

The term third sector describes a diverse range of value driven organisations that share a set of values and characteristics. The third sector operates on a not for profit basis and is independent of government. Organisations are established voluntarily by individuals, motivated by social, economic or cultural purposes.

While registered charities operate within the third sector, there are many other types of organisation including community associations, self-help groups, voluntary organisations, faith-based organisations, social enterprises, community businesses, housing associations, development trusts, co-operatives and mutual organisations.

**OVER 12,000<sup>1</sup>**

**Wales-based third sector organisations contribute to  
health and care delivery in Wales**

**Organisations may:**

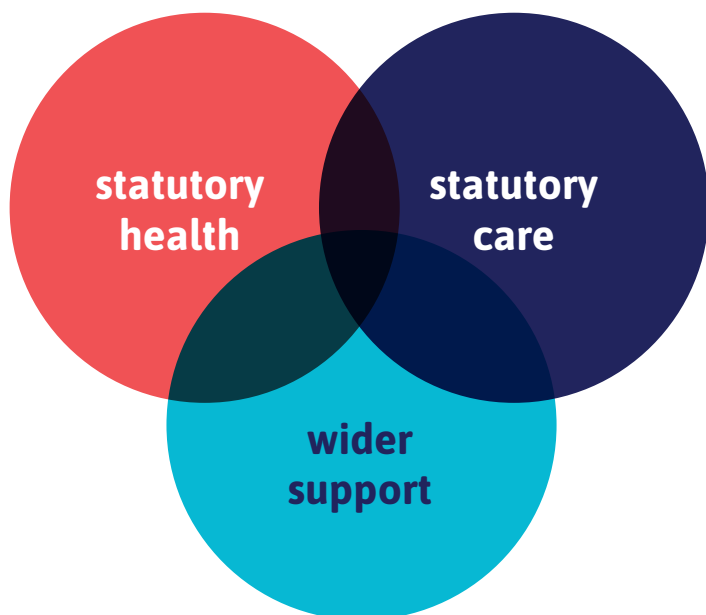
- Directly deliver services via commissioning arrangements with public bodies - eg mental health services
- Enhance public sector provision - eg befriending, ward support, information and advice, peer support, social prescribing
- Deliver wider societal well-being - eg health promotion and prevention of ill health
- Build sector capacity - eg education and training, research, funding, networks

**Organisations could be:**

- Condition focused - eg Alzheimers, cancer, HIV
- Place focused community development groups, citizens voice forums
- Characteristic focused - eg disability, carers
- Service focused - eg housing, advice, mental health

<sup>1</sup>Third Sector Data Hub, February 2023





In Wales the third sector primarily offers wider support for statutory health and care, which may involve direct contributions to delivery.

### Wales' third sector health and care workforce<sup>2</sup>



**2,700**  
places of employment



**58,924**  
employees

#### What we don't know about these organisations:

- What is the annual turnover of these 12,000 organisations?** We only have reliable data for the 17% who are charities whose collective turnover is £2.2 billion per annum<sup>3</sup>.
- What is the impact of dual nation organisations towards Wales' health and care provision?** Dual nation organisations (primarily charities working across England and Wales) are only required to report at an organisation level. This means it's impossible to calculate the impact they make at a Welsh level, which would be considerable given the scale and clear Welsh delivery of some of these organisations.
- What is the extent and value of contracts the third sector has with statutory partners?** We do not know this, however we do know that the majority of the third sector's income is derived from non-statutory sources.

<sup>2</sup>Third Sector Data Hub, February 2023

<sup>3</sup>Charity Commission Public Register, December 2022



# 60,431

people volunteer for registered health and care charities,<sup>4</sup> which account for just 17% of Wales-based third sector organisations supporting health and care<sup>5</sup>

# 17%

of volunteers are engaged by the public sector<sup>6</sup>

# 938,000

people volunteer across all sectors in Wales each year<sup>7</sup>

## Volunteers include:

- 👉 Dementia friends
- 👉 Advocates
- 👉 Expert patients
- 👉 Befrienders
- 👉 Community drivers
- 👉 Social organiser
- 👉 Health promotion
- 👉 Trustees
- 👉 Management and administrative roles
- 👉 Activity co-ordinators
- 👉 First responders
- 👉 Event first aider
- 👉 Vaccination centre steward
- 👉 Prescription delivery
- 👉 Peer support
- 👉 Fundraiser
- 👉 Counselling/advice line
- 👉 Support with digital access to health and care services

<sup>4</sup>Charity Commission Public Register, December 2022

<sup>5</sup>Third Sector Data Hub, February 2023

<sup>6</sup>NCVO UK Civil Society Almanac, October 2022

<sup>7</sup>Third Sector Data Hub, February 2023



There are  
**584,134<sup>8</sup>**  
**UNPAID**  
adult carers in Wales  
(not routinely regarded as being part  
of the third sector)

This contributes  
**£8.1**  
**BILLION<sup>9</sup>**  
annually to the Welsh  
economy

**What we don't know about volunteers:**

- ❓ **How many people in total volunteer to support delivery of health and care in Wales?** Robust data is only available for registered charities, leaving volunteering within the wider third sector and statutory sector unquantifiable at a collective level.
- ❓ **What is the full breadth of skills and experience available to statutory health and care provision as a result of volunteering?** The roles volunteers undertake are vast and no central mapping of roles and skills exists.
- ❓ **What is the full value of volunteering in health and social care settings?** There is an added value to volunteering beyond the direct activities delivered by volunteers. This includes skills development, societal well-being and cohesion. Even where the direct value of volunteering is calculated, these wider social benefits are often overlooked.

**What we don't know about unpaid carers:**

- ❓ **What is the value to health and care delivery?** The quoted £8.1 billion reflects the economic contribution (calculated by wider metrics aligned to GDP indicators) reflecting the total economic benefit of unpaid carers. But, we don't know exactly how much of this can be directly apportioned to health and care delivery, or to other metrics - eg housing / education.
- ❓ **What is the value to health and care delivery of informal care delivered by friends and neighbours?** Unpaid carers are anyone who provides planned care, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support. The impact of the support received from a wider circle of friends and neighbours is unrecorded.

<sup>8</sup>Carers UK, Carers Week Article, June 2022

<sup>9</sup>Welsh Government, Strategy For Unpaid Carers, March 2021

