

VOLUNTARY
ACTION
GWEITHREDU
GWIRFODDOL

VOLUNTARY ACTION
MERTHYR TYDFIL
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MERTHYR TUDFUL

Annual Report 2017-18



supporting
VOLUNTEERING
representing
communities
well-being
third sector
**SUSTAINABLE
FUNDING**
ADVICE
TRAINING
GRANTS

PARTICIPANTS ENGAGEMENT &
GOOD events INFLUENCING
GOVERNANCE
MERTHYR TYDFIL

MISSION STATEMENT

To increase the extent, quality and impact of voluntary action in the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil by supporting, representing and assisting Third Sector organisations and volunteering.

Effecting change by enhancing well-being of individuals, organisations and communities.

VISION

- To be the centre of excellence in Merthyr Tydfil for the provision of services to organisations and individuals involved with the Third Sector and volunteering.
- To create a healthy community by helping to develop organisations to meet their needs, maximizing volunteering opportunities and sharing our mission with all stakeholders.



**VOLUNTARY ACTION
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MERTHYR TUDFUL**

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Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil
Volunteer Centre Merthyr Tydfil
Digital Support Cwm Taf



@VAMTtweets
@VAMTvolunteer
@CwmTafCC



Cefnogi Trydydd
Sector **Cymru**

Third Sector
Support **Wales**



Gwirfoddoli Cymru
Volunteering Wales



FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR AND CHIEF OFFICER

We are pleased to introduce the twenty-first Annual Report of Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil.

An outstanding highlight of the year, certainly in terms of profile, was the presence of Michael Sheen OBE at our volunteering celebration at the Red House. It was a wonderful occasion and it gained a considerable amount of coverage in the traditional media and on social media. We are grateful to Michael for the amount of time he spent at the event talking to volunteers and to young people. There are numerous photographs in this report of the occasion.



VAMT continues to achieve results as are demonstrated in this report. In addition to our core work to support volunteering and third sector organisations, our partners have continued to fund the Community Coordinators and the Community Capacity Grant Scheme from the Welsh Government Integrated Care Fund. These projects have evaluated very well. The grant scheme was considerably enhanced this year and additional funds were secured for befriending and for autism services.

Sadly this year marked the end of the South Cluster Communities First and MAGNET projects which were both great successes. Both these projects were celebrated in the previous annual report.

VAMT continues to collaborate with Interlink and work together on regional activity such as the new Public Service Board, the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being Act and the aforementioned community coordinators project and grant schemes. During the year we gained funding from the Rural Development Fund for a digital support project covering the rural wards of the two counties.

As Chair and Chief Officer we are committed to ensuring that we remain an effective organisation. We can only achieve this with a committed team of trustees, staff and volunteers. We thank them for their support and hard work.

Finally, we must take the opportunity to thank the main funders of VAMT for their continued support; namely the Welsh Government, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Cwm Taf University Health Board and the Big Lottery Fund. Also, thanks to Wales Council for Voluntary Action for their continued support.



**Ian Davy,
Chief Officer**

**Brian Lewis,
Chair**



FACTS AND FIGURES

Volunteering

Number of volunteers placed **152**

Number of enquiries on good practice in managing volunteers **42**

Good Governance

Number of trustee enquiries received and responded to **30**

Number of training courses provided **22**

Number of participants **243**

Engagement and Influencing

Number of strategic planning/working groups involving third sector membership **67**

Number of third sector forums or networks supported **9**

Number of magazines published **4**

Number of recipients **374**

Number of website visitor sessions **43,647**

Total number of enquiries received and responded to **2,868**

Sustainable Funding

Number of funding advice enquiries received and responded to **50**

Number of funding events organised **6**

Number of participants **70**

Amount of funding obtained by groups as notified during the reporting period

£220,030

Number of new organisations/social enterprises or new services developed **11**

Amount of funding provided through grants/loan schemes

£479,433



Membership

Total membership **283**

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

Volunteering

- A high profile '**Celebrating Volunteering**' event was held at the Red House in Merthyr Tydfil. The event was attended by 23 groups with a total of 120 individuals receiving certificates which were presented by **Michael Sheen OBE**. The event was hosted by Roy Noble MBE.



- 230 **volunteers** were interviewed.
- 179 volunteering enquiries were received via the **Volunteering Wales** website.
- 42 organisations have been assisted with **good practice** in volunteering.
- During **Volunteers Week**, a small ceremony was held with 30 volunteers who received recognition certificates presented by Dawn Bowden AM and Gareth Chapman, Chief Executive, Merthyr Tydfil CBC.
- Provided a weekly **outreach at Merthyr Tydfil Job Centre** until December 2017.
- Six successful **recruitment days** were held for local charity shops, RVS, Homestart, Safer Merthyr Tydfil, Victim Focus and Groundwork Trust.
- Recruited 27 young people as **Millennium Volunteers**. Nineteen Millennium Volunteers Certificates were issued in the year, ten 50 hour certificates, eleven 100 hour certificates and three 200 hour certificates.
- Administered the local **Youth Led Grants scheme** in partnership with the Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum. They awarded grants totalling £2620 to Treharris Boys and Girls Club, Greenfield School, Merthyr Tydfil Swimming Club and Georgetown Boys and Girls Club.
- Provided **volunteer management training** in collaboration with Interlink. Six modules were covered over a 4 day course.



Sustainable Funding

- Supported **fifteen** organisations with successful applications who received grants totalling £220,030
- Facilitated **advice surgeries** for the Big Lottery Fund in the VAMT offices. They met with 35 groups at the five sessions that were held. In addition, **two events** were held to promote their new schemes and their new approach to developing and assessing applications.
- Promoted the **Rural Development Fund** and provided opportunities for the sector to engage in developing new projects.
- Promoted the revised **Families First** programme and provided opportunities for the sector to engage in the development of the programme going forward and in procurement opportunities.
- Provided a **financial accounting service** for Safer Merthyr Tydfil as a pilot project.
- Administered a £240,000 Community Capacity Grant Scheme for third sector organisations on behalf of the Cwm Taf Social Service and Wellbeing Partnership Board. VAMT promoted the scheme, supported applicants and supported the awarding panel. There were 48 applications with 12 projects being approved.
- Secured £100,000 from the Cwm Taf Social Services and Wellbeing Partnership Board for third sector organisations to provide **befriending services**. The funding enables a range of complimentary services to be delivered by four different organisations (Age Connects Morgannwg, Royal Voluntary Service, Valleys Kids and Volunteering Matters).
- Secured £70,000 funding to administer a grant scheme directly connected with the recently launched **Integrated Autism Service** within Cwm Taf. An awarding panel was facilitated and 7 projects were awarded grant funding. The projects will commence in April 2018.
- Involved in delivering the Cwm Taf **Crystal Trophy Awards** which recognises the contribution to well-being by third sector organisations. This process culminates in an awards ceremony and three organisations received monetary prizes totalling £2,250, with the overall winner also receiving a "crystal" trophy.



Good Governance

- 30 organisations have received direct **governance advice** and support in the year.
- Four editions of VAMTs hard copy **magazine, Inform** were published.
- **Social media**
 - ◆ The VAMT main Twitter account @VAMTtweets has 1582 followers and the VAMT Facebook page has 260 likes.
 - ◆ Merthyr Tydfil Volunteer Centre Facebook has 623 likes and Twitter @VAMTvolunteer has 584 followers
 - ◆ One Voice MT Facebook has 184 likes and Twitter @onevoicemt has 152 followers
 - ◆ Communities First South Cluster Facebook has 256 likes and Twitter @c1stsouth has 465 followers
 - ◆ Community Coordinators have a Twitter account @CwmTafCC and has 151 followers.
- 146 posts were published on the **"VAMT News" Blog** and there were 28,811 visits.
- Held a **GDPR** Awareness session for third sector organisations which was attended by 20 people.

- Provided **Safeguarding training** at both levels 1 and 2. Four local training sessions were delivered to 40 participants. In addition, four Level 2 courses were delivered on a regional basis to 62 people.
- Developed a **model Safeguarding Policy** that can be utilised by third sector groups in partnership with the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board. It is particularly useful for smaller groups.
- Developed a **digital support and skills** project following a successful application to the Cwm Taf Rural Development Plan for a regional post covering the 9 rural wards of Cwm Taf. The grant funding is £59,464. The post will provide digital support and skills and also recruit volunteers to establish a legacy of ongoing support for digital inclusion.

In the first six months, 22 community groups have been supported and there were 3 community engagement sessions. Also, 5 volunteers attended peer mentor training and 42 people attended training sessions provided through the project.





Engagement and Influencing

- VAMT and Interlink continued to host a **team of five Community Coordinators** who support older people to access community services in order to maintain their independence and enhance well-being. Four of the Coordinators are locality based and one is focused on primary care settings across Cwm Taf.

During the year they:

- ◆ received **1349 referrals** which have resulted in 1157 **onward referrals** and 6610 **signposts** to services and activities across third sector and also statutory services.
- ◆ developed and distributed **12 monthly bulletins** to over 1000 contacts
- ◆ delivered **133 presentations** to 1324 individuals
- ◆ identified **95 new groups** within the communities of Cwm Taf
- ◆ brokered in **31 third sector organisations** into 21 GP Practices on 79 occasions.

In Merthyr Tydfil, in particular, work has included;

- ◆ supporting the Merthyr Tydfil **"Dementia Friendly Communities"** Steering Group
- ◆ delivering **Dementia Friends training**

resulting in more than 30 people becoming Dementia Friends in their communities

- ◆ supporting the **Merthyr Tydfil 50+ Forum** and a relaunch of the Forum. Over 80 people attended the event
- ◆ working in partnership with the Merthyr Valleys Homes **RISE Project**. 56 tenants have been visited in 6 sheltered schemes and this has led to 31 referrals to third sector organisations
- ◆ organising a consultation event on the Welsh Government Mandatory **Concessionary Fares Scheme**. The event was attended by 15 members of the public
- ◆ increasing the uptake of flu vaccination by utilising the **flu "myth busting"** model with individual patients. Figures for Morlais Medical Practice showed an additional 221 vaccinations were given to the over 65's compared to the same period in the previous year and for under 65's there were an additional 62





- ◆ delivering 21 **flu myth busting** talks at Sheltered Housing Schemes with 100% positive evaluations from 228 participants
- ◆ rolling out the pilot "**Antibiotic Myths**" project into community groups enabling 28 sessions with 423 people.
- Facilitated the **Children and Young People Voluntary Organisations Forum (CYPVOF)** on a quarterly basis.
- Facilitated the **Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Forum** which has met on 6 occasions with 137 attendees.
- Held an inaugural **Environment and Green Spaces Network** which was attended by 49 participants. This followed a request from VAMT members to hold a networking/conference event for community groups primarily involved in environment and local conservation work. A second meeting was held and attended by 32 people.

- Delivered the **MAGNET (Community Voice)** project in its fifth and final year of delivery. The portfolio consisted of seven projects delivered by third sector organisations. The final independent evaluation was completed and was very positive. A celebratory event was held and the portfolio was held in high regard in the Big Lottery Funds own evaluation of Community Voice nationally.
- Delivered the **One Voice** project which worked with a variety of statutory and Third Sector organisations to effect change for people with disabilities.
- Contributed to the development of the **Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan**
- Supported the initial development of the **Community Zones** under the WG's 'Children First' umbrella in Gurnos
- Developed the **Cwm Taf Social Value Network with Interlink** and a conference was held in October. Following a successful launch and follow up meeting an event was held in March in collaboration with the Wales Co-production Network.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	2018			2017
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations and legacies	2,000	-	2,000	4,700
Income from charitable activities:				
Grants and contracts	190,542	1,149,989	1,340,531	1,675,099
Management fees	68,523	7,500	76,023	66,932
Income from other trading activities:				
Rent and accommodation income	62,060	-	62,060	70,901
Telephone and postage recharged	4,507	-	4,507	9,375
Training & financial income	14,714	-	14,714	270
Investment income	1,699	-	1,699	2,647
Other income	5,260	11,849	17,109	11,750
Total income	349,305	1,169,338	1,518,643	1,841,674
Expenditure				
Expenditure on charitable activities	360,979	1,340,817	1,701,796	1,571,529
Total Expenditure	360,979	1,340,817	1,701,796	1,571,529
Net (Expenditure)/ Income for the Year	(11,674)	(171,479)	(183,153)	270,145
Transfers between Funds	490	(490)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds	(11,184)	(171,969)	(183,153)	270,145
Funds Brought Forward	605,986	349,593	955,579	685,434
Funds Carried Forward	594,802	177,624	772,426	955,579

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2018

	2018	2017
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	282,125	305,759
Current Assets		
Debtors	244,333	138,934
Cash at bank and in hand	558,910	679,403
	803,243	818,337
Liabilities:		
Amounts falling due within one year	-	168,517
Net Current Assets	490,301	649,820
Net Assets	772,426	955,579
Funds		
Unrestricted income funds	594,802	605,986
Restricted income funds	177,624	349,593
Total Funds	772,426	955,579

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

BOARD AND STAFF MEMBERS

Board Members

Brian Lewis Chair
 Helen Thomas Vice Chair
 Paul Gray Treasurer
 Nicola Mahoney
 Ceinwen Statter (until November 2017)
 Maria Thomas
 Huw Williams
 Anne Roberts..... Acting Chair (from March 2018)
 Ruth Hopkins
 Mark Ward (from November 2017)

Volunteers

Lisa Matthews
 Susan Broad
 Angela Mahoney
 Pauline Rowe
 Craig Hill
 Diva Powell
 Helen Mahoney
 Louise McCabe

Staff Members

Alison Harris Third Sector Officer
 Bethan Evans Communities First - Family Liaison Key Worker
 Carol Hindley Administration and Finance Manager
 Claire Williams Communities First – Lead Officer
 Darcy White Clerical Assistant (until August 2017)
 Deanne Rebane Community Coordinator
 Elaine James..... Community Co-ordinator
 Frances Barry Volunteering Officer
 Hilary Edwards Deputy Chief Officer
 Ian Davy Chief Officer
 Karen Foley Volunteering Officer
 Ken Long Communities First South Cluster Manager
 Kendra Tarplee..... Communities First – Primary Family Support Officer
 Laura Johnson Administration and Finance Officer
 Lisa Toghill..... Digital Inclusion Officer Cwm Taf (from October 2017)
 Nia Williams..... One Voice Project Officer (until June 2017)
 Rachel Thomas Communities First – Lead Officer
 Rhonda Braithwaite . One Voice Project Officer (from September 2017)
 Sharon Richards..... Health and Social Care Facilitator / ICF Project Manager
 Susan Broad Clerical Assistant (from October 2017)

