

History of PAVO

In 1974 Powys Rural Council was created from the three independent Rural Community Councils of Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire and Brecknockshire. Powys Rural Council changed its name to Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations in 1994. PAVO became a Company Limited by Guarantee on 4th March 1998.

Following a review by the Welsh Office of support for voluntary intermediary services carried out in 1995, Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and the Wales Association of County Voluntary Councils (WACVC) developed proposals for a new funding scheme for County Voluntary Councils based on explicit minimum standards of service and monitoring criteria. WCVA was asked to implement and administer the scheme.

PAVO's purpose, as the other CVCs, is to ensure an effective support structure for voluntary organisations in all fields of activity in each unitary authority area, independent of the statutory sector and directly accountable to local voluntary organisations. The proposals for the Local Voluntary Services scheme received ministerial approval in 1996.

The scheme set out minimum standards in relation to:

- Providing support services for voluntary organisations (information, funding advice, training, advice on legal and efficient operation).
- Identifying the view of a broad range of local voluntary groups and representing those views to decision makers in ways which lead to effective outcomes and partnerships.
- Assisting the development of locally determined and agreed voluntary sector initiatives which meet unmet need and enhance community participation.
- Assisting in the provision or development of an effective volunteering service.
- Fulfilling recognised organisational standards, which include maximising membership from all parts of the voluntary sector, and making themselves accountable to the local voluntary sector within a local authority area.

The re-organisation of local government in April 1996 meant that the existing eight CVCs based on the old county boundaries needed to review their future structure. The minimum standards of the LVS scheme, with a focus on services being available and accountable to voluntary organisations in each unitary authority area, reinforced a need for change. PAVO however was unaffected by boundary changes.

We are the CVC for the most rural county in England and Wales. Powys covers a large area of Rural Wales. It is an area of small market towns, a scattered population and the county's voluntary sector profile reflects this rurality and peripheral nature.