



## Voluntary organisations working with individuals, families & communities



### Working for a robust and independent voluntary sector in Wales.

Over the coming year Talwrn is going to concentrate on three core areas:

- challenging and supporting the voluntary sector infrastructure in Wales
- supporting capacity building with voluntary organisations and the sector as a whole to develop a stronger, more confident, independent voice
- getting more money coming into Wales from charitable trusts and foundations

### Themes

Throughout last year Talwrn was thinking about the future of the sector in Wales and how we can contribute to building its capacity. We looked at leadership and sustainability; at how to measure social impact; at social enterprise and its potential and pitfalls; at humanising social care and at the relationship between the voluntary and public sectors in Wales.

In early 2017 we held two events to share some of our thinking with others and altogether people from around seventy organisations contributed their thinking:

<https://tinyurl.com/jvz7lxv>

Throughout 2017 we will be releasing articles that pull together the thinking on these subjects. Look out for these on our website [www.talwrn.org.uk](http://www.talwrn.org.uk) and in Welsh publications.

### WHO WE ARE

Talwrn is an independent group of people working in the Welsh voluntary sector who share a wish to see the sector grow in strength and build its capacity to tackle poverty and disadvantage in communities across Wales. We are not – and do not intend to become – a formal organisation, but rather a structure to promote peer support and help those working and volunteering in the Welsh voluntary sector to help each other.

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### CONTACT

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## How can we help?

Talwrn has received some funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation which means that we can offer other voluntary organisations:

- **help with peer mentoring support** – if you want to spend time with another organisation to learn about their work, or would like someone to spend time with you to share their experiences, Talwrn can help with the costs;
- **peer review of funding applications** – if you are preparing an application for funding and would welcome a ‘critical friend’ to look through it and comment before you send it off Talwrn can help; and
- **practical funding workshops / discussion groups** – an opportunity to get a few people to share understanding of

how to work with charitable trust and foundations.

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- **The first funding workshop/group will be held in the Rhondda on June 20<sup>th</sup> led by Stronger Rhondda Gryfach, and the next will be in Caernarfon in August and led by Sylfaen Cyf.**
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- The Talwrn approach is to start with sharing our experiences and insights but we can bring in outside help when that is useful. All suggestions are welcome. To get more information or request a workshop near
- you please contact Sarah Lloyd-Jones
- at [talwrn@peopleandwork.org.uk](mailto:talwrn@peopleandwork.org.uk).

## Interesting reading

**Listening for Change.** April 2017. Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Blagrave Trust have pulled together responses from over 640 social purpose organisations to a survey seeking their views on the relationship between foundations and those they fund in relation to trust, accountability, collaboration and communication.

<https://tinyurl.com/lgny4xu>

**Skills Survey 2016-17.** The Foundation for Social Improvement (FSI) conduct a biennial Small Charities Sector Skills Survey. The latest concludes that the delivery of training and skills support for small charities and community groups needs to be much more flexible.

<https://tinyurl.com/k5s9b3j>

**Shape Your Future:** the WCVA and Welsh CVCs commissioned this work to help map out the potential future role of the Welsh voluntary sector. There are two reports, one looking at future trends and the other setting out four scenarios of a future sector.

<https://tinyurl.com/my4wvt8>

**Local Authority Funding for Third Sector Services:** the Auditor General for Wales released this report in January 2017.

<https://tinyurl.com/kf3g94s>

**Resilient Communities:** the Bevan Foundation's March 2017 Exchange magazine issue focused on resilient communities.

<https://tinyurl.com/jwr9dwr>

**Improving Lives: helping workless families:** April 2017. This DWP report draws on information from the Millennium Cohort Study and the Understanding Society Survey and other sources to explore the impacts of worklessness. The 'next steps' focuses on UK Government plans, but the report provides some useful information.

<https://tinyurl.com/m566ro5>

If you have read anything recently that you think others would find helpful, please let us know.

## Focus on Funders

**The Rank Foundation** has three core themes in its funding priorities:

- Enterprise
- Care
- Leadership

their website

[www.rankfoundation.com/about/](http://www.rankfoundation.com/about/) explains more about these areas of work. The Rank Foundation offer grants and, under the Enterprise heading, loans. The website describes an approach that:

- reflects our independence and long term perspective
- actively nurtures and encourages partnerships and collaboration
- values learning and sharing
- balances the needs of current and future generations

As a funder the Rank Foundation wants to learn from the work and will spend time getting to know grant recipients. The Foundation operates through a process of 'engaged philanthropy' where they seek not just to fund charities but also to collectively develop intellectual capital through evaluation and learning from the work, and social capital through promoting networks and area based work. The Foundation runs an annual conference that seeks both to share what is being learned and stimulate new thinking.

**The Garfield Weston Foundation** is one of the largest charitable foundations in the UK, giving grants of around £60m a year. Its website [www.garfieldweston.org](http://www.garfieldweston.org) states that:

*The Trustees have a preference for charities directly delivering services and activities to those in need, and are especially keen to see applications from charities in the Welfare, Youth and Community sectors and also in regions of economic disadvantage*

The website sets out clearly the kind of work they support and provides information on recent grants (January – March 2017), of which around £275,000 came to Wales.

Garfield Weston will consider funding core costs and many of its recent grants (see the annual report on the website) have been to help organisations at a point of change to re-think their strategy, develop a business plan or improve their work

## Focus on Stronger Rhondda Gryfach

Started by a small group in 2015, we are a third or voluntary sector-led network of organisations, groups and individuals in Rhondda celebrating excellence and challenging indifference. We welcome positive, creative and critical dialogue and are open to all in the area. The network works positively with public and private sectors in the area but is very keen to maintain the third sector ethos, exploring new ways of being community in Rhondda as austerity cuts bite ever harder and taking risks with new projects and ideas.

Stronger Rhondda plays to each member organisation's strengths. For example, Spectacle Theatre created a

magical Charlie & the Chocolate Factory themed evening to celebrate the many brilliant volunteers in Rhondda and Phil Vickery, a local chef based at Blaencwm Chapel, made Roald Dahl themed food (including chocolate chicken legs!). Several celebratory events are planned in Rhondda this summer as part of existing festivals or as new events exploring the multiplicity of talents and skills in Rhondda. We seek to mix and match ages, sectors (e.g. sport and the arts), communities and interests, creating a greater awareness of volunteering, educational and employment opportunities in Rhondda and beyond.

For further information, check out the website: [www.strongerrhondda.wales](http://www.strongerrhondda.wales)

