wales from:
Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) visit the News section on Mantell Gwynedd's website - www.mantellgwynedd.com

B B C Cymru Wales Wales Spatial Plan consultation

Forum Member

BBC Wales Charities Advisory Forum

The BBC Cymru Wales Charities Advisory Forum is made up of independent experts from outside the BBC with wide experience of the voluntary sector in Wales who advise and support BBC Management.

Do you have a background in community activity or charity work? Can you offer advice on general issues connected with media broadcasting opportunities? Or perhaps you have expertise in issues affecting children and young people and can help determine the distribution of BBC Children in Need grants in Wales?

The Forum requires a commitment of about 18 days a year. Membership of the Forum is voluntary but your expenses will be covered. We are seeking applications for Forum Members. Applications should be received by 17 April 2008.

For an application form and person specification, please send a large SAE to: BBC Wales Charities Office, Room M1010, Broadcasting House, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2YQ.

Textphone 029 2032 2094
 e-mail: walescharities@bbc.co.uk
 or visit: bbc.co.uk/walescharities

The end of January sees the launch of a 3-month consultation on the Wales Spatial Plan: People, Places, Futures. The document sets a vision for how each part of Wales should develop economically, socially and environmentally over the next 20 years and will guide the way the Assembly Government will spend its money over the coming years.

Mantell Gwynedd has consistently expressed their concern for the more rural areas of

Gwynedd and the inclusion of the social economy within the strategy.

Events will be held in each of the 6 Spatial Plan regions before Easter. For this area the consultation will take place in Venue Cymru, Llandudno on 4th March, 2008. Website : <http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/spatial/news/consultation/?lang=cy>



Here for You Dolgellau

The BBC 'Here For You' will be targeting Dolgellau from 1st March until the end of the month. Many

programmes will focus on Dolgellau and the district. One of the events is an information day on Children in Need project funding in Tŷ Siamas on the 13th March, 10.00a.m. - 7.00p.m.

Call in for a chat, or make an appointment to see us by calling **029 2032 2383**.

Prevent • Protect • Respond
ARE YOU SAFE?

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service can offer you a FREE home fire safety check and install FREE smoke alarms where necessary.

**FREEPHONE
 0800 169 1234**

This phone call could save your life!

The deadline for information or articles to be included in the next edition of Mantell is **28th March, 2008**. Please send or email any information to Beryl Norgrove in Dolgellau: beryl@mantellgwynedd.com • Tel: 01341 422575

VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE VACANCY ON THE NORTH GWYNEDD COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

The North Gwynedd Community Health Council is looking to appoint a new voluntary sector representative on the Council from April 2008. Members serve for **four** years with the possibility of another **four**.

The Community Health Council is an independent and statutory body that plays a crucial role in letting managers of health servic-

es know what people want and how things can be improved.

Training will be provided. Travelling and subsistence costs will be paid.

If anyone is interested in applying and if they are good at listening to others and exchanging views and are willing to contribute about 3 days a month, then the Community Health Council would

like to hear from them

For a chat and further information, contact the Chief Officer:

Mr Glanville Owen, 4 Lôn Bupur, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 1RG

Tel: 01286 674961

glanville@nwwaleschc.org.uk

www.patienthelp.wales.nhs.uk/go/gleddgwynedd

Cruses' Provision extended

Cruse Bereavement Care will be holding drop-ins for information at the Abbey Road Centre, Bangor every 3rd Wednesday in the month between 10:15am and 12:15pm. Please come along and talk to Trish if you are bereaved or if you are concerned about anyone else who is grieving. Cruse can also be of help where bereavement is anticipated. Bereavement related literature and refreshments will be available free of charge.

For further information please call: 08702 402 758

OLDER PEOPLE'S COMMISSIONER APPOINTED

Ruth Marks has been appointed as the Older People's Commissioner for Wales. She will take up her role in April. Ruth is currently director of the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) in Wales.

Helping hand for commissioners

Diabetes UK together with Asthma UK and the British Heart Foundation, has launched an on-line toolkit to help people involved in commissioning healthcare services. The website includes an electronic library of policy documents, practical commissioning advice and a chance to question experts and join on-line discussions. The website includes an electronic library of policy documents and gives particular attention to the policy context in Wales. For more details visit www.commissioningforthelongterm.org.uk

Next Health, Social Care & Well-being Network Event

Friday, March 14, Glaslyn Leisure Centre, Porthmadog
10:15am-12:30pm

The event will include the following:

- **Gwynedd Social Service Work Plan for 2008/09** - Gwen Carrington, Head of Gwynedd Social Services
- **Gwynedd Local Health Board Action Plans** - Grace Lewis Parry and Clare Jones
- **Alun Ffred Jones & Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas (AMs)** will also participate at this event
- **Discussion groups**

For more information please contact Sioned Larsen on: **01286 672626** or sioned@mantellgwynedd.com

TAN Y MAEN RESOURCE CENTRE BLAENAU FFESTINIOG

New website for Tan y Maen, Blaenau Ffestiniog
www.tanymaen.co.uk

COMMUNITIES NEXT

As the seven Communities First Partnerships are aware there are changes to the Communities First Programme from 2009 onwards.

To start the process off, The Welsh Assembly produced a report - 'Communities Next - Consultation on Taking Communities First Forward'. In conjunction with the report the Assembly are arranging consultation meetings with the Partnerships. But, because they are only arranging one meeting in the north the Communities First Support Officers in Mantell Gwynedd in co-operation with Eirian Pierce Jones of the Communities First Support

Network arranged two consultation meetings for Community First Partnerships in Gwynedd. The first was held in Porthmadog on Wednesday 6th of February with around 20 people attending. A lively discussion was had regarding the report and the obligations of the changes to the Communities First Partnerships.

Due to the agenda being quite 'long' for the evening, we were not able to respond to all the questions in the report. It was therefore decided to hold a second session in Porthmadog on the 17th March 2008 at 7.00pm.

Mantell Gwynedd have also

arranged a session to discuss the report in Caernarfon on Wednesday 13th February 2008 at Galeri, Caernarfon - you can read more on that event in the next edition of Mantell.

Following this consultation, Mair and Carys will produce a report to feedback to the Assembly and we will ensure that all of you who attend will get a copy.

If you wish to see the Welsh Assembly consultation document you can follow this link:
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/consultation/communitiesnext/?lang=en>

Children & Young People

All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008

Revised copies of the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 will be available within the next few weeks and will become operational across Wales from **1st APRIL, 2008**. Mantell Gwynedd will receive 450 copies from The Gwynedd Local Children's Safeguarding Board to distribute amongst **Third Sector** organisations operating in the field of **children and young people** in Gwynedd, and these will be available **free of charge!**

If you have already received a letter from Mantell Gwynedd notifying you of these Procedures, then you will automatically receive a free **complementary copy**. To require further copies, you will need to make an application either by letter or e-mail. **Precedence will be given to smaller organisations.**

On the other hand, if you are a Third Sector organisation working within the field but have **not** received a letter from Mantell Gwynedd, please get in touch with Ann Vaughan Jones (Children and Young People Facilitator) ASAP to register your details. Tel: **01286 672626**, e-mail annvaughan@mantellgwynedd.com

THIRD SECTOR FOCUS GROUP

Following a request from the Children and Young People's Partnership, a Focus Group was organised on the 8th of January at St Mary's Church, Tremadog with a number of Third Sector organisations. The session focused on giving Third Sector organisations in Gwynedd an opportunity to comment on the efficiency of the Partnership's strategic procedures in preparation for planning and providing youth support services in Gwynedd as well as identifying how these procedures could strengthen future planning.

This session was part of The Partnerships' process of preparing for their Estyn Inspection in March 2008. Hawis Jones, Operational Manager for the Gwynedd Children and Young People's Partnership commented:

"This was a very successful Focus Group which helped to identify specific issues, such as improving communication, which needs to be addressed in terms of developing future relationships between the Strategic Partnership and the Voluntary Sector".

Thank you to everyone who contributed on such short notice! Your time and effort were highly valued!

Gwynedd Children & Families Forum Conference and AGM



The Gwynedd Children and Families Forum will be holding a Conference and AGM at The Meifod Country House Hotel, Bontnewydd on Tuesday **15th April 2008**. The key speaker will be the new **Children's Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler**. For further details, contact Audra Roberts or Ann Vaughan Jones at Mantell Gwynedd on: **01286 672626** or e-mail fforwmplant@mantellgwynedd.com

Mantell forthcoming events:

MARCH 2008

Preparing Grant Applications 14th March 2008

10.00a.m. - 4.00p.m.
Queens Hotel, Blaenau Ffestiniog

Cost: - £10 Mantell Gwynedd Members - £15 Non-members Voluntary Sector - £40 Private and Statutory sector.

APRIL 2008

Preparing a Business Plan 1st April 2008

10.00a.m. - 4.00p.m.
Royal Victoria, Llanberis

Cost: - £10 Mantell Gwynedd Members - £15 Non-members Voluntary Sector - £40 Private and Statutory sector.

Trustee and Director Responsibilities 16th April 2008

10.00a.m. - 3.30p.m.
Royal Victoria, Llanberis

Cost: - £10 Mantell Gwynedd Members - £15 Non-members Voluntary Sector - £40 Private and Statutory sector.

Preparing for Volunteers (2 days) 29th and 30th April 2008

10.00a.m. - 4.00p.m.
Royal Sportsman, Porthmadog

Cost: - £10 Mantell Gwynedd Members - £15 Non-members Voluntary Sector - £40 Private and Statutory sector.

JUNE 2008

Asset Based Development 3rd June 2008

10.00a.m. - 4.00p.m.
Tŷ Siamas, Dolgellau

Cost: - £10 Mantell Gwynedd Members - £15 Non-members Voluntary Sector - £40 Private and Statutory sector



If you would like to discuss the training needs of your organisation or wish to find out more about the training that Mantell

Gwynedd offer, please contact: Mantell Gwynedd, The Old Police Station, Lombard Street, Dolgellau, Gwynedd LL40 1SB. Tel: 01341 422575 or dolgellau@mantellgwynedd.com

Training offered by others:

CHILDREN IN WALES

An Introduction to Children's Rights & Participation 14th March 2008

St Mary's Church (Cartrefi Cymru), Tremadog.

**Cost: £98 - Children in Wales Members
£120 - Non-members**

This popular introductory course is aimed at practitioners and managers who wish to update their knowledge of the 'Rights' based agenda which is developing in Wales as well as for professionals relatively new to this area.

All course participants will receive an information pack which can be used to support their learning when back in the work place.

The course will be delivered in Welsh .

Living with Teenagers 6th & 7th March 2008

WCVA, North Wales Office, Rhyl

**Cost: £190 - Children in Wales Members
£230 - Non-members**

This two day course provides participants with the skills to deliver the 'Living with Teenagers' Programme which focuses on providing parents and carers with a better understanding of teenage development and strategies for coping with attendant behaviours.

For more information on the above courses or to download a booking form please visit the Children in Wales website: www.plantynghymru.org.uk

CONTACT A FAMILY

Sleep Management Workshop

12th March 2008 - The Interchange, Old Colwyn
23rd April 2008 - Oak Tree Centre, Rhyl

10.00a.m. - 2.30p.m.

Cost: FREE - £10 refundable deposit to secure a place. Lunch will be provided

Heather Mcleod will give a talk about sleep management issues and will answer individual questions and offer practical solutions.

This course will be held through the medium of English with a Welsh speaker in attendance.

Makaton Training

14th & 15th April 2008 - The Interchange, Old Colwyn
9.30a.m. - 2.30p.m.

Cost: FREE - £10 refundable deposit to secure a place. Lunch will be provided

This course is aimed at parents of children who use makaton. Makaton is a unique language programme which is used as a systematic approach for the teaching of communication, language and literacy skills.

For further information on these courses or to secure your place please contact Jill Bartlett, Contact a Family Development Officer. Tel: 01248 670965 or email: jill.bartlett@cafamily.org.uk

The Gwynedd Volunteers' Organisers Network Meeting

Information session provided by the Criminal Records Unit (WCVA)



A meeting of Gwynedd Volunteers' Organisers Network was held in Porthmadog on 29th January, when Emma Leighton Jones gave a presentation about the work of the WCVA Criminal Records Unit. She started by pointing out the problems in the current system, and of recommendations to overcome some of these difficulties. She then moved on to give information about a new vetting service called the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), which aims to go live in Autumn 2008.

The purpose of this new body is to help prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable people.

The ISA will be responsible for establishing and maintaining two barred lists of people from working with:

- children ● vulnerable adults.

It doesn't matter in which sector the activity takes place, or whether an individual is paid staff or a volunteer. For the employer, it is an offence to employ someone:

- who is on ISA Barred list(s)
- who requires to be ISA registered, but the employer has not checked their status.

For more detailed information about the proposed changes, and the latest updates, check the following websites:-

www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations
wcva-cru.org.uk/cggc-uct.org.uk
www.isa.gov.org.uk
www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/vettingandbarring

Date for your Diary

The next meeting of the **Gwynedd Volunteers' Organisers Network Meeting** will be held at **Technium Cast, Parc Menai, Bangor** at 1.30pm on **Wednesday, 14th May 2008.**

The guest speaker will be Mark Restall, head of information with Volunteering England who will give a talk on 'Volunteers and the Law'.

The Millennium Volunteer

The Millennium Volunteer is a UK wide volunteering programme for 16 to 24 year olds. It aims to encourage, and to reward contributions to volunteering. There are certificates to mark the first 50 hrs and 100 hrs of volunteering, and MVs who complete 200 hours of volunteering will receive an Award of Excellence signed by the First Minister of Wales.

Tomos Ifan Pw Williams is the latest young volunteer from Gwynedd to receive an 'Award of Excellence' under the Millennium Volunteer programme. He is a sixth form pupil at Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen in Caernarfon. Between October 2006 and December 2007, he volunteered for over 220 hours, and has gained a lot from his experiences. He was involved with Antur Waunfawr, Ysgol Pendalar, The Stroke Association and Galeri.

Congratulations, and best wishes for the future, Ifan!



Wales Volunteer of the Year Award 2008

Do you know someone special who inspires you by what they do as a volunteer, or maybe a group or an organisation which is a shining example of how volunteers can make a positive difference? If so, this is your chance to nominate them for the 'Wales Volunteer of the Year Award 2008', and in doing so give a little recognition to the individual or group for the hard work that they do. It is also a way to raise awareness of the organization / group that benefit from their efforts. This award has now been offered for the last five years, and in the past, individuals and groups from Gwynedd have become national winners. It would be good to have success stories from Gwynedd again in 2008.

So, put your thinking caps on...but don't forget that nominations have to be received at WCVA (www.cggc.org.uk), Cardiff by 28th March 2008.

Nomination forms available from the Gwynedd Volunteer Centre.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE YOUR ORGANISATION

Remember that the Gwynedd Volunteer Centre are offering organisations an opportunity to 'borrow' window space at their office in Caernarfon for periods of up to four weeks at a time.

For further information, or advice about any aspect of volunteering, contact the Gwynedd Volunteer Centre on: Tel: 01286 672626 / 01341 422575 or e-mail: gwirfoddoli@mantellgwynedd.com

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

The Foundation in future expect to fund a wider range of work than before, although their core interests remain in the fields of culture, education, environment and social development.

As part of their new funding approach they are also running

a number of smaller, more focused funding strands. The first three will be: biodiversity, museum and heritage collections, and new approaches to learning.

For more information :
www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

-Yapp Charitable Trust

This Trust provides grants for small charities working with older people, children, disabled people or disadvantaged groups. Grants of up to £3,000 are available to registered charities that have been operating for at least three years and have a total annual expenditure of less than £60,000. The Trust will also fund educa-

tion and learning projects, particularly if they involve people who are educationally disadvantaged.

Applications are invited by 26th May for the Trust's July meeting.

www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk

Cist Gwynedd 2008/09 - Voluntary Development Fund.

The Voluntary Development Grant is a revenue and capital grant approx £240,000 to allocate in 2008-09. It is aimed that these allocations will support projects that strengthen and develop groups and enterprises within the voluntary sector. Its aims are:

- improving social, linguistic, cultural and recreational opportunities.
- enhancing employment prospects, enterprise and skills, particularly young people and those at a disadvantage & promote equal opportunity.
- improving the environment, bring land and buildings into effective use.
- community safety and prevent crime or reduce the fear of crime.
- improve the environment/reduce pollution.
- promote and support voluntary action and volunteering
- encourage joint working and increase pride and confidence.
- contribute towards reducing deprivation in the most deprived areas.

Closing dates 31st March 2008 and 30th June 2008 (this is dependant on whether there are funds left to allocate).

Contact : 01286 679 153 or e-mail heatherwilliams@gwynedd.gov.uk

ERDF Ireland-Wales Cross Border Co-operative Programme

The €52 million European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Ireland-Wales Cross Border Co-operation Programme has been launched.

Organisations working in Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Gwynedd, Ynys Môn, Conwy and Denbighshire will be eligible to apply for funding to work in partnership with organisations working in the counties of Dublin, Meath, Wicklow, Kildare, Wexford, Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow and South Tipperary in Ireland.

One closing date has been but there will be further opportunities later in the year. The programme will fund joint Irish-Welsh initiatives in areas such as the development of more innovative businesses, skills and training development, combating climate change, sustainable development and community development.

The Wales-Ireland Networking Project 2 (WIN 2) will run alongside the implementation of the programme and aims to encourage the formation of partnerships that may lead to the submission of Ireland Wales Programme applications by providing financial assistance for travel and subsistence costs to eligible organisations.

Further information www.irelandwales.eu