## WCVA CGGC

## Make a bigger difference together

Annual report 2018/19

## Welcome

#### Hello and welcome to our Annual Report for 2018/19.

AT WCVA WE'RE DRIVEN BY OUR PURPOSE, TO ENABLE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WALES TO MAKE A BIGGER DIFFERENCE TOGETHER.

Every day we hear about the challenges and opportunities that face voluntary organisations. The ongoing uncertainty and disquiet in communities and society, and the need to get our voices heard. The amazing work of volunteers and the importance of increasing diversity. The ever-present challenge of attracting resources.

We know that for voluntary organisations to meet the challenges around them they need to come together, organise and look ahead to prepare for the future.

That's where we come in. This report highlights the biggest differences we've made in 2018/19 to empower Wales' amazing voluntary sector.

This year we distributed £11.5m in grants and loans, helping to foster

sustainable funding and strengthen voluntary organisations.

We shone a light on some of the inspiring individuals that work in our sector with 'Being the Change', our national photography exhibition. The exhibition showcased the incredible value of voluntary organisations in Wales.

Our joint project with Cardiff University, the Wales Civil Society Forum on Brexit, ensured the voice of the sector is being heard in the Brexit process. The forum is just one of the ways we're connecting voluntary organisations with the public sector and business so that we can all make a bigger difference together.

We hope you enjoy reading about our stories and the life-changing work our members do every day.



RUTH MARKS MBE
Chief Executive



PETER DAVIES CBE
Chair

## We are WCVA

WCVA is the national membership body for voluntary organisations in Wales.

#### Our purpose

## To enable voluntary organisations in Wales to make a bigger difference together.

At WCVA we work with and for voluntary organisations. Whether you volunteer or work for a charity, community group or social enterprise, we exist for people who come together voluntarily, not for money or because the law tells them to, but because they want to make a difference.

We use the collective power of our members, driven by our shared ambition

to improve people's lives, to enable voluntary organisations in Wales to make a bigger difference together. WCVA has a vision for voluntary organisations and volunteering to thrive across Wales improving wellbeing for all. We know we can't get there alone and that's why we work together with our members and partners.

## A network of support

We're proud to be part of Third Sector Support Wales, the network of support organisations for the third sector in Wales. Third Sector Support Wales is a national partnership made up of the local County Voluntary Councils and WCVA.

Working together, we can make a bigger difference towards the shared outcomes we want to achieve across Wales. These are focused on good governance, influencing and engagement, volunteering and resourcing a sustainable sector.



## Our goal

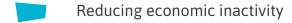
# Voluntary organisations and volunteering are stronger and more resilient

If voluntary organisations are going to make the biggest difference they can, they need to be strong themselves. We want to support the sector to prosper within the change and uncertainty that surrounds us today.

## What we did - Sustainable funding

**GRANTS AND LOANS DISTRIBUTED TO THE SECTOR** 

£11.5 MILLION



Local support for the sector

Social investments

Volunteering grants

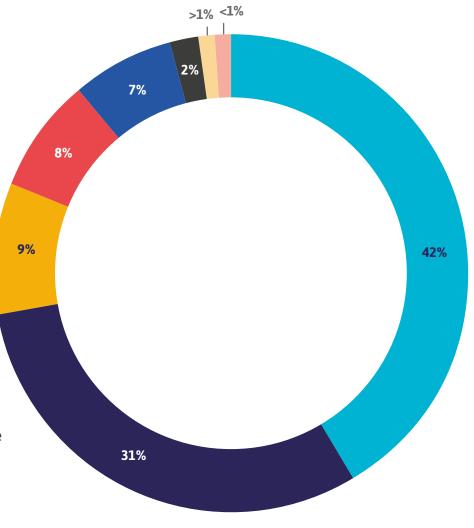
Environmental grants

Projects between Wales and Africa

Maintaining third sector networks

Increasing participation in BME Sport

We want to ensure voluntary organisations have diverse funding streams so that the important work they do can continue. This year we gave out £11.5m in grants and loans to help strengthen voluntary organisations and make them more resilient for the future.





#### The difference we made

## Case study: Developing a thriving community hub

FUNDING FROM WCVA HAS SUPPORTED KATE TO HELP MORE PEOPLE IN HER COMMUNITY.

'We became members of WCVA many years ago - through their information, advice, training and funding we have been able to further develop a thriving Community Hub,' said Kate O'Sullivan, Manager of Gilfach Goch Community Association.

Gilfach Goch provide a vital hub for their community, offering a wide range of social activities, and through funding from WCVA, employability programmes to help people like Lee.

Lee suffers from Fibromyalgia, which can make finding sustained employment difficult. But with help from one of Gilfach Goch's engagement officers,

funded through WCVA's Active Inclusion Fund, Lee has been able to build on his passion for barbering – having previously done a course in college – and set up his own barber shop in the community centre.

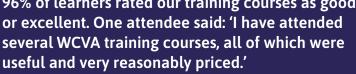
'Working with WCVA enables us to continue working,' says Kate. 'And knowing we make so many positive differences to so many lives gives us, as a voluntary organisation, the strength to keep doing the work we do.'

WCVA's Active Inclusion Fund uses European funds to tackle poverty and social exclusion.

### What we did to strengthen voluntary organisations in 2018/19

- We launched two brand new Welsh Government grants to support environmental projects and projects working between Wales and Africa
- We ran networks with local partners to connect the sector on the ground, and as part of Third Sector Support Wales developed two new digital platforms for funding and volunteering
- We created a broad suite of resources to guide voluntary organisations through the new GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)
- We ran a learning programme, designed to meet the needs of the sector in Wales and give them the skills they need to succeed

96% of learners rated our training courses as good or excellent. One attendee said: 'I have attended several WCVA training courses, all of which were









## Our goal

# Voluntary organisations and volunteering are more valued and trusted

We know that people don't always realise the enormous value that voluntary organisations contribute to communities across Wales. We want to tell this story.

### What we did -Showcasing people changing lives

## Case study: A portrait of Wales' change makers

WE SHOWED THE WORLD SOME OF THE AMAZING PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WALES.

Our 'Being the Change' photography exhibition launched at gofod3 on 21 March 2019 and showcases just 11 of our 900 members.

Together, these images represent staff and volunteers in voluntary organisations the length and breadth of Wales.

The images were taken by Bafta Cymru winning photographer Warren Orchard who has worked for the likes of Netflix, Channel 4, Universal and Warner Brothers.

The 'Being the change' photography exhibition makes its debut at our gofod3 event in Cardiff City Stadium



## The difference we made

THE IMAGES HAVE BEEN SHARED IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL MEDIA, WITH THE PRESS TAKING A SPECIAL INTEREST IN 16-YEAR-OLD BEEKEEPER DAFYDD PETT, A MEMBER OF THE WELSH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION (WBKA).

'We have had many new customers that've seen my story in the press,' said Dafydd, 'and we've been contacted by international beekeeping magazines who saw our story online.'

'Not only has Dafydd raised the profile of our organisation and beekeeping in Wales,' said John Bowles, Chair of WBKA, 'but the exhibition has also increased the chance that we can continue to pay for young beekeepers like Dafydd to attend international events and broaden their understanding.'

'Being included in a national exhibition has raised the profile of volunteering at Hope Rescue,' said Amy Greenfield, Fundraising Manager at Hope Rescue dog shelter.

Dafydd Pett, the youngest member of the Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association

Hope Rescue have been saving the lives of stray, abandoned and unwanted dogs since 2005



### 'Being the Change'



**Roy Fyles** Anglesey Foodbank Volunteer



Suzanne Duval Diverse Cymru BME Mental Health Manager



Adrian Bradley
Antur Stiniog
Mountain Bike
Development Officer



Helal Uddin
EYST (Ethnic Youth Support Team)
Senior Swansea, Carmarthen & Powys
Orientation Service Coordinator



Dafydd Pett
Bridgend and District Beekeepers
Association
Member



**Salli Edwards**Citizens Advice Flintshire
Chief Executive

### 'Being the Change'



Lois Bolton, Alison Jakob and Angela Morris, with three-year-old Connie Hope Rescue Volunteers



**Tirion Jenkins**Time to Change Wales
Digital Engagement Officer



**Len Richards** Llyfrau Llafar Cymru Volunteer



**Laura Grindey** Tŷ Hafan Fundraising Coordinator



Victoria Pedicini Threshold DAS Chief Executive

Read all the stories of these fantastic individuals at

www.wcva.cymru

## What we did to increase trust in the sector in 2018/19

- We used our Data Hub to create a richer picture of sector work in Wales and new figures helped our Strategy and Sector Development Director, Anna Nicholl, highlight concerns in several media outlets about the income of charities in Wales compared with the rest of the UK
- We hosted the third annual gofod3 event, a space for voluntary organisations in Wales to connect, learn and showcase their value
- Our Wales Volunteer of the Year Awards highlighted the value of the sector by celebrating some of Wales' most inspiring volunteers
- We delivered the Inspiring Impact partnership in Wales to help voluntary organisations measure and demonstrate their impact
- Our social media campaign at the National Eisteddfod got people talking about why they #CaruElusennau (love charities)
- We organised Youth Volunteering Showcases in Wrexham and Cardiff to demonstrate the depth and scale of social action and youth volunteering and its impact on the lives of young people in Wales



## Our goal

# Voluntary organisations and volunteering make a bigger impact on current and future well-being

We want to help voluntary organisations truly improve the well-being of Wales, building on the difference they already make. To do this we are focussing on how the sector can help empower communities, find solutions, and engage with government, business and the public sector.

## What we did Amplifying the voice of voluntary organisations in the Brexit process

#### **Getting Brexit ready**

OUR BREXIT FORUM HELPS VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS ENGAGE IN THE BREXIT PROCESS AND PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE.



Forum Co-ordinator Charles Whitmore together with Rt Hon Mark Drakeford AM and WCVA Chief Executive Ruth Marks at one of the forum's meetings

Voluntary organisations have a key role in shaping how Brexit will affect the most vulnerable in society, the people they support. The Wales Civil Society Forum on Brexit has been helping these

organisations understand and engage with Brexit, bringing experts and the sector together to stimulate debate and discussion, and develop shared positions to coordinate action.

In October 2018 the 'Brexit Forum Findings' were presented to Welsh Government as a means of enshrining some key values the sector felt should be respected by the Brexit process. These included issues around human rights and equality, immigration and EU citizens, and the environment and animal welfare.

Welsh Government responded stating that the findings will be useful in ensuring that the interests of the sector are heard in their discussions with UK Government.

The Forum also co-hosted a Welsh third sector Brexit briefing for MP's in London in January 2019 in partnership with a UK-wide sister project. This enabled the North Wales Regional Equality Network, Wales Environment Link, The Bevan Foundation and members of the Forum to deliver a series of talks highlighting some key Brexit concerns and aspirations for the sector directly with MPs.

The Wales Civil Society Forum on Brexit is a joint project between Cardiff University's Wales Governance Centre and WCVA, funded by the Legal Education Foundation.

## The difference we made

WELSH GOVERNMENT CABINET
MEMBERS HAVE WELCOMED THE
WORK OF THE FORUM, INCLUDING
AS A USEFUL MECHANISM TO
INFORM THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH
THE UK GOVERNMENT.

The Welsh Government has promoted the Forum's Getting Brexit Ready Guide as part of its Preparing Wales platform.

The Forum's work has enabled voluntary organisations to have their voices heard in the Welsh media, including national television and radio, as well as trade press. WCVA's work on Brexit has been quoted regularly in plenary and committee discussions in the Senedd. The Welsh Government has accepted recommendations by National Assembly committees that reflect WCVA positions in relation to Brexit.

gofod3 gives voluntary organisations access to Wales' Ministers. Jane Hutt AM (centre) joins WCVA Chair Peter Davies and Julia Unwin for a panel discussion and Rt Hon Mark Drakeford AM meets #iwill ambassador for Wales Naomi Lea, with our Chief Executive Buth Marks



## Case study: 'Wednesday is the one night that I sleep well'

#### WCVA'S BME SPORT CYMRU PROJECT HAS HELPED HEATHER PUT A SMILE ON THE FACE OF FEMALE ASYLUM SEEKERS.

Splott Superstars is a netball team in the Splott area of Cardiff that's exclusively for female refugees.
The team was set up by local volunteers Heather Lewis and Vicky Sutton.
We caught up with Heather to talk about assembling the Superstars.



#### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO START THE TEAM?

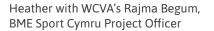
When I moved to a new area of Cardiff I got to know a bunch of different people in the community, and I guess I became way more aware of people who are seeking status to live here, like refugees and asylum seekers. I got to know some girls who were studying hard but when it came to physical activity, they weren't really doing much.



#### WHAT DO THE PARTICIPANTS GET OUT OF IT?

One of the girls here has come over from Syria, where her and her family fled awful, awful things and she was not sleeping well at all. A few weeks into netball, she said to me 'Wednesday is the one night that I sleep well, because I've had a good time with my friends and my body feels like it's done exercise, I go home, and I can sleep.'

A lot of the women here, often when I see them off the court there's a visible sadness in their hearts because what they've been through, and are going through, is awful. And yet during netball they're laughing, joking, banter, all the things I see in my netball team, because they love playing netball. If anyone needs it, it's these girls.



#### HOW DID WCVA'S BME SPORT CYMRU PROJECT HELP?

We needed money to start this off, there's no way we could have done this professionally (or legally!) without the funding from BME Sport Cymru. The funding paid for me to do a level 2 coaching qualification, which increased our capacity and ability to deliver.

We had a volunteer on placement from BME Sport Cardiff and the funding helped us pay for her to undergo a coaching qualification to increase capacity even further. Not only has her own confidence skyrocketed as a result, but she's started bringing her niece along who absolutely loves netball too!

BME Sport Cymru aims to take a sustainable approach to increasing BME participation in sport across Wales, the project is funded by Sport Wales.

The Western Bay Community Cohesion Cup, delivered in partnership with South Wales Police, Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support Team Wales (EYST) and WCVA's BME Sport Cymru project, brings a diverse range of players and community members together



## What we did to support the sector to improve wellbeing in 2018/19

- Our Invest in Nature Cymru team raised awareness of environmental issues and the Well-being of Future Generations Act
- WCVA facilitated meetings of the Third Sector Partnership
  Council and individual Ministerial Meetings to bring together the
  sector with government and strengthen the influence and voice
  of voluntary organisations
- Welsh Government, Nesta, Cardiff University and WCVA awarded £45,000 in Innovate to Save funding to the third sector to explore new ideas with potential to improve public services
- Our BME Sport Cymru project helped increase participation in sport and physical activity within BME communities in Wales. The project worked with 3000 people, exceeding its initial targets by almost double
- Our work was mentioned 42 times at plenary and committee sessions in the National Assembly

The bustling market place at gofod3, a great place to spark conversations with peers in the sector or just get a coffee!



## Our goal

## WCVA is more sustainable and responsible

We are committed to working in a way that is environmentally, culturally, economically and socially responsible.

## Case study: WCVA is a Trusted Charity

## We were proud to be awarded the Trusted Charity Mark.

The Trusted Charity Mark is a nationally recognised accreditation of the quality and credibility of charities. The Trusted Charity Mark recognises that WCVA offers high quality services to our members and the wider third sector. It improves our effectiveness, helping us to create efficiencies, motivate staff and develop consistency across all our sites and services.

Led by Sara Sellek, WCVA Assistant Director of Operations and Marketing - and our Trusted Charity Mark Champion - we established a plan for implementing the Trusted Charity Mark, including creating a working group and nominating Quality Leads for each area of WCVA from funding to policy to HR. Over many months we compiled evidence on all WCVA activities, demonstrating our quality and reliability in all we do, and developed an action plan for organisational improvement. This was followed by an on-site assessment from Trusted Charity Mark assessors before the Mark was awarded.



Sara said: 'We are delighted to receive this external independent assessment that recognises the work our dedicated staff do to support our members and the third sector. This process has helped WCVA to embed quality and share good practice across the organisation but also strengthen us in supporting others to apply for the Mark too.'

Proud trustees and Chief Executive Ruth Marks celebrate our new Trusted Charity Mark at the board meeting in February

## What we did to become more sustainable and responsible in 2018/19

- Our staff volunteered in a wide range of activities, from being a first responder to walking dogs and volunteering at a night shelter. WCVA supports staff to volunteer by encouraging them to make use of our Employer Supported Volunteering policy
- We maintained our Green Dragon 2 Environmental Standard and reduced our electricity usage by 6.77%
- We introduced wellbeing activities for our staff such as yoga and took part in the 30 Days Wild environmental campaign picking up litter, growing food and more
- We retained our commitment to being a Living Wage Friendly
  Funder by only funding posts offering salaries at the Living Wage
  or above
- We supported the Time To Change Employer Pledge, which commits WCVA to championing wellbeing across the organisation



## Our goal

## WCVA makes better use of more diverse resources

We will diversify our funding base, make better use of digital, and promote a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration with others.

## Case study: Collaborating on Welsh language

Mentrau laith was one of the many organisations we worked together with on shared areas of interest.

#### IWAN HYWEL, TEAM LEADER AT MENTRAU IAITH CYMRU EXPLAINS:

'Mentrau Iaith Cymru and WCVA recognised the need for a closer working relationship that would see us cooperate on training, events and, most importantly, getting more people to volunteer through the medium of Welsh and making sure there is suitable support available for volunteers and the organisations offering them the opportunity to volunteer.

'We jointly held a 'Volunteering in Welsh' event at the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff with the Welsh Language Commissioner, and worked together on GDPR training events. Looking to the future, the Mentrau Iaith will use WCVA's volunteering platform to advertise opportunities and we are looking at strengthening our ties by again co-working on training events.'



Iwan from Mentrau Iaith visiting our stand at the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff

## What we did to make better use of more diverse resources in 2018/19

- We co-launched two new digital platforms, Volunteering Wales offering a new way to discover and advertise volunteering opportunities and Funding Wales, a new site to search for grant and loan finance opportunities
- Our staff took part in a session from The Alliance For Useful Evidence on the importance of using evidence when writing reports and funding bids
- As part of Third Sector Support Wales, we launched our new Customer Relations Management system, tracking every interaction we have with sector organisations and helping us ensure we're making the impact we want to make



#### Listening to feedback

THIS YEAR WE COMMISSIONED AN INDEPENDENT FOCUS GROUP AND TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO MEASURE PROGRESS AGAINST THE GOALS SET OUT IN OUR FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

We're pleased to see the progress we're making. Just as importantly, it's helped us learn how we can do better.

#### What you said about our work

The work we do to facilitate voluntary organisations to meet directly with Ministers and officials is valued.

Organisations that take part find that they are a good way to 'reinforce' their own influencing activities.

Participants also called for WCVA to play more of an advocacy and leadership role, especially outside of the sector, championing the value that the third sector brings to Wales.

The research highlighted the quality and strength of our

resources, particularly on volunteering. It also found organisations want WCVA to make sure its services complement the work of the organisations we support.

At WCVA we're accountable to our members and are committed to being an open and inclusive organisation. This means listening, celebrating what works, and changing what doesn't. We'll be working hard following this research to build on our strengths and improve our weaknesses.



The Young, Migrant and Welsh project getting some well-deserved recognition at WCVA's Wales Volunteer of the Year Awards 2018

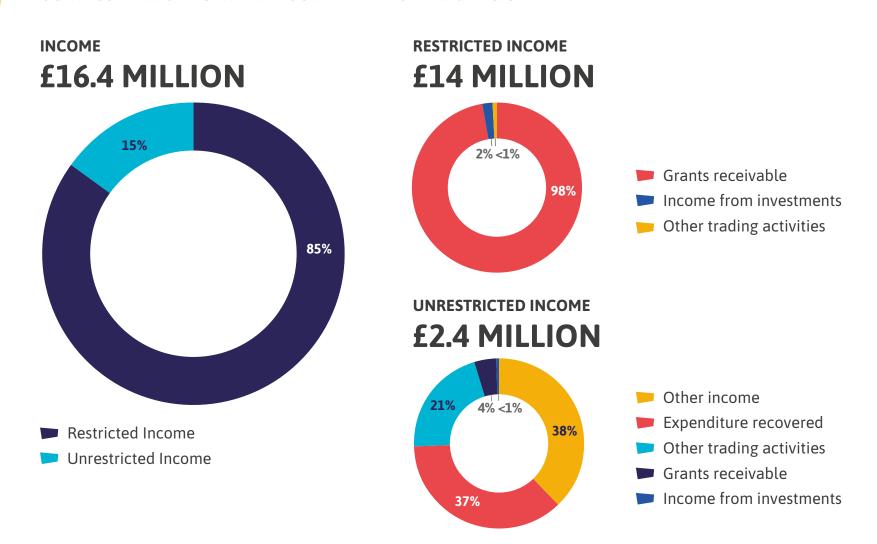


Anna Nicholl, Director of Strategy and Sector Development, talks to ITV Wales about how GDPR will affect voluntary organisations

#### **Our finances**

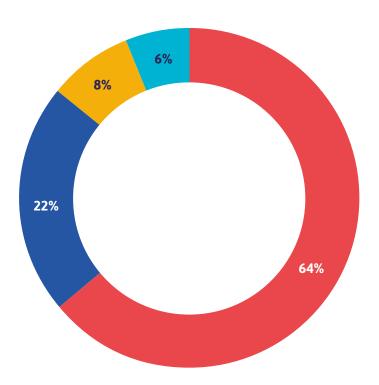
These graphics give a brief overview of our financial performance for 2018/19.

DURING THIS YEAR WE DISTRIBUTED £11.5M IN GRANTS AND LOANS TO THE THIRD SECTOR. OUR INCOME WAS £16.4M AND OUR EXPENDITURE WAS £16.6M.



#### **EXPENDITURE**

#### £16.6 MILLION



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

OUR FULL ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND THE REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THOSE ACCOUNTS IS AVAILABLE ON THE CHARITY COMMISSION WEBSITE.

### **Extending the WCVA family**

WE OPERATE AS PART OF A WIDER GROUP OF COMPANIES. THE WCVA GROUP IS MADE UP OF WCVA AND SOCIAL INVESTMENT CYMRU, THE LEADING PROVIDER OF SOCIAL INVESTMENT TO SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND THE WIDER THIRD SECTOR IN WALES.

This year we were thrilled to welcome another member to the group. Cynnal Cymru - Sustain Wales is the leading organisation for Sustainable Development in Wales.

Cynnal's mission is to make Wales a low carbon, resource efficient, healthy, just and prosperous society, thriving in balance with the natural ecosystems that support it. This exciting partnership will enable WCVA and Cynnal Cymru to support each other, our members and partners to co-design and co-deliver innovative solutions to help create a more sustainable Wales.

#### **WCVA** board members

President

Michael Sheen OBE

Vice Presidents

Tom Jones OBE Margaret Thorne CBE DL

Chair

Peter Davies CBE

Vice Chair

Fran Targett OBE

(from 14 December 2018, trustee previously)
Catriona Williams OBE

(resigned 22 November 2018)

Treasurer

Jonathan Evans (from 1 October 2018)

C Mair Gwynant (until 30 September 2018)

Deputy Treasurer

C Mair Gwynant

(from 1 October 2018. Resigned 1 March 2019)

Jonathan Evans

(until 30 September 2018)

Trustees

Cherrie Bija (Resigned 22 November 2018)

Rocio Cifuentes (Appointed 22 November 2018)

Lindsay Cordery-Bruce

Elizabeth Girling (Appointed 22 November 2018)

Simon Harris

Chris Lines (Appointed 24 May 2018)

Mark Llewellyn

Sara Moseley (Appointed 22 November 2018)

L Mair Stephens (Resigned 22 November 2018)

Joseph Stockley (Appointed 22 November 2018)

Edward Watts (Appointed 22 November 2018)

Helen White (Appointed 22 November 2018)

**Richard Williams** 

Kate Young (Appointed 22 November 2018)

Pauline Young MBE (Resigned 22 November 2018)

Secretary

**Tracey Lewis** 

Company registration number

425299

Charity number

218093

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Cardiff, CF24 3DS

Geldards LLP,

Dumfries House, Dumfries Place,

Cardiff, CF10 3NF

Hugh James Two Central Square,

Cardiff, CF10 1FS

Auditor

Grant Thornton UK LLP Chartered Accountants

**Registered Auditors** 

11-13 Penhill Road, Cardiff, CF11 9UP

## Thank you

WCVA WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AS WELL AS THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:

- ACEVO
- The Association of Chairs
- Big Issue Cymru
- Cardiff City Conference and Events
- Cardiff University
- The Charity Commission for England and Wales
- Charity Times
- designdough
- Dimension 8
- Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support Team (EYST)
- Geldards Law Firm
- Hugh James Law Firm
- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)
- Keegan & Pennykid
- The Legal Education Foundation
- Lloyds Bank Foundation
- Museums, Archives and Libraries Division (MALD)
- National Lottery Community Fund

- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- New Philanthropy Capital (NPC)
- Newport Live
- North Wales Regional Equality Network (NWREN)
- Race Equality First (REF)
- Rockadove Video Production
- Social Care Wales
- Sport Wales
- Street Games
- Wales European Funding Office (WEFO)
- Welsh Government

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