**Grŵp Democratiaeth Cymru - Democracy Group Cymru**

*Previously the Election Engagement Working Group (EEWG)*

Purpose and objectives

To increase democratic engagement in Wales by empowering the electorate to use their vote through education and awareness raising, particularly in light of the expanded franchise.

In this group we are bringing together organisations representing young people, foreign nationals, Black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals and those less likely to vote to achieve the following objectives:

* Improving democratic engagement, particularly of under-registered and groups organisations/politicians have struggled to engage through bringing together key players in the democracy and third sector in Wales and promoting collaborative working
* Sharing knowledge from across the community, including any learning from events and activities undertaken to improve public engagement and work on best practise
* Facilitating long-term behaviour change to improve democratic engagement including the continuation of the group outside of the election cycle
* Increasing the accessibility of independent/non-partisan information around how democracy functions in Wales and upcoming elections
* Working in collaboration to increase the impact and reach of engagements including joint campaigns and collective actions

Term/Review Point

These terms of reference are valid from September 2021 and will be reviewed after the 2022 local elections in Wales.

Membership

The group is open to all organisations interested in increasing democratic engagement in Wales with a particular focus on those working with newly enfranchised groups and those less likely to vote.

ERS Cymru will host a webpage on its website with details of the group including information on how to join.

Meetings

* Meetings will be chaired by Jess Blair, ERS Cymru, unless they are unavailable or another organisation would like to host a particular meeting.
* Administrative support will be provided by Nia Thomas, ERS Cymru including:
  + preparing and circulating agendas and supporting papers ahead of meetings
  + preparing and circulating meeting notes and information after meetings
* Meetings will be held every 6 weeks for 1 hour online via MS Teams. However, the frequency of meetings may increase with proximity to Welsh elections. We will continue to review the format of meetings with regards to COVID-19 regulations and recommendations, meetings with an in-person element may be possible in the future but we would aim for a hybrid-format to facilitate the involvement of people and organisations from across Wales.
* If required, additional full or sub-group meetings will be arranged outside of these times at a time convenient to members.
* Meeting notes and any other relevant information will be circulated to the whole group via the mailing list after each meeting.