



**Community &
Voluntary Support
Conwy**

Impact Report 2022 - 2023



CVSC

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Cefnogi Trydydd
Sector **Cymru**
Third Sector
Support **Wales**



We are a
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CVSC is a partner organisation of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) which is a network of support organisations for the whole of the Third Sector in Wales. TSSW consists of the 19 local County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) and the national support body, Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA).

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Registered Charity 1151397
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Registered in Wales

Chair's Foreword

Our Chief Officer Mrs Wendy Jones will be retiring early 2024.

As this will be our last combined foreword together, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute.

Wendy has guided CVSC over the past 14 years with integrity and a clear vision of the future. Thanks to her efforts and hard work, we are in a financially secure position with an impeccable track record for delivering services to a wide Community.

Wendy has managed a large team of staff with clear direction, combined with great empathy and support. The longevity of staff service is testament to this. Our Chief Officer is well respected, and her opinions valued by all sectors.

On behalf of the Trustees, we thank her and wish her many happy retirement adventures.



Mary Trinder



Chief Officer's Foreword

The year ending March 2023 was CVSC's 25th anniversary year and one of the highlights has to be the Funding Fair that was held in October 2022. We welcomed a wide range of grant fund representatives, and over 100 participants to the event in Llandudno. It was an opportunity to re-connect with colleagues and members. It was very welcome and enjoyed by all.

As ever, I'm proud of the work undertaken by the Team at CVSC, our statistics speak for themselves, and we are one of the top performing CVCs in Wales. Very importantly, we are not reliant on grant funding and have a diverse income base, which is a must for maintaining and sustaining a stable company in these challenging times.

On a personal note, this will be my last chief officer foreword contribution, as I step down early next year 2024. It has been an absolute honour and privilege to lead CVSC for the last 14 years, and I know it will continue to flourish and evolve to meet the needs of the Third Sector in Conwy and beyond.



Wendy Jones



CVSC 25 years celebration, Funders' Fair and AGM 19th October 2022

CVSC were thrilled to welcome over 100 participants from organisations across Conwy county and further afield to celebrate our 25th Birthday at Llandudno Town Hall.

The day started off with the Funding Fair which had a wide range of funds represented including those administered by CVSC including Gwynt y Môr, Rhyl Flats and Clocaenog Forest, as well as a host of external funds including Heritage Lottery and Arts Council of Wales.

There was also an opportunity to get advice and information on volunteering, governance, engagement & co-production as well as a talk on writing grant applications.



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During 2022/23, CVSC has provided support and funding to a significant number of local organisations.

CVSC was proud to administer 7 different funds, including:

Clocaenog Forest Wind Farm Fund

Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm
Community Fund

Rhyl Flats Offshore Wind Farm
Community Fund

Voluntary Services Emergency &
Recovery Fund

Comic Relief Community Fund

Regional Integration Fund

WCVA Youth Led Grants

**FUNDING
AWARDED**

£2,006,901

**ORGANISATIONS
FUNDED**

**160 different Third Sector
organisations received
funding**

**5 businesses received
funding**

**ADDITIONAL
FUNDING
OBTAINED**

Thanks to CVSC support, an additional **£368,000** was secured by local organisations

**TRAINING &
EVENTS**

CVSC held 32 events and training sessions, attended by 522 organisations, including:

- 12 funding surgeries
- 13 training & information courses
- 3 network events
- 1 large scale funder's fair
- 1 volunteer celebratory event
- 2 drop-in events

Sustainable Funding

2022 - 2023 was a record-breaking year for the Grants Team here at CVSC, seeing us invest more than £2million into our communities. We are proud to have the largest, most dynamic grants programmes of any CVC in North Wales.

During this reporting period, CVSC managed 7 different grant schemes including Rhyl Flats Windfarm Community Fund, Clocaenog Forest Windfarm Fund, Gwynt y Môr Community Fund, Comic Relief, Youth Led Grants, Voluntary Services Emergency & Recovery Fund and the Regional Integration Fund (RIF).



Esyllt Adair (left) and Katie Woodington

Total grants paid 2022/23

Gwynt y Môr	£705,209.61
Rhyl Flats	£111,610.61
Clocaenog	£781,624.78
RIF	£208,546.89
Comic Relief	£193,258.24
Youth Led Grants	£5,000.00
VSEF	£1,601.25
Other	£50.00
Total	£2,006,901.38

* In addition, funding obtained by organisations through support from CVSC equalled over £368,000

* 165 community groups and businesses received essential funding

* 12 Funding Surgeries held

Sustainable Funding Case Study - Canolfan Addysg Bro Aled

The Canolfan Addysg Bro Aled Management Committee was established when the Centre was opened in 1967, to organise and run the community elements of the Centre.

The challenge was to try to meet the requirements of the different associations using the Centre. The Nursery School needed more space and wanted to avoid clearing all their materials after each session, and so it was decided to extend a room and fit suitable facilities for nursery children and to create a room of considerable size for the use of the community and the Nursery School.

As it was a fairly large project, the permission of the County Council had to be obtained, and the development was planned in the following 2 parts:

- Part 1 was to adapt the room by installing toilets suitable for small children and opening an entrance leading directly to the outside play area.
- Part 2 was to build a new extension to the room.

The work was completed in just over a year through the cooperation of local organisations and the support of substantial grants.

The new resource has created a huge impression and impact for all users and has created a Centre that we can be proud of, in what it offers to the community of Bro Aled and further afield.

Support was received from The National Community Lottery Fund's Awards for All programme, Brenig Wind Farm Fund, Glyn Owen Fund and their own reserves for part 1 and nearly £60,000 through CVSC from the Clocaenog Forest Wind Farm Fund for part 2 along with £9,000 in match funding from the Bro Aled Community Council, Glyn Owen Fund and



their own reserves.

The support was secured by picking up the phone and discussing our intention to submit an application with the grant officers, before submitting an application for consideration. This saved a lot of time and there was guidance and support provided from those who administer the grants.

Alwyn Williams, member of the Management Committee states "Without the support of CVSC we could not have completed our project. Their experience in the field is extremely important and taking advantage of their expertise and support really facilitates the work. The Grants Officer is in every case to be praised for sharing our vision and ensuring success.

Being part of the team that was responsible for this exciting development in Bro Aled has been a privilege and seeing the reinforcement of the community spirit in the area has given us hope for the future."

Community Support Hub

CVSC's Community Support Hub had an exceptionally busy year, assisting the county's residents in accessing information, guidance and practical support for their issues. Demand for the service was unprecedented, particularly when presented with the cost-of-living crisis that many of us faced.

In the true spirit of the Third Sector, it was heartwarming to see organisations of all sizes step forward to provide their expertise and their services for the benefit of the area, sometimes being the difference between a child going to bed hungry or not.

For all that you do, CVSC salutes you!

Through simple marketing and innovative use of its website, the Community Support Hub developed a far-reaching approach to assisting residents, which saw our support reaching out much further than we anticipated; our statistics show that a significant number of individuals were accessing our information portal from throughout the UK. This, combined with physically touring the Hub throughout the county has been instrumental in promoting its services and its value to local communities.

Statistics tell a story and ours are no different. During the course of the year, 2,218 individuals accessed information, guidance and practical support from the Community Support Hub, with 5,816 interventions being offered or sought.

Jason Edwards, the Community Support Hub Manager said,

"Undoubtedly, the Hub benefited from being regularly featured throughout the year on S4C, Radio Cymru, BBC Wales, Radio Wales, BBC News Channel, Capital North Wales & North West and numerous articles in both local and national press."

Conwy
**COMMUNITY
SUPPORT
HUB**

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information, guidance and
practical support, whatever
your circumstances.

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You can even send us a text or a WhatsApp to our
mobile if you find that easier.

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GIG
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Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

Ariennir gan
Llywodraeth Cymru
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Welsh Government

Volunteering

Volunteering is a powerful force, an embodiment of compassion and selflessness that unites people from all walks of life in the pursuit of positive change. Volunteers dedicate their time, skills, and passion to address pressing issues, support the vulnerable, and nurture a sense of community.

On June 6th, we all got together at the Trinity Centre in Llandudno for our annual Volunteer Celebratory event, and it was an absolute blast! The evening unfolded as a heart-warming tribute to the diverse tapestry of volunteering activities taking place within our community. It was a rare opportunity to meet and recognise individuals who are making a significant difference in the lives of others.

In the stories shared and the smiles exchanged, we found inspiration and a reminder of the boundless compassion that resides within our volunteers. They are the backbone of positive change, and through events like these, we aim to shine a spotlight on their remarkable efforts and inspire others to join in creating a brighter future for our community.

We were joined by the High Sheriff of Clwyd, Kate Hill-Trevor who presented the High Sheriff Award to our Youth Led Panel members.

Volunteers who couldn't join us on the day, had their certificates delivered by Volunteer Coordinator, Kasia Kwiecien.



Case Study - CVSC Volunteering Centre helping individuals to find perfect opportunities

Carole's journey began when she approached Kasia from the CVSC Volunteering Team during the 25th Anniversary Event, driven by her desire to contribute to the community. After few initial bumps on the road, Kasia connected her with a wonderful team at Clwb yr Efail, Pam and Terry. Carol fitted right in and was delighted with how welcoming they made her feel, showing her around and making sure she felt confident with all her tasks. She quickly became a valued member of the team!

As a Volunteer at the Day Centre for the Elderly, Carol serves lunches, assists with seating, and caters to the needs of members. Volunteering has made a big difference to Carol, it brought her happiness and sense of purpose. Carol is now mixing with people, and she enjoys their company as she aims to spread joy among the club's attendees.

Terry from Clwb yr Efail cannot praise Carol enough: "Carol is an invaluable asset, does a great deal to help keeps things running smoothly at the club."

Kasia emphasises: "Carol's story proves that even if the first step doesn't work out, you should not get discouraged. CVSC is there to help individuals find fulfilling roles, that suit their circumstances and motivations."

Engagement & Influencing

Our Engagement and Influencing work have continued strongly this year, with direct work on behalf of the local authority, Conwy County Borough Council with Looked after children and children and young people with disabilities through various events and groups, including their Louder Voices group.

We also carried out consultation and engagement work on behalf of Welsh Government on the new Child Poverty Strategy running a number of events across the county to collect the experiences of parents and carers.

Our attendance at a Place Plan Kickstarter event with Planning Aid Wales and four towns in Conwy who were undertaking their Place Plans - Conwy, Llanrwst, Llanfairfechan & Penmaenmawr ensured that information about the sector was fed into mapping exercises.

Work also continued with engaging and influencing the health sector, with participation at weekly Community Resource Teams meetings, work on the Accelerated Cluster Development, as well as hosting a quarterly Health & Social Care network and attending special interest groups around Dementia, Older People and Autism as well as feeding into the Healthy Weight Healthy Wales programme.



Governance

Support and guidance for community groups and organisations to meet good practice, remain key priorities for the CVSC Team. This was demonstrated by the need for groups to consider and reflect on their growth and development after a difficult few years. Increased recognition of potential responsibilities, alongside the need for funding, has meant a general move towards more robust governing documents and incorporation.

Parallel to this, has been the ongoing need to continue to keep everyone safe, with the newfound focus triggered by the introduction of the new national Wales Safeguarding Learning, Training, and Development Standards. Promotion and key events included 2 multi agency Safeguarding Roadshows.



CVSC hosted 2 full day events in person, along with colleagues from CCBC, DBS and WCVA, to raise awareness of the new national Safeguarding Learning, Training and Development Standards.

Awareness of these standards:

- gave assurance to organisations that all practitioners and volunteers had the same level of learning and development when moving from one organisation to another in Wales
- improved multi-agency learning and development
- provided a common language and encourages organisations and practitioners to work together

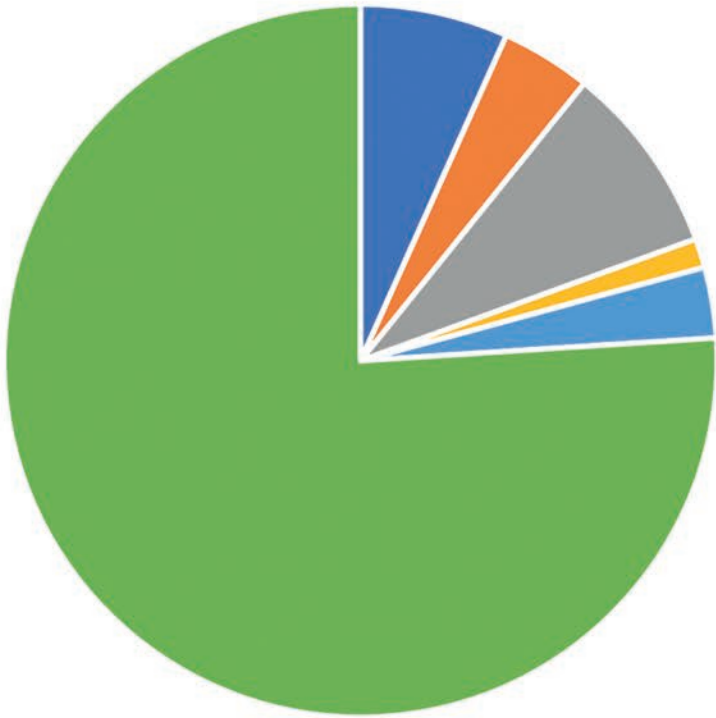
Jan Smith stated "CVSC was delighted to host the pilot North Wales multi-agency Safeguarding Roadshow here in Conwy, giving the opportunity for community groups to be updated directly about the new Safeguarding Training Standards, DBS Outreach Service and Safeguarding good practice. Safeguarding is everybody's business and through our joint working efforts, we can be sure that wide ranging support continues to be made accessible and available."

Quotes from feedback -

"The event was well structured and presenters very approachable and answered all questions. I don't think anything could have worked better."

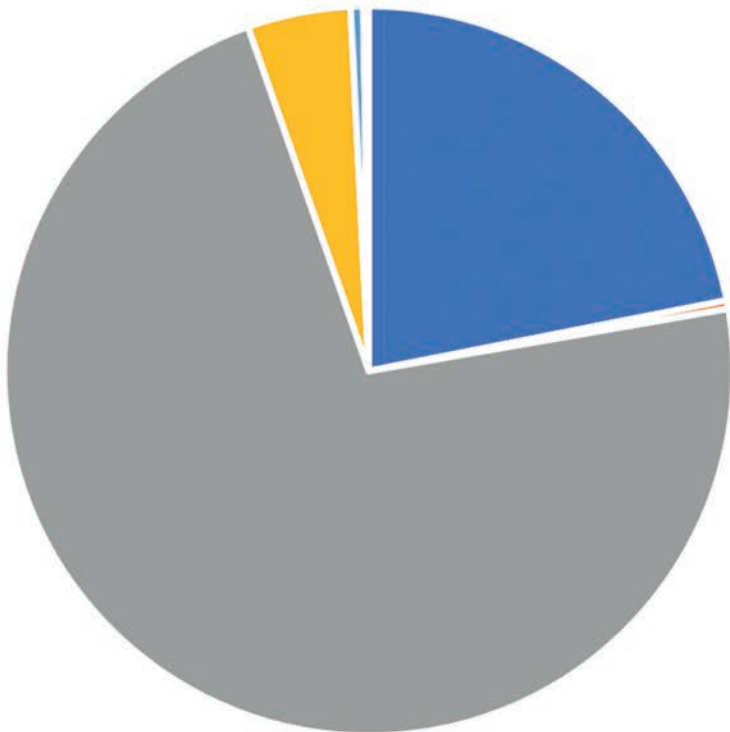
"Well done. We need more events like this to spread awareness on safeguarding. Helped us a lot."

Financial Summary 2022/23



■ WCVA Core Funding ■ Local Authority
■ Welsh Gov - Projects ■ Lottery ■ BCUHB ■ Other

Income	£	%
WCVA Core Funding	188,391.00	6.70%
Local Authority	115,115.24	4.10%
Welsh Gov - Projects	243,033.96	8.65%
Lottery	37,151.04	1.32%
BCUHB	90,059.35	3.21%
Other	2,136,194.25	76.02%
Total	2,809,944.84	100.00%



■ Staff & Related Costs ■ Premises ■ Grants
■ Equipment ■ Office & IT Costs ■ Insurance, Audit & Accountancy

Expenditure	£	%
Staff & Related Costs	607,322.77	21.90%
Premises	10,330.68	0.37%
Grants	2,006,901.38	72.36%
Office & IT Costs	126,929.70	4.58%
Equipment	15,533.54	0.56%
Insurance, Audit & Accountancy	6,662.29	0.24%
Total	2,773,680.36	100.00%