



The Wales Alliance for Citizen Directed Support

Draft Constitution

1. Introducing the Wales Alliance for Citizen Directed Support

The Wales Alliance for Citizen Directed Support exists to help people to have choice and control over how they live their life, within communities where they can make a contribution and feel like they are valued.

The Wales Alliance for Citizen Directed Support is currently a legally unincorporated body, however as the work of Citizen Directed Support develops in Wales it's members may chose to become incorporated.

The **Aim of the Wales Alliance of Citizen Directed Support** is to:

- ✳ The Wales Alliance for Citizen Directed Support is working to change social care in Wales so that it is more transparent and sustainable; ensuring that people have choice and control over their lives, living as independently as possible as part of their community.

The **Principles of Citizen Directed Support in Wales** are:

- ✳ **Choice and Control**
 - ✳ *Individuals will have the greatest possible choice and control to direct their own lives.*
 - ✳ *We will work together to have lives that we can all aspire to.*
- ✳ **Community**
 - ✳ *Individuals have a rightful place in their community and an opportunity to contribute to it.*
 - ✳ *We will help to build communities in which we all can exercise our responsibilities and enjoy our rights as citizens.*
- ✳ **Change**
 - ✳ *Individuals can work to create a better life for them and those around them.*
 - ✳ *We can work together to create a major change in the way we support each other and meet our needs.*

2. Building and Organising our Alliance

We want our Alliance to be an open and equal partnership of people with an interest in Citizen Directed Support.

The Alliance is committed to:

- ✳ Active member involvement
- ✳ Equality of opportunity
- ✳ Equality of representation (if possible)
- ✳ Democratic processes
- ✳ Accountable leadership

In keeping with these commitments, the constitution will:-

- 1) Encourage membership and active participation from all relevant interest categories (see table below).
- 2) Give equal opportunities to all members.
- 3) Seek to ensure that the governing body (the Alliance Council) is composed of:
 - ✳ *Equal numbers of members who are citizens and professionals*
 - ✳ *Equal numbers of members from each relevant category.*
- 4) Allow any vacant seat (where a representative for a category cannot be identified) to be filled by a member from some other category.
- 5) Require all seats on the Alliance Council to be subject to election by the full membership (either at an Annual General Meetings or Special General Meetings or by an on-line ballot).

3. The members of the Wales Alliance for Citizen Directed Support?

Any person, group, or agency can be a member of the Alliance as long as they sign up to the principles of the Wales Alliance for Citizen Directed Support and act in line with them.

The Alliance is a membership organisation.

Membership is drawn from two groups split into six categories as follows:

| Citizens | Professionals |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Citizens who use social care | Voluntary sector |
| Carers | Statutory sector |
| Other citizens (eg. friends etc) | Other professionals (e.g. lawyers etc) |

Membership for citizens who use social care, carers, voluntary organisations and statutory organisations will be on the basis of self-nomination referred to the Alliance Council for approval.

Membership for other citizens and other professionals will be on the basis of a nomination by an existing member, referred to the Alliance Council for approval.

Members will have the following rights and responsibilities:-

- 1) To elect the Alliance Council
- 2) To see Alliance Council papers online or by request
- 3) To attend Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings
- 4) To receive e-notices of any major forthcoming decisions upon which they could comment
- 5) To receive e-notices of any major forthcoming activities in which they could participate
- 6) To take action, or make suggestions for actions, which will promote Citizen Directed Support
- 7) To respect the guidance and decisions of the Alliance Council.

4. The Wales Alliance for Citizen Directed Support Council

The Alliance has a governing group called the Alliance Council. It is made up of 18 people who represent a fair cross section of all the citizens, groups and organisations that make it up.

The Council will elect a Chair and Co-chair to lead the council one of these people will use services, the other will deliver or commission them.

- ✳ The Alliance Council will comprise of a maximum of 18 members (3 x 6 categories). Attendance of Observers will be at the discretion of the Committee and will meet at least 4 times a year.
- ✳ The Council will elect a Chair and Co-Chair one of these people will be citizen who uses social care services, the other will be an individual with a role in the delivery or commissioning of social care services.
- ✳ The Council can also elect other officers such as a secretary or treasurer.
- ✳ All of these officers are elected at a meeting convened shortly after an Annual General Meeting or the resignation of a Chair.
- ✳ The Chair (and any other honorary officers) will serve a term of three years. The maximum number of terms to be served without a break will be two.
- ✳ Elections to the Alliance Council will be conducted so that each member has 6 votes, one per category. Members will be invited to nominate someone (with their permission) from any category.
- ✳ All candidates will be required to describe their background and intentions in joining the Council.
- ✳ In the event of only one candidate for a category a vote will still be taken.
- ✳ In the event that there are no candidates for a category, members will be asked to elect a candidate from another category in the same group (i.e. from a citizen category or a professional category) as appropriate. The intention will be to ensure

equality of representation between citizens and professionals. If this is not possible, the committee may co-opt a member from any category at its discretion for a period up to the next Annual General Meeting.

- ✦ Members of the Alliance Council, who, without good reason, do not attend three consecutive committee meetings, will be deemed to have resigned from the Council.

5. The role of Alliance Council

The role of the Alliance Council will be to encourage the development of Citizen Directed Support in Wales and to support it's members in their continuing work to implement the principles of Citizen Directed Support within their lives and organisations.

Although Alliance Council will need to actively review the tasks that it undertakes in developing the Alliance as Citizen Directed Support develops in Wales, the current tasks include:

- ✦ Continuing to develop the principles for Citizen Directed Support in accordance with the views of members and developing practice.
- ✦ Agreeing and promoting with partners demonstration projects involving large scale collaboration between citizens, commissioners and providers, this would include projects including multiple agencies, involve collaboration between, citizens, commissioners and providers, and involve transformation of service areas.
- ✦ Establishing a directory of practice experiments that fit within our principles that partners are exploring, these experiments would be smaller scale, such as re-development or particular elements of service, like assessment and care management, or new models of service delivery, or new forms of collaboration with citizens.
- ✦ Develop an evaluation framework for Citizen Directed Support that can be used by partners to review these projects and experiments.
- ✦ Widening the number of agencies, and individuals who are supporting aims of the Alliance.
- ✦ Developing representative and governance structures through which the Alliance can manage it's work openly and accountably.

The Council Members are joining the Alliance in a very active stage of it's creation and development and so should recognise that being a council member will require work and commitment both at and between meetings.

The Alliance is also currently unfunded thus Council members will also need support of their agencies in meeting their expenses. However we recognise the need to support independent citizens who are involved in Council activities.

However the current Steering Group would like to recommend the Alliance to any potential Alliance Council members, we feel that this work is both exciting and rewarding and essential at this time of challenge to services and inclusive community living.