

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF NATIONAL PB NETWORK

Purpose

The National PB Network exists to promote the use of Participatory Budgeting (PB) across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. We act as a hub for information and research on PB in the UK and internationally, to resource further advocacy and the growth of PB. The national PB network builds on the success of the previous work promoting PB across the UK by the PB Unit, Oxfam, Church Action on Poverty and thousands of PB practitioners.

Values

Participatory Budgeting is defined as local people making decisions directly over how (at least a part of) local public budgets are spent. We are committed to the Values of PB as set out in the PB Unit's **Values, Principles & Standards** document: Transparency; Accessibility; Deliberation; Empowerment; Local Ownership; Mainstream Involvement; Representative Democracy and Shared Responsibility. For more info see: <http://www.participatorybudgeting.org.uk/documents/PBVPS.pdf/view>

Organisation

It is open to, brings together and is run by all those individuals and organisations that are committed to the principles of and support for PB. It is independent of all political parties and other organisations. Its way of organising will mirror the co-operative and transparent principles of PB. It will meet approximately twice a year and will elect each year a small steering group to co-ordinate practically between the wider network meetings.

Vision

We aim for PB to be recognised as a key and effective tool for:

- addressing inequalities in service choices and resource allocation;
- engaging and empowering citizens in discussions on public budgets; &
- stimulating co-production and mutual responsibility between citizens and the state.

Goals

Our goal for the next 5 years is to move PB beyond its predominant current model of allocating small pots of money to voluntary and community groups, towards a tool for repeatedly distributing elements of mainstream public budgets. Our goal is that public services routinely offer some form of PB for mainstream budget choices, and that as a norm people expect it to be offered.