

# Helpforce Cymru



## SPRING UPDATE 2022

A brief update and news in relation to volunteering for health and social care in Wales.

### VOLUNTEERING CONFERENCES

Two successful conferences were held in March, with an amazing 215 attendees between them.

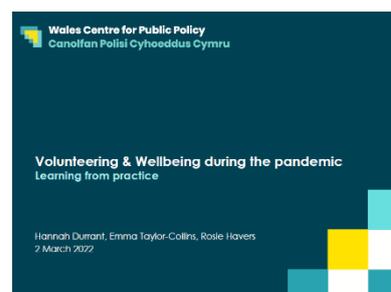
The first: ***Volunteering during the pandemic, getting the full picture*** included three presentations:

[The MoVE project](#) looked at the effectiveness of volunteer responses to Covid 19, examining experiences at different levels: national, cross sectoral partnerships at local authority level, voluntary organisations and informal volunteering activity.



[Mobilising Voluntary Action](#) tracked the experience of volunteering through the various stages of the pandemic, drawing on Wales data, as part of a 4 nation study.

[Wales Centre for Public Policy](#), with WCVA, undertook a synthesis of case studies and a literature review of evidence relating to volunteering and individual and community wellbeing.



The presentations can be accessed via the links above.

The event was an opportunity to introduce the new Welsh Government Volunteering Cross Sectoral Leadership Group, which is tasked with reviewing and updating the Welsh Government Volunteering policy.

The second, **Volunteering beyond the pandemic – collaborative approaches**, drew on experience of recent grant funded, including our own [Volunteering Framework for Health and Social Care](#).

*“I would like to see the structured integration of volunteers into the health and social care workforce; [we need to] think beyond the traditional boundaries about how we bring that care closer to home.”* Judith Paget

Presentations included:

- [Sustaining community led action in Wales](#) (Public Health Wales)
- [Collaborative approaches](#) (MoVE project research team)
- [Volunteering within Flintshire social care settings](#) (FLVC)
- [Volunteering Framework for health and social care – developing a regional approach](#) (West Glamorgan RPB)
- [Developing shared volunteering in Snowdonia](#) (Snowdonia Soc)

We were delighted to welcome Judith Paget, Director General HSSG/Chief Executive NHS Wales who gave a closing address.

*“I continue to be hugely supportive of the work of WCVA and Helpforce and there’s a real opportunity to continue that work and those innovative programmes, going forward”*

Judith Paget

A report on these two events will be available in the near future and a series of visual notes will be produced to summarise discussions around the workshop themes: shared volunteer recruitment, shared volunteer learning provision, mobilising volunteers for emergencies and integrating volunteering into service design

## **VOLUNTEERING AND WORKFORCE STRATEGY**

A [Workforce strategy for health and social care](#) (October 2020), includes a commitment on volunteering Action 32:

*‘Commission a programme of work to understand the contribution of volunteers and carers to inform future workforce plans.’*

Action 32 Workforce Strategy for health and social care

*‘Commission a programme of work to identify and define impactful volunteering roles which will help to inform workforce planning, education and training.’*

Action 6 Mental health workforce plan for health and social care

Peter Fox MS asked a written question in January about progress on this. Read the [reply from Eluned Morgan, Minister for Health and Social Services](#).

The draft strategic [mental health workforce plan for health and social care](#) similarly includes a commitment on volunteering, under Action 6.

Helpforce Cymru has submitted a [response](#) to the consultation on this plan, including case studies that illustrate the vital role played by volunteers in relation to mental health services – for example, [CCAWS \(Community Care and Wellbeing Service\)](#).

## **VOLUNTEERING AND CARE HOMES- RESOURCES**

A blog [‘Care homes and volunteering’](#) captures insights and learning from two pilot projects (by Age Cymru and FLVC respectively), following a joint event in January.

A [project report and toolkit resource](#) from Age Cymru is available. This will be useful for other organisations who are considering developing volunteering within care homes. We will be pleased to offer whatever support we can to such initiatives.

## **ACTIF RESEARCH – VOLUNTEERS HELPING TO STOP PHYSICAL DECLINE**

ACTIF (Active, Connected, Engaged) is a study run by Cardiff Metropolitan University, looking at ways in which we can support older people to stay mobile and maintain their independence for longer.

Older adults with limited mobility will be matched with volunteers, so that they can get out and about and enjoy taking part in local activities together.

The research will test how a volunteer-led active ageing programme might work and whether it is value for money.

Helpforce Cymru is pleased to be involved through the project advisory group.

## PLATINUM CHAMPIONS AWARDS – CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS THIS JUBILEE YEAR

Nominations are open until 18 April for nominations of volunteers who are making a difference to people's lives. See the [RVS website for details](#), including nomination categories.



## OTHER RECENT PUBLICATIONS

A blog: [Living with Covid, risks, rights and volunteers](#), was written in response to enquiries we were receiving about volunteers and vaccination status.

Overview: [Setting up an end of life care companion service](#) at Powys THB and a [volunteer end of life care companion case study](#) from Aneurin Bevan UHB.

Helpforce is working with Third Sector Support Wales (WCVA and 19 CVCs), Welsh Government and other partners to develop the potential of volunteering to support health and social care services in Wales.

Visit the [Helpforce Cymru web page](#)

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