

# Make a bigger difference together

**WcVA**  
**CgGC**

Published November 2021

Wales Council for Voluntary Action  
Registered charity number 218093  
Company limited by guarantee 425299  
Registered in Wales

**Annual report 2020/21**

0300 111 0124 | [www.wcva.cymru](http://www.wcva.cymru)

# Welcome

## Hello and welcome to our Annual Report for 2020/21.

### A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER, WE ALL FELT THE EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD.

We must start by acknowledging what a difficult time 2020/21 has been for individuals, communities and voluntary organisations in Wales and beyond. The sad truth is many voluntary organisations will not recover from this, and for the rest there are challenging times ahead.

However, we can also draw some positives. The response to the crisis from the voluntary sector has been, frankly, incredible. The value and importance of the sector here in Wales has never been clearer.

WCVA exists to enable voluntary organisations in Wales to make a bigger difference together. We are proud of the part we have played in enabling the vital work of our sector during these trying times.

Working together has been absolutely essential this year as you'll see from our bumper list of thank yous on page 34.

### THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCES WE'VE MADE IN 2020/21

**1** Switching our focus to provide **essential COVID-19 advice, guidance and funding** allowed us to support voluntary organisations through the pandemic.

**2** Working with our County Voluntary Council partners, and others, we **enabled more volunteers to respond to the pandemic.**

**3** We **strengthened the voice of voluntary organisations with government**, ensuring the sector's response to COVID-19 was valued and supported.

We hope you enjoy our Annual Report.



**Ruth Marks MBE**  
Chief Executive



**Peter Davies CBE**  
Chair

# Our goals

## WCVA's plan for change 2017-22

### INTERNAL GOALS

WCVA is more sustainable and responsible

WCVA makes better use of more diverse resources

### ACTIVITIES

Catalyst for positive change: Connecting, Enabling, Influencing

### EXTERNAL GOALS

Voluntary organisations  
and volunteering are stronger  
and more resilient

Voluntary organisations  
and volunteering are more valued  
and trusted

Voluntary organisations and  
volunteering make a bigger impact  
on current and future wellbeing

### OUR VISION

A future where voluntary organisations and volunteering thrive across Wales, improving wellbeing for all

## Our goal

# Voluntary organisations are stronger and more resilient

If voluntary organisations are going to make the biggest difference they can, they need to be strong themselves. This year we focused on helping the sector navigate change and uncertainty, adapting our services to reflect the diversity of the sector and negotiating, reviewing and rolling out emergency COVID-19 funding.

# What we did

**1** We distributed more than triple the amount of funding to the sector (in grants and loans) compared with the previous year, with £47m being distributed in 2020/21 compared to £14.6m in 2019/20. Of this, £27.8m was funding related to COVID-19 and as of February 2021, according to 360Giving's COVID-19 Grants Tracker, WCVA was the ninth highest COVID-19 funder in the UK in terms of the number of grants given out, having distributed 461 COVID-related grants

---

**2** We provided the sector with COVID-19 updates and newsletters, and functioned as one of the leading intermediaries between Welsh Government and voluntary organisations in Wales. We also connected PPE suppliers with groups requiring supplies around the country. We delivered 85 online sessions to over 2,500 participants and published more than 50 blogs and guidance resources

---

**3** We raised awareness of Funding Wales, a platform created with our County Voluntary Council partners in Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW). Following a campaign by partners, the site hit an important milestone of over 10,000 registered users. It now contains details of 670 funders, 770 different funds, and saw 19,347 funding searches over a 12-month period

---

**4** Volunteering and community led action were absolutely central to our society's response to COVID-19. We helped volunteers to safely step up during the pandemic using Third Sector Support Wales' Volunteering Wales platform. This year saw a huge uptake in volunteers and corresponding volunteering opportunities, as the pandemic prompted a wide-reaching and highly engaged volunteer response around the country

---

**5** Our Catalyst Cymru: Resilient Heritage project provided heritage organisations from across Wales with in-depth support to further their development. This year we reached 115 individuals from heritage organisations throughout Wales across 11 different courses and over 40 hours of timetabled learning

---

## Volunteering Wales in 2020/21

**14,019**  
volunteers  
registered



**1,035,881**  
page views



**23,291**  
hours logged



**257,831**  
website visitors



**1,213**  
new opportunities  
uploaded



## COVID-19 volunteering

**8,068**  
volunteers



**298**  
opportunities



**18,637**  
hours logged



**1,346**  
community tasks  
added to  
the tasks app  
(1,335 completed to date)



# Grants and loans distributed to the sector - £47 million

**£15,162,204**  
COVID-19  
emergency response



**£9,455,120**  
COVID-19 survival  
& recovery grants

**£674,314**  
Projects between Wales and Africa



**£146,096**  
Volunteering  
grants



**£7,385,563**  
Local support  
for the sector



**£3,165,315**  
COVID-19 survival  
& recovery loans



**£581,715**  
Local nature partnerships



**£585,002**  
Supporting & strengthening  
community action



**£1,432,038**  
Social investments



**£87,545**  
Maintaining  
third sector  
networks

**£102,819**  
Other



**£3,431,273**  
Reducing economic  
inactivity

**£2,167,695**  
Environmental grants



**£2,668,156**  
Capital projects  
to restore &  
enhance nature



# The difference we made

## Helping Wales access European funds

**3-SET (OUR THIRD SECTOR EUROPEAN TEAM) RECEIVED AN OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION FROM RESEARCHERS, WAVEHILL.**

Among other things, it was noted that '3-SET has demonstrated its ability to disseminate relevant and current information and guidance, alongside policy and strategic level engagement to promote and support the sector and its future' and 'beneficiaries were also overwhelmingly of the view that the 3-SET had provided effective guidance to support the delivery of their projects.

'The majority believed that 3-SET had supported them to a great extent whilst nobody suggested that they had failed to provide useful support when sought.'

◀ **Left:** Trainee at Awen Garden Centre, where the Awen Cultural Trust run a work based initiative for adults with disabilities. Awen received funding through our Third Sector Resilience Fund





## What you said about our Catalyst Cymru courses

‘Brilliant, the best I have participated in. It has given me some great ideas as well.’

**Participant on our Introduction to Individual Giving course**

‘Course made me look at recruiting board members in an entirely different way and look at more innovative ways to recruit trustees.’

**Participant on our ‘How to recruit diverse board members masterclass’**

**Right:** Cuppa with Coed Lleol (Small Woods Wales) walking group in Tremadog. Coed Lleol have been organising socially distanced walks and other nature activities all across Wales to support mental health and wellbeing ►



## What you said about our Third Sector Resilience Fund

‘The funding had a huge impact on our organisation. It ensured our core funds were secured which meant that we had the opportunity to develop alternative services to ensure the individuals contacting us were able to receive the support they needed during this challenging time. It has also given us the opportunity to develop alternative and new services for a post lockdown environment such as delivering a remote service.’

**Caerphilly Borough Mind**

‘It has kept us going when we fell through the cracks in other forms of support. It’s meant we can - in a really difficult time - confidently plan in the longer term, and position ourselves to ensure we are able to deliver what’s needed and wanted as we recover together. The money has obviously made a huge and significant difference to us but what that’s unlocked in terms of our ability to look forward has also had a major impact.’

**Circus Eruption**

The Third Sector Resilience Fund for Wales is a Welsh Government COVID-19 grant and loan scheme designed to support voluntary organisations to survive and thrive during the pandemic. In 2020/21 we distributed £9.5m in grants and £3.2m in loans through the fund.

## Case Study

# Hope in the face of everything

### THE THIRD SECTOR RESILIENCE FUND HELPED HOPE RESCUE WEATHER THE STORM OF 2020.

Even before COVID-19 brought the world to a standstill, Wales was battered by Storm Dennis. The damage from flooding across parts of South Wales was extensive and, for dog rescue charity, Hope Rescue, it proved to be extra costly as their Pontypridd charity shop was forced to close.

Hope barely had time to catch their breath before lockdown forced their kennel service to shut, further depriving them of income even while demand for their services remained high.

‘It wasn’t an option to close our doors when lockdown started’ said Transformation Manager, Vanessa Wadden. ‘We knew that the most vulnerable dogs in our local community would still need our help, as would vulnerable pet owners and their families. Our services would never be needed more.’

‘We only had enough reserves for another couple of months. The TSRF grant not only allowed us to keep our doors open, but also gave us breathing space we needed to focus on adapting our operations and income generation strategy.

‘The day we heard we had the grant was the first night’s proper sleep I had since lockdown began!’



Hope Rescue volunteer walks one of their rescue dogs

## Our goal

# Voluntary organisations are more valued and trusted

We know that people don't always realise the enormous value that voluntary organisations contribute to communities across Wales. This year we wanted to become a louder voice for the sector, particularly in the run up to 2021 Senedd elections.



# What we did

**1** We used our reach to promote the value of voluntary organisations through the pandemic by taking part in national campaigns such as #NeverMoreNeeded and organising activities for Trustees' Week and Volunteers' Week. 157 people attended our popular Trustees' Week events on diversifying your board, recruiting young trustees, and holding AGMs online

**2** We strengthened our evidence base during the pandemic to understand the impact on the voluntary sector and demonstrate the sector's value. We've gathered insight, including through a listening exercise with our members, collaborated with researchers and updated our Data Hub – our essential bank of information about the sector in Wales

**3** The Inspiring Impact project supported the sector in Wales to measure and demonstrate its impact by providing a programme of free events and webinars. We held five events in partnership with the Co-Production Network for Wales which enabled participants to discuss advanced topics. Ten introductory webinars also provided the opportunity to learn about different aspects of impact. The project reached almost 400 participants in Wales over the last year representing 41% of participants across the UK

**Right:** A family play session at Butetown Community Centre in Cardiff run by social inclusion charity, The Mentor Ring – one of the recipients of our Third Sector Resilience Fund ►



## Case Study

# #NotTheWelshCharityAwards

**WE DEDICATED THE MONTH OF OCTOBER TO RECOGNISING THE AMAZING WORK OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS.**

Due to the COVID-19 crisis we had to make the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Welsh Charity Awards. However, with so many groups and individuals doing so much to support people in Wales during this difficult time, we thought it was more important than ever to shout loud and proud about the work of voluntary organisations.

Our #NotTheWelshCharityAwards campaign encouraged people to 'nominate' a voluntary organisation or volunteer that had a big impact on their life over the last year.

Using their smartphone or webcam, people got involved by recording a message to say a personal 'diolch' or 'thank you' to specific volunteers or



Some of the great videos we received as part of the campaign, taken from our **2020 highlights video**

organisations that meant something to them.

There were no winners and no prizes to give out, but throughout October the hashtag and our social media feeds

were filled with heartfelt thanks and the inspiring stories of individuals and groups that had clearly made a big difference. Thank you to everyone that took part!



# The difference we made

**1** We published more good news stories on our website than ever before, showing the difference voluntary organisations have been making to communities throughout Wales during the pandemic. We published 42 blogs about the sector's response to the pandemic and how we might rebuild and recorded 194,857 website visitors in 2020/21 compared to 191,374 in 2019/20

**2** As one of several stakeholders working towards increasing public trust in voluntary organisations, we were pleased to see that the Charity Commission reported in June 2020 that overall trust and confidence in charities had increased in the preceding two years (though still remains below pre-2016 levels)

**Right:** Painting windows at Antur Waunfawr who received funding to invest in their centre through our Social Business Growth Fund (SBGF). SBGF is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund ►





## What you said about our #NotTheWelshCharityAwards campaign

‘WCVA’s #notthewelshcharityawards gave Kidney Wales and other organisations a unique opportunity to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions of those going above and beyond to support people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In October 2020 Managing Director, Judith Stone, thanked Kidney Wales volunteer, trustee and Consultant Transplant Surgeon, Dr Mike Stephens with a short video that was shared to our social media platforms. Sharing the video through WCVA’s national platforms highlighted the importance of charities in supporting people with health conditions. It raised the profile of Kidney Wales and broadened our reach to engage new beneficiaries and supporters, prompting enquiries about our volunteering opportunities.’

**Kidney Wales**

‘Tŷ Hafan received three #NotTheWelshCharityAwards 2020 nominations - one from our former Volunteer Manager Debbie Gibby, the second from Kelly Morris, Deputy Manager of our shop in Talbot Green.

Plus our Ambassador Lucy Owen, also very kindly, nominated Tŷ Hafan by tweeting a lovely video of her experiences of the hospice and the insights she had gained from her recent coverage of our support for Marieme and Ndeye, conjoined twins, and their father Ibrahima. Between them these three videos had more than 1.7K views on Twitter, and, as the dark autumn nights gathered in, and the prospect of a second lockdown started to loom ever larger, the platform provided by #NotTheWelshCharityAwards was a great way for us to not only thank our volunteers for doing so much for us during those most difficult of days, but also to share with a wider audience, facilitated by the hashtag, what Tŷ Hafan is about.’

**Linda Harris,**  
Head of Marketing and Communications at Tŷ Hafan

## What you said about our Inspiring Impact work

‘I just wanted to quickly feedback that the inspiring impact information has been really useful in my work. I have also been part of the Institute of Fundraising covid coaching response programme and have been sharing the Inspiring Impact website and your events with other charities. It’s been really valuable so thank you so much!’



◀ **Left:** The Bywyd Gwylt Glaslyn Wildlife Osprey Centre continue its work protecting breeding ospreys in the Glaslyn Valley thanks in part to our Third Sector Resilience Fund

## Our goal

# Organisations and volunteers make a greater impact on current and future wellbeing

We want to help voluntary organisations truly improve the wellbeing of Wales, building on the difference they already make. In 2020/21 we focused on grants that support people to make a difference to their community, and supporting voluntary organisations to campaign and influence government and business to improve people's wellbeing.

# What we did

**1** We strengthened the voice of voluntary organisations by increasing our high-level engagement with Welsh Government

---

**2** In the early months of the pandemic, we held several 'Different Futures Wales' events, exploring what Wales might look like post-COVID from the perspectives of the climate crisis, volunteering, service delivery, the economy and influencing policy

---

**3** We worked with the sector to produce the 2021 Voluntary Sector manifesto ahead of the Senedd elections, detailing how partnership working between the sector and decision makers could make a positive difference to communities across Wales

---

**4** We supported the Third Sector Partnership Council to produce its Recovery Report to build on the examples of good work from the sector during the pandemic. It focused on three key areas - volunteering, relationships and support. The report proposed new ways of working together, priorities for the Third Sector Support Wales partnership, and funding for strategic projects

---

**5** Our funds enabled organisations to support their communities and tackle big social issues. For example, our Active Inclusion Fund financed projects to help disadvantaged people get back into employment, and our Wales and Africa grants facilitated projects that bring benefits to both countries

---

**6** Our Health and Social Care Transformation Project supported the wellbeing needs of the people in Wales during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as those who have struggled emotionally and physically and have felt lonely and isolated

---

## Case Study

# Innovate Trust – it's not just a name, it's a mindset

**WCVA'S ACTIVE INCLUSION FUND HELPED INNOVATE TRUST ADAPT AND MEET THE NEEDS OF ITS SERVICE USERS.**

Even with the challenges of COVID-19, flexible thinking and a carefully tailored approach have allowed participants on Innovate Trust's employment project to flourish.

Funded by WCVA's Active Inclusion Fund, the project aims to provide a

range of activities, training and support for disabled people to enable them to gain skills and work experience for employment.

When the restrictions came in, participants' wellbeing was the top priority. Innovate had to ensure participants were coping as best they could. They transformed their services and ran sessions online over video

platforms such as Zoom, doing things like teaching participants to use worry jars.

They also designed their own unique social media platform, Insight, a safe online space for participants to interact and socialise.

Alex is a keen gamer who's been taking part in gaming groups over Zoom with other participants. Emma at Innovate explained 'with lockdown, there's no reason not to spend hours gaming, but you can end up even more isolated. I thought - wouldn't it be good to at least have a social group that talks about their interests?'

'I'm really enjoying it' Alex said 'it really has boosted my confidence a lot.'

The Active Inclusion Fund is managed by WCVA, supported by funding from European Structural and Investment Funds.



◀ **Left:** Alex, a participant at Innovate, puts the gardening knowledge they gave him over lockdown to use



# The difference we made

**1** We facilitated 15 meetings between Welsh Government Ministers and voluntary sector representatives and responded to 15 Welsh Government and Welsh Parliament consultations. We also responded to consultations from UK Parliament and Social Care Wales this year. This, along with other engagement and influencing work, led to WCVA's work being mentioned 45 times in Welsh Parliament plenary sessions, written questions and answers, committee meetings and government reports, with 36 of these relating to our work supporting the sector in the COVID-19 response

**2** Recommendations made by WCVA, following engagement with the sector, were reflected in the Third Sector Partnership Council's Recovery Report, including relations with government and public bodies, support for the sector to recover, and how to sustain the surge in volunteering and community action. Welsh Government agreed to work with the sector to create more sustainable principles for funding in the recovery. These recommendations were also reflected in the Equalities, Local Government and Communities Committee report on the impact of COVID-19 on the sector

**Right:** Platform were one of the many voluntary organisations that adapted their services during the pandemic to help the community. Platform received European Funding through our Active Inclusion Fund to help disadvantaged people get back into employment ►





◀ **Left:** Volunteers taking part in gardening to improve their wellbeing with Bridgend Carers Centre, one of the recipients of our Voluntary Services Emergency Fund

## Case Study

# A lifeline for carers during the pandemic

**OUR VOLUNTARY SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND HELPED BRIDGEND CARERS ADAPT AND CREATE NEW SERVICES TO SUPPORT THEIR COMMUNITY.**

Bridgend Carers Centre had to quickly adapt its service in March 2020 after seeing a widespread rise in cases of carers feeling isolated and anxious.

Funding from WCVA's Voluntary Services Emergency Fund has allowed the organisation to create a new telephone line for carers to access a range of experts when they needed advice, or just a chat over concerns and worries.

'Being a carer can be incredibly tough,' said Rhian Watts, Young Carers Education Project Manager at

Bridgend Carers Centre. 'These people are tasked with the daunting feat of protecting the most vulnerable people in our community.

'As the pandemic worsened, these carers were more in need of support than ever. As we all know, the role of a carer has become even tougher than before over the past couple of months.

'Thankfully, our new services are allowing us to access even more carers, and it has created a strong sense of community by both helping carers to have new ways of managing concerns and reminding them that there are other people who understand what they're going through.'



## Our goal

# WCVA is more sustainable and responsible

We want to use good governance and planning to ensure our organisation is sustainable, but we also want to work in a way that supports a more sustainable society in Wales. In 2020/21 we concentrated on staff wellbeing and supporting staff throughout the organisation to be more involved in decision-making.

# What we did

**1** We switched to a home working model for all staff and moved everything to digital and cloud based infrastructure, including our telephone system. This allowed us to deliver services at full capacity while all staff worked remotely and safely

---

**2** We sold our office in Rhyl and moved to a more modern, leased building in Abergele. This has created flexible hotdesking, reduced overhead costs and allowed for a more sustainable, accommodating office environment for our staff

---

**3** This year we improved our governance and management practices and increased our resilience by creating a five year financial plan and delegating budget and operational responsibility to managers to allow us to be more flexible and adaptive

---

**4** We continued our commitment to the real Living Wage. UK wide, voluntary sector Living Wage employers account for just 4% of the total, but it's good to know that for Wales-only employers, it's 30%. At WCVA, as well as being a Living Wage Employer ourselves, we're a Living Wage Funder, committed to encouraging the organisations we fund to pay the real Living Wage

---

**5** We launched a staff Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) group. The EDI champions group was established to raise awareness and support the promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion at WCVA. Members of the group have facilitated sessions at our staff day, developed a calendar of events, advised on recruitment exercises, carried out research and produced papers for the WCVA trustee board

---

**6** We took part in Chwarae Teg's Agile Nation 2 Business programme, undertaking a staff survey to let us understand more about our business culture. We used this to inform an Equality and Diversity Strategy Action Plan to improve and enhance our human resource practices

---

# The difference we made

## Case Study

# The wellbeing of our staff

### WE TRIED TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC ON OUR STAFF'S MENTAL HEALTH USING ONLINE CLUBS.

COVID-19 has had an impact on the mental health of us all. With the majority of our staff working from home this year we wanted to do what we could to reduce isolation and encourage good mental health.

When the pandemic hit we set up a 'wellbeing zone' on our intranet where staff could share their experiences and top tips. Staff were also encouraged to set up online clubs as a way to connect with other each other.

Our Governance & Safeguarding Manager, Mair Rigby organised a Thursday book club for staff, and Rajma Begum, whose curry fundraisers are highly anticipated at WCVA HQ, also

ran a 'Staff Grub Club' to trade cookery top tips, demonstrate recipes and talk all things food!

Nicola Nicholls from our volunteering team said: 'It's so nice to get together with work colleagues in a relaxed environment sharing ideas and recipes, we all enjoyed Rajma's cooking demonstrations and introducing us to her many culinary delights. She inspired me to use ingredients I've not used in the past and one of her dishes was so nice I had it every night for a week! It's a lovely break in a very busy day'.

**Right:** Our National Diversity Manager, Rajma shows WCVA colleagues how to whip up one of her world famous curries ►



## Our goal

# WCVA makes better use of more diverse resources

We are working to diversify our funding base, make better use of digital, and promote a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration with others. We focused on making sure our staff had the digital skills they needed to deliver more services online. We also examined getting more bang for our buck through our property, strategic budgeting and partnership working.

# What we did

**1** Moving to entirely digital working meant we were still able to provide flexible and agile support and collaborate with the voluntary sector and other stakeholders, including Third Sector Support Wales and the Third Sector Partnership Council

---

**2** We continued our commitment to continuous staff learning, with all staff training courses moving to digital platforms

---

**3** We held our AGM and annual lecture online for the first time ever, with an excellent lecture on 'How a global charity can deliver locally' by Oxfam CEO Danny Sriskandarajah delivered to 148 people

---

**4** We collaborated with One Voice Wales and the Welsh Local Government Association on a protocol for joint working in response to COVID-19

---

**5** We continued our partnership with Cynnal Cymru, the leading organisation for sustainable development in Wales. Cynnal Cymru and WCVA worked together to identify potential funders to support diversity within the sustainable development sector, and do more to ensure a just transition to net zero. This commitment meets shared objectives, will benefit our wider membership and will have a positive impact on civil society and the environment. Cynnal Cymru and WCVA also worked together on a paper for Natural Resources Wales about a green and just recovery

---

**6** We worked with the Wales Centre for Public Policy and Welsh Local Government Association on research into volunteering and wellbeing during the pandemic to showcase how volunteering, supported by infrastructure, helps create empowered, resilient communities

---

## Case Study

# Knowledge Hub launched to upskill the sector

**KNOWLEDGE HUB GIVES VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WALES EASY ACCESS TO A RANGE OF ONLINE INFORMATION, NETWORKING AND LEARNING.**

This year, Third Sector Support Wales (WCVA and all our County Voluntary Councils partners) launched a new bank of online information and learning resources for the voluntary sector in Wales – the voluntary sector Knowledge Hub.

The Hub is a free resource designed to help voluntary organisations stay informed, connect with others and improve their knowledge in areas such as running their organisation, volunteering, funding and influencing.

As well as a selection of information sheets and online courses, the Knowledge Hub also gives users the opportunity to network with peers and have discussions on topics that are important to them.

The Knowledge Hub is available at [www.thirdsectorsupport.wales](http://www.thirdsectorsupport.wales).





# The difference we made

**1** Our Local Nature Partnerships (LNP) Cymru project collaborates with people, communities, decision-makers and businesses to plan and create a more resilient and nature-rich Wales. This year, the project dealt with almost 2,000 enquiries, staged over 650 events and activities, and supported over 200 practical projects and almost 300 communities to benefit from these activities. LNP Cymru has also been instrumental in the delivery of Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature grant, with a 98% spend of the funding within the year enabling 77 projects across Wales

**2** WCVA played key roles in collaborations with other funders. Our emergency funds were designed to complement those from other key funders to ensure financial support was made available to the widest range of organisations possible, and we helped ensure valuable data was

shared to further the reach of funding and stop fraudulent applications. As part of the Wales Funders Forum, WCVA is now exploring how this successful collaboration can be built on in the short and long-term. One funder said: 'It helped me make better recommendations. It lowered the risks of decision-making. I'm glad it happened.'

**3** Our Better Futures Wales project collaborated with new partners to gain new skills for WCVA and the sector. We worked with School of International Futures and three communities in different parts of Wales to imagine their futures post-pandemic. The project developed resources such as podcasts to enable community-led foresight groups across the country

Aberystwyth's Aber Food Surplus took part in the Better Futures Wales project. Heather Mclure said:

'The opportunity to learn from foresight specialists and imagination experts was really valuable. We're in the process of securing funding to go ahead with a project working towards the circular economy. We're going to be strengthening food growing opportunities and horticultural training, and we're going to collaborate with the Aber Food Coop.'





## Case Study

# TSSW helps protect wildlife and woodlands

**COLLABORATION BETWEEN WCVA AND THE COUNTY VOLUNTARY COUNCILS HELPED PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK LOOK AFTER PROTECTED SPECIES.**

WCVA is part of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW), the network of support organisations for the sector in Wales. TSSW is a national partnership of the local County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) and WCVA.

WCVA works with CVCs on assessment of applications to the Landfill Disposals Tax Community Scheme (LDTCS), allowing for efficient centralized administration paired with knowledge of needs of local communities across the country.

Withybush Woods, a Victorian garden in Pembrokeshire, received funding from the LDTCS to be renovated to benefit the local community, attract visitors and improve biodiversity.

The woods are home to birds like the great spotted woodpecker, and the area is managed to protect otters as a European Protected Species. 'The volunteers gained new knowledge and skills and felt more connected to nature and their local area,' said Tom Moses of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

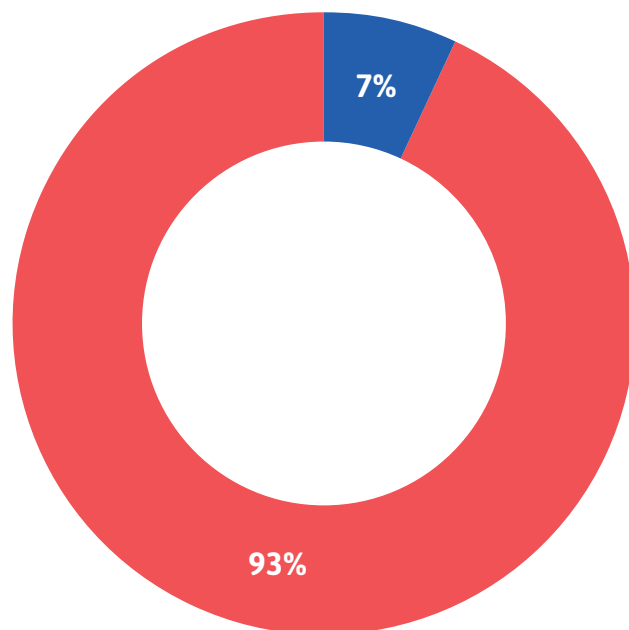
◀ **Left: Volunteers**  
restoring Withybush Woods

# Our finances

These figures give an overview of our financial performance for 2020/21.

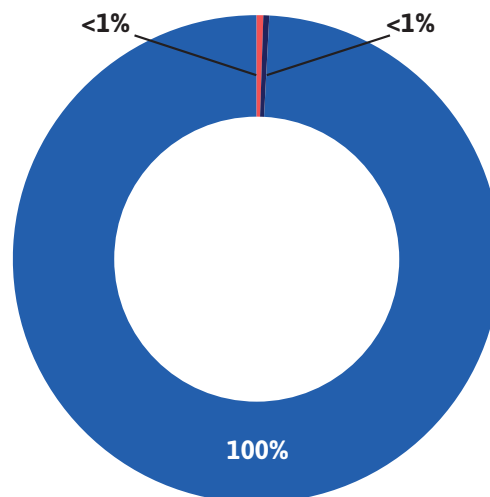
**DURING THE YEAR WE DISTRIBUTED £47M IN GRANTS AND LOANS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR.**  
**OUR INCOME WAS £51M AND OUR EXPENDITURE WAS £49.7M.**

**Income  
£51 million**



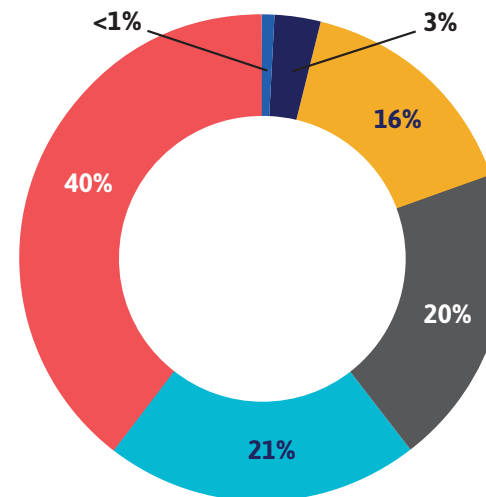
■ Restricted income  
■ Unrestricted income

**Restricted income  
£47.5 million**

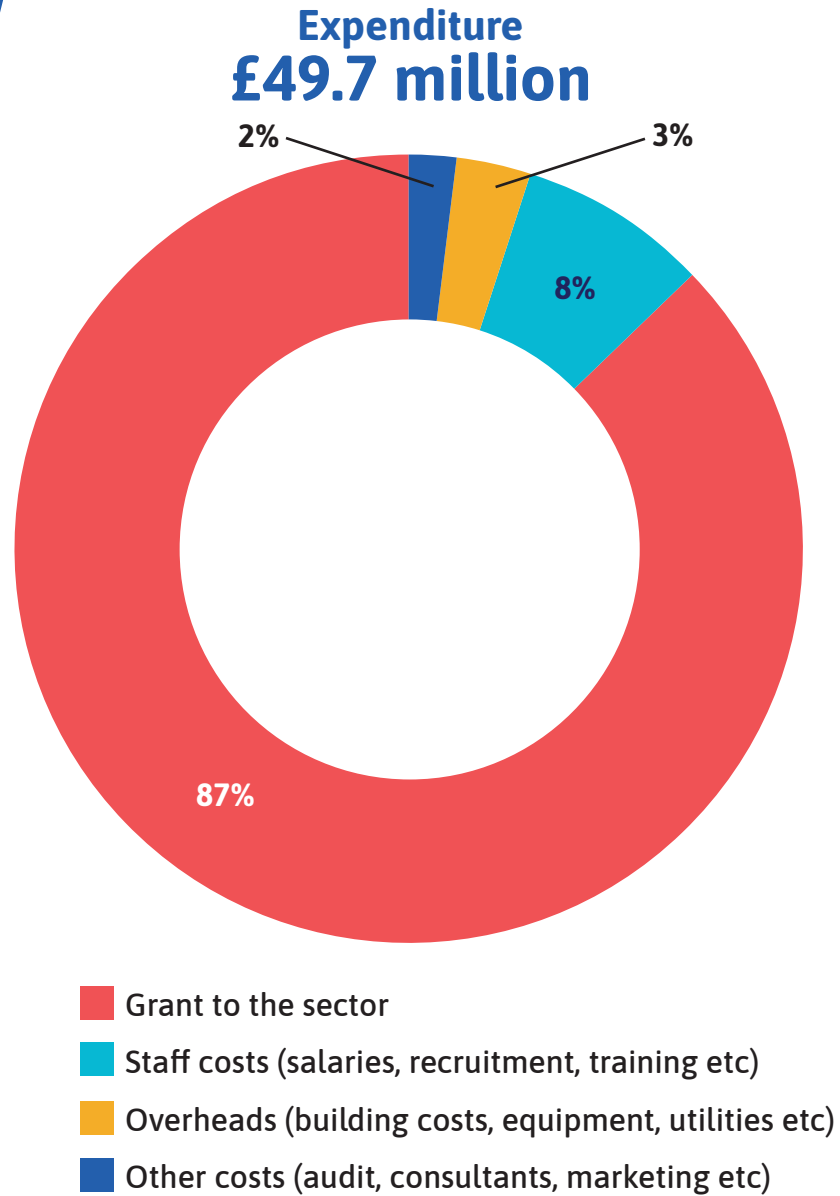


■ Grants received  
■ Income from investment  
■ Other trading activities

**Unrestricted income  
£3.5 million**



■ Other income from trading activities  
■ Expenditure recovered  
■ Grant receivable  
■ Other trading activities  
■ Other Income  
■ Income from investments



Our full Annual Accounts and the report of the independent auditor on those accounts is available on the [Charity Commission website](#).

# WCVA board members

## President

Michael Sheen

## Vice Presidents

Tom Jones OBE

Margaret Thorne CBE DL

## Chair

Peter Davies CBE

## Vice Chair

Fran Targett OBE

## Treasurer

Jonathan Evans

## Trustees

Stephen Brooks

Rocio Cifuentes

Lindsay Cordery-Bruce

Lisa Davies

Elizabeth Girling

Simon Harris

Chris Lines

Mark Llewellyn

Sara Moseley

Joseph Stockley

Edward Watts MBE DL

Helen Bulkeley  
(known as Helen White)

Kate Young

## Observer

Colin Arnold (from February 2021)  
(Defigo Finance Ltd)

## Secretary

Tracey Lewis

**Company registration number** 0425299

**Charity number** 218093

**Registered office:** Baltic House  
Mount Stuart Square  
Cardiff CF10 5FH

## Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc

Windsor Court

1-3 Windsor Place

Cardiff

CF10 3BX

## Legal advisers

Geldards LLP

Capital Quarter No. 4, Tyndall Street  
Cardiff CF10 4BZ

Hugh James

Two Central Square

Cardiff CF10 1FS

Capital Law

Capital Building, Tyndall Street  
Cardiff CF10 4AZ

## Auditor

Bevan Buckland LLP

Langdon House, Langdon Road  
Swansea Waterfront SA1 8QY



# Thank You

WCVA would like to thank all our members and partners for their support as this year as well as the following:

[20 Degrees Consulting](#)

[Aber Food Surplus](#)

[ACEVO](#)

[Arts Factory](#)

[Barclays Bank PLC](#)

[Bevan Buckland LLP](#)

[Bevan Commission](#)

[Blood Bikes Wales](#)

[Business in the  
Community Cymru](#)

[Cardiff City Stadium](#)

[Cardiff University](#)

[Carol Mack,  
Association Charitable  
Foundations](#)

[Carys Mair Thomas  
Communications](#)

[Census 2021](#)

[Centurion VAT](#)

[Chartered Institute of  
Fundraising](#)

[Chwarae Teg](#)

[Class Networks](#)

[Comic Relief](#)

[Community  
Foundation Wales](#)

[Cowshed](#)

[Cymdeithas  
Cyfieithwyr](#)

[Cytun](#)

[Dafydd Thomas](#)

[Danny Sriskandarajah,  
Oxfam](#)

[Darius Hughes, Chair  
of JCVI and Head of  
Vaccines at UK Pfizer](#)

[Darwin Gray](#)

[Data Cymru](#)

[Deryn](#)

[Drosi Bikes](#)

[Eileen Murphy](#)

[Elin Maher](#)

[Ethnic Youth Support  
Team \(EYST\)](#)

[Eva Trier Consulting](#)

[Futurice Ltd](#)

[Getting on Board](#)

[Helpforce](#)

[HSF health plan](#)

[Jess Blair](#)

[Keegan and Pennykid](#)

[Legal Education  
Foundation](#)

[Lloyds Bank  
Foundation](#)

[Moondance  
Foundation](#)

[National Lottery  
Community Fund](#)

[National Procurement  
Service](#)

[NCVO](#)

[NHS Charities Together](#)

[NHS Wales](#)

[People and Work Unit](#)

[People Powered  
Results Team, Nesta](#)

[Public Health Wales](#)

[Race Council Cymru](#)

[Recruit3](#)

[Resource CIC](#)

[Responsible Finance](#)

[Richard Newton  
Consulting](#)

[Russell Todd](#)

[Savage and Gray  
Design](#)

[School of  
International Futures](#)

[Shirley David, Business  
and Employment  
Support and Training  
\(BEST\)](#)

[Social Care Wales](#)

[Social Investment  
Business](#)

[Social Investment  
Scotland](#)

[Sport Wales](#)

[Tempo](#)

[The  
#NeverMoreNeeded  
Campaign](#)

[The Association of the  
British Pharmaceutical  
Industry](#)

[The Funding Centre](#)

[The Scottish Council  
for Voluntary  
Organisations \(SCVO\)](#)

[Volunteer Now](#)

[Volunteer Scotland](#)

[Wales Centre for  
Public Policy](#)

[Wales Cooperative  
Centre](#)

[Wales TUC](#)

[Wavehill](#)

[Welsh Centre for  
International Affairs](#)

[Wales Centre for Public  
Policy](#)

[Wales European  
Funding Office \(WEFO\)](#)

[Welsh Government](#)

[Welsh Institute for  
Health and Social Care,  
University of South  
Wales](#)

[Welsh Local Government  
Association \(WLGA\)](#)

[Y Ty Gwyrdd](#)