

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Services Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>13 February 2014</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Contracts with Third Sector Organisations</b>
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### **Introduction**

1. Members of the Scrutiny Committee will be aware of recent discussions about the future of some contracts with third sector organisations in the care field. At the preparatory meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, a request was made for a brief report, updating the committee on the latest developments, to the Services Scrutiny Committee to inform and update them of the situation.

### **The Story**

2. Some of the most important contracts in the care field have been out on three year agreements with 21 third sector organisations since 2011, and those contracts are meant to end in March 2014. During November 2013, the Council contacted the organisations reminding them that the contracts were ending and reporting that it was inviting proposals for a further three year period from April 2014 onwards, with those contracts being advertised on the Sell2Wales website. (It is important to acknowledge that some organisations have reported they did not receive this correspondence).
3. Organisations from the Third Sector have complained profusely about the lack of notice to continue with this tendering process, and also regarding the fact that the work would be offered on Sell2Wales. They made a specific request for the current contracts to be extended for a year and for the contracts not to be placed on the website.
4. Following an initial proposal to offer a three month extension, the Council has now agreed to a year's extension and is looking at the arrangements in terms of how the contracts are advertised.

## **Impressions**

5. Evidently this matter has caused considerable uncertainty and unpleasantness and it is important that the Council and the Third Sector discuss how we can collaborate better, not only with respect to these contracts, but generally in the future. Public services in Gwynedd are facing an extremely difficult period from now on, and good collaboration between the Council and the sector will be very important.
  
6. With this in mind, a high level meeting was held between representatives from the Council and the Third Sector. As a result of this meeting, two things are underway:-
  - A meeting facilitated with the Council and representatives from the Third Sector to learn lessons from the recent experience and to try and ensure that the relationship has firm foundations for the future.
  - Specific work in the care field to have a joint discussion on the arrangement for commissioning these specific contracts in order to gain a result that benefits the residents of Gwynedd.