

Sgiliau a Gwirfoddoli Cymru



Skills & Volunteering Cymru

Annual Report 2023/24

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Chair Report



I'm delighted to warmly welcome everyone to this year's Skills and Volunteering Cymru (SVC) annual report. It's been another exciting year to be involved with SVC where we've continued working to ensure a range of accessible opportunities are available to our beneficiaries, and volunteering opportunities available to our volunteers, right across Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale of Glamorgan. It's a pleasure to be able to highlight all of the progress we've made over the past year.

We have continued to ensure digital opportunities are available to beneficiaries who are more suited to, or have a preference for, this format, alongside our in-person opportunities. This ensures that beneficiaries are able to participate in a way that suits them best. Our digital inclusion officer has remained focussed on ensuring digital inclusion, and improving digital skills across SVC staff, volunteers and beneficiaries, remains a priority. This has involved undertaking a digital skills audit to identify potential areas for improvement and required training. Additionally, a range of digital training sessions were delivered by our partners Digital Communities Wales, encouraging upskilling in areas including; digital health and wellbeing, digital accessibility, social media usage and AI for beginners.

Chair Report

Alongside our focus on ensuring continued digital growth across SVC administration and projects, we've also put a particular focus on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) this year. Following on from the creation of our first EDI forum last year, we recruited both an EDI staff member and EDI trustee onto the board for the first time, to ensure EDI is integral to everything we do. Some of the work we've done over the past year included the creation of a new, more streamlined strategic plan, which is much more accessible than our previous version. The EDI committee have also worked in partnership with Innovate Trust to run an event where a panel were able to share their experiences of living and working with neurodiversity, and field questions from and have conversations with an audience.

Our communications trustees have also been at the forefront of our EDI agenda, utilising our social media platforms to raise awareness of our activities, opportunities and various social awareness campaigns. Monthly newsletters are now available to watch in video format as well as written format, so now people are able to engage with our communications in whichever way suits them best. October also saw the conclusion of a 12-month social media campaign in aid of black history awareness, which involved spreading information and resources across our community.

A range of new projects and initiatives have also been created with the intention of diversifying the range of opportunities available to our volunteers and beneficiaries. A recent project was designed to increase voting awareness and opportunities for groups who traditionally have very low voting numbers, including students and homeless populations. Resources designed to demonstrate how the process of voting works and to highlight the necessary steps needed to enable someone to vote have been delivered in advance of the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May. It is hoped that this will help more individuals feel able to be involved in democratic processes now, and in the future.

Chair Report

Other new funding streams and project opportunities have also opened up over the past year. We have launched an inclusive choir for our beneficiaries, and have recently started an inclusive sports project, which so far has seen us offer accessible cheerleading and korfbal sessions for beneficiaries. We hope to be able to offer additional opportunities over the coming year to ensure we're capturing the interests of as wide a range of beneficiaries as possible.

Over the last year SVC has also seen the success of our international exchange programme, with funding support from Taith. In July, a group of 10 young people in Wales aged under 25 visited Catalonia, for an opportunity to develop new skills and to experience a range of international volunteering opportunities centred around youth work and social action. A few weeks later, a group of young people from Catalonia visited Wales. During their visit the young people were able to volunteer on a range of SVC's core projects, attend a Welsh language workshop, and experience key points of interest across Cardiff. These visits came to fruition through engagement between SVC staff and the government youth office in La Selva, Catalonia, during which SVC were able to share knowledge and experience a different volunteering landscape. Staff were able to work with over 15 youth organisations in Norway and Canada, which have helped SVC to understand different ways of working and grasp potential opportunities for new and innovative projects.

We have also seen a range of one-off volunteering opportunities offered through events including Winter Giving Week and Student Volunteering Week, which have offered different types of opportunities for volunteers to engage with. This year also sees SVC go through the process of renewing our Investing in Volunteers accreditation. A big thank you to everyone who has worked so hard on our renewal and we look forward to hearing the outcome of our assessment in April.

Chair Report

Our Environmental Committee, led by our Environmental Officer, have also been working hard to update the environmental aims and objectives in SVC's strategic plan, to ensure that environmental impacts are considered across all areas of SVC's work. Work is also ongoing to redefine the scope and purpose of the committee, and to consider the environmental impact of current projects, and where we may be able to introduce new environmentally focussed volunteering opportunities.

Looking forward, SVC has put a real focus on expanding our training provision and offering regular free training sessions for the SVC community this year. It is hoped that this will help everyone involved with SVC to upskill and provide a useful learning base for volunteering and career development.

None of our achievements over the past year, or indeed over the past 50 years, would have been possible without the support, dedication and commitment of everyone associated with SVC. Firstly, with great thanks to our patrons Amanda Coffey and Baroness Finlay of Llandaff for your continued support. I would also like to thank our partnering organisations and funders, without whom none of our fantastic projects would be able to take place, which would be to the detriment of our local community. Special mentions go to Innovate Trust, Cardiff University, University of South Wales and Cardiff Metropolitan University for their continued support.

Chair Report

To our board of trustees who continue to demonstrate unwavering commitment and support to SVC. Seeing our trustees come together and volunteer their time and skills in a multitude of different ways to support the progression and growth of SVC is fantastic. In their roles as trustees, and for some as volunteers or lead volunteers also, each and every board member provides great support to the charity and is valued greatly.

A massive thank you is of course owed to our brilliant staff team. Despite significant changes to the staff team over the past year and the loss of some of our longer standing staff members; Ad, Emma, Shamima, Charlotte, Mia, Daniel and Lucymay have all done a fantastic job at keeping all of our projects and activities running smoothly, while working to safeguard the charity's future through scoping additional projects and funding opportunities. I couldn't be more impressed with how much you're able to achieve as such a small team!

Final thanks must go to our volunteers, without whom none of SVC's important work would be possible. Seeing new volunteers giving their time alongside long-standing volunteers to provide invaluable opportunities to beneficiaries in our local community is a joy, and something which makes me very proud to be a part of this brilliant organisation. I can't wait to see what SVC are able to achieve over the next year!

Best wishes,

Heidi Smith



Vision, Mission & Values

Our Vision

Our vision is to build stronger, more inclusive communities, creating opportunities for people to develop skills, have new experiences and bring people together. We want volunteering in South Wales to be part of everyday life, where all members of the community are encouraged to “give a little and gain a lot”.

Our Mission

Our mission is to enhance the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable members of the local community through volunteering.

Our Values:

Accountability

We use our resources effectively by tackling identified needs and issues through our projects. We constantly monitor and evaluate our work and it is paramount to us that we are accountable to volunteers, beneficiaries, supporters and partners.

Collaboration

We work alongside a number of diverse partners to ensure we deliver the best and most comprehensive services to both our volunteers and beneficiaries.

Empowerment

Our projects are designed to empower vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals by supporting them to overcome identified barriers. We empower our volunteers by giving them real responsibility and ownership over their projects, enabling them to make lasting change to individual lives and gain valuable transferable skills.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

At SVC we are proud to provide inclusive services by offering opportunities to all, regardless of age, race, gender, disability, culture or religion.

Passion

We pride ourselves on the spirit of the SVC community - we're passionate about volunteering and the impact it has on people's lives.



2023-24 Team

Staff

Adrienne Earls - SVC Manager

Emma Dixon - Team Leader

Charlotte Lavery - Project Coordinator

Georgia Parker - Project Coordinator

Johnny Ling - Project Coordinator

Kumba Sillah - Project Coordinator

Lucymay Treacy - Project Coordinator

Mia Bromley - Project Coordinator

Shamima Aktar - Project Coordinator

Daniel Mapatac - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Officer

2023-24 Team

Board of Trustees

Heidi Smith - Chair

Rebecca King - Vice Chair

Nicole Hughes - Treasurer

Kieran Vass - Secretary

Hassan Ahmed - Communications & Marketing

Rhian Fish - Communications & Marketing

Grace Piddington - Digital Officer

Kuban Freeman - EDI Trustee

Sophie Smith - Environmental Trustee

Huw Williams - Events & Fundraising

Kelly Fenton - Events & Fundraising

Emma Board-Davies - General Trustee

Henry Morris - General Trustee

Jess Rumble - General Trustee

Karen Harvey-Cooke - General Trustee

Lucie Mathison - General Trustee

Gavin Hawkey - Associate Trustee

Josie Davies - Associate Trustee

Lucy John - Associate Trustee

Rhian Perridge - Associate Trustee

2023-24 Team

Lead Volunteers

Alisha Jenkins - LOL Fridays Lead Volunteer
Cerys Griffiths - LOL Fridays Lead Volunteer
Klaudia Zwawaik - LOL Fridays Lead Volunteer
Mair Wilcox - LOL Fridays Lead Volunteer
Abhilash Kamalaranjith - NHS Lead Volunteer
Alejandra Lozano - NHS Lead Volunteer
Chantal Shrestha - NHS Lead Volunteer
Charmaine Ho - NHS Lead Volunteer
Ching Ting Tiffany Chow - NHS Lead Volunteer
Grace Avison - NHS Lead Volunteer
Ira Ovalekar - NHS Lead Volunteer
Lauren Jenkins - NHS Lead Volunteer
Lucy Martin - NHS Lead Volunteer
Matthew Skinner - NHS Lead Volunteer
Mia Carne - NHS Lead Volunteer
Teale Griffin - NHS Lead Volunteer
Emily Marshall - Young Carers Club Lead Volunteer
Milly Carter - Young Carers Club Lead Volunteer
Rajaa Al Hosni - Young Carers Club Lead Volunteer
Robyn Wright - Young Carers Club Lead Volunteer

Updates

Digital Strategy

Over the last year, our staff team has seen quite a few changes! We took this opportunity to re-establish our connections with Digital Communities Wales and undertake their Digital Skills Audit. We had a 100% participation rate from our staff teams and board members! Through this audit we were able to gain a better understanding not only of our skills, but also of the ways in which we want to continue to integrate digital technology into our projects. We received our results alongside a customized training menu with sessions which were available to our staff team, board and volunteers including introductions to Digital Health and Wellbeing, Learning Welsh with Digital Tools and Artificial Intelligence for Beginners.

We have continued to attend quarterly Digital Inclusion Alliance for Wales Meetings and have worked with the wider alliance to embed digital inclusions within organisations across Wales. The second agenda of the DIAW was launched last year, and we are now receiving impact reports for each priority. As an organisation we are proud to be collaborating and championing digital inclusion.

Finally, we have updated our strategic plan across the entire organisation, including streamlining our digital aims for the next five years. Our overarching goal is to incorporate digital technology into our work to improve the accessibility of our services and foster inclusive communication across SVC. We will work towards this by holding beneficiary steering groups, offering free training through our renewed partnership with DCW and empowering Digital Champions within SVC who are confident to support others!

- Grace Piddington, Digital Trustee

Updates

Environmental Strategy

This year has been a time of reflection at SVC regarding our Environmental work. We have taken a step back to reflect and review the environmental opportunities that we provide and how we can work to become a more sustainable organisation.

The Environmental Committee has been working on streamlining our strategic plan and identifying what SVC's environmental aims and objectives are over the next few years.

Additionally, the SVC staff team have also been reflecting on how each of our volunteering projects can be more sustainable and where we can reduce waste or make sustainable choices when purchasing resources for projects. Additionally, the staff team have all set themselves individual goals for them personally including; recycling through Terracycle, eating less meat, and being mindful when purchasing personal items e.g clothing, homewares etc.



Updates

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

EDI is embedded into every aspect of SVC's project delivery. We pride ourselves on being an organisation that celebrates diversity, and strives to develop both equity and inclusion across all areas of our work.

This year we have focused on three main threads within EDI.

1. Increasing the training provision on offer for the SVC community, by offering regular free training courses for all within digital inclusion, health & wellbeing, employability skills - to name a few.
2. Inclusive Sports – we are passionate about everyone being given access to, and the support required to access sport. We have so far delivered accessible cheerleading and korfball.
3. Resources to raise awareness of the voting processes in our area, with a focus on supporting people experiencing homelessness and students to vote.

This year was also the first year we introduced an EDI Trustee on our Board of Trustees, Kuban Freeman.

SVC International Exchange Project

This year saw SVC's first ever international exchange as part of the Taith Wales International Exchange Programme, with SVC staff visiting organisations in Catalonia, Canada & Norway to learn how organisations in those locations run volunteering opportunities and their best practices.

Emma & Georgia visited Toronto in May 2023 meeting with; Volunteer Toronto, Conestoga College, Centennial College and George Brown College to discuss their volunteering opportunities and how they support their volunteers and the training they provide to volunteers. This was followed by Johnny & Kumba visiting organisations in Oslo in June including; Changemaker, Filipino Helping Society in Norway, Oslo University and Norsk Start.

The exchange programme then culminated in SVC's first ever international volunteer exchange, with a group of 10 SVC volunteers and 3 SVC staff embarking on an 8 day trip to Catalonia.

During the trip the group were joined by a group of young people hosted by a team from La Selva and undertaking a variety of opportunities including; Team building games, visiting the Mona foundation which rescues primates that have been pets or used in the media, hosting summer camp activities for young people, walking dogs at a local shelter, visiting the Emys Foundation who undertake the conservation of wetlands and forests and supports the conservation of native species, beach cleans and a visit to Girona to learn about the work that local government undertake to support young people.

SVC International Exchange Project

Following the trip to Catalonia, SVC then hosted the group from Catalonia for a visit to Cardiff.

This included; a visit to Cardiff Museum and Llandaff Cathedral, volunteering with Innovate Trust at St Fagans, volunteering at an indoor accessible sports day, volunteering with Innovate Trust at their accessible Kayaking session, a Welsh language workshop, volunteering a Laugh Out Loud (LOL) Fridays, and geocaching in Bryn Bach Park.

The exchange project has enabled SVC to learn best practices from other organisations and reflect on changes and opportunities that we can make and provide within our organisation. Additionally, the Catalonia exchange enabled SVC to provide volunteers with the opportunity to experience a different culture, meet organisations undertaking valuable work, and engage in new volunteering opportunities.

“It developed my confidence and interpersonal skills in general as well as allowing me to experience many new things and helped me have one of the best experiences of my life so far.”

SVC International Exchange Project



Volunteer Testimonials

It's been so much fun to lead a team of volunteers and see everyone grow and learn through the project. Running activities with the patients has been one of my highlights every week through final year uni; it is so rewarding to grow bonds with patients and other volunteers. The training opportunities are fab too!

- Grace

I've learned a lot about patience and empathy and seen firsthand the importance of mental health support. One highlight has been witnessing breakthrough moments that show the power of caring. This experience has fueled my passion for mental health advocacy and shown me the vital role volunteers play in promoting well-being.

- Lauren

Volunteering on the NHS placement scheme has been an incredibly fulfilling experience. It's been so lovely to interact with patients and help create positive experiences for them on the wards.

- Ira

As a police volunteer, my time on this project has not only been about providing a safe passage for those in need, particularly students and individuals, but also about fostering a sense of security, trust, and community support, a testament to our collective commitment to creating a safer, more caring environment for everyone.

-Basil

Being a part of the Befriending Project has filled my life with purpose. My beneficiary and I exchange laughs, memories, and our regular coffee dates have been awesome. Knowing that I can brighten their day and have a positive impact makes me fulfilled and happy

- Chioma

I have had a positive and rewarding experience and it makes me feel great as I am making a positive impact on my beneficiary's life

- Yasna

Volunteer Testimonials

The opportunity to be part of the Befriending Project has been one of the greatest decisions I have ever made. I enjoy every session with my beneficiary and seeing that she becomes more comfortable & open about herself in front of me makes me feel so fulfilled and happy. It also boosts my confidence by doing something meaningful during my time in University
- Nikki

The project is very enjoyable for both me and my beneficiary and it is also teaching me a wide range of communication skills
- Aleyna

Seeing my beneficiary become more independent and develop their interpersonal skills has been so rewarding
- Daniel

I have loved my time organising Young Carers trips and working with other amazing individuals, and I hope to continue working with SVC and their voluntary activities in the future.
- Milly

The Befriending Project has been an incredibly positive change in my life. Spending time with my beneficiary has been exceedingly fun, I have gained immeasurable confidence and, most significantly, I have had the opportunity to learn about the real experience of a person with learning disabilities which has been truly enjoyable and rewarding
- Alex

Statistics Overview



380
Volunteer
Opportunities



8448
Beneficiaries



12,000 Hours



270,018
Estimated Volunteer
Value

Health & Social Care



Charlotte Lavery &
Lucymay Treacy

Befriending

The Befriending project matches a volunteer with an adult with additional needs supported by Innovate Trust, with the pair then meeting for a couple of hours a week either out in the beneficiary's home or out in the community. The principal aims of the project is for the befrienders to build skills, have fun, and make a new friend!

Volunteers are placed across the 3 localities of Innovate Trust service-users, including: Cardiff, The Vale and RCT. Befrienders have been creative in what they get up to, with the value of a lunch out just as highly appreciated as quality time spent together in the home.

We are proud to say volunteer demographics have also expanded this year, with an increase in mature and/or male volunteers, essential in increasing the scope of the project and something we are keen to build upon moving forwards.



Health & Social Care

Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning is a project ran on a Friday morning fortnightly in RCT. It is a relaxed project, where attendees usually complete a craft activity, followed by some coffee & cake, and finish up with an informal game of bingo – all made possible by two fantastic community volunteers. Sessions are often seasonally themed (e.g. St David's Day), and we have recently begun a pen-pal project between regular coffee morning attendees and our friends at Discovery Swansea.



Health & Social Care

Club Night

Our Accessible Club Night takes place at The Moon Club in Cardiff, every last Wednesday of the month. Club Night creates an accessible and safe clubbing environment for anyone with additional needs to attend. The aim of the project is to bring people together to have a dance, meet new people, and catch up with friends. The event is staff and volunteer led, by Richie who is a long-standing volunteer and 2 rotating student volunteers. They welcome people at the door, take money and get stuck in chatting with the attendees.

We are sad to announce the passing of our regular DJ Bryn, whose humour and warmth will be greatly missed.



Health & Social Care

Out & About RCT

Out & About RCT is a project that began in 2023, where we organise one monthly evening activity in the RCT area for adults with additional needs. Outings usually happen on a Thursday evening, and activities have included Bowling, Cinema and a recent fan favourite – Bingo! This project continues to evolve, and we intend for this project to become completely volunteer-led in 2024.



Health & Social Care

Shiny Happy People ‘You’ve Got a Friend’

Kate & Stef aka ‘Shiny Happy People’ continue to run their hugely popular daytime disco every Wednesday in RCT. Now in its fourth year, the project has relocated to Capel Farm Community Resource Centre in Tonyrefail and continues to create a fantastic sense of community, with beneficiaries, staff and volunteers all coming together to have a sing, dance and lots of laughs. The project is also hybrid with beneficiaries attending online and being able to wave to their friends through the large projector screen!

Shiny Happy Choir

Following a hugely successful 6-week pilot of Christmas Song Singing at ‘You’ve Got a Friend’, we have recently launched our Shiny Happy Choir at V21 Sbectrwm Centre. Our inclusive choir is open to any adult with additional needs, supported by a team of community volunteers with great skills, including guitar and sign-language. We are so excited to see the choir evolve, and hear what they get up to.



Health & Social Care

Fantastic 4

This year Fantastic 4 was able to resume in person for the first time since before the pandemic. Charlotte & Lucymay worked hard to plan and run 3 parties, attended in total by over 250 beneficiaries.

This year this included a spooky Halloween party, with fancy dress and DJ. A Christmas 'Get-Together', with live music from duo 'McDermott & North' and Dance with Georgia. And our biggest Valentines party to date, complete with a photo booth, full bar, Shiny Happy People, DJ set, and karaoke.

The success of these events is testament to the hard work and enthusiasm of a team of community and in-person volunteers.

Our volunteer team ensured our service users had an absolute blast through various jobs: setting the events up and down, manning the bar, and even having a sing on karaoke. We are looking forward to finishing the calendar of Fantastic 4 events with a Summer Extravaganza.



Health & Social Care

Fantastic 4 (Digital)

As-well as our in-person Fantastic 4, we continued to support 3 members of our fantastic Peer-Led Team to run a digital version of our parties for Insight members. So far this year the team have organised Halloween and Christmas events, complete with a range of entertainment and interactive opportunities for members. The team's next project is an online drag queen party, and we are really excited to see this take place. Well done team!

Digital Projects: Entertainer-Led Sessions

Sessions are promoted and accessed through the Insight App: an accessible and safe social media app created by Innovate Trust as a place for adults with learning disabilities to enjoy online activities.

Dance with Georgia

Georgia is a professional dancer, who runs a fun and uplifting weekly digital dance class every Friday at 2pm. Participants dance along with and copy Georgia, but also are encouraged to lead themselves on certain songs. Our regulars love to give Georgia a challenge with their song requests, and it is always a lovely end to the week.

Health & Social Care

Chris Kelly

Chris is a professional singer who has been running weekly online sessions for SVC for over 3 years, playing his guitar and singing. He is fantastic individual, who is always up for a chat with the 'Tuesday Gang' and keen to give any song requests a go, no matter how wild. This year we have started having themed music sessions, with some highlights including: Girl Bands (for International Women's Day), and songs from Movies & Films. His sessions are really popular and deeply appreciated.



Health & Social Care

Zumba with Eliana

Throughout the last year, digital weekly Zumba sessions, instructed by the wonderful Eliana, have continued to be enjoyed by our regular and new attendees! The sessions now take place on a Monday afternoon, giving the gang a great mood boost to start the week. Eliana's 30 minute sessions consist of a range of upbeat Zumba tracks, and make it an easy and accessible way to fit exercise into the participants day!

Drama with Izzy

Izzy is one of our more ad-hoc digital entertainers, running online drama sessions every 2-3 months. Her inclusive sessions run for one hour and encourage attendees to be creative, have a giggle, and practice their drama skills. The group partakes in drama aerobics which is a set of different dramatic moves to a song of the group's choice, followed by Show & Tell. To finish off, the group create a story that is both imaginative and funny, which they all act out afterwards.

Health & Social Care

Accessible Sport Tasters

This year we are aiming to provide more accessible sport opportunities to our beneficiaries. In January we hosted an accessible Korfbal session, led by the Cardiff Raptors team. It was a fantastic taster and everyone really enjoyed!

In the coming months we are planning for outdoor sports at our Summer Picnics, and an inclusive Cheerleading session with Lucymay.

Travel Training

We are currently piloting a travel training scheme, to increase confidence in our beneficiaries using public transport. This is in response to an appetite for practical skill development as both a goal for our beneficiaries post-Covid, and a desire to bring about actionable change through our volunteers. We are intending for this to become a volunteer-led project in 2024, perhaps in conjunction with certain Befriending pairs.

Children & Young People

Be Friends



Shamima Aktar

Our "Be Friends" project is a befriending project for children and young people aged 5-18 with physical and/or learning disabilities. Volunteers operate in pairs, offering weekly sessions either at our beneficiary's house or engaging in various activities around Cardiff, such as bowling, cinema, trampolining, rock climbing, escape rooms and more.

The aim of our project is to help our beneficiaries develop their social skills and independence whilst providing access to enjoyable activities, and offering valuable respite for families.

Thanks to partnerships with Cardiff University School of Medicine and Cardiff Metropolitan University, the project has been able to support a large number of beneficiaries this year as well as our lovely general volunteers from the community.

It has been great witnessing the bonds between our beneficiaries and volunteers as well receiving such positive feedback after sessions.

Children & Young People

Young Carers Club Teens

I started my role as a lead volunteer for teens Young Carers Club during my undergraduate degree. I have ended up continuing the role even once I graduated. Our club provides a great opportunity for Cardiff teens to socialise and catch up away together, away from school and family life. It gives the teens a chance to think about themselves, and chat with other teens and with the volunteers. We try to keep the trips new and fun, for everyone to enjoy together. Some of our favourite trips include the BBC building tour and white-water rafting, the cinema trips are always a favourite too! We have an escape room and VR experience coming up this year which we are all looking forward to. It is always lovely meeting the new teens, and we also have a huge volunteering group who join us on the trips. It is lovely having such a mix of ages and backgrounds each time. I have loved my time organising these trips and working with other amazing individuals, and I hope to continue working with SVC and their voluntary activities in the future.

Milly Carter - Young Carers Club Lead Volunteer

Children & Young People

Laugh Out Loud (LOL) Fridays

The LOL project is a fortnightly social club for children and young people with Down's Syndrome.

This is held in person where our volunteers over the last year have put on different activities such as karaoke, baking, dance, movie nights and even trips out to bowling and a meal at 5 Guys, which is always a favourite!

This project aims to help our beneficiaries gain independence, develop social skills and also feel comfortable to be themselves whilst being involved in great activities. Our volunteers strive to help create a fun, safe and supported environment where everyone can engage altogether, which in turn helps build confidence and communication skills throughout sessions.

It is always a joy seeing the smiles on our beneficiaries faces whilst at LOL!

Children & Young People

EYST

SVC has continued to work in partnership with EYST (Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support Team) this year to provide additional academic support to Black and Minority Ethnic young people.

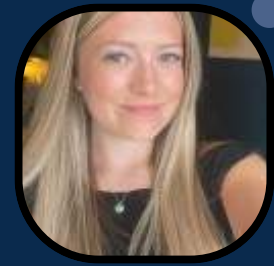
EYST was set up in 2005 by a group of ethnic minority young people, aiming to fill a gap in provision for young people from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds aged 11-25 by providing a targeted, culturally sensitive and holistic support service to meet their needs.

EYST run a Homework Club to support young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds with mainly English and Maths tuition but other subjects are considered where needed. In this club, volunteers aged 16+ are matched with a young person based on their specialised subject and the young person's need, to provide weekly tutoring digitally.

Children & Young People



Community & NHS



Mia Bromley

NHS Placement Scheme

Our NHS Placement Scheme project in partnership with Cardiff and Vale University Health board has continued to grow and develop this year. We have expanded the project to cover 18 wards, working with University Hospital Wales, St Davids Hospital, University Hospital Llandough, Hafan Y Coed Unit and Park Road. Volunteers provide support in a variety of settings including acute mental health wards, older adult mental health wards and rehabilitation wards. In October, we successfully recruited 12 lead volunteers, 61 general volunteers and 12 reserve volunteers on to the project.

The primary aim of this project is to reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness in patients by providing meaningful companionship to individuals facing mental health-related challenges. Our committed volunteers dedicate two hours per week to engage with patients and facilitate a diverse range of activities. Recognising the therapeutic value of social interaction and engagement, our volunteers work in small groups, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where patients can connect with volunteers and form meaningful relationships.

Community & NHS

NHS Placement Scheme

The activities facilitated by our volunteers varies depending on their ward allocation. For those volunteering on acute mental health wards, activities include mindful colouring, board games and arts & crafts. For those on older adult wards, activities include games, reminiscence activities and general befriending to evoke memories and encourage mental stimulation. Finally, for those volunteering on rehabilitation wards and houses, activities are more varied and can include games nights, pamper sessions, crafts and baking/cooking, empowering patients with valuable life skills, while fostering a sense of community.

We look forward to continuing to grow and develop this project over the coming years. With the ongoing support of our dedicated volunteers, we are confident that our project will continue to thrive, making a meaningful difference to the lives of those we support.

Community & NHS

Community Dementia Group

We have recently developed a new relationship with 'Solace', a service that sits within Mental Health Services for Older People at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. Solace aims to provide support and education to carers of people who have been diagnosed with a dementia, depression, bipolar or late on-set psychosis over the age of 65. As part of this service, Solace run a community group once a week in Fairwater for adults with dementia and their caregivers. The session provides meaningful activity for those who live with dementia, while also offering respite to caregivers, reducing stress and maintaining social links. To support this project, our SVC volunteers play a vital role in fostering a warm and inviting atmosphere within the group, encouraging involvement in activities which promote wellbeing, enjoyment and creativity.

Community & NHS

Huggard Centre Project

Over the last few months, we have successfully re-developed our project at the Huggard Centre. The Huggard centre are Wales' leading centre for people who are homeless and sleeping rough, and have supported individuals for over 30 years. This year, a group of volunteers have set up a social club at the centre, where they visit the centre for two hours per week. The social club allows for volunteers to befriend clients and facilitate a range of engaging activities. These have included quizzes, bingo, mini golf, a summer barbeque and a Christmas party.

Through these sessions, volunteers are able to build relationships with clients, aiming to improve well-being and reduce stress. Looking forward, we hope to continue this project and offer more opportunities for clients to upskill and get involved in volunteering opportunities such as community gardening.

Community & NHS

Police Volunteer Project (Cardiff & the Vale)



Emma Dixon

The Police Volunteer project in Cardiff & the Vale has continued to grow from strength to strength over the last year, with our volunteers supporting over 900 vulnerable individuals to a place of safety in the night time economy on the safety bus. Our volunteers also provided crime prevention advice to over 2500 residents during the crime prevention walkabouts.

Additionally our volunteers have supported with; bike marking events, LGBTQ+ engagement events, role play support for team training within the police, knife crime prevention events engaging with young people across Cardiff, emergency services open days, fresher's fayres & events, taxi 'mystery shopper' - supporting the licensing team in Cardiff Council to identify 'rogue' taxi drivers, they have also supported at Cardiff's pride parade and at the Cowbridge Christmas parade.

Community & NHS



One-Off Volunteering

Winter Giving Week



Christmas Party in Wenvoe

Amidst twinkling lights and festive tunes, our first event in Wenvoe was a joyful celebration for adults with learning and physical disabilities. Volunteers, staff, and a live band, Mcdermott & North, filled the air with joy. Dance with Georgia led an enchanting session, making it a delightful experience for all involved. Thank you to our 5 volunteers who helped organise the party, and to all 35 beneficiaries who came along!

Inclusive Cheerleading

SVC offered a cheerful opportunity to learn Christmas cheers. Despite minimal experience, everyone joined in for an inclusive cheerleading session, creating an atmosphere brimming with positivity and holiday spirit.

Huggard Christmas Party

Volunteers and beneficiaries came together to organise a heartwarming Christmas celebration for those experiencing homelessness. With engaging games, a festive quiz, and a generous buffet, it was an afternoon filled with laughter and joy. Thank you to the 7 wonderful volunteers who helped create a festive atmosphere in the Huggard Centre and to the 30 beneficiaries that got involved on the day!

Neurodiversity Panel Event

Zoom came alive with engaging discussions as individuals who identify as neurodivergent shared their unique experiences. SVC hosted a panel discussion that shed light on diverse perspectives, fostering understanding and empathy. We were very excited to hear from some of SVC's volunteers!



One-Off Volunteering

Winter Giving Week



Christmas Card Making

Thank you to Innovate and Cartrefi for inviting us along to their Christmas Card Making session. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet with new people, share the festive spirit and get creative.

Christmas Coffee Morning

The Christmas Coffee Morning was a delightful affair where volunteers and beneficiaries crafted beautiful Christmas cards for hospital patients. A bingo game, delectable treats, and warm conversations in cosy Christmas jumpers added to the festive ambience. We had a wonderful turnout of 4 fantastic volunteers and 8 beneficiaries who each helped to create Christmas cards for those in hospital during this festive season.



One-Off Volunteering

Student Volunteering Week

Ronald McDonald

SVC volunteers and staff joined forces for a heart-warming Garden Clean Up at Ronald McDonald House, a haven for seriously ill children and their families. Together, we dedicated our time to sprucing up the garden area, creating a tranquil retreat for those facing difficult times. Through our collaborative efforts, we aimed to cultivate a warm and welcoming environment, spreading joy and comfort to all who visit.

Dog Walking

SVC volunteers embarked on an uplifting Dog Walking adventure at Cardiff Dog's Home supported by The Rescue Hotel. With guidance from Cath at the Dog's Home, our volunteers had the opportunity to lend a helping hand to our furry friends in need. Together, we braved the outdoors, providing much-needed exercise, love and companionship to the dogs awaiting their forever homes. It was a day filled with wagging tails, wet noses, and the joy of making a difference in the lives of these lovable canines.

The Secret Garden

SVC volunteers traded their shoes for wellies at The Secret Garden, working alongside adults with additional needs. With thanks to Pete for his assistance in organising the day, three dedicated volunteers engaged in conservation work, dedicating around four hours to the task. Despite challenging weather conditions, they persevered, contributing their time and effort to enhance the beauty of the Secret Garden at St Fagans.



One-Off Volunteering

Student Volunteering Week

Solace: Room Painting

Situated at Park Road, Solace provides crucial support and education to carers of individuals diagnosed with dementia, depression, bipolar disorder, or late-onset psychosis over the age of 65. Our volunteers gave up several hours of their time to preparing and painting the walls, ceiling, and doors of one of Solace's communal rooms, aiming to create a warm and inviting space for its residents. Mia & Charlotte led two groups ensuring the project's successful completion and leaving a lasting impact on Solace's community.

Bingo

SVC organized a special Bingo Trip to Castle Bingo for adults with additional needs. This out-and-about session was a delightful opportunity for one volunteer to experience the thrill of bingo for the first time, guided by the seasoned expertise of the beneficiaries. Adding to the excitement, our group was joined by Liam, all the way from Scotland, marking his first in-person meeting with SVC.

Coffee Morning for adults with disabilities

This cheery gathering was filled with meaningful activities, including penning letters to our friends at Discovery. For those opting out of letter writing, there were jigsaw puzzles and crafts to enjoy. The event wrapped up on a high note with a lively round of Bingo!

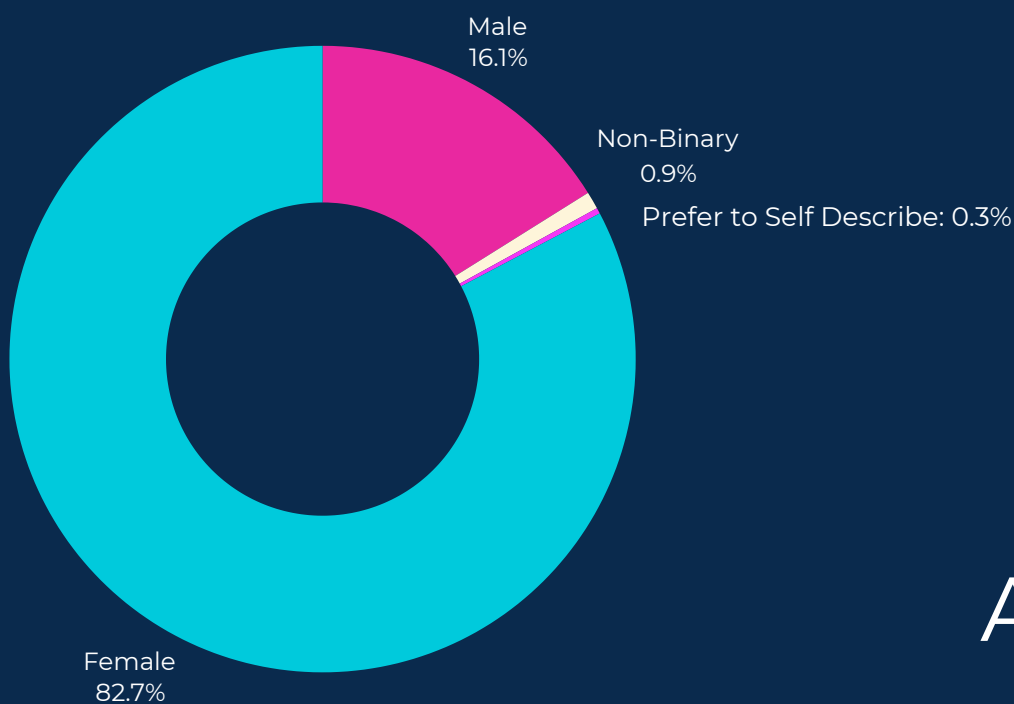


Volunteer Demographics

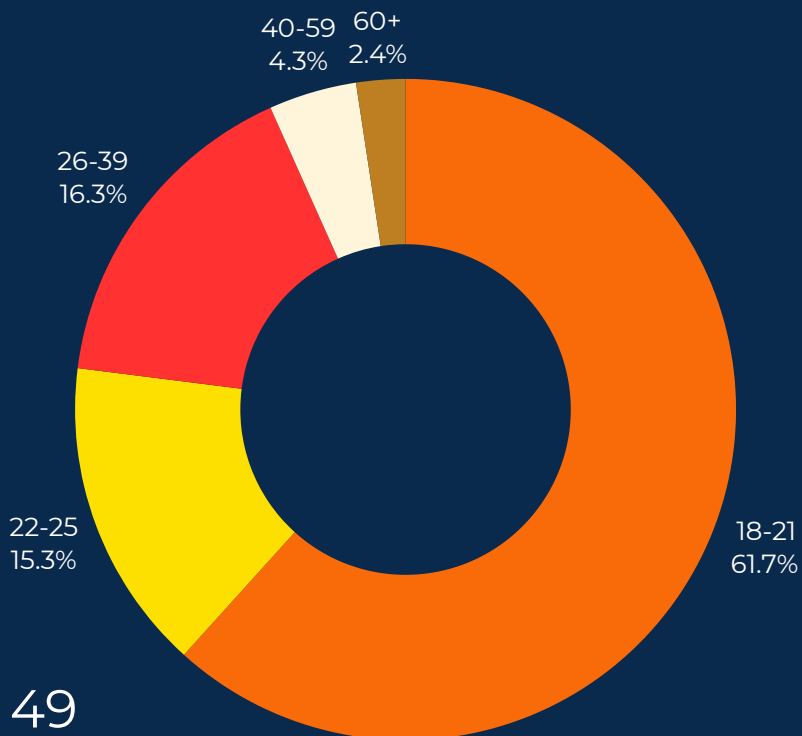
NB: The following demographics represent the information voluntarily provided by SVC's volunteers.

Volunteers who register with SVC are not required to provide equal opportunity information, therefore these demographics may not fully represent our current volunteer cohort.

Gender

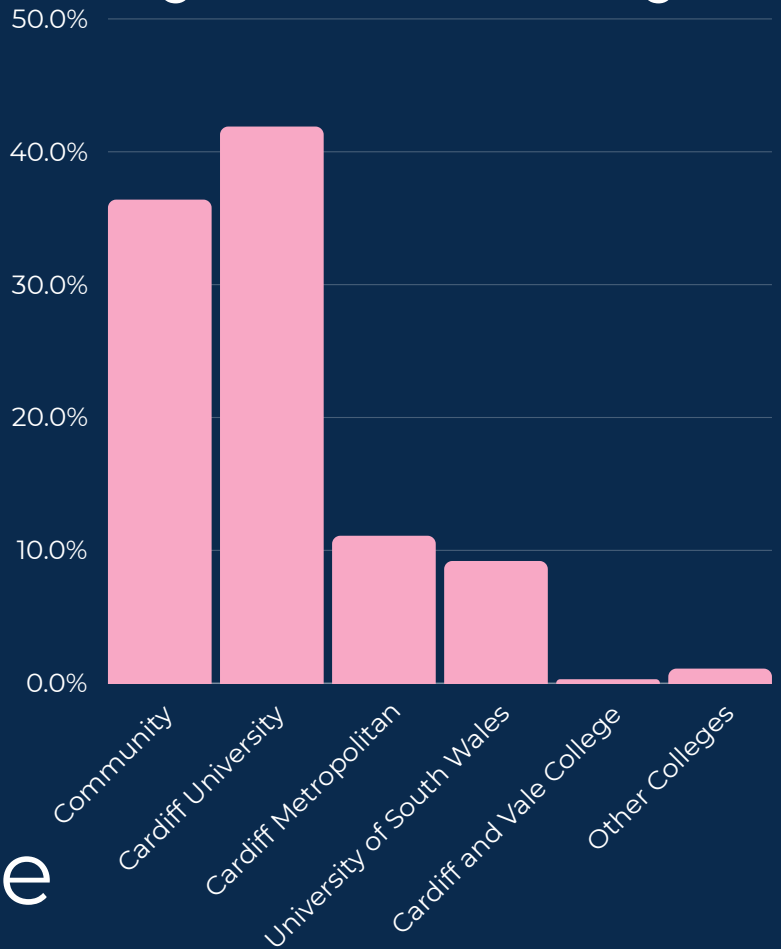


Age

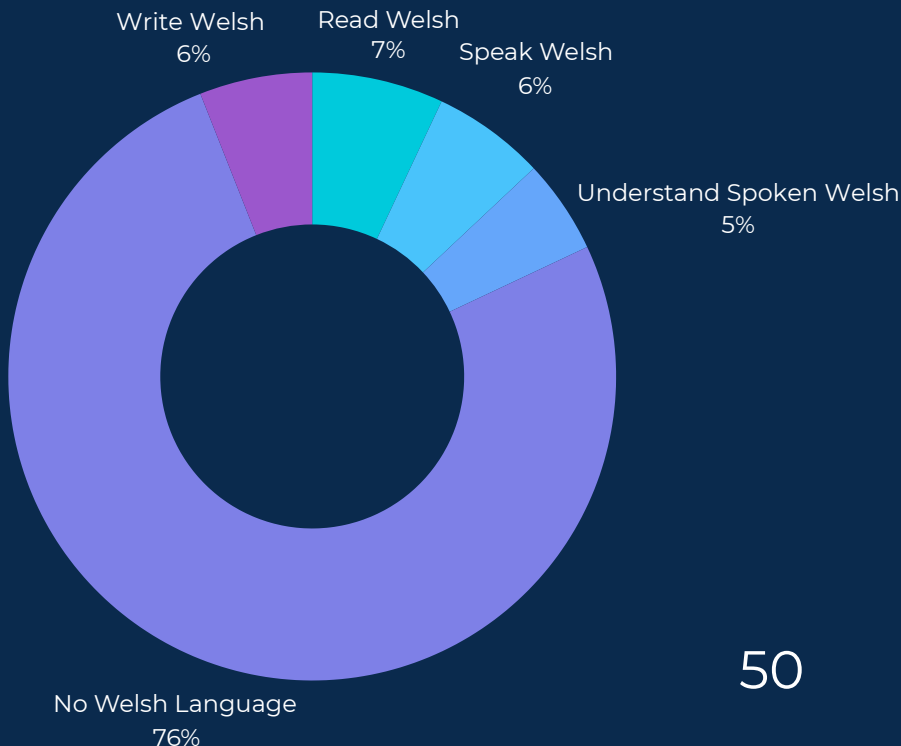


Volunteer Demographics

Community/University

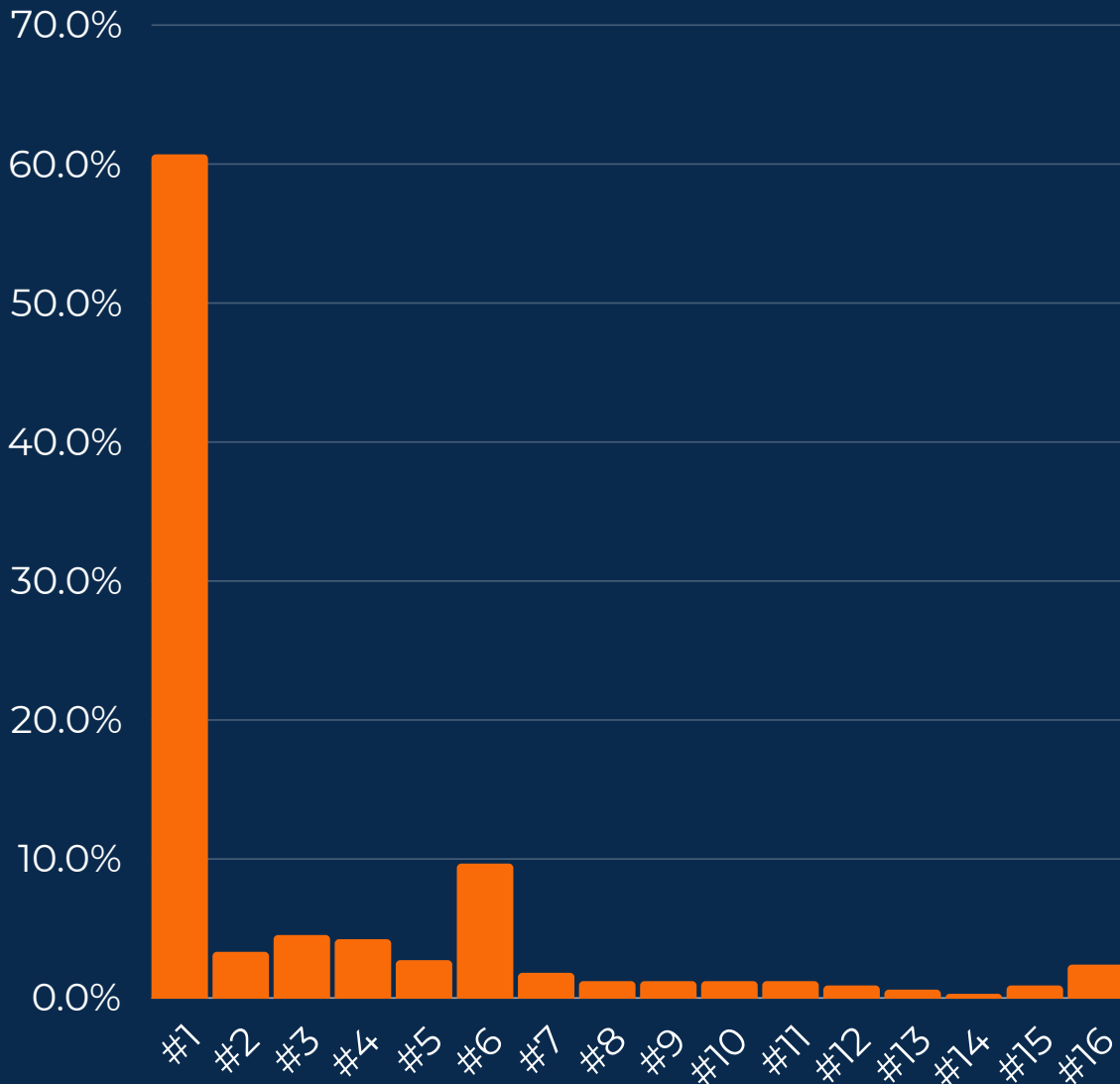


Welsh Language



Volunteer Demographics

Ethnicity



Key

#1 - White British: Welsh, English, Cornish, Scottish, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Wight

#2 - Any other Asian

#3 - Any other White

#4 - Black/Welsh/British: African

#5 - Asian/Welsh/British: Chinese

#6 - Asian/Welsh/British: Indian

#7 - Mixed/Multiple: White & Asian

#8 - Asian/Welsh/British: Pakistani

#9 - Asian/Welsh/British: Bangladeshi

#10 - Multiple/Mixed background: White & Black African

#11 - Any other Mixed or Multiple background

#12 - White Irish

#13 - White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller

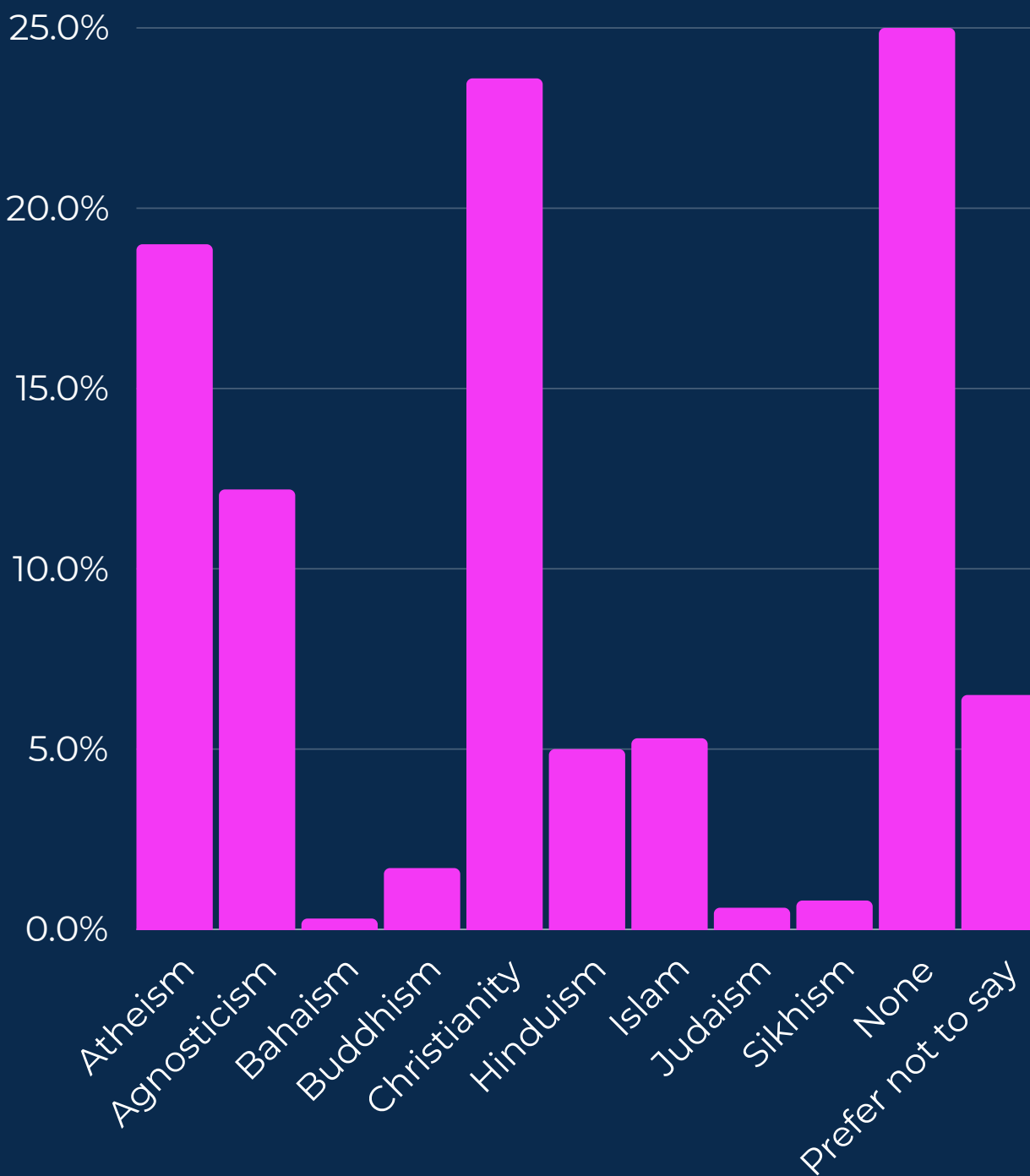
#14 - Eastern European

#15 - Arab

#16 - Any other Black, British or Caribbean Background

Volunteer Demographics

Religion



Partners & Supporters

Baily Thomas Foundation
Cardiff Council
Cardiff Metropolitan University
Cardiff Met Student's Union Volunteering
Cardiff University
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
Chris Kelly
Community Foundations in Wales
Co-op Local Giving
Co-op Foundation
Critical Arc
Digital Communities Wales
Eliana Keen
EYST
First Choice Housing
FOR Cardiff
Georgia Collins
Glamorgan Voluntary Services
Heath Hospital
Innovate Trust
Investing in Volunteers (IiV)
Izzy Rabey
La Selva Youth Office
Llandough Hospital
Mirus
My Cool Music
National Lottery
NUS Wales
Park Road Rehabilitation Unit

Partners & Supporters

People's Postcode Trust

Race Equality First

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council

Shiny Happy People

Solace

South East Wales Down's Syndrome Support Group

South Wales Police

St David's Hospital

Taith - Wales' International Exchange Programme

The Albert Hunt Trust

The Huggard Centre

The Moon Club

True Colours

Unite Students

University of South Wales

WCVA - Volunteering in Wales Grant

Welsh Assembly Government

Welsh Centre for International Affairs

YMCA

Charity registration number: 1173198

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

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Balance Sheet	10
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Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Objectives and activities

Objects

The main purpose and objects of the charity are to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community in Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan and Rhondda Cynon Taf. In particular, the advancement of education, the furtherance of health, and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.

Significant activities

Our main activities include: supporting children and adults with disabilities to access the local community, providing support for people with mental health conditions, supporting young carers, supporting the homeless community, environmental projects, crime prevention and community engagement.

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

This year our work has focused on the cautious return to in-person, and blended opportunities – aiming to combat loneliness and isolation within the different groups of beneficiaries that our projects support.

We were delighted to receive funding from Taith, Wales' International Exchange programme (£21,599), which enabled SVC to have the most incredible 12 months. Taith enabled us to deliver our first work into International volunteering and partnerships. Our staff and youth-volunteers were able to exchange skills, knowledge and ideas with people residing in Catalonia, Norway and Canada. This work has enabled the SVC community to become more globally aware, and enhance our work within Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI).

We spent a year working with the youth office of local government in La Selva, and undertook lots of team-to-team work whilst developing a Volunteering Exchange for young people aged 18-25 which was held in the Summer of 2023. We planned our Taith project as a traditional exchange, where participants worked together on shared community initiatives.

Taith has enabled global professional development opportunities for the SVC staff team. We have learnt so much about the different strengths and barriers for our international partners, and have used these experiences to develop our delivery in Wales for 2023-24. We have presented our findings to our Trustee Board, and with our key stakeholders.

We continued to develop our scope for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). Since the appointment of our EDI forum, we have now extended this work via funding from the Future Communities Fund, Co-op Foundation. We completed this funding bid with support from several of the young people involved with our charity and are absolutely delighted that this funding has enabled us to recruit a new EDI Trustee role on our Board, and a full-time EDI Officer on our staff team. In addition, we have:

- Continued to deliver numerous free training sessions for staff, trustees and volunteers within BSL, Dementia Friends, Stonewall Workshop - Introduction to Allyship, How EDI Impacts Us, Race Equality First Workshop - Racism, Discrimination and Hate Crime, and RNID Workshop - Deaf Awareness Training - to name a few!
- Reviewed several of our policies with regards to Anti-racism and LGBT inclusive language.
- Completed diversity surveys, analysing the data we collect and why this is important.
- Working together with our Communication Officers on the Board of Trustees, we have raised awareness of important issues via national awareness days, through our website and social media. Where possible we have also embedded these days into our project delivery.

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Trustees' Report

With the success of the EDI forum, we were inspired to establish an environmental-based committee with a blend of Board and community members. The committee meets monthly to discuss how we as a charity, and members of the community can improve our environmental impact and knowledge. The committee have been working on a new Environmental Policy, new Environmental aims for the Charity, and understanding ways in which we can minimise our environmental impact as a charity, but also on an individual level.

Additionally, we began supporting a new environmental-based project led by our partners at Innovate Trust called Boosting Nature and we were delighted to continue to work with Shiny Happy People on our You've Got a Friend project, delivering music therapeutically to disabled adults. This year they have also continued our work delivering the Peer Volunteering programme, supporting adults with a disability to learn new skills and deliver volunteer projects for their peers. We are also delighted that our partnership with Cardiff & the Vale Health board continues to flourish, and that after 30 months, we were able to relaunch the NHS Placement Scheme seeing over 70 volunteers providing befriending support across 13 mental health wards and rehabilitation settings.

We have seen new staff members join our ranks who have done fantastic work over the last year (Charlotte, Mia, Ro and Shamima). We welcomed our third Year in Industry placement (Lucymay), this year from Bath University - an opportunity for a student to gain experience of the Third Sector and Health & Social Care. We have continued working on our partnership with South Wales Police, and said goodbye to our lead colleague who has dedicated 8 years of support and leadership on this project, we all wish Mike Neate the very best with his next adventure. We have seen much expansion in initiatives such as our Safety Bus Scheme supporting vulnerable people within the night-time economy. The police were successful in gaining funding to enable the provision of two safety buses at busy times, which is truly welcomed in keeping our streets safer. We were also successful in securing additional funding for this project from the Volunteering in Wales grant scheme from WCVA to help us grow the project further. We have also offered support on shared training and inductions to both the Swansea police student volunteer team and our Police partners in RCT.

We also held regular one-off events across the year, to support more volunteers to get involved with their community. We celebrated our annual Winter Giving Week in December and National Student Volunteering Week in February. We held parties for different groups of beneficiaries, we walked rescue dogs with Cardiff Dog Home, we held collections for food banks, and we supported our local homeless shelter at the Huggard.

The Trustees continued to recognise the loss of funding from our partners as one of the main risks to the charity. However, we were delighted that our partnership with Innovate Trust has continued to blossom. In partnership, we launched several new volunteering projects supporting adults with learning disabilities, mental health conditions and/or physical impairments within the local community. We continue to work in partnership to combat feelings of loneliness and isolation for vulnerable beneficiaries.

SVC continued to develop volunteering opportunities for students from the three local Universities - Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University and the University of South Wales. Additionally, we have worked hard to continue to diversify our volunteering demographic by working closer with community volunteers, and attending community events. Our Trustee Board continued to reflect these changes with more community Trustees sitting on the Board than ever before, bringing with them a range of expertise and knowledge, further enriching our Board.

At SVC, we are constantly amazed by the dedication and support of our volunteers and partners. As SVC continues to grow in this new chapter of our history, we remain very confident that SVC's projects truly enhance the lives of many disadvantaged local residents, whilst continuing to build stronger community links.

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Trustees' Report

Financial review

Financial position

Unspent and available unrestricted funds held at the balance sheet date amounted to £202,046 (2022: £156,446). These funds are supported by funding from SVC's contract with Innovate Trust £112,608 (2022: £105,527). This funding is viewed as core funding and contributes towards SVC's charitable purposes, salary and project costs.

Restricted funds at the accounting date amounted to £90,794 (2022: £82,804). These funds are classed as project-specific funding, helping with the everyday costs of specific projects - such as volunteer training and travel costs or different resources for individual projects.

We were very grateful to receive the following funding to support our project delivery this year: To continue our You've Got a Friend Project and our partnership with Shiny Happy People we were delighted to receive £9,230 from Community Foundations Wales, £500 from the David Solomon's Charity and £700 from Innovate Trust. Plus a further 5,000 from the Cheshire Community Foundation, £4,500 from YMCA and £2,000 from Albert Hunt- all in support of our Young Carers Project. £3,250 from Cardiff University to support their Medicine students gain valuable experience for their future careers.

Working in partnership with South Wales Police, we managed to secure several additional funding streams in order to secure the Police Volunteering Project and increase the amount of work our volunteers undertake in order to make Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan safer areas. Project support came from Cardiff University (£20,000), and Cardiff Metropolitan University (£6,000), SW Police (£3,500), Cardiff BID (£3,128), Critical Arc (£1,728) and Volunteering in Wales Grant, WCVA (£9,816).

Additionally, SVC received funding from the Postcode Lottery (£11,364) and True Colours (£4,175) to assist with the project costs of our Be Friends Project, allowing more children and young people with disabilities to undertake leisure activities with their volunteers, whilst providing some respite for their families.

Our LOL Fridays project supporting young people with Down's Syndrome continued to thrive via funding from the Hedley Foundation (£500), £1000 from the Prince of Wales and £500 from South East Wales Down Syndrome Support Group.

SVC received funding to develop our work in RCT further, this funding was agreed through our continued partnership with RCT Council and Innovate Trust (£34,375). Furthermore, we received a donation of £1,569 from Cardiff & the Vale Health Board, allowing us to support the Grange Garden Developments in Llantwit Major. They additionally contributed £400 towards our work supporting befriending schemes for adults experiencing poor mental health.

We also received funding from Baily Thomas (£1,170) to deliver more inclusive and accessible club nights in Cardiff.

SVC additionally received gifts in-kind from Innovate Trust (£6,300) through the use of two vehicles for SVC volunteers and support towards stationery and postage costs.

All funds, other than the general fund, are treated as restricted and are used only for the purpose for which they were given.

The expenditure during the year has enabled the charity to support the vulnerable and disadvantaged children and adults of the local community.

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Trustees' Report

Reserves policy

The Trustees recognise their responsibility to spend the funds received in a reasonable time, but also recognise the need to hold funds in the event of the level of income falling and to operate an exit strategy should the charity need to cease its activities. Taking this into consideration, the Board have opted to award the SVC staff with a small Christmas bonus as a thank you for all their hard-work, and a pay rise of 2.7% to help with the cost of living crisis in effective from April 2024.

Future plans

In 2023/24, SVC will be launching some volunteering opportunities around sport and making this inclusive for all.

As a charity, we continue to educate ourselves and will build on the training we have already received this year, aiming to make volunteering accessible to all, and make SVC an inclusive community for all.

Structure, governance and management

Legal Status

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission (Number 1173198) and governed by its constitution.

Risk management

The Trustees have recognised the loss of the support from our partners, losing funding for projects and the loss of the organisation's premises to be the main risks facing the charity. To mitigate these risks, the Trustees have devised a Reserves Policy to build up the level of free reserves to cover the charity's overheads.

Reference and administrative details

Trustees

TRUSTEES AND THEIR BENEFICIAL INTERESTS

The Trustees Board is a mixture of community members, postgraduates and undergraduates. Most of the Trustees live in South Wales, however several have moved back to their hometowns or countries since the Covid-19 pandemic. The Trustees have no financially beneficial interests in the charity.

The charity is administered by the Board of Trustees, comprising:

Chair	Heidi Smith – Appointed April 2023 Sophie Smith – Resigned April 2023
Vice Chair	Rebecca King– Appointed August 2023 Heidi Smith – Resigned April 2023
Treasurer	Nicole Hughes – Appointed September 2023 Emma Board Davies – Resigned September 2023
Secretary	Kieran Vass – Re-appointed April 2023 Ewelina Freitag - Resigned April 2018

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Trustees' Report

Divisional Representatives	Jessica Rumble – Re-appointed August 2023 Karen Harvey-Cooke - Re-appointed August 2023 Kelly Fenton – Re-appointed August 2023 Dr Henry Morris – Re-appointed August 2023 Lucie Mathison – Re-appointed August 2023 Nina Di Cara – Re-appointed August 2023 Rhian Fish – Re-appointed August 2023 Grace Piddington – Re-appointed August 2023 Kuban Freeman – Appointed August 2023 Hassan Ahmed - Appointed August 2023 Huw Williams - Appointed August 2023 Emma Board-Davies – Appointed September 2023 Rosie Rapado – Resigned April 2023 Emily Carter – Resigned September 2023 James Galloway - Resigned April 2023 Georgia Taylor - Resigned January 2023
Associate Trustees	Lucy John - Re-appointed August 2023 Gavin Hawkey - Re-appointed August 2023 Rhian Perridge - Re-appointed August 2023 Josie Davies - Appointed August 2023

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Trustees' Report

Registered Charity number

1173198

Principal address

1st Floor Office

5-7 Museum Place

Cardiff

CF10 3BD

Independent examiner

Andrew Hill

FCCA ACA DChA BFP

HSJ ACCOUNTANTS LTD

Severn House

Hazell Drive

Newport

NP10 8FY

Banker

Unity Trust Bank

PO Box 7193

Planetary Road

Willenhall

WV1 9DG

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Trustees' Report

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 5 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Heidi Smith
Trustee

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC) for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)'s accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)'s gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of FCCA ACA DChA BFP, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC) as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr Andrew Hill
FCCA ACA DChA BFP

Severn House
Hazell Drive
Newport
NP10 8FY

15 December 2023

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies		4,881	3,003	7,884
Charitable activities		150,436	151,924	302,360
Investment income	4	1,362	-	1,362
Total income		<u>156,679</u>	<u>154,927</u>	<u>311,606</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		(312)	-	(312)
Charitable activities		(105,842)	(151,863)	(257,705)
Total expenditure		<u>(106,154)</u>	<u>(151,863)</u>	<u>(258,017)</u>
Net income		50,525	3,064	53,589
Gross transfers between funds		(4,925)	4,925	-
Net movement in funds		45,600	7,989	53,589
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>156,446</u>	<u>82,805</u>	<u>239,251</u>
Total funds carried forward	15	<u>202,046</u>	<u>90,794</u>	<u>292,840</u>
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies		318	9,859	10,177
Charitable activities		109,152	115,758	224,910
Investment income	4	908	-	908
Total income		<u>110,378</u>	<u>125,617</u>	<u>235,995</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		(32)	-	(32)
Charitable activities		(106,696)	(127,405)	(234,101)
Total expenditure		<u>(106,728)</u>	<u>(127,405)</u>	<u>(234,133)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		3,650	(1,788)	1,862
Gross transfers between funds		33,911	(33,911)	-
Net movement in funds		37,561	(35,699)	1,862
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>118,885</u>	<u>118,503</u>	<u>237,388</u>
Total funds carried forward	15	<u>156,446</u>	<u>82,804</u>	<u>239,250</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 11 to 22 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

(Registration number: 1173198) Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets			
Debtors	12	20,682	11,682
Cash at bank and in hand	13	<u>320,672</u>	<u>262,036</u>
		341,354	273,718
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(48,514)</u>	<u>(34,468)</u>
Net assets		<u>292,840</u>	<u>239,250</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		90,794	82,804
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>202,046</u>	<u>156,446</u>
Total funds	15	<u>292,840</u>	<u>239,250</u>

The financial statements on pages 9 to 22 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 5 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Heidi Smith
Trustee

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office equipment	33% straight line

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	513	303	816	441
Grants, including capital grants;				
Grants from other charities	4,368	2,700	7,068	9,736
	<u>4,881</u>	<u>3,003</u>	<u>7,884</u>	<u>10,177</u>

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Volunteering & Support Activities	<u>150,436</u>	<u>151,924</u>	<u>302,360</u>	<u>224,910</u>

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	<u>1,362</u>	<u>1,362</u>	<u>908</u>

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

5 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of trading activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Events and conferences		312	312	32
		<u>312</u>	<u>312</u>	<u>32</u>

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		Designated £	General £	£	£	£
Volunteering & Support Activities		55	21,546	67,152	88,753	67,816
Staff costs		-	82,927	84,711	167,638	165,151
Governance costs		-	1,314	-	1,314	1,134
		<u>55</u>	<u>105,787</u>	<u>151,863</u>	<u>257,705</u>	<u>234,101</u>

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

7 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	1,314	1,314	1,134
	<u>1,314</u>	<u>1,314</u>	<u>1,134</u>

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

8 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating leases - other assets	13,263	13,144
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>-</u>	<u>241</u>

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	<u>167,638</u>	<u>165,151</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Project coordinator	4	4
SVC Team Leader	1	1
SVC Manager	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

12 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	19,000	10,000
Other debtors	1,682	1,682
	<u>20,682</u>	<u>11,682</u>

13 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank	179,310	161,115
Short-term deposits	141,362	100,921
	<u>320,672</u>	<u>262,036</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	1,254	1,135
Deferred income	47,260	33,333
	<u>48,514</u>	<u>34,468</u>

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General unrestricted	156,445	156,679	(106,100)	(4,978)	202,046
<i>Designated</i>					
Innovate Projects	-	-	(54)	54	-
Total unrestricted funds	<u>156,445</u>	<u>156,679</u>	<u>(106,154)</u>	<u>(4,924)</u>	<u>202,046</u>
Restricted funds					
NHS Placement Scheme	3,759	400	(893)	-	3,266
YCC	2,659	11,500	(6,971)	-	7,188
Huggard	618	-	(46)	-	572
Police (Cardiff)	29,052	37,172	(27,426)	-	38,798
LOL	321	2,250	(1,883)	500	1,188
Be Friends	12,317	16,309	(10,683)	-	17,943
Social Club (Cardiff)	4	-	-	-	4
RCT	30,909	46,875	(63,950)	(3,600)	10,234
Karaoke / Meet & Greet	21	-	-	-	21
Grange Gardens	138	1,569	(17)	-	1,690
Shiny Happy People - You've Got a Friend	1,565	10,683	(6,956)	3,600	8,892
Exploring Equality - Post Code Lottery	1,442	-	(1,597)	155	-
Club night	-	1,170	(172)	-	998
Taith	-	26,999	(31,268)	4,269	-
Total restricted funds	<u>82,805</u>	<u>154,927</u>	<u>(151,862)</u>	<u>4,924</u>	<u>90,794</u>
Total funds	<u><u>239,250</u></u>	<u><u>311,606</u></u>	<u><u>(258,016)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>292,840</u></u>

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General unrestricted	118,885	110,378	(106,728)	33,910	156,445
Restricted					
NHS Placement Scheme	3,759	-	-	-	3,759
YCC	2,343	3,000	(2,684)	-	2,659
Huggard	666	-	(48)	-	618
Police (Cardiff)	32,294	20,523	(23,765)	-	29,052
LOL	3,123	-	(2,802)	-	321
Be Friends	14,285	9,736	(11,704)	-	12,317
Social Club (Cardiff)	4	-	-	-	4
RCT	55,041	52,415	(41,547)	(35,000)	30,909
Karaoke / Meet & Greet	84	-	(63)	-	21
Going Green Together	6,903	10,957	(18,950)	1,090	-
Grange Gardens	-	500	(362)	-	138
Shiny Happy People - You've Got a Friend	-	9,975	(8,410)	-	1,565
Exploring Equality - Post Code Lottery	-	18,511	(17,069)	-	1,442
Total restricted funds	<u>118,502</u>	<u>125,617</u>	<u>(127,404)</u>	<u>(33,910)</u>	<u>82,805</u>
Total funds	<u><u>237,387</u></u>	<u><u>235,995</u></u>	<u><u>(234,132)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>239,250</u></u>

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

NHS Placement Scheme

Under this umbrella area our volunteers work across several different locations, including multiple wards at Llandough Hospital, and additionally the new Adult Mental Health unit called Hafen-y-Coed based at this site. Volunteers also assist at the Park Road Rehabilitation Centre.

YCC

The volunteers on our Weekenders project organise day trips for children who are 'Young Carers' or the siblings of children with learning disabilities. The aim of the project is to provide a variety of trips and activities for children who may not otherwise get the opportunity to go to places that may be available to their peers.

Education

SVC's Education project works in partnership with Greenhill Special School, specifically designed for pupils who have social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. SVC volunteers provide additional classroom support to help to improve the pupils' communication skills. Additionally, we advertise opportunities to support young people from BME backgrounds to excel through local Homework Clubs, this work is delivered by our partners at EYST.

Huggard Centre and Salvation Army

Volunteering involves engaging and befriending homeless people by carrying out a variety of different activities from arts and crafts, games nights, quizzes and cooking sessions.

The Police Volunteering Project

A partnership project between SVC, South Wales Police, Cardiff University, Cardiff University's Students' Union, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Cardiff Metropolitan Students' Union and the University of South Wales. The project trains student-volunteers to work alongside local community groups and South Wales Police to reduce local crime and increase residents' awareness of Crime Prevention education. The project has grown from strength to strength, with more volunteers and more sponsors each year.

LOL Fridays

An activity club run by SVC volunteers for young people with Down's syndrome. The volunteers assist by running a variety of different activities such as arts and crafts, board games, computer games, pool and karaoke. The club also have themed parties and trips out, for example dinner and bowling.

Be Friends

The Home and Away project matches children/young people aged 5-18 with two student-volunteers, who then visit the young person regularly throughout the academic year, undertaking activities the home or in the community. The aim of the project is to build the young person's skills, whilst providing some respite for their families.

Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT)

Projects included - a befriending project matching volunteers with an adult with learning and/or physical disabilities to undertake activities within the home or in the Community. We also trained Digital Mentors, SVC volunteers who then support beneficiaries with disabilities to learn more about how to increase their use of their Intelligent Personal Assistants to enhance their independence. Additionally, we developed a Clubbing project for adults with disabilities based in Pontypridd, and a social club based in Talbot Green.

Karaoke / Meet & Greet

Funded through the Postcode Lottery, this club provides regular events for adults with disabilities and mental health conditions to meet new people and undertake new activities.

Skills & Volunteering Cymru (SVC)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 August 2023 £
Current assets	250,560	90,794	341,354
Current liabilities	(48,514)	-	(48,514)
Total net assets	<u>202,046</u>	<u>90,794</u>	<u>292,840</u>
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 August 2022 £
Current assets	190,914	82,804	273,718
Current liabilities	(34,468)	-	(34,468)
Total net assets	<u>156,446</u>	<u>82,804</u>	<u>239,250</u>

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Signed by Heidi Smith using authentication code ZTlyVFcoejdrPHNv at IP address 86.189.195.237, on 2023/12/19 17:10:34 Z.

Heidi Smith's e-mail address is: Chair@SVCymru.org.