

# The Joint Initiative Funding Scheme (2007 - 2009) - A Review of the programme

March 2010

**This publication provides an overview of a recently completed small grant scheme established to provide financial backing and guidance to local, regional or national Community and Voluntary Organisations (CVOs) to take action on a pressing health-related issue affecting targeted black and minority ethnic (BME) population groups in Wales**

## Research by:

**Olivia Ambang**  
Faculty of Health,  
Sport and Science  
University of  
Glamorgan Pontypridd  
Pontypridd, CF37 1DL

## Key Points

- The Scheme, which ran from June 2006 until December 2009, targeted value-driven non-governmental organisations that principally re-invest their surpluses to making improvements in the health and social welfare of minoritised groups in Wales.
- 55 applications from organisations based throughout Wales were submitted and 28 grants issued, ranging between £240 and £500. Approximately 1093 people took part in activities and events funded under this Scheme.
- Main findings:  
(1) CVOs have the capacity to make effective health and social wellbeing interventions,  
(2) the CVOs utilize a range of effective, flexible and practical recruitment and engagement strategies of use to university-based researchers, and  
(3) future Schemes should include: information exchange opportunities, timely funding pay-outs, and greater involvement with applicants prior to, and throughout the process.

This Joint Initiative Funding Scheme (JIFS) was part of a five year national programme of research and development (2005 - 2010) that was funded by the National Institute of Social Care and Health Research (formerly the Wales Office of Research and Development in Health and Social Care).

JIFS was established to provide financial backing and guidance to local, regional or national Community and Voluntary Organisations (CVOs)

and to WEDHS regional hubs to take action on a pressing health-related issue affecting black and minority ethnic (BME) population groups in Wales.

The key goals underpinning this Scheme were to foster interest, engender involvement and establish links between community and voluntary organisations (CVOs) and the WEDHS regional hubs based at the Universities of Glamorgan, Swansea and UWIC, and secondly, to identify and reflect on effective engagement strategies used by CVOs.



**WERC**

Wales Ethnicity Research Collaboration  
Cydwethrediad Ymchwil Ethnigrwydd Cymru



## Specific objectives

The purpose of this Review is to summarise the funded activities, to analysis the completed post-project evaluation forms submitted by the grant awardees, to spotlight awardees' perspectives on how to improve the Scheme, and lastly to identify engagement strategies that could be adopted by university-based researchers.

## Methodology

Between June 2007 and March 2009, there were four invitations for Wales-based CVOs to submit a short application that provided evidence for, as well as outlined, their proposed activity, their target population group(s) and their funding requirements. Information about the Scheme was disseminated to WEDHS stakeholders and members, and also to key stakeholder groups, organisations and services throughout Wales.

In total fifty-five applications were submitted and twenty- eight grants issued, ranging between £240 and £500. The application forms and evaluation forms completed by the grant awardees, together with a short supplementary questionnaire on the monitoring and support offered by WEDHS staff between June 2007 and December 2009, were analysed and thematically presented.

## Key Findings

### The successful grant applications

The majority of JIFS awardees (n= 18) were based in SE Wales (Cardiff, Newport and Blackwood), with seven grants awarded to CVOs based in west Wales (Swansea, Port Talbot, Llanelli, Carmarthen) and two in north Wales (Bangor and Conwy). The WEDHS research hub based at Swansea University received two grants and the North Wales Race Equality Network (NWREN), the WEDHS north Wales partner, received one grant. The majority of the successful grant applicants were small community groups (faith-based, single sex and those working with children and young people) associations (cultural and social) and local, regional or national health and social voluntary organisations (covering

“Swimming has given me the ability to be in control of my medical condition and not the other way round”

*Service user-  
Swansea Female Aquatic*

housing, immigration, race equality, mental health, older people, environmental issues, disability and social cohesion).

Also included was one social enterprise, as well as submissions received from branches of the Welsh Assembly Government's national initiative aimed at regenerating Wales' most deprived communities, Communities First.

The Scheme allowed the applicants the freedom to develop their projects as they saw fit, with the only proviso being that the projects were organised for residents in Wales. Grants included those with a focus on learning disabilities (n = 1), the promotion and engendering of good mental health (n = 8),



Wales Ethnicity Research Collaboration  
Cydweithrediad Ymchwil Ethnigrwydd Cymru



“Having the opportunity to work creatively in an environment that welcomes parents and children”

*Polish Women Carmarthenshire*

**Polish Women**



cardiovascular disease (including stroke and high blood pressure (n = 3), food and nutrition (n = 2), and also physical health and active living (n = 6).

Other applicants focused on raising awareness of sickle cell disorders, kidney disease, and blood and organ donation. Funds were used to support a participatory project for new mothers to learn about weaning, to launch a specialist counseling service, and to help support a children’s weekend school dedicated to raising self-esteem and developing practical life skills. Also targeted were the health information and support needs of specific minoritised population groups and the ethnic diversity training needs of nurses.

A well as grants that focused on physical activities and on raising awareness and knowledge transfer work, a third area of focus was that of research and consultation, with funded dedicated to the hosting of focus groups and group meetings in the broad field of understanding of mental health and access to mental health services for older minority ethnic groups.

### **A review of the project evaluations**

Evaluation forms were issued to all successful grant applicants and of the 26 grants, we received 26 completed evaluations. The funded activities took place in church, community and local authority halls and centres, as well as in CVO’s offices and sites. In one case, the programme of activities took place at a gypsy traveller campsite. The majority of funded activities took place within six months of the date that the funding was released, with a

small number of activities (N = 2) completed within nine months. In all cases, the activities outlined in the original grant applications were carried out, although in some cases, there were changes made to the delivery of the proposed activities.

Of the 26 completed evaluations, 24 addressed the question on the successes and challenges of note faced in the delivery of the activities. The challenges included the length of time to plan and deliver to budget, the length of time getting the funds, and inclement weather that led to low turnout. Key successes included getting people to attend, raising awareness of and engagement with, services provided either by CVOs or services provided by ‘mainstream’ statutory organisations and an increase in confidence to access such services, Other successes include improved knowledge of service users and their needs and new, as well as improved engagement between, service providers and service users.

### **Summary Points**

- The respondents’ views on how best to deliver future Schemes are timely and important. The recommendations included: wider promotion of small grant schemes, a greater level of support made available applicants, less delay in awarding funds, more sustained contact and involvement with the awardees by Scheme managers including the hosting of knowledge exchange events and Scheme dissemination events.

“It was frightening to dance in front of so many people but we felt very happy with ourselves after we did it”

*Chinese dance BEN*

- Focus and attention given to the recruitment and information messages, the building up of trust as a precursor to mobilizing and working with groups of people, the forging of relationships across sectors and the approaches to engagement that focus on leaders, priorities and spaces of importance to the targeted population groups are some of the strategies used by CVOS to recruit and engage people that can be adopted by academics seeking to engage in community research and community-based scholarly activities.
- From the review it is clear that CVOs have the capacity to make timely and effective health and social wellbeing interventions that are framed within the local context; often times linked to wider programmes of work and designed using a range of recruitment and involvement strategies. Moreover, in seeking interventions for older people, younger people, new residents who are from BME backgrounds, the CVOs work is rooted in an understanding of the number of axes of social differentiation in which ethnicity and 'race' intersect and operate including gender, socioeconomic position, age, religion, area and community. With a strong focus on anti-racism, and the promotion of race equality, the interventions planned by the CVOs spotlight a strong understanding of the multidimensionality of social identity, the marked social variations in the chances of living a healthy life and the importance of addressing the cumulative toll of the various dimensions of disadvantage. This understanding must be reflected in the stated aims of future Schemes and in the criteria underpinning them.

“The participants expressed their satisfaction in having their voice heard”

*Cardiff and Vale Mental Health Development Programme*



“For one service user it was fantastic to see her so relaxed and enjoying herself in fact she asked if we could do this trip on a regular basis!”

*AWETU*

**For further information**

The full report is available at [www.werconline.org.uk](http://www.werconline.org.uk)

## JIFS Activities

<b>Taff Housing Association</b>	Health information days and the production of a booklet on healthy recipes for gypsy travellers
<b>African Community Centre, Swansea</b>	A conference to raise awareness of kidney health in Asian and African Caribbean adults
<b>Islamic Social Services</b>	Launch of new organisation providing faith-based counselling
<b>City Temple, Eritrean Group</b>	Funding for a small group to attend a conference organised to bring together refugees or asylum seekers in the UK, to discuss key health and wellbeing issues
<b>Women Stepping Out</b>	Contribution to a series of events to raise the self esteem and good mental health of young African-Caribbean children and young people
<b>Black Environment Network</b>	Dragon dance classes for Chinese 50+ in Gwynedd as part of maintaining control of their physical and mental health
<b>Age Concern Swansea</b>	Two-day event to raise awareness of the dangers of high blood pressure, to provide advice and information on healthy living, and to provide free blood pressure checks, with advice from the district nurse
<b>AWETU all-Wales BME Mental Health Group (2)</b>	A programme of outdoor activities to raise self-esteem and combat isolationism, and one workshop entitled 'Pathways to Recovery'
<b>Progressive Women in Wales</b>	An event to raise awareness of blood and organ donation within the BME community in Neath Port Talbot
<b>Cardiff and the Vale Mental Health Development Group</b>	Consultation exercise to explore the mental health needs of older people from BME backgrounds
<b>Communities First BME Team</b>	Consultation exercises to encourage more BME people to make more frequent use of the mental health services provided in Newport
<b>West Wales hub (2)</b>	The production of health information resources for the migrant Polish community in Carmarthenshire (in partnership with the Polish community), and production of ethnic diversity training DVD for nurses
<b>BikeAbility</b>	Cycle training and rides for young female carers from the Muslim community In Swansea
<b>MAYREAU</b>	Workshops on topics linked to health and social wellbeing as a way in which to bring people together to support each other, to learn new skills and to build confidence.
<b>Women's Only Group</b>	To provide an opportunity for women to exercise regularly through dance in a social environment, to improve their physical and mental well-being, and to learn new skills.
<b>Displaced People in Action (DPIA)</b>	Site visits to introduce mothers to toddler-friendly exercise opportunities in Cardiff, and to promote their confidence in accessing these opportunities.
<b>Barnardos</b>	A programme to enhance self-confidence and self-esteem, by enabling young people to have rewarding and positive experiences that they can cherish and focus on.
<b>Access for BME Children and Young People with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses (ABCD)</b>	An information day for parents, carers and professionals involved with children and young people with learning disabilities, or chronic illness.
<b>Barnardos</b>	A programme of locally based sporting, leisure and health activities, events for children and their families
<b>RCMA Social Enterprise</b>	A day to promote healthy eating through food demonstrations
<b>Ethnic Minority Communities Team, Communities First</b>	Video booth to capture the views of mental health service users.
<b>Swansea Female Aquatics Club c/o Minority Ethnic Women's Network</b>	Swimming classes as a form of exercise that will increase the level of physical activity in their daily lives.
<b>Arabic Society for Culture</b>	A one day workshop on the prevention of cardiovascular diseases
<b>NWREN &amp; Stonewall Cymru</b>	To create an opportunity for people of BME backgrounds who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual to share and reflect on their lives and their health concerns

