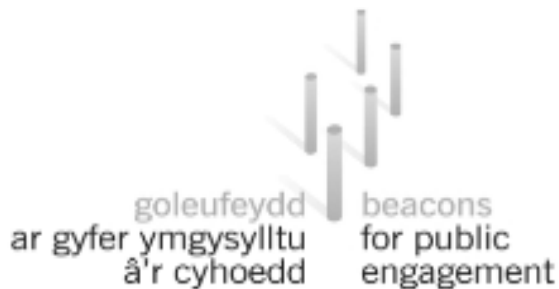
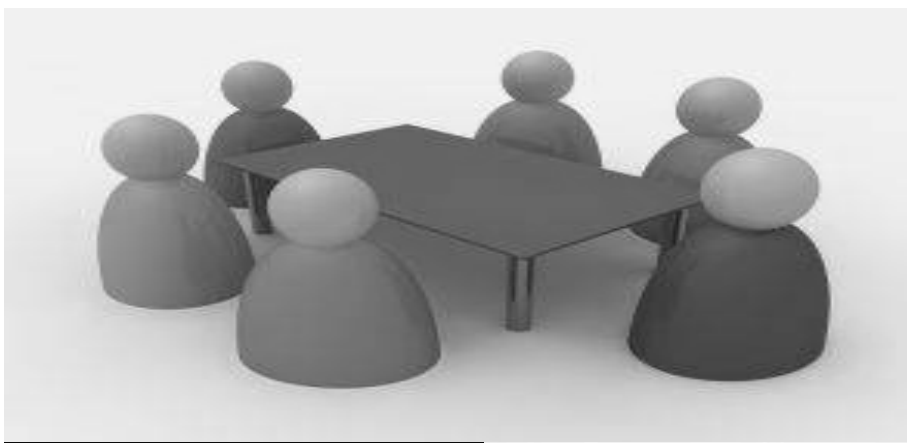


Beacons for Public Engagement

Beacon for Wales

Dr Richard Watermeyer
Cardiff University
Beacon for Wales



Vitae SWW Hub – **Good Practice**
24.02.10

Agenda

- Presentation
- Q&A
- Breakout Sessions
- Plenary Feedback
- Summary

What is the Beacon for Wales?

- Pilot project funded by Research Council UK, Higher Education Funding Council Wales and the Wellcome Trust
- Partnership between (initially):
 - Cardiff University
 - University of Glamorgan
 - BBC Cymru Wales
 - Amgueddfa Cymru National Museum Wales
 - Techniquest

What is the Beacon for Wales?



- Partnership between HE and engagement organisations
- To develop partnerships:
 - Between knowledge organisations
 - Between HE and non-HE
 - Between HE and the publics/community
- To contribute to the improvement in the quality of public/academic/political dialogue in Wales

What is Public Engagement?

- Specialists listening to, working with and learning from non-specialists
- All relationships that universities have that are NOT academic-academic or academic-student/potential student
- It is not:
 - Marketing oriented student recruitment
 - Widening Access
 - Teaching/lifelong learning activities that carry credits at any level (including Open College Network [OCN])

Objectives

1. Effective network for engagement in/with Wales
2. HE institutions that value and reward engagement
3. Increase in quality and quantity of engagement activities
4. Dissemination of good practice models for various audiences and methods
5. Development of tools for evaluating engagement
6. Improved public/political/academic dialogue in Wales

Incentives

- Organisational recognition and reward
 - Promotional criteria
- REF
- Benefits to Research, Teaching and Learning
 - Benefits to research and planning
 - Benefits to access and recruitment of research participants
 - Identifying and overcoming public prejudices and misconceptions
 - Enriching research
 - Personal fulfillment

Benefits to Self	Benefits to Subject	Benefits to Self & Subject
Fulfilment/personal satisfaction	Research design and planning	Enables academics to better respond to ill-informed perceptions and public prejudice
Critical self-reflection	Recruitment of participants, data collection, access to networks	Improved image for discipline and institution
Confidence	Enrichment of research through non-specialist insights	Greater awareness and sensitivity to matters of public interest
Communication skills	Extending <i>informed</i> debate	Identifying funding opportunities
Role-model	Exposing <i>bad</i> science	
'Working' relationships with patients	Justification of research/ making research relevant & 'real-world' grounding of academic knowledge	

Research

- Mixed method – qualitative and quantitative
- Survey/cultural audit
- In-depth interviewing
- Observation
- Methodology
- Evaluation

Research – Scholarship of Engagement

- Themes
 - Networks
 - Space
 - Experiential Learning
 - Dialogue
 - Complexity
 - Translation & Transaction
- Science Clubs, Science Cafés, Science Shows

Research Group

The logo for the Research Group features the word "engaged" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The word is centered and flanked by two horizontal, double-headed arrows. The arrows are light gray and have a slight 3D effect, appearing to be positioned behind the text.

engaged

Research into Public Engagement

Activity

- Science Alliance Cymru
- Wales Cultural Exchange
- Showcasing to Policy Makers
- Early Career Researcher Conference
- Beacon for Wales Conference

Other organisations

- National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement
 - www.publicengagement.ac.uk
- Sciencewise
 - www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk
- Science Media Centre
 - www.sciencemediacentre.org

Thank you for listening / Diolch

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Break-out

- Questions

- What does public engagement mean to you?
- How does it feature in your own institution?
- Provide and discuss an instance of public engagement experienced within your home School/Faculty/Department/Institution.
 - What were the challenges, obstacles, benefits, impact?
- What strategy do you have in place or imagine for supporting researchers in engagement activity?