



Make a  
bigger difference  
together

**WcVA**  
**CgGC**

**Annual report 2022/23**

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# Welcome

## Hello and welcome to our Annual Report for 2022/23

### A YEAR OF CHANGE AND CHALLENGE

As we switched focus onto recovery following the end of pandemic restrictions, new challenges emerged for voluntary organisations in Wales. We worked with the sector to tackle the impact of the cost of living crisis and the closure of European Funds in Wales, both on organisations themselves and on the people and communities they support.

At WCVA we did all we could to enable voluntary organisations to succeed in spite of the many challenges we all face.

- We distributed funding to organisations that are tackling some of the biggest issues in society.
- As news broke of the war in Ukraine, we worked quickly with partners to help support refugees fleeing from the conflict.
- To put ourselves in the best possible position to support the sector in the future, we went through an ambitious change programme to re-design and develop the organisation.

**Cover:** Cariad Pet Therapy made plenty of friends at our Welsh Charity Awards ceremony at the ITV Wales studios

During this period we began work to deliver our strategic plan for 2022-27, and this report outlines just some of the things we did to make progress on our ambitious goals. The role of Chair was handed from Peter Davies CBE to Dr Neil Wooding CBE. Peter welcomed Neil to the WCVA family and we said thank you to Peter for his 11 years as a trustee, including eight as Chair.

We hope you enjoy our Annual Report.



**Ruth Marks MBE**  
Chief Executive



**Dr Neil Wooding CBE**  
Chair

# Our strategy

We know that the last few years have been extremely difficult for people in Wales and beyond. Voluntary organisations have also faced some very tough times.

To make sure we can all tackle today's challenges head on, we've been working with our staff and members. Together we've been thinking about what we can do over the next five years to positively shape a better future for Wales.

## The change we want to lead across Wales

### OUR GOAL:

**The voluntary sector is more diverse and resilient**

- More diverse people are involved in voluntary action
- More diverse resources strengthen delivery
- Organisations are more resilient

### OUR GOAL:

**Voluntary organisations are equal partners in achieving well-being in Wales**

- Voluntary organisations lead positive change
- All sectors collaborate more for shared ambitions
- Our democracy better supports participation by voluntary organisations

## And for WCVA to ensure we are the best we can be

### OUR GOAL:

**WCVA is more resilient**

- WCVA is financially sustainable
- WCVA adapts positively to change
- WCVA further supports its people

## Our goal

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# The voluntary sector is more diverse and resilient

- More diverse people are involved in voluntary action
- More diverse resources strengthen delivery
- Organisations are more resilient

# What we did

**We distributed £27.5m in grants and loans to the voluntary sector**, compared with £28.9m in 2021/22 and £47m in 2020/21. This included £846,000 of loans awarded by our Social Investment Cymru team to 14 different social businesses or trading voluntary organisations to grow their activities and impact

To support a more diverse voluntary sector **we contributed to the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan** as part of the stakeholder group. The plan sets out a vision of a Wales which is anti-racist by 2030. We also ran a session at our gofod3 event called 'EDI confidence' where we shared our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion journey to encourage others working in the sector to discuss experiences and embark on their own journeys

We worked with voluntary organisations to **increase understanding and awareness of how to build their 'resilience'** during challenging times. This work included research, events and blogs on the theme, resulting in a new definition of voluntary sector resilience and a visual model to aid understanding of the different aspects of resilience

We ran Newid: Digital for the third sector, a pilot programme of digital skills development and support for the voluntary sector in Wales. Newid **ran a range of activities to support organisations with digital** and to gather valuable insights into needs for future support. The project is a partnership between WCVA, Cwmpas and ProMo-Cymru, funded by Welsh Government, and supported by The Centre for Digital Public Services. Newid has now secured future funding to continue its work of sharing good digital practices with the voluntary sector

**We continued to make a bigger difference together by collaborating with partners.** Run in partnership with the local County Voluntary Councils, Third Sector Support Wales is a network of support for the voluntary sector allowing us to work together on four key areas of work: volunteering, good governance, sustainable funding, and engagement and influencing. We also supported the sector through our other networks such as the Volunteer Wales Network, Safeguarding Network, and Equality & Human Rights Coalition

**Right:** Awesome Wales used funding from our Social Business Growth Fund (SBGF) to bring their zero waste shop to Barry, and become a hub for the community in the process ►





## Our work with Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) partners



**£24,740,770**  
in funding awarded by TSSW



**3,996**  
organisations supported  
with direct advice and information



**11,554**  
hours spent supporting  
the voluntary sector with  
volunteering, good  
governance, sustainable  
funding, and engagement  
& influencing

**3,705**

volunteers signed up to  
a volunteering opportunity





**Our model of resilience is the first part of a piece of work to help voluntary organisations to understand the term and consider how they can increase their resilience during difficult times**

# Case study: Farming the ocean floor

**A Net-Zero Carbon Start-up Grant from WCVA helped  
Câr-y-Môr move their social business up a gear.**

Câr-y-Môr is a community benefit society and the first community-owned regenerative ocean farm of its kind in Wales. With three pilot farms off St David's peninsula, their business of growing seaweed and shellfish has led to the creation of 11 new jobs and radical improvements to the coastal environment.

Câr-y-Môr received funding from the Net Zero Carbon Start-Up Grant, part of a pilot scheme managed by our Social Investment Cymru team providing a much-needed boost to budding social businesses across Wales. The scheme also supports new organisations to embed good climate practice from the start. Six months on from receiving

the grant, Câr-y-Môr had several new products on sale at a weekly market, with many more to be distributed nationwide.

Câr-y-Môr Funding Manager, Tracey Gilbert-Falconer explained: 'The Grant has helped us employ Tara, a part-time food product developer, who has been creating edible products, like spaghetti, from the seaweed we grow. Without WCVA's grant, we wouldn't have been able to utilise the seaweed for food anywhere near as quickly.'

◀ **Left:** Câr-y-Môr used the Net Zero Carbon Start-up grant to get their environmentally friendly social business flying



# Grants and loans distributed to the sector - £27.5 million



# The difference we made

With **97% of learners rating them as good or excellent**, we provided learning and peer to peer support by delivering 50 webinars and training courses to 868 participants

**93% of those surveyed rated gofod3 as good or excellent.** For a second year running we held an online version of gofod3, WCVA's flagship event and the biggest voluntary sector gathering of its kind in Wales. gofod3 provided a week of webinars, workshops and discussions attended by 1,528 people

**An independent evaluation of our Active Inclusion Fund (AIF) highlighted the importance of the voluntary sector** in delivering employability programmes, in particular finding that AIF was surprisingly flexible and resilient to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also highlighted Active Inclusion's importance in building and enhancing voluntary sector capacity

and expertise in delivering employability programs. The Active Inclusion Fund was managed by WCVA, supported by funding from European Structural and Investment Funds

In April 2022 Minister for Social Justice, **Jane Hutt announced that Welsh Government would be shifting to provide longer-term grants to voluntary organisations.** This followed months of work by the Funding and Compliance Sub-committee of the Third Sector Partnership Council (TSPC). Some schemes could provide as much as six years of funding in total which will make a real difference to organisations and their planning for the future

During the year, **103 organisations signed up to the Investing in Volunteers (liV) quality mark** (an increase of 106% on the previous year), 98% of which were signing up for their first award. With

partners across the UK, we grew interest in liV, recording the highest number of registrations for the award in Wales. During the year 56 organisations have made progress with their liV qualification, with 19 achieving the mark by the end of March 2023

In the 2022/23 period **56 funders and 860 funds were added to Funding Wales and 3,879 new users registered.** This year we made some of the biggest changes to our funding search platform since the site was launched. Run in partnership with the local County Voluntary Councils, Funding Wales now allows users to save searches and get direct notifications when funds are added or updated. We know capacity is always a barrier to organisations searching for funding, so we've also improved search accuracy and increased the support we offer to Funding Wales users

## Praise for Investing in Volunteers (liV)

‘They support you every step of the way and we have found it very rewarding to take the time to reflect on and showcase the positive impact that our work has on people’s lives.’

**Volunteer Coordinator**

## What you said about the Newid project

‘Everyone I came across was so helpful – pointing me to advice and guidance. I came away totally transformed about my view of digital and how I can support my organisation.’

‘The work through Newid has been incredibly valuable. I would like to see more organisations secure this support – it would make such a difference to the sector. I’m only starting the journey, but I am looking to embed the learning. If I can then cascade to other organisations, they would benefit so much – especially those small organisations without much of a training budget.’

**Right:** North Wales Wildlife Trust received funding from our Landfill Disposals Tax Fund to run activities for local children ►





## Praise for BME Sport Cymru training

‘The training was invaluable and the engagement from the team hopefully represented how invested they are in [the] importance of EDI and engaging ethnically diverse communities.’

‘Your help and support is invaluable and I know we will continue to draw on that as we roll out our anti-racist work.’

**Volunteer Coordinator**

## Support and services feedback

‘I feel that the skills I have learned will be useful in all aspects of professional and personal life and not just in difficult situations as good use of skills consistently can help prevent the need for difficult conversations.’

**Attendee on our ‘Dealing with difficult conversations’ course**

‘It is essential to have informed and effective safeguarding policy and procedures in place. Suzanne and the WCVA safeguarding team have been such a huge help in working with Daring to Dream, advising us in the development of our safeguarding policy into one that is current and “fit for purpose”. On behalf of our trustees, a huge thank you for your support.’

**Barbara Chidgey, Daring to Dream**

# Case study: Improving health in Nigeria

**Wales and Africa funding from WCVA helped Shine Cymru and Festus Fajemilo Foundation support people like Gbemisola to improve their health and future outlook.**

Gbemisola was born with Spina Bifida and suffered with continence issues as a result, which led to her facing severe stigma and mockery from her peers.

After starting on the Foundation's 'Saving Lives! Improving Futures' she learned to better manage her continence issues, and finally found the confidence to make new friends and even go to university, with plans to become a disability rights advocate.

Shine Cymru and Festus Fajemilo Foundation's (FFF) project aims to support 250 babies, children and young people - and their families - with spina bifida and hydrocephalus to

better their health through improved continence care and management in three regions of Nigeria.

Funding from Welsh Government's Wales and Africa grant scheme, administered by WCVA, helped the project strengthen and expand to reach more children and families.

Gbemisola said: 'My experience since joining FFF has made me believe that there is no problem without solution in this life. I am ready to share this anytime, anywhere, I am so happy.'

**Right:** Gbemisola gained newfound confidence and friends following her involvement in Shine Cymru and Festus Fajemilo Foundation's Wales and Africa project ►





## Our goal

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**Voluntary organisations are equal partners in achieving well-being in Wales**

- Voluntary organisations lead positive change
- All sectors collaborate more for shared ambitions
- Our democracy better supports participation by voluntary organisations

# What we did

WCVA published a research report titled *The future we create: lessons from pandemic volunteering in Wales*. The report **gathered the views of key stakeholders to look at the impact of volunteering during COVID-19** and the lessons we can learn for the future. It also made a number of recommendations to support volunteer involving organisations, such as ensuring the sector has access to sufficient funding for staff resource, improving accessibility of resources for informal groups, and investing in activities to enable new types of volunteering and collaboration

We continued to ensure the voluntary sector's voice is heard by decision-makers through **facilitating regular meetings between sector groups and Welsh Government Ministers**, including meetings of the Third Sector Partnership Council

with the Minister for Social Justice Jane Hutt. We also organised a meeting of national voluntary organisations with leads of Regional Partnership Boards to discuss how national organisations can make a contribution at a regional level

**We gave written and verbal evidence** on a number of Welsh Government, Senedd and UK Government consultations, including on the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill, the Innovation Strategy for Wales, the Constitutional Future of Wales, and the Inquiry into Lobbying

As part of the UK Civil Society Group **we worked to ensure the voice of Wales' voluntary sector was heard at Westminster** on subjects such as the UK Budget. The group also began a project with UK Finance to design tools for making decisions around banking services more transparent, and it meets regularly with the Charity Commission to share issues facing the sector

**We established a new partnership with Macmillan Cancer Care** to improve access to information and advice for people with cancer

# Welsh Charity Awards

## Congratulations to the 2022 winners of the Welsh Charity Awards

Returning for the first time since the pandemic, we received a record number of nominations for the Welsh Charity Awards this year, and during Welsh Charities Week we celebrated the five amazing winners.

The Awards showcase the positive difference we can all make to each other's lives by recognising and celebrating the fantastic contribution charities, community groups, not-for-profits and volunteers make to society in Wales.

The five winners accepted their awards at a ceremony hosted at ITV studios in Cardiff Bay in November 2022.

### Winners



#### **Volunteer of the Year** (aged 26 or over)

Sponsored by Keegan and Pennykid

##### **Andrew Coppin**

Awarded to Andrew for his contribution to men's mental health. With male suicide levels spiking in the Newtown and Welshpool area, Andrew set up a walking and talking group to support vulnerable men.



#### **Young Volunteer of the Year** (aged 25 and under)

Sponsored by Hugh James

##### **Rachel Joseph**

A volunteer with Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales (FTWW), Rachel was recognised for her passionate advocacy for fellow endometriosis patients and disabled and chronically ill women in Wales.



## Digital pioneers

Sponsored by Salesforce

### Innovate Trust

Innovate Trust won the award for their unique Insight app, which has made a huge difference to the lives of people with learning disabilities.



## Wellbeing in Wales

Sponsored by The Open University in Wales

### Cariad Pet Therapy

Cariad Pet Therapy is radically transforming the mental wellbeing of a range of communities across south west Wales.



## Organisation of the year

Sponsored by The SCG Group

### Urdd Gobaith Cymru

A truly outstanding organisation, the Urdd achieved a huge amount in its centenary year and has truly become a leading light for young people across Wales. Its much-lauded refugee work, which benefited 250 Ukrainians and 110 Afghans, is just the tip of the iceberg.

# Spotlight on our staff: Championing volunteers in health and care



**Judith Stone, Assistant Director of Support and Invest at WCVA, has been involved in wide-reaching work on the voluntary sector's role in health & care.**

In 2022 we kicked off a new project, funded by Welsh Government, building on previous work to broker relationships in health and social care, and the significant impact made by voluntary organisations and volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We carried out extensive stakeholder engagement to understand the challenges facing the voluntary sector and volunteers in health and social care in Wales and co-produce a vision for the difference we want to make with this project.

We published an infographic and two papers, co-authored with the Bevan Commission, to raise awareness of the contribution of the voluntary sector and volunteers to health, care and well-being. At the launch of *The value and values of volunteering: our hidden asset*, Judith Paget, NHS Wales Chief Executive, celebrated the contribution of volunteers saying: 'I don't think a week goes past where I'm not in a conversation with somebody about the value of volunteering in the past, present and future.'

We also contributed to a range of government workstreams and facilitated meetings between the sector and the Minister for Health and Social Services. At the Minister's request, we presented a paper on the structure and resource that volunteers need to make volunteering roles in health and social care a success.

**Above:** Judith is part of a team at WCVA focussing on health and care ▲



# The difference we made

**WCVA's work was mentioned 82 times by Welsh Government in 2022/23** – that's 13 times in plenary sessions, 19 times in committee sessions, and 50 times across different Welsh Government news items and publications

**We spoke out about key issues for voluntary organisations** with appearances in The Guardian, The Independent, BBC News and other media outlets. We continued to advocate for the Welsh voluntary sector, in particular raising awareness with the press on issues surrounding the lack of replacement funding for EU funds in Wales

The Wales Civil Society Forum, run in partnership with Cardiff University, **chaired Welsh Government's work around UK Government's Bill of Rights bill**. It also partnered with Fair Trade Wales to pilot coordination, networking and advocacy work for the voluntary sector on post-Brexit trade policy. A Welsh Government official said: 'The network has allowed us to engage with organisations and civil societies that have proved difficult to engage with in the past due to a number of reasons, namely a lack of capacity and knowledge within those organisations'

Our 'Welsh Charities Week' celebrations included the Welsh Charity Awards ceremony, which led to **award winners being featured on ITV Wales' evening news and ITV Wales online**. This was thanks to a partnership with ITV Cymru Wales. Welsh Charities Week also saw several charities interviewed on the radio and featured in local media publications. Welsh Charities Week is a campaign that highlights the work of charities, social enterprises, voluntary organisations and community and volunteer groups in Wales

The Community Ownership Group produced a consultation response that **significantly influenced the Senedd inquiry into community assets**, highlighting key community ownership issues. This year we established the group, a cross-sector network designed to raise the profile of communities running public spaces while improving the community asset transfer process and enabling the purchase of privately-owned assets

**Right:** Swansea Community Farm were one of the organisations we highlighted as part of Welsh Charities Week ►



# Spotlight on our staff: Contributing to Wales' Ukraine efforts

**Natalie Zhivkova, Policy and Insights Manager at WCVA, worked with the sector and other key partners to ensure Ukrainian refugees were re-settled and supported quickly and kindly.**



News about the invasion of Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis in the country sent shock waves across Wales and a strong urge to take action was mixed with a sense of despair for many of us. What could we do and how could we help from many miles away?

I am very proud to say WCVA got involved in Wales' response immediately and worked quickly to enable and co-ordinate support for refugees fleeing the conflict. We worked closely with Welsh Government, the County Voluntary Councils, Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and local authorities to create links and enable specialist organisations to provide much needed support.

Together, we produced materials aimed at aiding efforts in local authority areas, helped shape the content available on [sanctuary.gov.wales](https://sanctuary.gov.wales), provided updates from Welsh Government to stakeholders, and ensured feedback from the frontline was considered in the development of policies.

We worked with partners to help streamline signposting processes, make best use of offers of help from the public, and prevent the duplication of services across the public and voluntary sectors. Our work helped support refugees to move out of welcome centre accommodation and take part in volunteering opportunities to enhance skills and increase independence.

**Above:** Natalie has been working with our partners to help Ukrainian refugees ▲

# Our goal

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## WCVA is more resilient

- WCVA is financially sustainable
- WCVA adapts positively to change
- WCVA further supports its people





# What we did

**We went through an ambitious change programme** to re-design and develop the organisation to ensure we're in the best possible position to support the voluntary sector in the future. Part of this was a package of support for staff to provide as much help as possible during these uncertain times

In 2022/23 **we examined our organisational culture**, empowering our staff to take part in the process through our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion champions group. Working with colleagues we developed a new set of 'values and behaviours', which were a significant step towards ensuring that our workplace culture is inclusive, equitable, and supports our staff's growth and development

◀ **Left:** WCVA staff at our joint International Women's Day event with Sustrans Cymru and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)

**We ran trustee elections** with the nomination and selection process firmly in the hands of our members. This year's election campaign had a strong focus on diversifying WCVA's board

**Our staff were encouraged to learn new skills and develop their careers.** Three of our staff took part in secondment opportunities with other organisations, gaining new experiences and knowledge that they could bring back into their roles at WCVA. We also continued our commitment to staff learning and development. Our staff recorded 452 different occasions where they had accessed learning on topics such as 'An introduction to safeguarding', Welsh language awareness, and digital skills

**We commissioned an independent report on our use of Welsh language.** Recommendations from the report will help us to better deliver our services as a bilingual organisation and attract more Welsh speakers to join our staff team

# Spotlight on our trustees: WCVA's Change programme

**In 2022/23 Reham Bassal and the rest of the WCVA board oversaw an extensive change programme to help the organisation prepare for the future.**



Since I became a trustee in 2022 WCVA's change programme has been the main focus of the board, transforming the organisation to better serve the needs of the voluntary sector in Wales.

With the end of EU funding in Wales, the changes in the way we work due to the pandemic and our new strategic plan for 2022-27, WCVA needed to organise and look ahead to prepare for the future.

We recognised that to continue to deliver services and represent the Welsh voluntary sector effectively, we needed to rethink our organisational structure and how we work. While it was challenging, it was necessary to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

We remained committed to our values and mission of driving innovation throughout, optimising our resources and impact,

supporting our people, and driving diversity and inclusion. We worked hard to ensure that our people remained at the heart of everything we did. We consulted extensively with our staff using best practices to ensure fairness and compassion.

While the restructuring was not without its challenges, I believe it has ultimately strengthened our organisation and positioned us for success in the years ahead. I am thankful for all the hard work and dedication shown by our team throughout the process, and I am confident that we will continue to make a positive impact on the voluntary sector.

**Above:** Reham joined the WCVA board of trustees in November 2022 ▲



# The difference we made

**Our careful financial management has led to a successful interim audit** for 2022/23. Our Active Inclusion Fund also received six European Funds Audit Team (EFAT) 'unqualified' audits this year, meaning there were no areas that could be improved upon

## What staff said about working with our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champions

‘In the past year, we have conducted comprehensive equality assessments, especially throughout our change programme. This has enabled us to gain a deeper understanding of our organisation and how we can effectively execute our strategic plan. These assessments have allowed us to foster a more inclusive and equitable workplace culture and ensure that our organisation is aligned with our values and goals.’

**Samantha Carpenter, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Officer**

## What staff said about secondment opportunities

‘Having the opportunity for a secondment within Welsh Government provided me with experience and knowledge that I could not have gained in any other way. It has allowed me to deepen my knowledge of how Welsh Government works and understand how we can support the sector to engage with them more effectively. This experience has led to me securing a promotion and further developing my own career pathway.’

**Janine Downing,  
Head of Partnerships & Policy at WCVA**

# Spotlight on our staff: Developing our employees

**WCVA's staff training programme has supported Grants Support Officer, Emma Manderson to develop her use of the Welsh language and advance her career.**



This year I attended an intensive 'Canolradd' course over the summer that was paid for by WCVA and they matched the time I put in, allowing me to record half of the weeklong residential as work time.

I had been learning Welsh before, but my motivation and progress had slowed right down during the pandemic. The immersive course really revitalised my Welsh, giving me the chance to use the language all day long and cement my learning.

This gave me the confidence to represent WCVA at our stand at the National Eisteddfod, greeting visitors and chatting about our work in Welsh, and to go on and sign up for a weekly Higher Level course (also paid for by WCVA and with time matched).

All of this gave me the skills and confidence to apply for a 'Welsh essential' role as a Grants Funds Support Officer with WCVA, to which I was successfully appointed in March.

In the last few years I've gone from a complete beginner to being fluent enough to do this job, which is thanks to the support from WCVA.

**Above:** Emma has made good use of our staff training programme to develop her Welsh language skills ▲

Chwarae Teg used the European Social Fund to work with women throughout Wales to build their confidence and recognise and develop their skills



# 'End of an era'

## European funding in Wales

As European funding winds down we've been celebrating what has been achieved by the voluntary sector in Wales, while working hard to influence the future funding landscape.

### Spotlight on our staff: Supporting the sector after European funding

**Matt Brown, WCVA's Director of Delivery & Development, has been leading on our work to influence the funding landscape after the end of European Structural Funds.**



The closure of European Structural Funds in Wales is the end of an era. Though there is a sense of sadness in its passing we can look back on a period where voluntary organisations have made a huge impact on a range of key issues for society.

We're proud that through WCVA and other support bodies we've been able to open up these funds to organisations in the voluntary sector that traditionally may not have the capacity or technical knowledge to access them.

**Above:** Matt ensured the voluntary sector's voice was heard in post-EU replacement funding discussions ▲

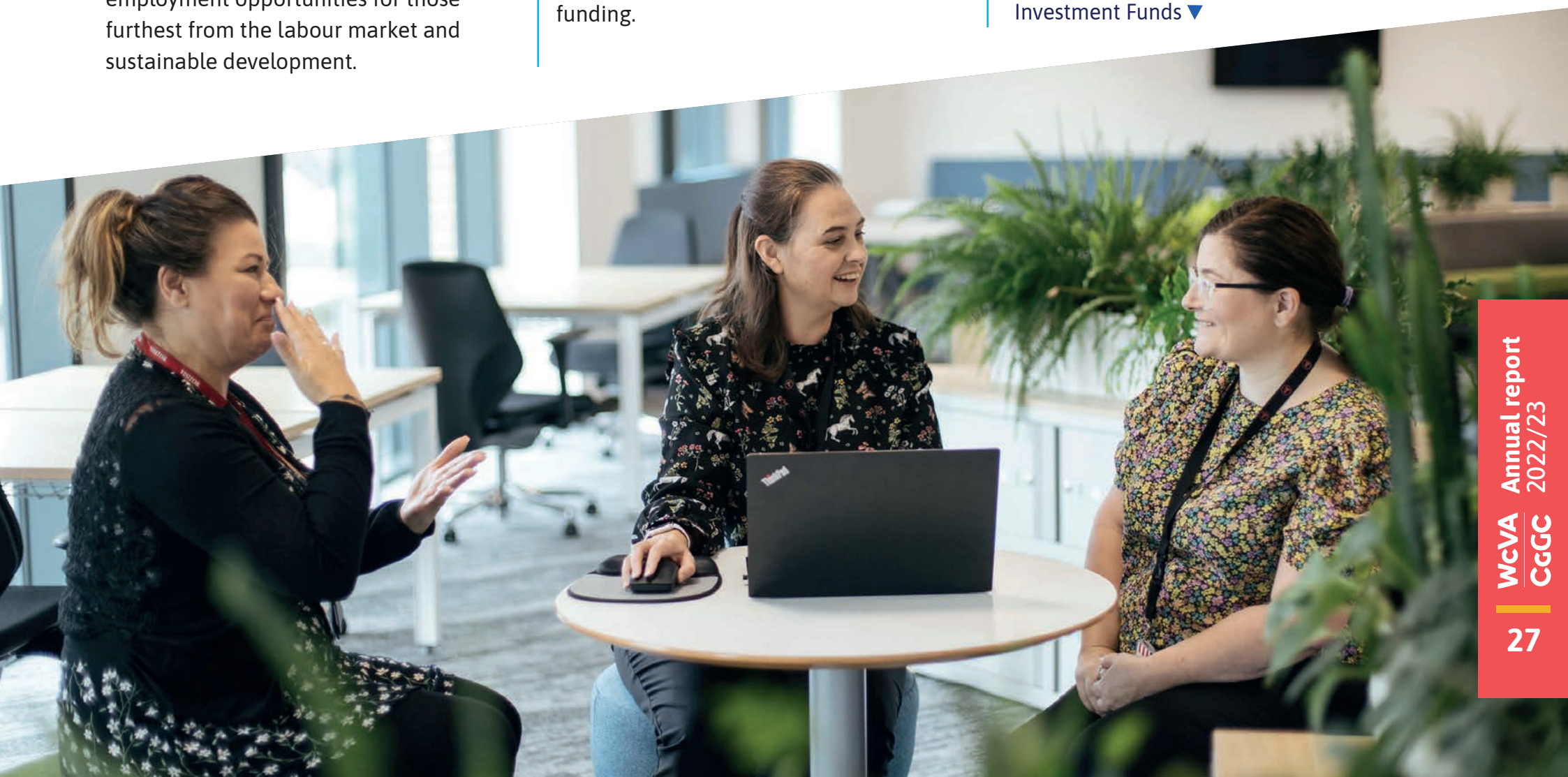


In turn, these organisations have used their local knowledge and specialist expertise to really make a difference in the communities that need them.

Welsh voluntary organisations can look back on some truly inspiring achievements in areas such as improving employment opportunities for those furthest from the labour market and sustainable development.

At WCVA we also look back proudly on our work with Cwmpas, helping social businesses to grow. But we're even more delighted that through our Social Investment Cymru team EU investment has become a recyclable source of funding that will be re-invested into the sector long after the closure of European funding.

**Below:** Wales Council for Deaf People's Active Inclusion Fund project provided supported employment opportunities for deaf people with Transport for Wales. The Active Inclusion Fund is managed by WCVA, supported by funding from European Structural and Investment Funds ▼





# Celebrating the successes of the sector in Wales

We ran a celebration event in March 2023 to **highlight the impact that the voluntary sector has made using European Funding**. We heard an impassioned update from Vaughan Gething, Minister for the Economy, and the inspiring stories from some of the projects in Wales that have

been making a huge difference to the communities they support. At the event we launched *The impact of European funding in Wales*, a report exploring how Welsh voluntary organisations, through their involvement in European funding, were able to contribute across a range of key social issues

◀ **Left:** Vaughan Gething, Minister for the Economy, speaking at our EU funds celebration event in March

## The impact of European funding in Wales

How voluntary organisations used EU funding to create lasting change for Welsh people and communities

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◀ **Left:** Our report explored the difference voluntary organisations made in a period spanning over 20 years thanks to European funding



**We have been engaging with decision makers at both Westminster and the Senedd,** advocating for voluntary sector involvement in any decisions about the replacement funding streams. We highlighted the impact of the loss of EU funding and the delay in making the UK Shared Prosperity Fund available on voluntary organisations and the people and communities they support.

We did this through our engagement with government officials and local and regional stakeholders and partners, and our influencing work led to local and national press coverage including in The Guardian, on BBC Wales and on BBC Newsnight.

## Charities and employers struggling due to post-Brexit funding delays

Some voluntary groups have closed and farmers report problems after slow disbursement of UK funds to replace EU money



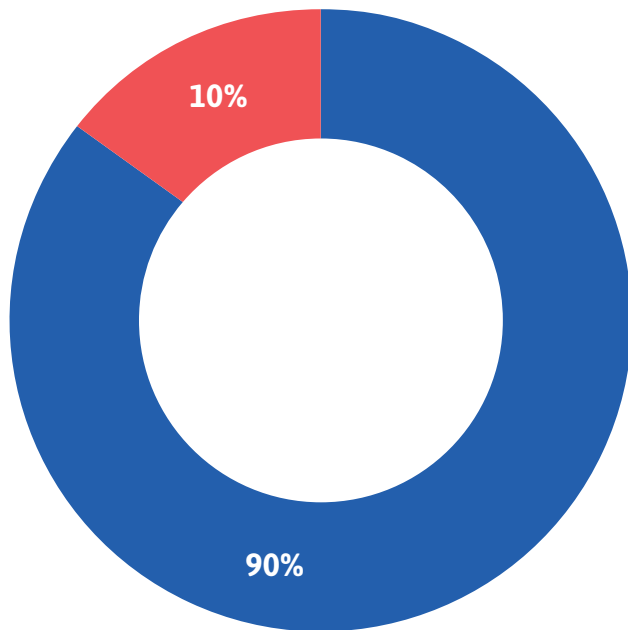
Adferiad Recovery used funding from our Active Inclusion Fund to help Rachel get ready to enter the world of work

# Our finances

These figures give an overview of our financial performance for 2022/23.

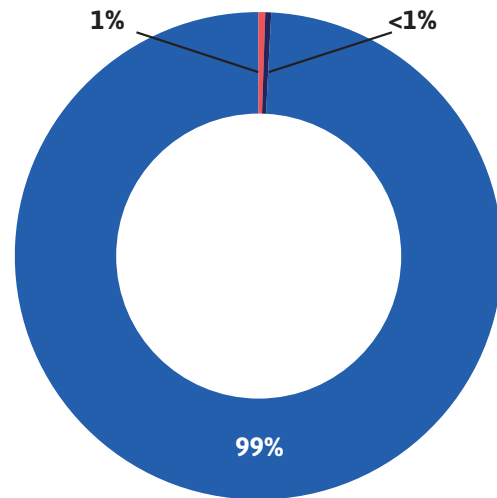
During the year we distributed **£27.5m** in grants and loans to the voluntary sector. Our income was **£35m** and our expenditure was **£33.2m**.

**Income  
£35 million**



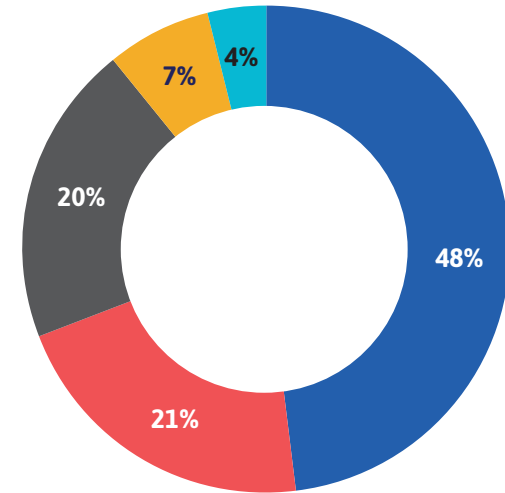
■ Restricted income  
■ Unrestricted income

**Restricted income  
£31.4 million**



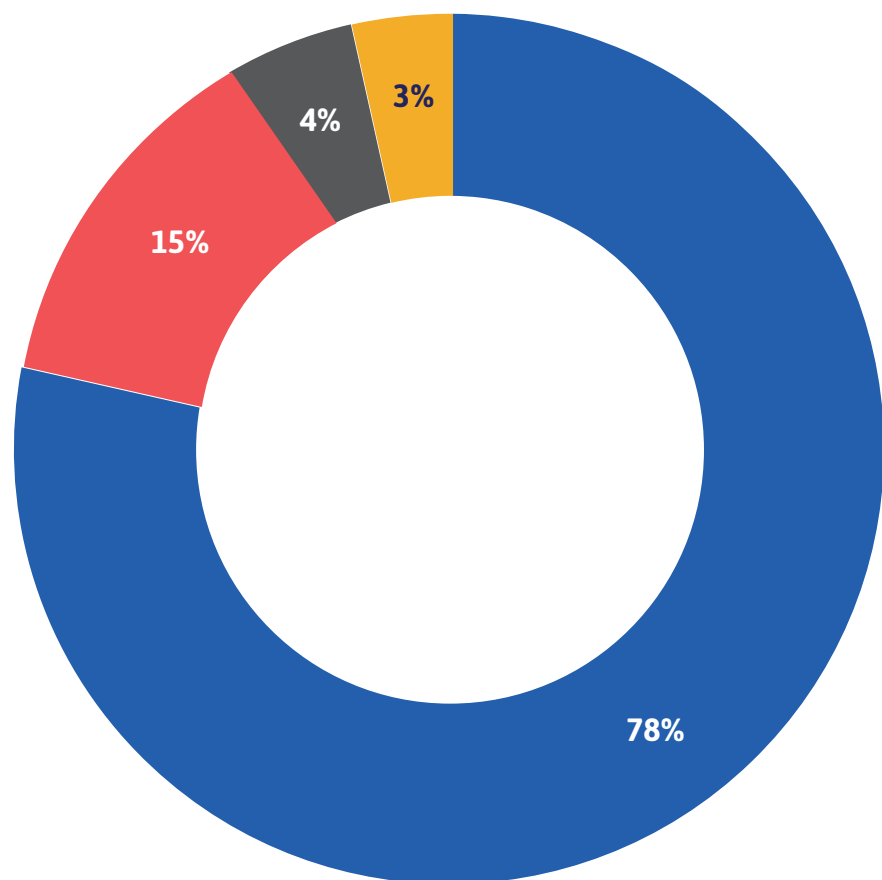
■ Grants received  
■ Income from investment  
■ Other trading activities

**Unrestricted income  
£3.6 million**



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

## Expenditure £33.2 million



- Grants to the sector
- Staff costs (salaries, recruitment, training etc)
- Overheads (building costs, equipment, utilities etc)
- Other costs (audit, consultants, marketing etc)

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

Peter Davies CBE (Chair until  
17 November 2022)

## Chair

Dr Neil Wooding CBE  
(Appointed 17 November  
2022)

## Vice Chair

Fran Targett OBE

## Treasurer

Colin Arnold

## Trustees

Steve Brooks  
(Resigned 17 November 2022)

Reham Bassal  
(Appointed 17 November  
2022)

Lindsay Cordery-Bruce

Lisa Davies  
(Resigned 17 November 2022)

Rhian Davies

Simon Harris  
Lowri Jones  
(Appointed  
17 November 2022)

Chris Lines

Mark Llewellyn

Kathryn Luckock  
(Appointed  
17 November 2022)

Menai Owen-Jones

Joe Stockley

Edward Watts, MBE DL

Kate Young

## Secretary

Tracey Lewis

## Company registration number

0425299

## Charity number

218093

## Registered office

One Canal Parade  
Dumballs Road  
Cardiff  
CF10 5BF

## Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc  
Windsor Court  
1-3 Windsor Place  
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