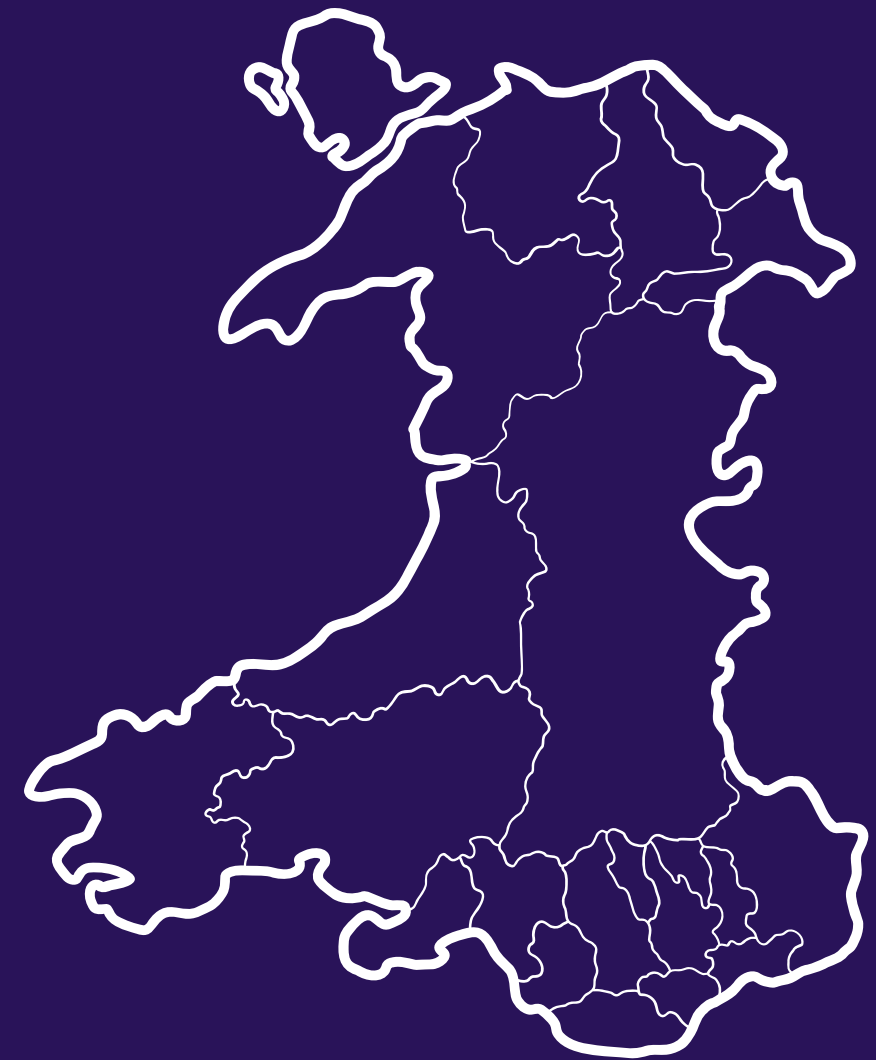


STRATEGIC VOLUNTEERING GRANT (YEAR 1) - REPORT

VOLUNTEERS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE:

An explorative evaluation and study of volunteering practices for people with lived experience in Wales.



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BACKGROUND

This report outlines the findings of a person-centred research project designed to track, monitor, and evaluate the experiences of people with Lived Experience entering volunteering.

The research was designed to develop an understanding of volunteer perceptions, experiences, support needs and potential barriers for people with lived experience of adversity to gain meaningful opportunities.

Gaining insight first-hand by following a group of volunteers and learning from their experiences, this study sought to inform a strategic approach to developing a strategy and supporting material for recruiting, supporting, and developing volunteers with Lived Experience across Wales.

WHAT IS 'A LIVED EXPERIENCE?'

'The experience(s) of people on whom a social issue, or combination of issues, has had a direct impact.'

**LIVED
EXPERIENCE**

'Social change-makers who seek to use their lived experience to inform the work of social purpose organisations, to drive and lead social change, and/or to drive their social impact work.'

**EXPERTS BY
EXPERIENCE**

WHAT IS 'A LIVED EXPERIENCE?' (CONT'D)

"Everyone has lived, and everyone has life experiences.

These experiences make us unique, but they can also unite us. Whether consciously or subconsciously, hidden or in full view, these very experiences can shape the destinies of social change-makers and indeed our world.

We have long celebrated inspiring change-makers who have used their lived experiences to drive and lead positive social change in society.

Consider the women's rights movement; the civil rights movement; Alcoholics Anonymous; the world's first safe house for women and children (Refuge), set up by a child survivor of domestic violence – and the list goes on..."

- Baljit Sandhu (2017)



METHODOLOGY

The study was designed as a trial to evaluate the experiences of up to 15 volunteers with lived experience in different roles and organisations to identify existing best practices and potential areas that could be enhanced based on their experiences.

To structure the trial, the “Investing in Volunteers Standards” for managing volunteers were used as a guiding principle and framework to develop interest points and measurements for assessing experiences.

Focusing on the person's experience, the following standards were instrumental in designing interview and forum discussion topics through the areas featured on the next three pages.

METHODOLOGY (CONT'D)

Core areas of interest, as a result of the Quality Areas on the previous pages, were focused on gaining insight around:



