



Cyngor Gwasanaethau
Gwirfoddol Sir Ddinbych

Denbighshire Voluntary
Services Council



IMPACT REPORT

2025

WHAT DOES DVSC DO?

DVSC enables volunteers, charities and community groups to be more informed, more effective, and better connected; working together to build a strong and vibrant Denbighshire.

We are a Charity and a Company Limited By Guarantee, with a membership made up of 323 of Denbighshire's Third Sector organisations and individuals. We are also a part of the Third Sector Support Wales partnership and network, with the other Welsh CVCs and Wales Council for Voluntary Action.



**Cyngor Gwasanaethau
Gwirfoddol Sir Ddinbych**
Cydwethio i adeiladu Sir
Ddinbych gref a bywiog

**Denbighshire Voluntary
Services Council**
Working together to build a
strong and vibrant Denbighshire



"I've been finding your website and E-Bulletins really helpful, thank you!"
Emma, Singing Mamas

Our activities include:

- Representing the Third Sector and our members on strategic partnerships with public sector agencies
- Manage grant programmes with partners including UK Government, Welsh Government, Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board and many others
- Share information with our sector via our weekly Bulletin
- Provide funding advice and support for sustainable funding strategies
- Provide governance consultancy, advice and support to organisations
- Promote volunteering opportunities and match volunteers to vacancies
- Provide innovative training, coaching and mentoring support
- Work with communities to improve sustainable support for people living with dementia
- Promote constructive partnership with Denbighshire Council both directly and via the Third Sector Influencing Group
- Promote public service redesign to involve the Third Sector
- Promote collaboration to support communities across Denbighshire, for example through consultation to inform the Rhyl Neighbourhood Board



"I hope you don't mind me sending you this but having read your latest E-Bulletin I was blown away by the breadth, depth and richness of support that is being offered now to Third Sector Organisations in Denbighshire – simply amazing! Well done to you and your team, you must be extremely proud!"
Mel Evans, Working Denbighshire

MESSAGE FROM SANDRA WILSON, CHAIR

It has been my pleasure to Chair DVSC through another positive year.

During 2024 – 2025, DVSC has expanded its impact across all areas of work: more funding, more support, more engagement. Despite this, we are all very aware of the ongoing threats to the sector, including the increased cost of running a third sector organisation, the increased competition for funding, and increased demand on services from people in need of help and support across the county.

Our Community Key Fund, funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, has made a major contribution to the sustainability of the third sector. Watch the videos on the DVSC website to get an idea of the range and scale of this. It is impressive work and based on great partnership between DVSC and Denbighshire Council.

Myself, the Board and the DVSC staff team are continually amazed by the work that our third sector, volunteers and communities do to support people in need. Their passion, skills and enthusiasm and the diversity of the work undertaken is truly inspirational. If you are reading this and are part of the Denbighshire third sector, we thank you.

On the subject of thanks, we couldn't do our work without the support of many other organisations, funders and supporters. Thank you to Wales Council for Voluntary Action, the third sector team at Welsh Government, and key staff at Denbighshire Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. I'd also like to thank funders including UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.

Most of all, I'd like to thank my fellow volunteer Board members who apply their experience and judgement to their governance, and the talented and lovely DVSC staff team, who have again given above and beyond in making DVSC an essential part of the mix in Denbighshire.



Sandra Wilson
Chair



GRANTS

Welsh Church Act Fund

26 projects funded, totalling £11,917 across 2 rounds. 226 volunteers contributed to the funded projects above, with 8,736 beneficiaries from the activities.

Including:

Friends of the Ffrith

used the grant to create promotional materials and contribute to the cost of children's prizes at a community event. Beneficiaries of the project included children, families, and local residents, all of whom gained from the social interaction, entertainment, and community spirit generated by the event.



Friends of the Ffrith

Campfire Cymru

bought two locally made wooden benches with backs and armrests. The benches were bought from Meifod Wood, which produces garden furniture, and provides in-house daytime activity services for adults with complex disabilities in Denbighshire. The space used is more comfortable for people to meet and has a positive impact on wellbeing of parent/carers from families with disabilities.



Campfire Cymru

26
projects
funded

Youth-Led Grants

The Youth-Led Grant funded 7 grants amounting to £9,750, including Merched Henllan Women's Football Team.

The grant was used to set up a new Women's football team. They already had a successful Under 17s team and wanted an opportunity to continue playing past junior league. They have had a successful first season and have attracted new players. The grant was spent on pitch fees for games and for weekly training sessions as well as referee costs and equipment.

There are 18 girls and young women training and playing weekly for Genod Henllan Women's Football. They said they have benefitted from better physical fitness and also feel their mental wellbeing has been supported by taking part in a team sport and making friends and connections.

7
grants
funded



Dementia Aware Community–Led Grants

Dementia Aware Community – Led Grants
15 projects applied for the grant scheme, totalling £43,120. 11 projects were funded totalling £21,356.

32 volunteers contributed their time and skills to support the activities funded, playing a vital role in delivery and engagement.

A total of 600 people living with dementia directly participated in these initiatives.

219 carers were also involved, highlighting the dual support these projects offered to both individuals with dementia and their immediate support networks.

2,193 people in the wider community had their awareness of dementia raised through events, workshops, and outreach, helping to reduce stigma and build understanding.

Funded projects include:



“We had one female patient who refused to get out of bed or get dressed. She had to come up to the Day Room and join with the arts class that her attitude changed totally. She would not stop talking about it and looked forward to every session; she also became more positive, got up and dressed every day and started to work with physios to start to walk again.”

Denbigh Infirmary League of Friends

This project delivered 23 creative workshops across Denbigh and Ruthin Community Hospitals. Each two-hour workshop was led by professional artist Jude Wood. The sessions brought together in-patients and schoolchildren to take part in engaging, therapeutic art activities on hospital day wards.

In Denbigh, the participating schools were Ysgol Frongoch (specifically its Nurture Group), Ysgol Pendref, and Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn.

Before the workshops, all pupils completed a Dementia Friends session to raise awareness and understanding of dementia. During the sessions, participants with dementia were actively involved, often interacting meaningfully with the young people and contributing to shared activities.

Croeso Cynnes

This was made up of funds from Welsh Government’s Warm Hubs funding and funding from the Primary Care GP Clusters. In Denbighshire £61,184 was distributed to 14 organisations. Grants included:

Young and Mindful CIC

The grant was used to run 12 mindfulness and wellbeing sessions at Siop Nain in Ruthin. Their aim was to create a space where people could meet, eat, socialise, and engage in a mindfulness session that teach emotional regulation techniques, and facilitate conversations that centre around human wellbeing. They made a dreamcatcher, used emotion cards, young people taught the adults UNO, and played Scrawl, which brought laughter to everyone.



“Very good little group with lovely warm people that light up your day.”



“Warm spaces have been really good and a nice place to meet new people. Lots of information learned.”



Warm Spaces



Mindfulness & wellbeing sessions

Bwyd Cymunedol Dinbych Community Food

Clwb Swper was launched as a ‘pay-what-you-can’ community supper club by Denbigh Community Food, running every Tuesday for eight weeks. Hosted at Capel Mawr on Beacons Hill, the sessions took place from 4 to 6 pm and welcomed up to 30 people each week. The venue provided a spacious, accessible environment with a fully equipped kitchen and a warm, inclusive setting for shared meals, creativity, and social engagement.

Craft sessions ran alongside supper, and some guests also helped grow peas for the Incredible Edible allotment, adding a sustainable element to the project. The programme created a consistent opportunity for people to come together, share skills, form friendships, and contribute to a community-driven environment.



**44
successful
projects**

Cogog

The Cogog Grant Scheme supports community-led initiatives that tackle food insecurity, promote healthier lifestyles, and build stronger, more resilient communities. 44 projects were successful, receiving a combined total of £213,071

Ysgol Esgob Morgan PTA

The funding from the grant was used to purchase essential tools and equipment for Ysgol Esgob Morgan's gardening project, including hand tools, wheelbarrows, a greenhouse, and polytunnel. These items enabled the Eco Club to establish and maintain growing areas, giving children the opportunity to engage in hands-on gardening.

The project aimed to teach primary-aged pupils about small-scale food production, sustainability, and environmental awareness, and the equipment was vital in bringing this vision to life.

Throughout the two terms, the Eco Club grew from two members to a regular group of twelve. The gardening area also became a space for mindfulness, offering pupils a calm and purposeful break from classroom routines.

KEY FUND MAIN GRANTS

DVSC was awarded £651,739 between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025, to deliver a package of support to third sector organisations to improve their resilience and sustainability, from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) through a Main revenue and capital grant programme.

Impact measurement allowed us to fully understand the local need and helpfulness of awarded grants. We made use of a panel of 11 local volunteers who assessed the applications, to ensure a fair distribution.

The following grants were distributed through DVSC's 2024-2025 Key Fund scheme:

- Botanical Gardens Enterprises | £2,412**
For training costs and IT equipment
- Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre | £13,678**
Creation of an office space and bedroom
- CADVAS | £19,700**
For IT and website costs and the purchase of specialist equipment
- Campfire Cymru | £25,831**
Contractor, IT and training costs
- Church Council of St Thomas and Holy Trinity with St John, Rhyl | £9,917**
Improvement of financial IT systems and volunteer training costs
- Citizens Advice Denbighshire | £12,273**
To create a training room
- Cylch Meithrin Mwy | £33,000**
To install solar panels and purchase equipment
- Cylch Meithrin Rhuthun | £8,000**
To install an all-weather shelter
- Domestic Abuse Safety Unit North Wales (DASU) | £28,120**
To increase volunteer numbers and purchase IT equipment
- East Parade Bowling Club | £18,000**
To install new toilets and changing facilities
- Grow Llangollen | £5,000**
Consultancy and activity delivery costs

- Prestatyn and Meliden Foodbank | £32,769**
The purchase of a chiller van
- Rhuddlan Allotment Society | £11,952**
Improvement of allotment facilities
- Rhuddlan Dementia Group | £2,000**
For marketing materials
- Rhuddlan Town Community Association | £16,086**
Installation of a new kitchen
- Ruthin Cricket Club | £25,000**
Purchase of a compact tractor for maintaining grounds
- Ruthin Flower Show | £5,000**
Fundraising, IT and community activity costs
- St Asaph Cathedral | £50,000**
Purchase of new stacking chairs
- St Asaph Football Club | £22,829**
Purchase of a ride-on mower
- St Sadwrn's Parish Church, Henllan | £21,000**
Redressing and pointing of a heritage wall
- Stepping Stones | £4,500**
Website improvements and associated IT support
- Wellspring Christian Centre | £49,329**
Electrical rewiring and new fire safety system installed
- Wicked Wales Films | £26,715**
Purchase of IT and photography equipment

- Henllan Church Institute | £8,800**
To re-site the oil tank
- Llamau | £5,920**
For marketing costs and to deliver staff and volunteer training
- Llangollen Canoe Club | £15,993**
Purchase of specialist equipment
- Llangollen Christmas Festival | £5,163**
The purchase of generators and gazebos
- Llangollen Food Share | £29,562**
To purchase IT and specialist equipment
- Llangollen Sports Club Ltd | £18,000**
To improve Club facilities
- Nant Hall Church | £28,068**
Improving kitchen facilities
- Owain Glyndŵr Memorial Hall | £6,540**
To improve the Hall facilities

- Wireless in Wales | £2,525**
Purchase of IT and photography equipment
- Woodland Skills | £25,000**
IT improvements and PPE purchases
- Woody's Lodge | £12,600**
Consultancy costs and storage facility improvements
- Young and Mindful CIC | £26,839**
IT, website and marketing improvements
- Youth Shedz | £20,000**
For IT improvements
- Ysgol Esgob Morgan PTFA | £3,618**
Purchase of fundraising items to make the Parent, Teacher and Friends Association group more efficient

- 41% of recipients were entirely volunteer led.
- 72% had annual incomes under £100,000.
- 82% reported cost and time savings as a result of the grant.
- 22 of the grants were awarded for capital improvements including infrastructure, equipment, and building upgrades.
- Pre-application support provided by DVSC improved the group's ability to access the grant.
- Free training led to tangible improvements in service delivery and impact reporting.

Key Fund Acorn Grants

In April 2024, DVSC also awarded 7 small Acorn grants to new ventures, especially individuals with a great idea to support their community, or small groups with an income of less than £15,000 per annum.



KEY FUND MULTIPLY GRANTS

In May 2024 a further £370,000 in Multiply grants were distributed for maths confidence projects. These grants enabled third sector groups to work with adults aged 19+ without a GCSE in Maths at grade C or above to improve their confidence in using numbers in everyday settings, such as checking

change in a shop, working out discounts or knowing how to budget for a weekly food shop.

The following grants were distributed through DVSC's Multiply scheme:

Action for Arts | £13,000

To deliver maths confidence sessions to include Managing Dance Workshops, Budgeting skills, Understanding data.

Brighter Futures | £22,500

Delivering maths learning through fun activities that also improve confidence, mental and physical health.

Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre | £46,158

A series of outdoor based maths programmes that develop confidence with typical day to day numeracy functions.

Citizens Advice Denbighshire | £19,218

Engaging with clients to offer them baseline information on numeracy skills.

Cneifio Corwen | £9,000

To deliver maths confidence sessions including managing and evaluating shows, sorting calendar events, managing data.

Denbigh Youth Project | £35,153

Improving financial literacy through 72 innovative and engaging cooking and growing workshops.

Denbighshire Music Co-operative | £15,000

Staff costs to deliver sessions on scheduling shows, sorting calendars, counting attending pupils.

Domestic Abuse Safety Unit North Wales | £21,500

Providing maths workshops on budgeting, household management, and assisting with children's math homework.

Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych | £20,700

Delivering activities for parents and other adults to improve their confidence with basic mathematics to help them support their children or increase their job opportunities.

Outside Lives | £24,000

Composting, making eco-friendly cleaning products and playing outdoor games.

ReSource Denbighshire CIC | £26,232

Delivery of Maths for Working Life, to include:- Understanding your payslip and budgeting in your first job, Working in Retail maths etc.

STAND North Wales CIC | £37,325

Adaptive activities to develop confidence in numbers.

The Willow Collective CIC | £20,080

Delivering a 12 week programme of adult numeracy skills for increasing employment prospects, and improving recruitment into construction and countryside management sector.

West Rhyl Young People's Project | £9,264

Developing practical skills and functional numeracy for citizens aged 19+ through carpentry and cooking.

Work in Progress | £21,970

Enabling members to learn basic maths through performing arts and music activities.

Young and Mindful CIC | £28,900

Delivering a range of creative and engaging courses involving floristry, outdoor forest skills, home makeovers, planning my dream business, maths bingo and paint by numbers.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

DVSC is funded by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCU) to employ Sherry Weedall, as Wellbeing Partnership Manager. Her role is to ensure information is disseminated between the public and third sectors across health and social care. This includes how to link up the various staff from each sector to complement services and provide the best outcomes from co-delivery wherever possible.

We have built on previous years' positive work, to deliver the North Wales Women's Health Conference in Rhyl, bringing together senior leaders, inspirational women and information on various Women's Health topics. Almost 500 people attended on the day, with strong positive feedback for this to be repeated at other locations across north Wales in coming years.

DVSC also delivered an A-Z event, involving bodies such as the Public Service Board and Regional Partnership Board, connecting them to third sector staff across North Wales, having identified a significant gap between strategic bodies and those working on the front line. This was a massive success with over 100 people attending, the feedback from both sides was a wish for the event to be repeated.

We also continued to bring together both statutory and third sector health and social care services in the Wellbeing Village at the Denbigh and Flint show. This grew massively from last year, having almost 60 health and social care stands with over 3,500 meaningful conversations.

The relationship between our statutory partners and the third sector continues to gain strength. DVSC engaged in the Welsh Government Waiting Well strategy : 'Promote, prevent and prepare for planned care'. We spoke via a prerecorded video at its celebration in Cardiff. As part of Women's Health Wales Coalition we've also been stakeholders in the Welsh Government's 10 year plan for women's health.

Sherry also took part in a range of partnership forums, activities, consultations and events during the year.



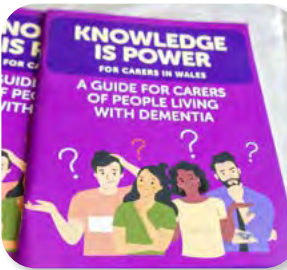
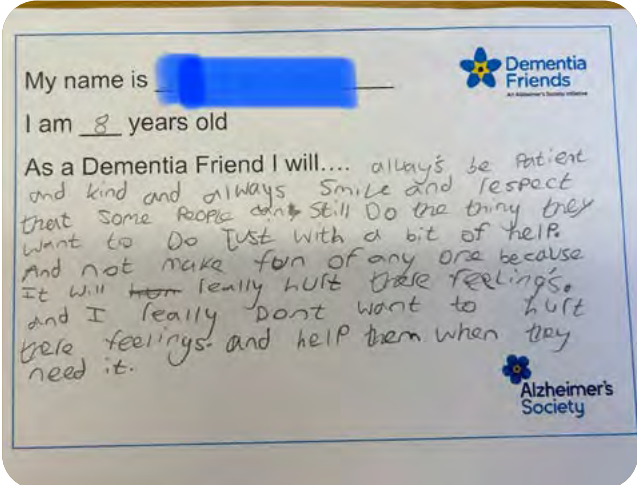
DEMENTIA AWARE DENBIGHSHIRE

DVSC's long-running Dementia Aware Community Led Programme Denbighshire project addresses the lack of awareness of dementia across Denbighshire communities, and also the lack of appropriate accessible services & activities in Denbighshire communities for individuals living with Dementia, and their carers.

The Programme works with people living with dementia, their carers, and the mainstream population, the voluntary and community sector, local businesses and local Town and Community Councils. working towards the North Wales Regional Partnership Boards Dementia Friendly Communities programme, supported by a range of other community led activities.

In 2024-2025 we have continued to deliver:

- 46 Dementia Friends sessions to specific groups, schools, care homes as well as to the general public, creating 570 new Dementia Friends.
- Training, including the Virtual Dementia Tour, Dementia Interpreters and Experiencing Dementia, and hosted several screening of the 'Living better with Dementia' films.
- In March 2025 we ran an event at the Faenol Fawr, attended by many people living with dementia and family members.
- Grants : 11 projects were funded, totalling £21,356, from 15 applicants, supporting singing, movement, sport, intergenerational and reminiscence activities.
- 6 of the 7 Dementia Action Groups are now recognized under the new Dementia Friendly Communities scheme (we partnered with the Regional Team to redesign a DFC programme to replace the closed Alzheimer's Society scheme).



"Very well planned and informative event with variety and useful information for people living with dementia, carers and professional"

"Today was an amazingly insightful event! I learnt so much, thanks"

"Extremely helpful diffused a lot of concerns in particular the Personal Stories."

"A very worthwhile event. I learnt a lot and enjoyed all of the speakers. I found that I was feeling much more positive about my dementia! thank you all so much"

VOLUNTEERING

2004 was the 40th anniversary of Volunteer Week so for the first time, DVSC held an open competition for organisations in Denbighshire to nominate one of their volunteers for a DVSC Volunteer Award. There were seven categories to choose from which included 'Young Volunteer', 'Dedicated Service' and 'Newcomer.'

We received a hefty number of nominations and were really impressed by the quality of the submissions. We had twelve winners altogether from a diverse range of charities.

DVSC also organised three volunteer fairs (Denbigh, Rhyl & Llangollen) and three Volunteering Involving Organisations networking events

The individualised volunteering opportunities for local groups are much better than the generic volunteering opportunities for the big voluntary organisations. They are informative, attractive and engaging.

- We collaborated with volunteer-led organisations to raise awareness of their work
- We created 'Spotlight' awareness campaigns
- Finally, we supported volunteers with barriers to participation towards rewarding opportunities.



"It was such a proud moment to see four of our volunteers receive their certificate of thanks at the DVSC Volunteer Awards 2024 ceremony."

Sharon Newell (Volunteer coordinator, St Kentigern's Hospice)

"Thank you so much for inviting me to the awards ceremony- As I always say to people when I get complimented on the success of Repair Cafe "I couldn't do it without the great team of talented volunteers who support me" and I will accept it on their behalf too."

Anne Lewis of Ruthin Repair Café (winner of Team Leader)

"Thank you for selecting Nia as the award winner. It truly is wonderful news, and she is truly deserving of this recognition for her incredible volunteer work."

Sarah Walker of NSPCC (Nominated Nia Griffith winner of Dedicated Service)

"I just wanted to say thank you very much for a lovely award ceremony! It was a really nice occasion to bring people together"

Adrian Lewis (Winner of Fundraising Category)

GOVERNANCE, ENTERPRISE AND INVESTMENT

Over the past year, DVSC and our Enterprise and Investment Manager have played a pivotal role in strengthening Denbighshire's voluntary sector, helping organisations navigate one of the most challenging operating environments in recent memory.

A cornerstone of this work has been the 'Build It' consultation support programme, developed specifically for start-up third sector organisations.

Over the course of the year, 54 Denbighshire organisations benefited from one-to-one support, delivered as part of the Shared Prosperity Key Fund programme.

For many, this was the first step in turning a spark of an idea into reality. For others, it meant receiving timely guidance to adapt, restructure, or simply survive in the face of shrinking resources and growing demand.

Beyond one-to-one support, the year also brought new opportunities to showcase the sector's achievements. The Enterprise and Investment Manager led the production of short Welsh language films celebrating the work of Key Fund grantees, working in collaboration with UK television presenter Gareth Jones (Gaz Top).

Taken together, these strands of work demonstrate the importance of storytelling, collaboration, and relationship-building to improve resilience in the voluntary sector. By showing the human faces behind the projects, DVSC has helped to build pride, trust, and visibility for the sector. This storytelling

not only inspires, it also strengthens the case for continued investment in community-led action. The Key Fund films have extended this impact beyond individual organisations by raising the profile of community achievements at county level.

Looking to the future, the potential impact of this work is even greater. The demand for mentoring, collaboration and skills-building is clear. By deepening relationships with local third sector organisations, DVSC can create a culture of shared learning and mutual support — a network effect that multiplies capacity across the sector. Over time, this will help to address systemic challenges: fewer organisations facing closure, more projects scaling sustainably, and stronger collaboration between voluntary groups, statutory partners, and funders.

Ultimately, the impact of this work is measured not only in organisational health, but in better outcomes for the people of Denbighshire — from young people finding new opportunities, to older residents receiving vital services, to communities coming together around shared initiatives. The work being done now lays the foundation for a thriving and resilient voluntary sector that will continue to deliver value long into the future.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

EXPENDITURE	2024-2025	2023-2024
Staff	£284,160	£269,857
Office costs	£39,338	£40,953
Marketing	£7,024	£3,939
Professional fees	£19,976	£4,969
Project costs	£39,160	£37,095
Grants made	£1,475,930	£786,728
Depreciation	£12,326	£9,712
Training and seminar delivery	£20,447	—
Support costs	£156,330	£131,735
Governance costs	£9,907	£9,030
Sundry	—	£3,456
TOTAL	£2,064,598	£1,297,564

INCOME	2024-2025	2023-2024
Sundry income	£20,648	£18,023
Investments	£2,515	£2,500
Donations and Gifts	£25	—
TSSW Welsh Govt	£238,557	£206,702
BCU Health and Wellbeing	£61,940	£40,456
Denbighshire Council and RIF	£391,801	£294,403
Albert Gubay Foundation	£42,333	£23,372
UK Govt – Shared Prosperity Fund	£1,391,832	£742,286
TOTAL	£2,149,651	£1,327,742
SURPLUS	£85,053	£30,178

IMPACT SUMMARY

PARTNERSHIP EVENT ATTENDEES	2023-2024	2024-2025
Total	£2,425	£5,277
Face-to-face	£1,665	£4,160

FUNDING	2023-2024	2024-2025
Funding awarded directly by DVSC	£816,639	£1,476,059
Funding supported by DVSC	£84,620	£129,902
Sustainable Funding Interactions	278	342

VOLUNTEERING	2023-2024	2024-2025
People Supported with Volunteering	122	179
People placed into Volunteering	25	92
Volunteering interactions	185	324

SUPPORT	2023-2024	2024-2025
Organisations supported with direct advice	194	201
Engagement and Influencing interactions	541	575
Dementia Aware Denbighshire Interactions	1,447	3,632
Membership	240	348

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Team

- Tom Barham | Chief Officer
- Lisa Williams | Operations Manager
- Alison Carter | Enterprise and Investment Manager
- Clare Ashworth | Key Fund Manager
- Sherry Weedall | Wellbeing Partnership Manager
- Rebecca Bowcott | Community Wellbeing Officer
- Janet Halliwell | Key Fund Monitoring and Administration Manager
- Sam Mullan | Grants Officer
- Ruth Johnson | Volunteering and Engagement Officer
- Maisie Bentley | Marketing and Business Administrator

Board

- Sandra Wilson | Chair
- Chris Ruane | Vice Chair
- John Gardner | Treasurer
- Karen Bellis
- Annie Donovan *(appointed May 2024)*
- Janine Downing *(appointed April 2025)*
- Mair Edwards *(appointed April 2025)*
- Baron Hanson of Flint *(resigned July 2024)*
- Gavin Harris *(resigned February 2025)*
- Linzi Jones
- Gareth Sandilands

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