

Cefnogir gan / Supported by



Media release

Issued: 9 January 2018

Public asked to vote for Wales's top third sector group

Members of the public are being invited to vote for Wales's 'most admired organisation' - the voluntary organisation they consider to be the best of the best.

The 2017 Third Sector Awards Cymru taking place next month honour third sector groups for work across seven categories, ranging from helping to improve the environment and people's health and social care to innovative ways of fundraising.

Judges will determine the outcome of six categories, but a public vote will be held to decide on the Class Networks award for the Most Admired Organisation.

Run by Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), the awards have a shortlist of 19 groups from across the country.

Jonathan Levy, Managing Director at Class Networks said: 'This is our 10th year supporting the Third Sector Awards Cymru. The organisations shortlisted for the most admired organisation award are all inspirational and deserve recognition for the work that they do in supporting their local communities. We wish them good luck and we would encourage the public to vote for their favourite.'

WCVA Chief Executive Ruth Marks said: 'Countless third sector groups all across Wales do inspirational things every day. The Third Sector Awards Cymru give them their moment in the spotlight.'

'The Class Networks award for the most admired organisation, our most prestigious category, honours the most respected organisations in Wales for their inspirational work and the causes they represent. We're asking people to decide who will take home the trophy this year by voting for their favourite.'

The Class Networks award for the most admired organisation - for organisations most respected for their inspirational work and the causes they represent.

Shortlisted organisations:

- A national charity helping struggling young people to ‘dream big’ empowered 58,000 of them to turn their lives around in just the past year.

The aim of the **Prince’s Trust Cymru** is to give 11 to 30-year-olds who are unemployed or struggling at school a chance to transform their lives through free programmes giving them the practical and financial support they need while helping them develop key skills.

‘Feedback from employers is that they are extremely happy with the calibre of young people interested in taking part, which proves how popular the programme has become due to the high quality training content and excellent outcomes the programmes have achieved,’ said Yvonne Hughes of DWP - Jobcentreplus.

‘Each young person benefits from one to one support and is offered further support/mentoring for up to six months - the figures show that last year they empowered 58,000 young people to turn their lives around.

‘I believe that the Prince’s Trust is the best thing since sliced bread!’ Yvonne added. ‘They boost young people’s confidence and motivation so they can continue to dream big.’

- Marginalised North Wales people are being given the opportunity to reveal their creative talent with the support of a ‘dynamic and outstanding’ co-production charity.

TAPE Community Music and Film, based in Old Colwyn, Conwy works with communities, third sector groups and public sector professionals to co-produce a wide range of creative activities, events and projects.

‘In essence, they facilitate others - mostly people from the margins of society - to tell their story,’ said Mark John-Williams of The Co-production Network for Wales, a Lottery-funded network of more than 1,000 co-production champions.

TAPE’s work includes co-producing creative arts workshops culminating in musical and film performances and an art exhibition; and creating with people affected by loneliness a film about the importance of friendship and community, which had a public screening at the North Wales Coastline Festival.

‘TAPE’s natural ability to include all people, in particular those who are most marginalised, is outstanding,’ Mark John-Williams added. ‘They are brilliant change-makers and facilitators who live and breathe a culture of enabling social justice, using creativity to unleash people’s assets to get across hugely important social and community issues.’

- A respite scheme helping dog owners across South Wales to keep their pets in times of crisis is one of the many achievements of inspirational animal charity **Hope Rescue**.

As well as rehoming hundreds of dogs in need, it runs a 'Hope in the Community' scheme, providing pet food and other pet sundries to food banks and support organisations helping owners on low incomes and those living on the streets, offering volunteering and work experience opportunities, campaigning for legislative change and promoting responsible ownership through education and community projects.

The canine respite scheme supports owners in crisis - for example, those suffering domestic abuse, homelessness or hospitalisation - to keep their dogs.

Jennifer Coleman-Humphreys of Penarth has championed the charity since adopting her dog Lacey from them. 'I've become a huge supporter of Hope's work and it's fair to say that they are so much more than "just" an animal rescue organisation,' she said.

'They moved in to their new rescue centre in April 2017, having previously operated through a network of foster homes and private boarding.

'Since then, they have made a huge impact on the local community through their outreach programme, whilst having had to massively increase their fundraising activities in order to cover the costs of running premises. All of this is achieved through a very small team of paid staff, supplemented by some very dedicated volunteers.'

- A charity that works to improve people's wellbeing, while at the same time protecting the environment, has helped the residents of 150 homes save £24,000 on their energy bills.

Groundwork North Wales is committed to improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales and focuses its activities where it can make the most difference to communities facing disadvantage.

It tackles such issues as worklessness, and fuel, food and furniture poverty, working in partnership with organisations across North Wales to ensure a greater understanding of the natural environment and how it can be protected.

'Groundwork North Wales has helped save people in fuel poverty over £24,000 off their energy bills through supported bill switching, as well as installing almost 2,000 energy efficiency measures in over 150 homes,' said Alison Hill of the Caia Park Partnership.

'I was also impressed by their activities which support young people into work, engaging with 135 young people through their green team with a retention rate of 89%.

'The diversity of their work and the commitment to the people of Wales is incredible. My team at Caia Park Partnership have delivered projects with them and have all commented on the passion, dedication and enthusiasm the staff at Groundwork bring to their project delivery.'

- The lives of older people across the South Wales valleys are being made better 'in every way' by a charity providing them with 'invaluable' support for the past 40 years.

Operating throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil, Pontypridd-based **Age Connects Morgannwg** runs services including information and advice, community outreach, support at home, nail cutting - and armchair yoga and dancing.

'There is nothing that they cannot help you with - their staff are always kind and helpful and nothing is too much trouble for them,' said Rhondda 50+ Forum Secretary Lynda Corre.

'Age Connects Morgannwg is an organisation that you can feel completely safe with - you know that they are looking after your interests at all times. Whatever problem you have they are there for you, they ensure that those who are most vulnerable and at risk are kept safe.

'They also encourage older people to get involved in speaking up for what they want and influence change. I cannot think of any other organisation that goes that extra mile to ensure the lives of older people are made better in every way.'

RCT Older Persons' Advisory Group Chair Angela Tritschler said Age Connects provided a hospital discharge service which was invaluable to people returning home, helping with shopping, building up people's confidence and also helping with possible depression which can often occur after periods in hospital.

'In this time of austerity, ACM stands out as a beacon of light and hope to many older people in these valleys,' she added.

- An award-winning youth organisation has been praised for the 'incredibly positive and powerful work' it does for the young people of Torfaen and beyond.

Cwmbran Centre for Young People (CCYP) and its social enterprise company Randomz are highly respected providers of opportunities. CCYP was the first recipient of the Welsh Government's Quality Mark for Youth Work in Wales Bronze Award, then the Silver, before becoming the first organisation to achieve the Gold Award.

One of its qualities is its willingness to work in partnership with the wider youth work and third sectors, the private sector and other agencies including the police, said Paul Glaze of CWVYS (the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services).

'Youth services in Wales are undergoing significant changes in terms of how they meet the needs of young people - and this has to be delivered in the context of fewer available financial resources, a need to be highly adaptable, the need for excellent change management abilities while at the same time designing and implementing innovative solutions,' he added.

'CCYP has these skills and abilities in abundance. All of its workers, volunteers and young people are real grafters; they know that huge efforts equal rewards for all -

training, volunteering, work-based learning, a job, apprenticeships and development of confidence, motivation and self-esteem in young people.

‘CWVYS is very pleased to be associated with CCYP and the incredibly positive and powerful work it delivers on behalf of the young people of Torfaen and beyond.’

- **Headway Cardiff & South East Wales** has improved the lives of hundreds of people affected by acquired brain injury, providing invaluable support to families and individuals.

Before the charity was set up by patients and their families - supported by therapists in Rookwood Hospital - those discharged from hospital were left with little or no ongoing support to cope with and adapt to the devastating consequences of brain injury.

Headway brings people together for mutual support and provides them with an holistic, personal and tailored approach. ‘It is a very responsive and agile organisation - if a gap is identified, an appropriate service is developed,’ said Cari Sowden-Taylor of Hugh James Solicitors.

The welfare benefits and counselling service provides one to one support to reduce the emotional impact, stress and financial anxiety that can come with brain injury.

‘For a small organisation of 15 full and part time staff, its total is more than its parts,’ Cari added. ‘Headway Cardiff & South East Wales is an inspiration to community groups. It shows that with determination, dedication and valued support, a great deal can be achieved.’

‘They haven’t waited for things to happen - they’ve made them happen and in doing so, have improved the lives of hundreds of people affected by acquired brain injury.’

Julie Smith, of Case Management Cymru, said that without Headway, many people would have nowhere to turn. ‘They liaise with professionals involved in people’s care to ensure there is a coordinated and consistent approach,’ she added.

‘However, for many people affected by acquired brain injury, because their disabilities are hidden, they can fall between services. Headway Cardiff & South East Wales provides a vital safety net which ensures people don’t get overlooked or forgotten.’

You can vote for your favourite organisation by visiting www.wcva.org.uk/TSACymru where you’ll find short videos of all the nominees. Polls close at **midnight 16 January 2018**.

<p>For more information please contact Simon Dowling or Lynne Reynolds on 0800 2888 329. WCVA website www.wcva.org.uk</p>
--

Notes to editors:

- WCVA is the national membership organisation for the third sector in Wales. Our vision is for the third sector and volunteering to thrive and improve well-being for all. We achieve this by influencing, connecting, and enabling.



Data Protection Act 1998 Contact details (name, address, organisation, tel, fax, emails) of press contacts are held and processed by WCVA on computer. The information is used by WCVA for the promotion of the voluntary sector in Wales. Contact details are disclosed to third parties for the purposes of assisting this promotion.

WCVA welcomes receiving correspondence in Welsh. We will respond to correspondence received in Welsh, in Welsh. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.

Swyddfa Gofrestredig - Prif Swyddfa

Tŷ Baltig, Sgwâr Mount Stuart
ffôn 0800 2888 329 ● ffacs 029 2043 1701
minicom 029 2043 1702 (defnyddiwch y cyhoeddwr)
ebost help@wcva.org.uk

Swyddfeydd hefyd yn y Rhyl ac Aberystwyth

Cadeirydd Peter Davies OBE
Is-Gadeiryddion Catriona Williams OBE
Prif Weithredwraig Ruth Marks MBE
Trysorydd Anrh Mair Gwynant ● **Ysgrifennydd** Tracey Lewis

Elusen gofrestrdig 218093
Cwmni cyfyngedig drwy warant 425299
Wedi ei gofrestru yng Nghymru
Rhif cofrestru TAW 736 645 09

Registered Office - Head Office

Baltic House, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff, CF10 5FH
tel 0800 2888 329 ● fax 029 2043 1701
minicom 029 2043 1702 (use announcer)
email help@wcva.org.uk

Offices also at Rhyl and Aberystwyth

Chair Peter Davies OBE
Vice-Chairs Catriona Williams OBE
Chief Executive Ruth Marks MBE
Hon Treasurer Mair Gwynant ● **Secretary** Tracey Lewis

Registered charity 218093
Company limited by guarantee 425299
Registered in Wales
VAT registration number 736 645 09

