



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

Event opportunities

WCVA with Participation Cymru is running co-production in practice training delivered through the medium of Welsh in early November, available in English in May

-They are also offering a course on working in partnership in February 2018

-WCVA are also providing a workshop on networking in November and again in March

CONTACT FOR INFO

Talwrn is running a series of informal discussion and networking sessions that focus on building capacity within voluntary organisations and fundraising from charitable trusts and foundations. If you would like to attend a session – or organize a session – contact Talwrn.

Talwrn can support mentoring support for community and voluntary organisations. Let us know if you are interested.

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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Interesting reading

Prosperity for All. Last month the Welsh Government revealed its national strategy to take its key commitments and place them in a long term context of how they fit within wider Welsh public service. The strategy emphasises involving people in shaping the services they use everyday. The strategy is based around the four themes in *Taking Wales Forward: i.e.* for Wales to be 1. Prosperous and Secure 2. Healthy and Active 3. Ambitious and Learning 4. United and Connected.

<https://tinyurl.com/y8igmfdf>

What can Wales do: Asset Based Policies and the Foundational Economy. June 2017. This report reviews the limits of main stream policies and policy making with a focus on the Swansea Bay City Deal and next generation industries. It argues for an alliance of state and non- state actors to work towards breaking down the barriers between economic and social policy and increase tangible welfare.

<https://tinyurl.com/ybp8zjvv>

Turnaround Towns: International Evidence. 2016. The report by the Carnegie UK Trust shows the findings of

a study presenting eight case studies of towns who had fallen on difficult times and the steps they took to address their local challenges. Most are in the US. It draws on themes of collaboration and strong leadership as instrumental in the turnaround process and the potential of using similar methods in the UK.

<https://tinyurl.com/y7gnv8o2>

The Future of Skills: Employment in 2030. September 2017. The report from Nesta builds from debates around jobs being at risk of automation and maps out how employment is likely to change and presents findings highlighting the skills likely to be in demand in the future.

<https://tinyurl.com/y9chdfyc>

Brexit: Implications for small and local charities and community groups. June 2017. The report presents findings of research and offers recommendations exploring charities' and groups' understanding of Brexit, perceived changes they foresee having to make to their organisations and concerns around funding.

<https://tinyurl.com/yd9248te>

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

Focus on Funders

The **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation** is one of the largest independent grant-makers in the UK. The Foundation focuses on work targeting the arts, children and young people, the environment and social change. In 2016 they made grants of £42.4 million. They also provide social investment in the form of different types of repayable finance to organisations which aim to create social impact.

On their website www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk Esmée Fairbairn state that they work to improve the quality of life for people and communities by funding work that is “building an inclusive, creative and sustainable society” rather than according to prescriptive criteria. The website also shows their ‘theory of change’:

- Reveal the unseen and champion the unpopular
- Strengthen and connect communities for change
- Catalyse system change
- Unlock and enable potential

The **Tudor Trust** is an independent grant-making charitable trust that fund a range of organisations supporting positive changes in people's lives and in their communities around the UK. They are interested in working with organisations with a strong understanding of challenges faced by communities they support and the difference they aim to make. On their website <http://tudortrust.org.uk/> the Trust note that they support organisations which:

- Display positive organisational characteristics
- Address marginalisation
- Make a difference

They are also willing to support untried work with uncertain outcomes provided it is sound and practical.

They are also keen to support work which “develops and promotes the social connections and relationships which make such an important contribution to the well-being and quality of life of individuals, and which strengthens communities”. In particular The Tudor Trust strive to help smaller groups that work directly with those on the margins of society encouraging inclusion, integration and independence. They are subsequently more likely to fund groups with an annual income of less than £1 million, with most of these being less than £500,000 in the form of core funding.

Focus on Tir Coed

Tir Coed is a charity and social enterprise that has been working with communities and woodlands in Wales since 1998. Based in Ceredigion the charity engages hard to reach people with woodlands through volunteering, training and activities that develop skills and improve woodlands. Over the years they have developed an engagement model that develops people as they progress from engagement through to employment. Thus not only does the charity support disadvantaged individuals in rural Wales but it also improves the health of the woodland and its accessibility for the benefit of the whole community. Tir Coed aim to make a

positive lasting change to the lives of those who engage with them as and the environment, the results of which can be seen in their project outcomes.

One example of their work can be seen in the Branching Out project (2010-2013) which worked in 4 counties in Wales to train disengaged young people in timber construction and woodland management. The project engaged with 150 NEET (not in education, employment or training) young people, with 70 gaining accreditation, 73% taking steps to gain employment following the course, 64% no longer NEET and 16 woodland sites were improved.

For further information, check out the website: <http://tircoed.org.uk/>

