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Council for Voluntary Action

THIRD SECTOR SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

CONTENTS

This report provides an overview of the Welsh Government's engagement with the Third Sector in **2014-15**.

1. Foreword by Lesley Griffiths AM, Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty
2. View from the Sector: Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)

Case Study: Sustainable Play by Creative RAY Ceredigion

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

Case Study: Community Pub – The Iorwerth Arms Bryngwran, Anglesey

4. How and Why the Welsh Government Supports Volunteers

Case Study: Volunteers improve hospital patients' wellbeing

Case Study: Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

5. Supporting the Third Sector - The role of Infrastructure organisations enabling the Third Sector to flourish and deliver.

Case Study: Millennium Volunteers/GwirVol

Case Study: Wales Environment Link – Nature Fund

6. Welsh Government funding and support for Third Sector organisations 2014-15
7. Sources of further information

FOREWORD

This is my second Annual Report as Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty regarding the Welsh Government's support for the voluntary, community and social enterprise movements in Wales, which we collectively recognise as a distinct "Third Sector". This report covers the period 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2015.

Our focus this year was maintaining our commitment to engage with and to support the Third Sector and about preparation for change to come. Working together with the Sector, Welsh Government and our partners in the Third Sector, we developed and published a new Third Sector Scheme which now incorporates the revised and strengthened Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector.

My vision continues to be for the Third Sector to be a key partner, supporting the development of Welsh Government policy and delivering tangible results to support communities and individuals across Wales.

It is important there is strong evidence for those results and that together we showcase what the Sector does to help us deliver our objectives. This annual report makes an important contribution towards sharing those achievements.

In 2014-15 we continued to work together to:

- Identify better mechanisms for constructive engagement between the Third Sector and the Welsh Government
- recognise the importance of volunteers and refresh our policies to support and encourage volunteering
- Examine the funding arrangements which support what we collectively refer to as The Welsh Third Sector Infrastructure, particularly in these financially challenging times.

Recognising the value of the Sector, the Welsh Government continues to support it going forward, but acknowledges difficult and challenging funding choices had to be made in the light of the reductions to the Welsh Government budget

This report illustrates how the Welsh Government works with and supports the Third Sector to deliver for local communities. It also reflects on the contribution the Third Sector makes and what we have achieved together. I am grateful to the Wales Council for Voluntary Action for their substantial contribution to its pages, including providing examples of how the Third Sector is delivering where it matters with support from the Welsh Government.

These examples illustrate how Welsh Government support has had a direct and positive impact at the local level. They also show where voluntary action has really helped individuals and communities.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with the Sector, to ensuring 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.



Lesley Griffiths AM
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

View from the Sector: Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)

The Welsh Government's Third Sector Scheme demonstrates a real commitment to work in partnership with the raft of organisations which comprise the voluntary, community and charitable Sector in Wales.

Governance advice is key to support the most effective management by trustees and provide quality assurance and trust for people who use services and for funders.

Innovation in the way the Sector works, and specifically how we resource our activity has benefitted from creative partnerships with the wider public sector, including Local Authorities and Health Boards. This will become increasingly important as public service reform gathers momentum and alternative models of delivery are required.

A shared focus on wellbeing and future generations helps galvanise our shared commitment to support people who are disadvantaged or face discrimination.

Evidencing the impact of the Third Sector's work in quantitative and qualitative ways is vital. Social return on investment, community benefits and hearing people's own stories and experiences add real weight to the value of the contribution made by the Third Sector. By playing to our individual strengths and developing joint initiatives we are able to ensure consistent advice and guidance is readily available to voluntary organisations and individual volunteers anywhere in Wales. Sustainability of services and funding is always a concern and the most effective way to maximise the limited public funds available is to reinforce the importance of co-operation, collaboration and partnership working.

Encouraging people to volunteer, and in turn recognising and acknowledging their commitment is a vital foundation for the Sector – now, more than ever, in the shifting landscape of public service delivery and asset transfer.

During 2014-15 the Third Sector delivered many services and projects that made a real difference to individuals, families and communities across Wales. This Annual Report presents some highlights which celebrate the diversity of the Sector and supports that which we already know - an independent, strong and vibrant Third Sector continues to be a vital part of a healthy and prosperous society.



Peter Davies OBE
Chair



Ruth Marks MBE
Chief Executive

Case Study: Sustainable play by Creative RAY Ceredigion

Environment Wales supports organisations throughout Wales to take voluntary action on the environment. One such group is RAY Ceredigion. Through their Recycling and Scrapstore project the staff and volunteers turn trash into treasure.

RAY Ceredigion was established in 2001 as an out-of-school network to support registered out-of-school childcare.

Since 2005 the organisation has widened its remit to support open-access play facilities, training and education for children and those who support them as staff or volunteers. As part of this expansion a small volunteer-led group based in Aberystwyth collected unwanted materials termed 'scrap' and transformed them into art by RAY's Craft play workers during their sessions with schools, afterschool clubs and youth clubs.

They could see the potential in developing this aspect of their enterprise: through imaginative play, fostering a creative outlet for young people to design bespoke items while at the same time considering issues around sustainability. Re-use of unwanted materials helped the group to reduce the amount of brand new materials used in craft activities and turned neglected items into products with intrinsic value.



With development and grant support from Environment Wales RAY Ceredigion has been able to develop the Scrapstore through the employment of a Scrapstore Manager and Volunteer Coordinator (job share) enabling the group to offer a range of free activities including 'Family Fun Saturdays' where participants make items out of recycled materials such as kites from plastic bags, flowers from plastic bottles and clocks from old LP's.

A new group, Clonc a Chreff, meets each Wednesday morning to craft using recycled materials; the members make bowls and beautiful rugs. The group were awarded a training grant by Environment Wales which helped both staff

and volunteers to discover new craft techniques; enabling them to expand their skills, develop ideas and create goods for crafting workshops.

One such volunteer is Louise James, a single parent living in Aberaeron, started to attend the mother and toddler sessions with her daughter. She saw how the project developed her child's social and development skills through craft play and wanted to support the project. Once her daughter started school she saw an opportunity to volunteer with the project and hasn't looked back. Volunteering has enabled Louise to use her creative skills to teach others how to create and craft items of value and to become more involved in the community. When asked what it means to volunteer for RAY Ceredigion, Louise said:

'I love it! I enjoy arts and crafts and like to make things with my sewing machine and just anything creative. Becoming a volunteer meant I was able to use my creative imagination, and to teach other adults and children to do the same. I love to socialise and meet new people and there is lots of socialising opportunities here at RAY. It's such a help for me, I get out and involved with the community.'

RAY Ceredigion are based in Aberaeron and are always interested in hearing from potential volunteers to get involved with the Scrapstore, for more information please visit

<http://www.rayceredigion.org.uk/English%20pages/volunteering.html>

3. HOW THE WELSH GOVERNMENT WORKS WITH THE THIRD SECTOR – RELATIONSHIPS, ENGAGEMENT AND THE THIRD SECTOR SCHEME

What is the Third Sector?

We are often asked this question. Because of the sector's diversity, a precise definition is hard to pin down. The Third Sector spans virtually every facet of human interest. It includes community organisations, self-help groups, voluntary organisations, charities, faith-based organisations, social enterprises, community businesses, housing associations, co-operatives and mutual organisations to name a few.

They display a range of institutional forms, including registered and unregistered charities, Companies Limited by Guarantee (which may also be Registered Charities), Community Interest Companies, Industrial and Provident Societies and unincorporated associations. Each organisation has its own aims, distinctive culture, set of values and way of doing things, but 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; and
- committed to reinvesting their surpluses to further their social, cultural or environmental objectives.

We believe there is a strong case for viewing bodies with these characteristics as a distinctive sector - one which makes a huge contribution to the social, economic, cultural and environmental well being of Wales.

The Welsh Government is committed to recognising and promoting the Third Sector. We value the Third Sector for the contribution it makes to the long-term economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Wales, and its people and communities.

We recognise Third Sector organisations as independent bodies which determine their own priorities and manage their own affairs. The Third Sector has an obligation to represent the interests of its constituents. Third Sector organisations operate within the principles upon which they are founded. They are accountable to their members and the individuals and communities with whom they work, and to regulatory bodies such as the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Our continuing relationship rests upon integrity, trust and mutual respect. The Welsh Government is committed to maturing this crucial relationship which has developed over a long period, for the benefit of people and communities in Wales.

We are working with the Sector (and others) to develop robust new guidance to be developed on Local Compacts (agreements to work collaboratively) between Local Authorities and the Third Sector, which we expect to be supported by improved monitoring.

Welsh Ministers have given a continuing commitment to meet with Third Sector representatives on specific concerns or topics of mutual interest. These meetings will also take account of the work of the Third Sector Partnership Council (TSPC) which you can read more about further on in this report. In 2014/15 we have worked to develop a new Framework for Engagement will to ensure all the elements of the relationship are working as intended.

The Third Sector Scheme

The Welsh Government's Third Sector Scheme, published in January 2014, sets the framework for how the Welsh Government works with the Third Sector. It covers arrangements for consultation, working in partnership with the Sector and also funding.

The Welsh Government's Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector (which is discussed further in Chapter 5 of this report) has been fully revised and has been annexed to the Third Sector Scheme sets out the processes for allocating funding to the Third Sector in Wales and the commitment the Welsh Government expects from the Sector in return for its funding.

<http://gov.wales/docs/ds/jlg/publications/comm/140130-third-sector-scheme-en.pdf>

What is in the Scheme?

The Third Sector Scheme is designed to deliver a partnership intended to help us to develop and support processes which will ultimately lead to:

- **Stronger communities** – the way most people make a voluntary contribution to the vibrancy and regeneration of their communities, provide care and help build people's confidence and skills; and the opportunities the Third Sector creates for employment and local enterprise;
- **Better policy** – the knowledge and expertise the Third Sector offers through its front-line experience to help shape policies, procedures and services;
- **Better public services** – the innovative and transforming role the Third Sector can play in making public services reach more people and become more sensitive to their needs.

The Third Sector Scheme sets out how the relationship between Welsh Government (and its delivery agencies) and the Third Sector will work in terms of:

- The sharing of views and information, through early identification and consultation processes, on the impact on the Third Sector of policy and future implementation and the contribution the Third Sector can make;
- Joint planning, design, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and schemes where there is Third Sector involvement;
- Funding across a wide variety of policy areas, directly and indirectly; and
- A shared interest in the way wider public services interact with the Third Sector.

The Scheme also takes account of the cross cutting themes of Tackling Poverty, Sustainable Development, Equalities and the Welsh Language.

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

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. A record of TSPC meetings is available online at

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

During 2014/15, the TSPC discussed a range of items of interest between the Welsh Government and the Third Sector. During the period of this report discussions centred on the Third Sector's response to the Welsh Government consultation, *Continuity and Change - Refreshing the relationship between the Welsh Government and the Third Sector*; the development of the Welsh Government's Volunteering Policy, *Supporting Communities – Changing Lives*, and the Welsh Government's Annual Grant Report.

Minutes of these meeting can be found on the Welsh Government website at the link below.

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/voluntarysector/partnership/thirdsector-mtg-papers/?lang=en>

Some areas of interest have been taken forward by subject specific sub-committees of the TSPC which are known as “Workstreams”.

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. Topics covered in 2014-15 included:

- Commemorative events to mark the centenary of the World War 1 – Wales Remembers – Minister for Culture and Sport
- Tackling Poverty and the Welsh Government Budget 15/16 - Minister for Finance and Government Business
- Reducing Health Inequalities – Minister for Health and Social Services
- Implementation of the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) - Advocacy for Children and Adults – Minister for Health and Social Services
- Closing the Implementation Gap on the Promotion of Healthy Relationships through a Whole School Approach – Minister for Education and Skills and the Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology
- Community Hydro Power – Minister for Natural Resources
- Feed Britain – Deputy Minister for Farming and Food

Records of these meetings can be found on the Welsh Government website:
<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/voluntarysector/ministers/?lang=en>

Case Study: Community Pub – The Iorwerth Arms Bryngwran, Anglesey



The Iorwerth Arms in Bryngwran, Anglesey is now under community ownership. After several months of hard work, a new social business, Bryngwran Cymunedol Ltd, secured funding to acquire the business from Punch Taverns and it is now being run both by and on behalf of the local community as a not-for-profit enterprise.

Nev Evans, one of the driving forces in the team behind the takeover said “It’s fantastic news and a great relief to save a real community asset at the heart of the village. I’d like to thank Punch Taverns for being so understanding in their dealings with us so as to help make the process as smooth as possible. The support from WCVA has also been instrumental in us getting this far.”

He added “Ever since we first took it on as a lease, the reaction locally has been tremendous. We’ve already run numerous events and community gatherings which have been well-supported and now that we actually own it, we’ve got great plans to expand what we do even further. The place has great potential to add to the life of the village.”

Funding for the purchase was via social investment loans provided by Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and Finance Wales. Matt Brown from WCVA commented “It was evident from the beginning this was a project that we had to support, because of the strength of the team behind it and its importance to the village. It’s not the first community pub that we’ve backed and if the Iorwerth Arms goes on to do as well as the award winning Glan Llyn in Clawddnewydd (another WCVA social investment) then I’m sure that everybody will be very happy. Iechyd da Bryngwran!”

4. HOW AND WHY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS VOLUNTEERS

The Welsh Government is clear - volunteering time and expertise to support others, free of charge to the person or community or group, without financial benefit to the volunteer, is a good thing for anyone to want to do. We regard this as an essential characteristic of good citizenship in Wales and we want to do all that we can to encourage this.

Volunteers make an enormous difference to people and communities all over Wales, benefitting almost every aspect of everyday life and enhancing the delivery of many public services and Government initiatives.

Volunteering is ultimately about helping others and having an impact on people's wellbeing, but the truth is volunteers often get as much out of the experience as the individuals and communities they help - they just don't get paid for doing it.

The Welsh Government is proud of Wales' strong tradition of supporting others in our communities who may be, for whatever reason, less fortunate or in need of assistance.

Wales Council for Voluntary Action's Third Sector Statistical Resource for 2014 indicates there are around 931,000 persons engaged in voluntary activity across Wales. With a population of just over 3 million, it is clear our strong tradition of supporting others is being maintained, even through what has been a very challenging year for us all.

Unpaid volunteers are often the glue which holds a community together. The Welsh Government recognises the value and impact volunteering has on the lives of people across our communities and has provided significant funding support 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 helps you make new friends and contacts**

One of the best ways to make new friends and strengthen existing relationships is to commit to a shared activity together.

- **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 self esteem or their 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, when you have a goal to achieve that you know you cannot achieve alone. 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 also 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 everyone's 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.

There are, of course, many other benefits.

How does the Welsh Government support volunteering?

The Welsh Government allocates "core" funding to minimise any administration costs and improve efficiency to support what we commonly describe as the Infrastructure (explained further in Chapter 5) for the Third Sector in Wales. We have developed, with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, County Voluntary Councils and Volunteer Centres, a Partnership Agreement which sets out what the Welsh Government expects its' partners in the Third Sector to do for the "core" funding we offer.

It details a wide range of 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 (During the period to which this report refers, the Volunteer Centres in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan were both independent bodies working closely with their respective CVCs). All the Volunteer Centres in Wales work to a common standard of service within the framework provided by the overall Partnership Agreement.

We also support two distinct Volunteering Programmes - both administered on our behalf by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action - Volunteering in Wales Fund and GwirVol.

The aim of the Volunteering in Wales Fund (VWF) is to;

- Support formal volunteering projects that 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 less opportunities or types of volunteering opportunities

Grants of up to £25,000 are available through this fund which can assist in the costs of a volunteer coordinator, volunteer training and travelling expenses and some capital items.

GwirVol, launched in April 2009, is a partnership between the Third, private and public sectors led by the views of young people.

GwirVol's core aims are to:

- Increase the number and the diversity of young people volunteering in Wales.
- Increase the number and accessibility of quality volunteering opportunities for young people in Wales to ensure they get the most from their volunteering experience.

GwirVol looks to support young people to get involved in volunteering and this is done through a number of ways, including via Youth Volunteering Advisers based in the Volunteer Centres around Wales. The YVAs are there to offer advice and information about how to become a volunteer. They are there for young people to talk to about what they want to do and what they want to get from their experience.

They have a range of volunteering opportunities available and work to put young people in touch with the right organisation for them. Youth volunteering advisors are also local delivery partners for the Welsh Government Millennium Volunteers (MV) Award which celebrates 50, 100 and 200 hours of voluntary service.

Welsh Government Third Sector Infrastructure Fund allocations for 2014-15 is set out below:

Eligible WCVA Core Expenditure

WG core grant (£) maximum contribution **£911,478**

Grants to County Voluntary Councils **£2,694,853**

Allocations

Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham	£112,326
Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations	£112,410
Cardiff Third Sector Council	£151,807
Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services	£135,450
Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations	£112,038
Conwy Voluntary Services Council	£113,913
Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council	£112,529
Flintshire Local Voluntary Council	£114,468
Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Newport)	£397,226 £153,654
Interlink (Rhondda Cynon Taff)	
Mantell Gwynedd	£146,488
Medrwn Môn (Anglesey)	£111,249
Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service	£113,268
Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services	£114,713
Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations	£192,934
Swansea Council of Voluntary Service	£163,023
Torfaen Voluntary Alliance	£113,402
Vale Centre for Voluntary Services (Vale of Glamorgan)	£113,658
Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil	£110,297

Grants to Volunteer Centres **£1,200,628**

Allocations

Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham	£50,790
Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations	£47,362
Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services	£47,362
Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations	£50,245
Conwy Voluntary Services Council	£49,256
Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council	£49,813
Flintshire Local Voluntary Council	£53,424
Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations	£170,503
Interlink	£47,362
Mantell Gwynedd	£71,042
Medrwn Môn	£47,362
Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service	£48,967
Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services	£47,362

Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations	£158,064
Swansea Council of Voluntary Service	£49,157
Torfaen Voluntary Alliance	£47,362
Vale Volunteer Bureau	£65,736
Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil	£47,362
Voluntary Community Service (Cymru) Ltd (Cardiff)	£52,097

Partnership Capacity Fund: eligible expenditure

Grants to TSPC members to support engagement	£111,942
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In addition, grant funding was awarded for the delivery of the following activities delivered by the WCVA:

Volunteering in Wales Fund - £891,765 to support voluntary organisations in Wales to recruit and train new volunteers, especially from under represented and minority groups.

GwirVol - £974,478 to support youth volunteering in Wales.

Criminal Records Unit - £407,077 to provide access to and advice and guidance on the Criminal Records Bureau disclosure service for the Third Sector within Wales.

Website Design for Third Sector Infrastructure Wales - £34,135 to design and deliver a single platform website for the Third Sector Infrastructure in Wales.

Research - £18.366 to enable the collection of data to inform research into the funding of Third Sector organisations at a local level

Total maximum funding contribution	£7,324,722
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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 beyond the scope of the Partnership Agreement.

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

Case Study: Volunteers improve hospital patients' wellbeing



The Sunflower Project is a Hospital Befriending Scheme at Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan (YAB) in Ebbw Vale and Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr (YYF) in Ystrad Mynach, run by Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) Volunteer Centre Staff. GAVO is the County Voluntary Council covering the Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Newport County areas. In its first two years, more than 300 volunteers have donated their time to reduce patients' loneliness and anxiety.

Amanda Newman and Sinead Evans, Volunteering staff in GAVO Blaenau Gwent, working in close partnership with the Nurse Manager Anita Davies, conducted a consultation with patients, their families and staff at YAB to find out where volunteers would be best placed. A 6 month initial pilot was started in May 2012 to recruit and train 10 volunteers. Most of the volunteers were successful in either gaining employment in the care sector or moving onto further training.

The impact on patients was fantastic – in particular for those patients who had few visitors or no visitors at all. The service gave an opportunity for patients to leave their rooms and socialise for perhaps the first time in months. In addition the volunteers made a huge impact with dementia sufferers, where the company of a volunteer, even simply holding their hand, has alleviated anxiety and distress for patients on their own in an unfamiliar place.

The project in Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr mirrors that of Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan even though its pilot started a little later. YYF is two and a half times the size of

YAB with much smaller communal areas so in many ways has presented greater challenges in its development.

Volunteers involved in the Sunflower Project are aged 16-80 and from all walks of life. Their volunteering brings them together to uplift the lives of patients who are often experiencing the most difficult time in their lives. They can visibly see the difference they make before and after their volunteering session - patients chatting and laughing together. Families feel more contented that their loved ones have regular company in between visiting times.

Big Lottery Fund has committed to fund this project for the next three years.

Case Study: Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust received a grant of £9,999 through the Welsh Government-funded GwirVol Youth Volunteering Programme, administered on the Welsh Government's behalf by WCVA, to involve young people in a range of volunteering roles, including Assistant Tour Guide, Interpretation Assistant, Assistant Event Organiser, Archaeological Field Recording Assistant and Excavation Assistant.

Funding was used to support sixteen young volunteers to attend outdoor volunteer training delivered through or facilitated by other projects. This included a field recording training weekend to record a World War One rifle range, a training course in Upland Survey techniques and archaeological graveyard recording.

Assistant event organisers helped the outreach team to organise event activities for the public, including schools and other young people. Tasks included correspondence, publicity, photography, stall set up, preparation of resources, giving information to the public and sharing their experiences of being involved in the work of the Trust.

Young people have benefitted from their involvement by developing their skills, experience and confidence. These skills range from transferable skills such as office, IT and photography skills to more specific archaeological fieldwork skills.

Some volunteers have gone on to secure employment. Others have developed their understanding of archaeology and the work environment which will help inform their career choices and decisions. Many of the volunteers have been awarded Millennium Volunteers certificates.

Matthew Bamborough said: 'Volunteering for Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Introduced me to archaeology, deepened my interest in the subject and assured me that archaeology was the right degree for me. I enjoyed recording the World War 1 rifle range, excavating and working with other keen people.'



5. SUPPORTING THE THIRD SECTOR - THE ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATIONS ENABLING THE THIRD SECTOR TO FLOURISH AND DELIVER.

The Third Sector infrastructure: empowering organisations to make a positive impact all over Wales



The Third Sector in Wales depends on and thrives on active and involved citizens becoming engaged in their communities and in the issues which surround them, from tackling poverty to climate change, health and social care, public services and more.

The Welsh Government, through the Third Sector Scheme and the Infrastructure Partnership Agreement, supports a Third Sector infrastructure which represents, promotes, supports, and is accountable to, the Third Sector at all levels. This infrastructure primarily comprises Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) and Volunteer Centres (VCs) (see additional information for contact details) all of which contribute to the promotion and support of volunteers working at local, regional and national levels to support sector organisations and volunteers to create positive change in the communities they work in and, where necessary, helping these organisations effectively monitor their outcomes and impact.

Key statistics

During 2014/15:

- Over 5,500 volunteering opportunities were advertised on the Welsh Government-funded www.volunteering-wales.net website, attracting nearly 170,000 visitor sessions;

- Over 7,000 people were helped to become involved as a volunteer, including over 2,000 young people;
- Almost 600,000 information sheets on running and managing organisations were downloaded from infrastructure websites;
- Over 8,500 trustee enquiries were received and responded to;
- Over 11,800 funding advice enquiries were received and responded to;
- Over £35 million was obtained by groups advised
- There were over 950 training courses, attracting over 9,000 participants;
- Over £7 million was provided to the sector grants and loan schemes;
- The sector was represented at over 1,000 strategic planning/working groups at local, regional and national level; and
- Over 250 separate local, regional and national Third Sector forums or networks supported.

Volunteering

WCVA manages a Volunteering Opportunities Website in Wales, funded by the Welsh Government, working in close harmony with local Volunteer Centres and volunteer-involving organisations. Everyone is welcome to use www.volunteering-wales.net to find a suitable local volunteering opportunity, or to place an opportunity to recruit volunteers.

Volunteer Centres are a vital component of the Third Sector infrastructure in Wales, and provide advice and guidance to volunteers and potential volunteers through face-to-face support, telephone, emails, social media and via www.volunteering-wales.net. This website is managed by WCVA, working in close harmony with local Volunteer Centres. It is funded by the Welsh Government to advertise volunteering opportunities around Wales. Everyone is welcome to use www.volunteering-wales.net to find a suitable local volunteering opportunity.

Training for volunteers is also offered by volunteer-involving organisations and Volunteer Centres, with volunteers receiving certificates and qualifications from training in both personal and professional development – for example, Llanelli Women's Aid's WISH Project runs, among other schemes, a workshop titled Maintaining a Tenancy With Budgeting.

The Welsh Government supports the Volunteering in Wales Fund, with volunteers contributing 467,151 hours in 2014-15. It also supports the GwirVol youth volunteering programme.

Informing and guiding the sector

The Third Sector infrastructure of WCVA, CVCs and Volunteer Centres do a lot to provide information and guidance to volunteers and Third Sector organisations, whether they have queries about funding, trusteeship,

volunteer management, recruitment or legal obligations. This vital support is available over the phone, online or in print.

WCVA also provides a national Helpdesk, a contact hub for those in need of advice. The Helpdesk then provides assistance to the enquirer, or signposts them to others for further assistance.

WCVA, CVCs and Volunteer Centres do a great deal to assist individuals and organisations to find information which is helpful to them. This applies whether they are looking to volunteer, provide opportunities to volunteers or thinking of setting up an organisation to meet a need or make use of volunteers to provide support.

Training and employment

The Third Sector is constantly sharing its expertise and skills through a range of training and mentoring programmes. CVCs work with other regional and national organisations on a range of specialised courses, for instance suicide prevention, risk management, first aid and crowdfunding.

They also host informal learning sessions in community centres and libraries, for example looking at how to get started online or using social media, and attend community events to distribute information about their services.

WCVA helps those working and volunteering for third sector organisations to develop practical skills for the workplace through traditional training courses, seminars, webinars and online learning, looking at a wide variety of topics ranging from facilitating meetings to public speaking, evaluating the impact of an organisation's work and safeguarding. They also run a range of annual conferences, as well as a popular online Learning Zone.

WCVA also supported 645 people to enter employment through its Engagement Gateway programme for the long-term unemployed.

Effective trustees, good governance

Strong and clear governance of organisations is vital. The work of trustees provides leadership, clarity and accountability across the Third Sector. Both the Welsh Government, and the Third Sector infrastructure, are committed to ensuring trustees receive all the support necessary to be effective in their roles.

Trustees are able to 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. WCVA's events programme also includes the annual Charity Law Conference, focusing on legal and regulatory developments, plus an Employment Law update.

Funding opportunities and advice

One of the most crucial functions of the CVCs and WCVA is to help Sector organisations secure funding to enable them to achieve their aims. Funding may come from grants, procured contracts, or loan finance, for example from WCVA's Communities Investment Fund.

Helping Third Sector organisations to identify and secure funding to enable them to achieve their objectives is a key role for WCVA and the County Voluntary Councils in Wales.

WCVA and CVCs provide a range of services designed to help organisations secure and maintain sustainable and diverse resources. The support and guidance given to trustees, staff and volunteers includes (but is not limited too) funding searches; practical assistance with funding applications; how to diversify their income; fundraising strategies; business planning; financial management; tendering; trading; and joint working.

WCVA's Better Bids service offers advice to organisations as they develop their funding applications to the Big Lottery Fund's People and Places programme and others.

Some examples:

- Cardiff YMCA received funding from WCVA's Volunteering in Wales Fund to provide volunteering opportunities to homeless people, and those who have experienced long-term unemployment, in their PreFab Recycling Centre and PreFab clothing shop;
- The Iorwerth Arms in Anglesey (See the Case Study elsewhere in this Report) successfully applied for funding from the Communities Investment Fund to become a social business. It is now run by and on behalf of the community on a not-for-profit basis;
- A grant from Environment Wales helped RAY Ceredigion (See the Case Study elsewhere in this Report) to develop its Scrapstore to host a range of free craft activities for families and schools.

Helping organisations and services meet community needs

WCVA managed the Enterprising Communities project, which ran until December 2014. It was funded by Welsh Government and European Structural Funds and delivered by CVCs, and supported 1,692 organisations in 2014-15.

The aim of Enterprising Communities was to provide support to the sector to help it become sustainable, generate income and bid to deliver public services. Enterprising Communities officers based at CVCs provided organisations with information and advice on funding, organisational management, volunteer development and financial sustainability.

Voluntary organisations in North Wales were boosted by an Enterprising Communities initiative to set up free stalls at Rhyl Market, which helped organisations fundraise, promote their services and recruit new volunteers. These included Marie Curie Cancer Care, Victim Support and British Heart Foundation, and helped generate over £2,000 in additional revenue.

Policy: giving the sector a voice

WCVA and CVCs work to ensure the Third Sector can contribute effectively to policy at all levels.

At a national level, strong sectoral voice and representation is facilitated through membership of strategic planning groups and supporting networks and forums, together with an information system advertising all relevant consultations.

CVCs are actively involved in key partnerships with the Public Sector in their areas, and work together to ensure the sector's input to emerging regional partnerships.

A strong sectoral voice is necessary to ensure the Third Sector is able to effectively to contribute to policy. Voice and representation is facilitated through a range of planning groups, policy events, networks and forums, particularly the Third Sector Partnership Council (TSPC).

The TSPC is a network of representatives of different Third Sector interests who come together with Welsh Government to ensure their opinions are heard, and meets twice a year with the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty. In addition, specific sector networks meet with other Ministers across all portfolios, including those responsible for health and social care, natural resources, to discuss issues affecting their particular fields of work, while others, looking at community justice, substance misuse and equalities, meet regularly to share information and best practice.

WCVA also promotes and responds to policy consultations and reviews across the year, feeding back thoughts from the sector. Consultations responded to in 2014/15 included those around the consultation and management of devolved taxes in Wales, the Sustainable Development Indicator Outputs and social investment by charities.

WCVA's Participation Cymru project also encourages public engagement with the democratic process, while CVCs continue to facilitate forums and networks to feed through information. Local Service Boards' Citizen Engagement Groups are another useful channel for engagement.

Tackling poverty

WCVA facilitates the Third Sector Anti-Poverty Programmes Taskforce, an important forum to help organisations to come together, and share information and ideas on how to collaboratively tackle poverty and influence Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

The Taskforce submitted evidence to the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee's Inquiry into poverty in Wales, and was visited by Gaynor Richards, one of three EU European Funding Ambassadors, who discussed with them European funding and anti-poverty activity beyond the European Structural Investment Funds.

WCVA also hosted a workshop at Data Unit Wales' event, Tackling poverty: from evidence to action.

Case Study: Millennium Volunteers/GwirVol



After getting recognised for her many hours of volunteering, Lisa Oliver has been inspired to do the same for her own young volunteers by setting up a Millennium Volunteers programme.

Lisa, GoIT Volunteer Network Co-ordinator at Leonard Cheshire Disability, received her Millennium Volunteers award after 200 hours of sustained volunteering with Student Volunteer Bangor projects.

Lisa manages a pan Wales project funded by GwirVol that increases use of assistive technology in services. The Millennium Volunteers programme will help recognise the time committed by the young volunteers Lisa co-ordinates

Lisa said 'I think Millennium Volunteers is great as it provides recognition for the work I have done whilst volunteering. This recognition allows me to clearly show to prospective employers my dedication and motivation to help others, whilst the experience allows me to further develop my skills. I feel privileged now to be helping other volunteers complete their MV awards.'

Case Study: Wales Environment Link – Nature Fund

Wales Environment Link has played a proactive role in contributing and helping to support the Nature Fund.

The Nature Fund projects have shown how, by taking a collaborative approach, across a catchment, upland area or along a stretch of river, we can manage our natural resources in a more sustainable and joined-up way which brings multiple benefits including enhanced resilience of agricultural businesses and rural communities through the creation of jobs and increased tourism opportunities. Some examples of the kinds of projects supported are shown below.

- **Natural Buzz - £130,000** led by **Keep Wales Tidy** aimed to maximise multiple ecosystem services of currently undervalued green sterile spaces – mowed areas on industrial estates, school and hospital grounds, business parks and roadside verges and transform them into a blaze of wildflowers creating useable and valued spaces for the surrounding communities. Involving more than 37,000 volunteer hours the project delivered over 170 individual sites as well as 5 sectorial focussed demonstration sites.
- **North Wales Moors Futurescape Programme - £230,097** led by **RSPB Cymru** places the Berwyn and Migneint Nature Action Zone as the focus for biodiversity improvement action and sustainable land management at a landscape scale. Delivery was through a broad partnership willing to take action to achieve a shared vision for a sustainable rural communities.

The project undertook more than 100 hectares of upland management restoration including the reintroduction of ponies to more effectively manage the landscape through grazing. This was coupled with a number of interventions to support tourism benefits. Innovative aspects to the project included an open marketing strategy for beef and honey in the special area of conservation and utilisation of satellite tracking to investigate grazing strategies on the uplands.

- **Castlemartin Peninsula - £113,985** the partnership project led by **National Trusts** in the Pembrokeshire Coast Nature Action Zones was a combination of web mapping which provided the evidence for the development of a toolkit for organisations and communities to address habitat and biodiversity loss.

The project also saw activity to improve habitats in the catchment, land management works across many different habitats improving ecosystem services of water quality. Activities also included the maintenance of a Special Area of Conservation, which is an important draw for tourism in the local community. In addition there was a significant engagement with this local community and a programme of volunteering particularly engaging long term unemployed, equipping them with new skills.

6. WELSH GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS - 2014-15

As referred to earlier in this Report, the Welsh Government has worked with the Third Sector to review and revise its Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector.

Below are explanatory notes on the types of funding the Welsh Government uses to support Third Sector organisations.

Grant in Aid or “Grant”

Welsh Government has four types of grant funding:

- Strategic core funding of national organisations
- Specific project funding at a national level;
- Support to partnerships or national (all Wales) intermediary bodies in order for them to support specific projects at a local level;
- Start up funding for national organisations or networks or, through intermediaries, for local organisations

Core Funding

The Welsh Government Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector defines Core Funding as below:

“Core funding is not easy to define as there are many variations as to what constitutes core funding depending on the context, such as the size or nature of an organisation. Generally, core funding is for financing a Third Sector organisation to carry out activities which the Third Sector organisation chooses within broad parameters agreed with a public body. Core funding is used when there is a high level of trust between the public body and the Third Sector Organisation.

Under core funding, the management relationship between the Third Sector organisation and the public body is deliberately arm’s length. Typically, the public body gives a steer on its priorities once a year. In a core funding relationship, monitoring and evaluation of the Third Sector organisation by the public body should be light touch and accountability arrangements should emphasise the accountability of the trustees (or equivalent).

In general terms, core funding allows the funded body to conduct their key activities as defined by their governing document. Core funding is usually provided for a given period (up to 3 years) but awarded on an on-going basis. Although funding agreements are unlikely to be longer than three years, there is commitment to maximise the period of funding where ever possible, to minimise any administration costs and improve efficiency of the funding.”

Procurement

Procurement is the acquisition of goods and services from third party suppliers under legally binding contractual terms, where all the conditions necessary to form a legally binding contract have been met. Such contracts benefit the contracting authority and are necessary for the running of its business or its statutory duty.

Information on available contracts can be found on the Welsh Government's Sell2Wales website: www.sell2wales.co.uk.

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.

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

NOTE: As stated earlier in this report the Welsh Government has developed a revised Code which was published in January 2014.

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/voluntarysector/publications/third-sector-scheme/?lang=en>

HOW DOES THE WELSH GOVERNMENT MONITOR ADHERENCE TO ITS CODE?

Since 2011, Welsh Government's grants management project has strengthened the management of funding across all departments and helped to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector. This work has included:

- Streamlined grants management processes agreed by key stakeholders supported by minimum standards, guidance, training and the Grants Centre of Excellence;
- A grants and funding guidance portal to provide consistent guidance
- A standard grant award letter which requires grants to be outcome focused and a 'payments in advance' template;
- A spot checking process to ensure standards are maintained;
- Improved due diligence processes to enable monitoring of governance, financial management and policies in receiving organisations;

- Increased due diligence processes to enable monitoring of external bodies and their performance;
- Work across all departments to identify and share good practice.

Annual Reports

An Annual Report on Grants Management is now provided to the National Assembly for Wales Public Accounts Committee. In addition, a further report on compliance with the Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector is prepared for the consideration of the Third Sector Partnership Council Sub-Committee on Funding and Compliance. This report summarises any issues which have arisen during the year and, in particular, identifies any systemic issues relating to the Code. The Sub-Committee reports to the full Third Sector Partnership Council, which in turn can raise any relevant issues with the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty, who chairs the Council.

HOW MUCH DID THE WELSH GOVERNMENT SPEND ON THE THIRD SECTOR IN 2014-15?

We have continued to enhance and improve the data gathering process and systems which support and provide the data used to calculate the spend shown below.

In 2014-15 the Welsh Government spent £290.45 million on direct funding of the Third Sector.

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.

As mentioned earlier in this report, the Welsh Government has published a separate report into Grant Management. Part of the reason for the apparent discrepancy on the overall figures quoted in the report you are reading is because this report covers grant and procurement expenditure.

The reported grant funding to the Third Sector in the 2015 Welsh Government Report on Grant Management reflects a range of circumstances across many Welsh Government departments. The overall economic situation and the reduction in UK Government funding for Wales have inevitably impacted on funding across all sectors.

Overall funding figures for the Third Sector, inclusive of procurement, have indicated reported reductions in grant funding have been somewhat ameliorated where funding has been provided via procurement contracts. The Third Sector was successful in attracting £43.7 million in 2012-13 in procurement expenditure, and in 2013-14, £66.5 million in new expenditure was secured. For 2014-15, the Third sector was successful in attracting £71.45 million in procurement expenditure.

This evidences the Welsh Government's continued commitment to supporting the Third Sector in Wales, even in what have been challenging times for us all.

MORE INFORMATION

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

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

You can find copies of Third Sector Partnership Council papers, previous Annual Reports, the Third Dimension – A Strategic Action Plan on the Voluntary Sector Scheme, and the Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector etc. there.

Alternatively contact the Third Sector Unit at thirdsectorqueries@wales.gsi.gov.uk, or telephone number (0300 062 8274).

For information about volunteering, please go to www.volunteering-wales.net or visit your local County Voluntary Council or Volunteer Centre. <http://www.wcva-ids.org.uk/>.

For information about other grant programmes, please contact Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) on (0800) 2888329. Their website is www.wcva.org.uk. Or alternatively visit www.sustainablefundingcymru.org.uk/.