

Changing

Lives

Together

2021-22

Helping
communities
to recover
from the
pandemic



Contents

3. Croeso
4. Who we are
5. Our year in numbers
6. We are good partners
8. We care about the people we work with
10. We make a difference
13. Working together
14. The year ahead
15. Diolch

Croeso

Welcome to the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for Community Foundation Wales.

I am delighted to report that Community Foundation Wales continues to thrive and generate vital new philanthropic funds for community groups throughout Wales.

The year 2021/22 will be remembered for the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, and more recently, the horrific situation in Ukraine.

This is the backdrop against which we started to rebuild our work after the uncertain and frightening first year of Covid, reconnecting with our donors and funders, and understanding the different and often changing needs of the community groups we support.

For us, partnerships have been a key focus of our story this year – both in building new partnerships with donors and funders in Wales and beyond, but also in how our team of staff and Trustees spend time listening and learning about how we can make most difference.

The listening is translated into direct actions, improving how we work with our donors to provide an even more flexible, tailored support, to ensure that every pound that we are able to provide makes the most value and impact to the people who most need it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who support our work – donors, funders, trustees, staff, ambassadors, Friends, Supporter Network members and many more.

Through your generous help and support, Community Foundation Wales will continue to go from strength to strength in building sustainable funding for Welsh communities today and for the future.

Diolch yn fawr

Alun Evans

Chairman, Community Foundation Wales



Who we are

For over twenty years, Community Foundation Wales has been supporting charities and community groups with funding to strengthen communities across Wales. We work with our generous supporters to reach the people most in need and help to create equality and opportunity in Welsh communities.

Our mission

We inspire people to give, help Welsh communities to thrive and change lives together

Our values are embedded in everything we do:

We are good partners

We care about the people we work with

We make a difference

We align what we do with national and global goals:

**Welsh
Government Well-
being of Future
Generations
(Wales) Act 2015**



A resilient Wales



A more equal Wales



A healthier Wales

**U.N
Sustainable
Development
Goals (SDG)**



Our year in numbers



Average grant amount

£3,283

Supported over

400 groups



Success rate for applicants

65%

Total endowment



£21.47m

Total income



£2.38m

Total expenditure

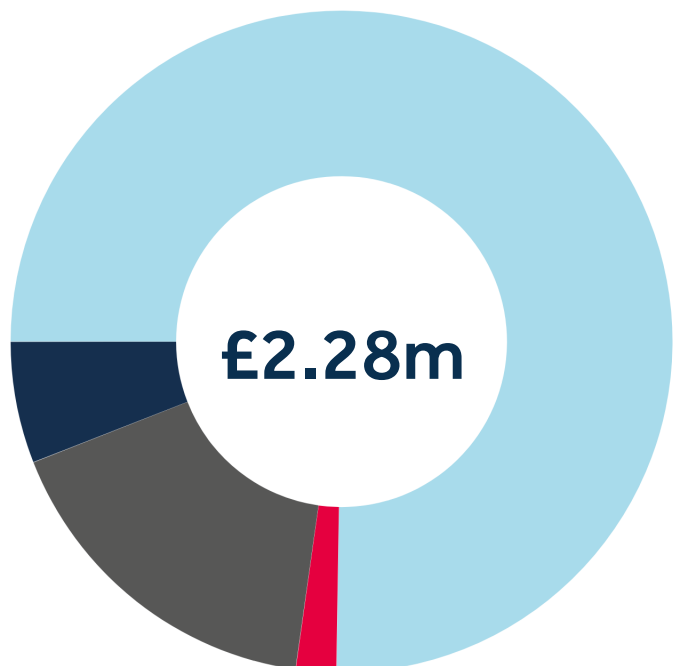


76% Grants

17% Staff related costs

2% Office overheads

6% Other direct costs



We are good partners

Working together to help future generations

Principality Building Society has committed £100,000 to support charities and community organisations to help young people across Wales.

We have partnered with the largest building society in Wales to supply grants of up to £5,000 each for a Future Generations Fund that will encourage young people to prepare skills for their future world of work, personal finances, finding employment, and living more sustainable lives.



Vicky Wales, Chief Customer Officer of Principality said:

“

We are delighted to be working in collaboration on a fund that will help support young people right across Wales.

The Community Foundation Wales team have a real passion for helping community organisations, a great track record of delivery over many years and are held in such high regard for the work they do.

It really is a pleasure to be working with them as a partner.

”



Supporting communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf

We were delighted to establish a new partnership with Trivallis to manage and promote the Trivallis Community Investment Fund, which supports communities in the Rhondda Cynon Taf area. The fund supports groups working to support social inclusion, health and wellbeing, learning and employability and sustainable environmental improvements.

Trivallis, a registered social landlord with over 10,000 homes across South Wales, has set up the fund with us to support its tenants and local communities.



Tracey Cooke, senior manager of partnerships at Trivallis said:

“

At Trivallis we are proud to own and manage over 10,000 homes across RCT. Through our Community Investment Fund, which offers grants of up to £5,000 to support groups and organisations based in our communities, we aim to boost opportunities for residents in our communities to enjoy fulfilled lives.

We care about our communities and work hard to make a difference and are so proud to see some of the incredible work our Community Investment Fund has supported already; with groups such as Valleys Veterans, Autism Life Centres and Chat Cymraeg benefitting from grants to support their vital work across RCT.

”



Revitalising Trusts

Revitalising Trusts is a partnership programme to assist trustees of dormant funds. Welsh Government is supporting the Charity Commission and Community Foundation Wales to revitalise charitable trusts in Wales that find themselves facing difficulties.



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

The charity regulator is contacting trustees of charitable funds who have been dormant and encouraging them to draw up new business plans or to transfer their funds to Community Foundation Wales to be managed for the long-term benefit of local communities.

As part of the Revitalising Trusts programme, we supported the Trustees of the T D Jones (Llanfair Clydogau) charity, who manage an education fund near Lampeter. We worked with the Trustees to widen the scope of the fund and to transfer it across to Community Foundation Wales where we are now putting the fund to charitable use, making grants and investing for growth.

Paula Barker, Trustee at T D Jones (Llanfair Clydogau) said:

“

Like many small village churches, our congregation has dwindled. I found that among the many problems arising from this was what to do about a sum of money left for the charitable purpose of providing books for the Sunday school children. The objects had been altered to help local school children but the trustees of the charity were no longer in a position to act and no monies had been distributed.

It was with some relief that we received information about the Revitalising Trusts programme. It seemed quite daunting to start with and the initial problem was tracking down the right signatories for the paperwork. However I was guided through every step of the way and there proved to be no difficulty at all. The whole process of transferring the funds to Community Foundation Wales went without a hitch.

The most gratifying aspect of this is that the funds are now being of real help where needed and we feel sure that the original donor would approve of that.

”

We care about the people we work with

Listening to the groups we work with

Managing future finances can be a tricky balance of being able to support groups longer term, whilst also ensuring funding is available to fund new work and new ideas.

The focus of our funding remains on small, grassroots groups, who are often volunteer-led and embedded within their communities. Groups that struggle with capacity or resource and with maintaining and continuing services due to the challenge of attracting funding that is usually limited to 12 months.

It's really important to us as an organisation that we learn from those we work with but, even more importantly, that we use that knowledge to inform our work.

Where the restrictions of a fund allow, we now offer core funding with the opportunity for groups to apply for multi-year grants of up to three years.



More support for grantees

We have bolstered our support for applicants in the form of a Grants Toolkit. Current sections include Monitoring and Evaluation and Governance. We will continue to build on the Toolkit by regularly talking to grantees to find out which areas they need support in.

In addition to the toolkit, we offer one to one conversations with our grant officers where groups can book an appointment to discuss their project ideas before applying.

We also run regular workshops to support applicants to better understand what we are looking for within applications, in terms of robust governance as well as the services/projects they are requesting funding for. We have had really positive feedback from these sessions, including the following:

“
As someone with no experience of grant applications the information was comprehensive but easy to understand, I had all my questions answered from the panellists but also valuable discussion in the breakout room.
”

“
It was brilliant to have such specific information on what makes a good grant application. I really appreciated meeting the team at CFW. I have not applied for funding as yet but I have filled in end of grant reports so the workshop has really helped me feel more confident about applying in future.
”

Responding to urgent needs

We feel privileged to be in a position where we can react to crises as they develop. The Covid-19 pandemic showed that we can be flexible, adaptable and resilient.

Our ability to respond in this way was called upon again when people from Afghanistan and more recently Ukraine found themselves displaced by conflict and seeking sanctuary in Wales.

In order to look to the future as well as reacting to the current situation, we conducted a survey and spoke with partners and supporters experienced in this very challenging subject as we looked to establish a fund to support this crisis.

The information and guidance received was invaluable in shaping the Nation of Sanctuary Croeso Fund.



“ **Whilst providing for the essential needs (housing, food, clothing, healthcare) of people seeking sanctuary obviously needs to be the priority, those we work with often speak about the mental health impact of “waiting” to start their new lives.**

Projects like ours can help to relieve this by enabling people seeking sanctuary to progress, to start or continue their learning, to socialise, to actively participate and contribute to their local community.

”

“ **Support for our core costs including salaries, is vital to enable us to adapt to the ever increasing demand on our service from people arriving in Wales.**

”

As a next step we are working with our partners to help us to build this fund, with the intention of creating an endowment to ensure longevity, as we believe this will be an ongoing challenge for many years to come.

We will use the learning from conversations and the survey to help us to shape a criteria for a fund that is fit for purpose; that helps to fill identified gaps rather than duplicating what others are doing, supports those experienced in the issues faced by people seeking sanctuary and provides longer term support rather than just immediate crisis management.

“ **It has been a privilege to be part of the development around the Nation of Sanctuary fund from Community Foundation Wales. Having a funder take the time to understand the complexity of the ever-changing situation and empower organisations’ voices has been truly encouraging.**

With first hand knowledge and the backing of the whole sector, funding will inevitably be placed in the most appropriate and supportive way possible. This funding will be life changing for those that use the sector’s services.

”

We make a difference

Benthyg and Repair Cafe Wales

Benthyg Cymru is Wales' Library of Things. They are a growing network of 14 branches with an aim to make borrowing 'as easy as popping out for a loaf of bread'.

Repair Café Wales supports a network of over 57 Repair Cafes where volunteers fix things for free and share their skills with others.

They received a grant from Wales Coronavirus Resilience Fund to work together to set up and run the Cardiff Mobile Project as a pilot project, blazing a trail for similar projects around Wales.

The Cardiff Mobile Project uses an electric van to help people borrow easily by offering free delivery and collections, and to repair more easily by offering pop-up repair cafes and taking equipment to new Repair Cafes as they become established in Cardiff.

The project has helped many and offered an alternative to consumption and waste to local communities. It has helped to save families money by lending items at low-cost and provided community gardens occasional use of gardening equipment to reduce cost and need for storage.



“

We are so grateful to Benthyg for doing the borrowing scheme. It made it affordable for us to go on holiday with friends.

”



“

Simply amazing! I thought this could never be repaired and it had so much sentimental value.

”



“

I am particularly grateful for the repair to a 43 year old toy: it was simple, but I had not been able to do it - but Repair Cafe Wales knew how and had the materials.

”



Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones provides support and counselling to adult survivors of child sexual abuse.

They received a grant from the Wales Coronavirus Resilience Fund towards their 'Step by Step Cook and Chill' project to help the people they work with to understand how the food they eat affects their life, family, health, mood, and budget.

The grant enabled each member of the project to take part in cookery classes, cooking with fresh ingredients, following a recipe, budgeting and menu planning. Everyone was able to access the 'Grow with Confidence Garden' and improved their skills in gardening to grow their own fruit and vegetables to use to cook at home.

All participants said their mental health and wellbeing and awareness of food had significantly improved through their involvement with the project.



“

I suffer with anxiety and depression and this project has boosted my mood and wellbeing beyond belief.

It has enabled my family to grow our own fruit and vegetables and given me a purpose and incentive to get outside and achieve so much more than I thought I could.

”

“

Being part of this project has given me enthusiasm to get outside more, eat better and improve my overall health which has had an immeasurable positive impact on my mental health.

”

Bryncynon Community Revival Strategy

Known as the 'hub of the community', The Feel Good Factory offers a huge range of services, in particular for local older residents. It is also home to the Bryncynon Community Revival Strategy which provides much needed social engagement and support to tenants and residents in the area.

The Bryncynon Community Revival Strategy were given a £5,000 grant from the Trivallis Community Investment Fund to enable them to hold regular afternoon tea sessions for older and isolated residents.

Covid-19 has had a huge effect on the isolation of vulnerable individuals and these weekly afternoon tea sessions have helped to get people out of their houses and enable local residents to catch up with friends old and new.



“

Everyone is kind and caring and the food is excellent; it's nice to have it prepared for us. It makes us feel better about ourselves mentally. We would be lost without it, and it is something to look forward to and enjoy each visit.

”

“

We try to be like a family, and for those that can't make it, we deliver our afternoon teas to them. This is their lifeline, they love it, and they hope they can keep coming.

”

The Birth Partner Project

The Birth Partner Project provides volunteer birth partners to support refugee and asylum seeker women who would otherwise face giving birth alone.

During the pandemic, the Birth Partner Project had to find a way to adapt their service that traditionally relied on face-to-face support in a way that was meaningful, safe and within Welsh Government guidelines.

Digital inclusion was key in keeping connected to the women they help and continuing to provide them with essential support and information.

The grant from the Wales Coronavirus Resilience Fund enabled the Birth Partner Project to run a digital inclusion programme with a focus on improving wellbeing in late pregnancy and early motherhood. This included offering a range of creative, informative and wellbeing classes.

The funding also helped them to distribute 15 digital packs which included tablets, data and headphones and allowed them to bring in interpreters to ensure that all classes and information sessions were accessible to everyone.

Since running the digital inclusion project, the Birth Partner Project has seen increased confidence in the women they support, with attendees saying:



“ This project made a huge change in my life. I was stuck inside staring at four walls. Since being involved, the project has changed how I view my life and wanting to do things. This project has given me things to do and look forward to. ”



“ My involvement in the project has helped me understand life in this country. ”

“ Previously I wasn't very confident with speaking English. Now even if I'm not correct I like to try. ”



“ I'm always alone with the baby so since having the tablet I've been able to research and look things up relating to her. ”

Working together

New partnerships

It's been another busy start to the year for Community Foundation Wales. Since the easing of lockdown restrictions, we've noticed a real increase in our supporter base. This has been in part due to the work we completed during the pandemic, connecting a range of partners to distribute over £6m in funding to thousands of grassroots and voluntary organisations across the whole of Wales.

We were approached by the Principality Building Society to create a new fund, helping them in their mission to increase the prospects of young people across Wales. The member-owned business is working with us to supply grants of up to £5,000 each for projects for a Future Generations Fund that will encourage young people to prepare skills for their future world of work, personal finances, finding employment, and living more sustainable lives.

New Friends

Our Friends of Community Foundation Wales network has grown further, and we are grateful for the support we receive from each of our members.

For the annual membership donation of £100 for an individual or £500 for an organisation, Friends can:

- highlight their connection to Community Foundation Wales;
- demonstrate their support for a local Welsh charity;
- receive priority invitations to our events;
- receive a personal thank you on our website and in our annual review;
- have press, online and social media promotion opportunities.

Below, two of our Friends explain why they joined the network:



Annwen Jones

I became a Friend of Community Foundation Wales because they have a simple but powerful mission to improve the lives of people in Wales – they work throughout the country – by connecting those who want to give to the causes they care most about.



David Gold

I don't know how to pick the projects within the different communities across Wales, but I know Community Foundation Wales understand what themes and areas are most in need, and I trust the very talented team to make the most out of my donation. Becoming a friend seemed an easy way to invest in the community without having the necessary knowledge of the projects around me.

The year ahead

Our aims:

**We change
lives together**

- We will have a better understanding of the difference our funding has made on the lives of individuals in Wales.
- We will have improved the way we share our learning.
- We will have formed strong sector-wide partnerships enabling us to link supporters more effectively with projects.

**We will increase
generosity
and charitable
giving in Wales**

- We will have a wider network of supporters through more effective engagement across all channels.
- Through our external communications we will have been influential in bringing more funding into Wales.

**We want a
Wales with
strong active
communities**

- We will strengthen our grant-making by improving our processes.
- How we work will be more representative of the communities we serve.
- We will have supported third sector organisations to grow and strengthen to meet the needs of those they support.

Diolch

So, that's the story of 2021/22 at Community Foundation Wales.

A year where, more than ever, we listened to the needs of communities across Wales, and responded through working together with funders, community groups and other partners.

What makes Community Foundation Wales special is that our aim is to build sustainable funding for Welsh communities now and into the future.

Our endowment funds will be here for the next generation, and the ones after that. Together with our partners we are building something special for Wales that will strengthen communities well beyond our lifetimes.

We'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work this year and extend a warm invitation to all to join us on this journey.

Whether you would be interested in working with us as a donor, if you'd like to help us spread the word in your local community, or support us in another way - we'd love to hear from you.

Diolch yn fawr

Richard Williams

Chief Executive, Community Foundation Wales





Community Foundation Wales
St Andrews House
24 St Andrews Crescent
Cardiff
CF10 3DD

02920 379580

www.communityfoundationwales.org.uk



info@communityfoundationwales.org.uk



[@foundationwales](https://twitter.com/foundationwales)



[@walescf](https://www.facebook.com/walescf)

Charity Number 1074655

Company Number 03670680

Community Foundation Wales is the trading name of The Community Foundation in Wales