



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Third Sector Scheme



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Foreword

This is my first Annual Report on the Third Sector Scheme since taking up oversight of the Welsh Government's support for, and engagement with, the voluntary, community and social enterprise movements in Wales, which we collectively recognise as a distinct "Third Sector".

This report covers the period between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017 during which Carl Sargeant AM, then Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children had oversight of the Third Sector.

Our focus in 2016-17 was on maintaining our commitment to engage with and support the Third Sector to deliver for those we all serve – the people and communities of Wales.

I believe, as Carl did, that it is important there is strong evidence to showcase what the Sector does to help us deliver our objectives, not for its own sake, but to demonstrate to potential partners the kind of additional resource and innovation the Sector can bring to their tables.

In 2016-17 we continued to work together to:

- develop better mechanisms for constructive engagement;
- enable the Third Sector to continue to do what it has done so well previously, and also for the Third Sector to look at sharing resources and working collaboratively.

I particularly want to pay tribute to Carl's legacy of promoting and encouraging volunteering across Wales, and his continued championing of the importance of volunteers to Welsh life.

I very much look forward to continuing to build on that legacy; to working closely with the Sector to ensure our relationship remains on a firm and positive course for the future; and to working in partnership to enrich the lives of people across all of our communities in Wales.



Alun Davies AM

Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services

View from the Sector

Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)

The Third Sector in Wales is a vibrant and diverse collection of registered charities, voluntary associations and community groups. As you will read further on in this Report, research by Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) suggests that there are over 31,000 voluntary organisations in Wales, with 28% of people engaging in voluntary activity. There is a total of 61 million volunteering hours spent in Wales. If valued at the average Welsh wage of £12.50 per hour, total worth of these volunteering hours is £757 million.

WCVA is the national organisation which connects the Welsh Third Sector, provides support to enable organisations to meet their objectives and influences decision makers across public and private sectors as well as individual citizens at a national level. County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) provide local support and advice to enable the sector to thrive and contribute to an active civil society.

Welsh Government provides valuable funding to enable CVCs and WCVA to work together, operating as Third Sector Support Wales.

One particular focus of this funding is to encourage engagement through the Third Sector Scheme. This scheme sets out the important partnership principles and processes for the sector to jointly consider and discuss strategic matters with Welsh Government. Regular meetings are held with Welsh Ministers and work is progressed

to ensure that the value added by third sector experience, based on the evidence of people in communities across the country, is considered.

There is a maturing relationship between the sector and Welsh Government. It is based on trust and needs to take advantage of opportunities to try new approaches to tackle issues deemed "too difficult to deal with". The sector supports individuals, works in communities and is able to provide evidence and data about what works in public policy terms across all Government portfolios.

A strong and consistent dialogue with the Welsh Government is really important and the Third Sector Scheme provides a positive foundation to build on. As part of this continued commitment, at the time of writing the sector and Welsh Government are currently in conversation as to how to strengthen and refresh the mechanisms they use to engage with each other.



Peter Davies CBE
Chair



Ruth Marks MBE
Chief Executive

How the Welsh Government works with the Third Sector – Relationships, Engagement and the Third Sector Scheme

Active in every community across Wales.

30,000

Voluntary Organisations

£3.8b

Estimated Value of Sector

938,000

Volunteers

The Third Sector spans virtually every facet of human interest. They all share some important characteristics in common, being:

Independent, non-governmental bodies; established voluntarily by citizens who choose to organise.



'Value-driven' and motivated by the desire to further social, cultural or environmental objectives, rather than simply to make a profit.



Committed to reinvesting their surpluses to further their social, cultural or environmental objectives.



The Third Sector Scheme

Sharing views and information



Joint planning and design



Monitoring and evaluating programmes and schemes



Ensure funding across policy areas



A shared interest in the way wider public services interact with the third sector



Cross cutting themes of the scheme:

- Tackling Poverty
- Sustainable Development
- Equalities
- Welsh Language.

Our focus for 2016/17:

Maintain our commitment to engage and support the Third Sector to develop policy and deliver for Wales



Develop mechanisms for Third Sector and Welsh Government engagement



Support the Third Sector to share resources and work collaboratively.



Build a legacy of voluntarism across Wales, focusing on the importance of volunteers to Welsh life.



The Third Sector and Third Sector Scheme

How do we talk to each other?

Welsh Government is committed to the principle of:

- An independent Third Sector.
- The voice of the Sector in informing good policy.
- Recognising and promoting the Third Sector.

The Welsh Government and the Third Sector maintain various channels of communication and engagement with each other. These include:

The Third Sector Partnership Council

The Third Sector Partnership Council (TSPC) comprises representatives of 25 identified categories in the Third Sector and three representatives of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action. It provides a valuable forum for discussion of strategic and cross-cutting issues.

Ministerial Meetings with the Third Sector

The cycle of meetings between each Welsh Minister and representatives of Third Sector networks relevant to their portfolios has continued to provide the basis for dialogue on matters which are specific to individual portfolios, rather than cross-cutting more than one area.

Records of these meetings can be found on the Welsh Government website:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/voluntarysector/ministers/?lang=en>

Supporting the Third Sector – The role of infrastructure organisations enabling the Third Sector to flourish and deliver

Welsh Government, through the Third Sector Scheme and the Infrastructure Partnership Agreement via Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW), supports a Third Sector Infrastructure which represents, promotes, supports and is accountable to the Third Sector at all levels.

The Infrastructure, primarily comprised of Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) and Volunteer Centres (VCs), promotes and supports volunteers and volunteering at local, regional and national levels. It also supports sector organisations and volunteers to create positive change in their communities.

Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) supports voluntary organisations, volunteers and volunteering at local, regional and national levels.

8,164 volunteering opportunities posted on Welsh Government funded web portal: www.volunteering-wales.net

Over **500,000** sheets on running and managing organisations downloaded from TSSW websites

150,000 enquiries on good practice in managing volunteers responded to by TSSW

£11.5M Distributed grants to Third Sector from Welsh Government and others

800 training courses were arranged, with **8,100** participants

TSSW supported national and local organisations to source over through a range of grant/loan schemes **£36.8m**

5,500 Volunteers placed with Welsh Government funding support to Third Sector Support Wales in 2016/17

How does the Welsh Government support volunteering?



Abertillery Library, Aneurin Leisure Trust

The Welsh Government allocates “core” funding to minimise any administration costs and improve efficiency to support Third Sector Support Wales.

We have developed an agreement which sets out what the Welsh Government expects its partners in the Third Sector to do for the “core” funding provided. It includes objectives designed to ensure persons or organisations wishing to make use of advice, support and guidance across Wales receive a uniform and high-quality service.

There is a Volunteer Centre in each local authority area in Wales. All are Third Sector organisations and in most cases they are part of the respective CVC.

Within the period of this report, Welsh Government worked with Third Sector Support Wales to update our Support for Volunteering Programme.

The aim of Volunteering Wales (VW) is to:

- Support formal volunteering projects which aim to recruit, support, train and place new volunteers;
- Encourage good practice in volunteering; and

- Support the development of volunteering in under-developed areas such as underrepresented groups, areas with fewer opportunities or types of volunteering opportunities.

Grants were available through this fund towards the costs of a volunteer coordinator, volunteer training and travelling expenses and some capital items.

Volunteering Wales continued to support young people to get involved in volunteering in a number of ways, including via Youth Volunteering Advisers based in the Volunteer Centres around Wales. YVAs offered advice and information about how to become a volunteer. They enabled young people to talk to about what they wanted to do and what they wanted to get from their experience.

YVAs were also local delivery partners for the Welsh Government Millennium Volunteers Award celebrating 50, 100 and 200 hours of voluntary service.

Welsh Government also provided funding to support our key Third Sector partners to deliver this service through our Welsh Government Third Sector Infrastructure Fund.

www.volunteering-wales.net is a website for people hunting for volunteering opportunities across Wales. It is funded by Welsh Government and managed by WCVA, who work with Volunteer Centres and volunteer-involving organisations.

Volunteer Centres provide advice and guidance to volunteers through the website, face-to-face, by telephone, email and social media. They, along with volunteer-involving organisations, offer training in both personal and professional development, with volunteers receiving certificates and qualifications.

Informing and guiding the sector

TSSW provides information and guidance to volunteers and organisations on a range of topics including funding, governance,

volunteer management, recruitment, setting up an organisation and more.

<http://thirdsectorsupport.wales/>

WCVA also provides a national Helpdesk service, which provides assistance to the enquirer or signposts them to others for further help: (0800) 2888329.

Training and employment

The Third Sector offers a wide variety of training and mentoring programmes to allow participants to learn new skills and knowledge. CVCs work with other regional and national organisations to offer a range of specialised courses looking at, for example, project management, discrimination awareness, first aid and minute-taking. They also host sessions in community centres and libraries, for example helping people to use social media or the internet.

WCVA offers practical workplace skills to those working or volunteering for Third Sector organisations. This can be via traditional courses, or seminars, “webinars” and online learning in its Learning Zone, looking at topics such as giving presentations, measuring impact and safeguarding.

<https://www.learningzone.wales/>

Effective trustees and good governance



Amber Project Church Army

Trustees provide leadership, clarity and accountability across the Third Sector. Both the Welsh Government, and Third Sector

Support Wales, are committed to ensuring trustees receive all the support necessary to be effective in their roles.

They can access this support in a variety of ways, from training to seminars and workshops, as well as updates from websites, e-bulletins, newsletters and social media.

Funding opportunities and advice

Third Sector Support Wales helps organisations secure funding to achieve their goals, whether their goals are to secure grants, procured contracts or loan finance.

Support and guidance for the sector includes funding searches; practical assistance with funding applications; diversification of income; fundraising; business planning; financial management; tendering; trading; and joint working.

Policy: giving the sector a voice

Third Sector Support Wales works to ensure the Third Sector can contribute to policy at all levels of decision-making.

At national level, this voice is facilitated through strategic planning groups and supporting networks and forums, while information on relevant consultations is promoted through a range of infrastructure communication channels.

CVCs are involved in key public sector partnerships in their areas, and work to ensure the sector has an input into emerging regional partnerships.

Funding Allocated for TSSW in 2016-17

Allocations	
County Voluntary and Volunteering Centre Core Funding – See table below for individual County allocations	£3,678,582
Wales Council for Voluntary Action Core Funding	£786,113
Volunteering Wales Fund	£1,331,112
Third Sector Support Fund	£50,000
Partnership Capacity Fund – grants to TSPC networks	£87,545
TOTAL	£5,933,352

Grants to County Voluntary Councils Allocations

Area	
Bridgend	£152,126
Cardiff	£190,612
Carmarthenshire	£172,217
Ceredigion	£154,316
Conwy	£155,089
Denbighshire	£154,367
Flintshire	£159,207
Gwent (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Newport)	£546,276
Gwynedd	£202,494
Isle of Anglesey	£151,114
Merthyr Tydfil	£150,283
Neath Port Talbot	£154,274
Pembrokeshire	£154,134
Powys	£318,883
Rhondda Cynon Taff	£188,092
Swansea	£197,829
Torfaen	£152,991
Vale of Glamorgan	£169,236
Wrexham	£155,042
TOTAL	£3,678,582

This is not the only funding provided to Third Sector organisations across Wales. The Welsh Government provides support, core funding and project funding to many other Third Sector organisations.

In many cases these funds relate to specialist areas of work and the funding is agreed by the appropriate Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary. Further summary information about this wider funding is provided in Chapter 6.

Case Study

Enabling Independent Living – Care and Repair Cymru – Supporting people to live at home



Canton and Riverside Grows Wild

Care and Repair agencies assist disabled and older people to live independently in their own home. In 2016/17 Care and Repair received £4.3 million in Welsh Government funding and provided assistance to over 27,000 older people in Wales.

There are 13 Care and Repair agencies providing all Wales coverage, and Care and Repair Cymru is the national intermediary body.

Care and Repair agencies provide assistance to older people in private sector housing to help them to carry out improvements to their houses. This often helps clients avoid requiring additional help from social services,

helps them avoid accidents which could result in hospitalisation and enables them to stay out of long term care. This work cuts across the housing, health and social care.

As well as fitting aids and adaptations, Care and Repair agencies provide a wide range of services including practical support within the home renovation grant process, management of building work, home safety checks, fall risk assessments and welfare benefits checks. Most agencies have 'Safety at Home' initiatives and handyperson schemes covering small-scale but important repairs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbqAdljbh_A

An example of a Care and Repair Charity supporting, improving and enabling a disabled person to remain at home.

Mr Jones was referred to Care & Repair by the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) (the armed forces charity). He has had a a double amputation and is a wheelchair user.

He recently underwent a triple heart by-pass and was being cared for 24-hours a day by his wife. A keen allotment gardener Mr Jones was becoming increasingly frustrated with his situation and felt he was confined to one room which was causing depression and frustration for both him and his wife. He desperately wanted to be able to access his garden safely and fulfil his dream of being able to continue gardening and growing vegetables.

After obtaining quotes to level the garden and install 2 raised flower beds, work totalled £3,880 Care and Repair sourced funding from the following organisations:

Royal British Legion	£1,480
Gardening for the Disabled Trust	£1,000
The Bruce Wake Trust	£750
Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO)	£500

In addition to making the garden accessible for Mr Jones, Care and Repair arranged to install handrails in his bathroom to help to enable him to safely bathe independently.

Gaining access to his garden to tend to his vegetable crop has greatly improved the health and well-being of both Mr and Mrs Jones as well as and giving Mr Jones back his much-loved hobby and improved his independence at home.

How and Why the Welsh Government Supports Volunteers

Volunteering

Volunteering can give a sense of purpose

Volunteering can provide career experience

Volunteering can advance your career

The Welsh Government regards volunteering time and expertise to support others (free of charge to the person or community or group, without financial benefit to the volunteer) as an essential characteristic of good citizenship.

Volunteering is ultimately about helping others and having an impact on people's wellbeing. Volunteers often get as much out of the experience as the individuals and communities they help.



Volunteering Matters

There are around 938,000 persons engaged in voluntary activity across Wales continuing our tradition of supporting others within our communities (See footnote).

The Welsh Government recognises the value and impact volunteering has on the lives of people across communities and has provided significant funding to ensure there are avenues of support for those wishing to do what they can for others.

We are also mindful of the very real benefits to individuals volunteering can bring, a few of which are set out below:

- **Volunteering can give a sense of purpose – something to do which benefits both the person volunteering and the person/cause they are helping.**

Having “nothing to do” can have a very negative impact on a person’s sense of self-worth. While it can be challenging, with obstacles to overcome, the journey to achieving positive results can in and of itself be beneficial. At the other end of the scale, there is nothing better than a helping hand.

Volunteers have the power to make life better for all of us.

- **Volunteering can provide career experience**

Getting and keeping a job is the very best way to improve the quality of individuals’ lives. For those seeking employment opportunities, volunteering offers the chance to try out a new career without making a long-term commitment. It offers an opportunity to gain experience in a new field, and to learn new skills. Many volunteering opportunities provide extensive training. Having increased experience and desirable skills strongly enhances applicants’ chances in a competitive job market.

- **Volunteering can advance your career**

For the already employed, volunteering can help to develop experience in an area of interest and meet people in the same field. Volunteering provides an opportunity to practice important skills used in the workplace, such as teamwork, communication, problem solving, project planning, task management, and organisation.

Want to Volunteer?

<http://www.volunteering-wales.net/why-volunteer/>

Looking for Volunteers?

<http://www.volunteering-wales.net/organisations/>

Case Study

Welfare Entitlement: The benefits of Volunteering as a journey towards employment



Volunteers learning team building skills

The Welsh Government's Welfare Reform Team worked closely with officials from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to establish clarity around the rules in relation to encouraging people claiming welfare benefits to access volunteering opportunities as a way to support them into employment or to return to work.

Volunteering can be a useful stepping stone back into employment and can develop into a life long vocation. It can help people to learn new skills, enhance their CV, become more confident and make new friendships. It can also demonstrate to employers that an individual is committed and reliable and can consequently give people a much better chance of finding paid work.

People are able to volunteer for as many hours as they like whilst claiming out of work benefits as long as they keep to their agreed claimant commitment conditions, such as, actively looking for paid work and being available to attend job interviews and training opportunities.

The DWP have dedicated officials whose role is to work with third sector organisations such as the British Heart Foundation to promote volunteering opportunities and the benefits of volunteering to support people into employment.

DWP and Volunteering Wales have produced detailed guidance on this entitled '*A Guide to Volunteering*' https://www.wcva.org.uk/media/2463255/a_guide_to_volunteering_dwp-_final.pdf

Welsh Government Officials have continued to work with their counterparts in DWP and the WCVA to encourage County Voluntary Councils to make better links with Job Centre Plus Work Coaches to share their knowledge of volunteering opportunities that might be available for people who are currently in receipt of welfare benefits.

Welsh Government Funding and Support for Third Sector Organisations – 2016-17

The Welsh Government **Managing Welsh Public Money** and **Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector** provide explanatory notes on the types of funding the Welsh Government uses to support Third Sector organisations.

- **Grant in Aid or “Grant”**
- **Procurement**

Everyone working in public services must be aware of the need to manage public resources responsibly, and in the public interest.

Managing Welsh public money sets out the framework and principles which must be applied by the Welsh Government, its sponsored bodies, the NHS in Wales, its commissioners, the Education Workforce Council, Estyn and the Welsh Government’s subsidiary bodies. Further detail can be found at: <http://gov.wales/docs/caecd/publications/160201-managing-money-en.pdf>

What’s in the Code?

The Welsh Government’s **Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector** (the Code) governs how the Welsh Government and its agents should approach funding of the Sector.

The Code sets out the types of funding the Welsh Government provides, the principles upon which funding decisions should be based, and the terms and arrangements under which funding should be offered.

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-andcommunities/communities/voluntarysector/publications/third-sectorsche/?lang=en>

Welsh Government Sponsored Bodies and Local Authorities are encouraged to develop their own codes of practice on funding the Sector.

Welsh Government Spend on the Third Sector in 2016-17

In 2016-17 the Welsh Government spent £285.7Million on direct funding of the Third Sector (Grant and Procured expenditure).

This does not include indirect payments made to Third Sector organisations where the Welsh Government has provided funding to another organisation, for example a Local Authority, which may have subsequently funded Third Sector organisations.

The Third Sector was successful in attracting £29.1Million in 2016-17 in procurement expenditure. This is in addition to the £265Million the Third Sector has secured in direct Welsh Government procurement expenditure since 2012-13.

Case Study

Supporting current Armed Forces personnel and Ex Armed Forces veterans in Wales through the Third Sector



Armed Forces reunited with family



Armed Forces support

The Welsh Government Expert Group on the Needs of the Armed Forces Community in Wales takes place bi-annually. Its multi-agency membership provides an excellent opportunity for collaboration with partners such as Royal British Legion, the tri-services and other organisations supporting the Armed Forces Community. The group identifies joint priorities going forward and the means of delivering those priorities.

The launch of the Royal British Legion manifesto in January 2016 provided an opportunity for greater collaboration in the delivery of services in support of the Armed Forces community. Welsh Government has responded positively to the recommendations made in the manifesto. Working closely with the RBL the following has been achieved:

- From April 2017 a full disregard of Veterans receiving War Disablement Pensions was applied when accessing all forms of social care.

- Welsh Government continues to support the improvement of mental health and wellbeing of Veterans in Wales. An additional £100,000 per annum was provided in 2016-17 to Veterans NHS Wales to ease pressures and waiting lists across Wales, bringing the total funding provided per annum to £685,000.
- Development of a Housing Referral Pathway providing information and signposting to services and options available to help ex-Service personnel and their families make an informed choice on their accommodation needs when leaving the Services.
- Publication of a Welcome to Wales document, helping Serving personnel and their families access services and support following deployment into Wales.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEkNyFuUV7k>

Further Information

For information on Welsh Government support for the Third Sector, visit:

www.gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/voluntarysector/?lang=en

For information about volunteering, please go to

www.volunteering-wales.net

or visit your local County Voluntary Council or Volunteer Centre.

www.wcva-ids.org.uk/

Alternatively contact the Third Sector Unit at

thirdsectorqueries@gov.wales or telephone (0300) 062 8274.

For information on other grant programmes, please contact Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) on (0800) 2888329 or visit their website at www.wcva.org.uk

For further information on Third Sector Support Wales, visit their website at

<http://thirdsectorsupport.wales/>

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