

Voluntary Voice Newsletter

Issue 3 2019
www.flvc.org.uk



Entrants and winners of the Best Kept Communities Competition, with Councillor Marion Bateman who presented the awards.

Our Vision:

FLVC's vision is of strong sustainable and effective voluntary and community sector; involving and serving Flintshire people

Our Mission:

FLVC's mission is to support, develop and promote voluntary and community activity in Flintshire and to strengthen the capacity of voluntary and community groups to contribute to the quality of life of Flintshire people and communities.

*Supporting,
Promoting and
Developing Voluntary &
Community Action*



Cefnogi Trydydd
Sector **Cymru**
Third Sector
Support **Wales**



Flintshire Local Voluntary Council
Cyngor Gwirfoddol Lleol Sir y Fflint

- 3 FLVC NEWS
- 6 Engagement & Influencing
- 7 Training opportunities & forum dates
- 8 Funding
- 10 Volunteering
- 12 Good Governance

Get in touch with us, stay in touch with us!

Corlan, Unit 3, Mold Business Park, Wrexham
Road, Mold, Flintshire CH7 1XP
Email - info@flvc.org.uk
Tel - 01352 744 000

Subscribe to our e-bulletin

Click on the "sign up" button to the mid-right of our website's home page

Twitter

@FLVCFIintshire

@FLVCVolCentre

Facebook

@flvcpage

@Flintshire.Volunteer.Centre

Welcome to the third & final edition of Voluntary Voice for 2019

In this edition, we've focussed on how we help community and voluntary groups, charities and those who wish to explore volunteering in Flintshire. If you're not familiar with FLVC, this edition is our introduction, and warm welcome, to you.

There's the usual mix of news and information that we hope is helpful to you in starting or continuing a voluntary, community or charitable organisation or project, and in finding the right volunteering opportunity for you.

My thanks go to the High Sheriff of Clwyd, Stephanie Catherall, for contributing an interesting piece about her shrieval year so far.

On behalf of the FLVC team, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and the very best for 2020.



Chief Officer
01352 744028

ann.woods@flvc.org.uk

At FLVC, we serve those who invest their time for the benefit of others, and as a staff team, we consider it a privilege to do so.

We're mindful that people engaged in making a positive difference tend to be self-starters with an instinct to independently navigate what's unfamiliar about running and sustaining a community, voluntary or charitable organisation, project or initiative. If this sounds like you, we encourage you to develop a habit of getting in touch for advice and support when you need it. One benefit of utilising our knowledge and expertise is that you'll free up more time to focus on your initiative.

We're easily accessible to everyone in Flintshire needing support and advice about:

- All things volunteering
- Establishing and maintaining a community or voluntary organisation, group, club, society or association and securing the funding to sustain it
- Engaging with and influencing the agendas that are important to you, and that impact on the people you engage with and support
- Running a community or voluntary venture well and in-line with relevant legislation, and over coming any issues you encounter

Help tailor FLVC to fit the work that you do

Arrange a listen and learn visit

By better understanding the needs of community and voluntary initiatives, we can work to ensure we're meeting them.

We're asking those undertaking voluntary and community work in Flintshire to invite us to learn about what they do, and to listen to their needs. We make great guests, and, conscious that there are rarely enough hours in your day, we promise not to impose.

If you're open to us dropping in, at a time and date convenient to you, please

email info@flvc.org.uk, or

phone us on 01352 744000

Spreading the word about what we do throughout Flintshire & beyond

The FLVC team reach out and promote what we offer at events throughout the county, and the wider North Wales Region, all year round. The list of events we've attended since the last edition of Voluntary Voice includes the Eisteddfod and a Careers Fair at Glyndwr University. If you're holding an event for an audience that would benefit from our help, please invite us along.



Funding Officer Heather Hicks
at the Eisteddfod

22nd Annual General Meeting

We were delighted to welcome all those that attended our Annual General Meeting at Theatre Clwyd in September.

Highlights of this year's meeting, opened by Councillor Marion Bateman, Chair of Flintshire Council, included a presentation to this year's winner of the Tom Jones Award for Youth Volunteering.

Testament to the value our young people add to the voluntary and community sector in Flintshire, competition for the Tom Jones Award was strong. The accolade went to James Reynolds who was nominated by the leader of Saltney Ferry Scout Group for his commitment and dedication to the young people within the group and the wider scout movement in Wales. In his nomination, Scout leader Robert Benyon's said "In all my 32 years of Scout leadership I have never had a more dedicated person assisting us in the group."



L to R Robert Benyon, nominator of this year's Tom Jones Award Winner; Chloe Ann Brooks, Tom Jones Award Winner 2018, 2019 winner James Reynolds, Chair of Trustees Paul Hinchliffe

The judging panel recognised nominees Lacey Jones and Alex Nemes with high commendations. Lacey, a volunteer for the Volunteer Mentor Service within Flintshire County Council's Children's Social Service Department was nominated for her effectiveness in supporting two young people. Alex was nominated for his contribution to Active Cambria which includes providing physical activity sessions for his peers and local children and recruiting and mentoring volunteers from within his peer group.

Best Kept Communities Awards 2019

Competition entrants give their time and share their skills to create and maintain communities for the benefit of all those living there. This ethos mirrors that adopted by the voluntary and community organisations we support at FLVC, so we welcomed the chance to coordinate the competition for the first time this year.

Chair of Flintshire County Council, Councillor Marion Bateman, opened the awards by explaining the competition aims to "...encourage local communities, villages and towns to work together as groups to improve their environment and to encourage local pride. Entrants contribute to making Flintshire a wonderful place in which to live, work and volunteer." The 2019 judging panel, made up of FLVC Trustee Pip Perry (MBE), Heather Price of North East Wales Heritage Forum, and John Whittaker, Senior Parks and Countryside Officer at Wrexham County Council, enjoyed travelling throughout the county in July appraising a total of 30 entries. Their search for well-kept and well-used village halls and community buildings, volunteer input, improvements or work in progress was fruitful. Testament to the high standard of entries, it proved difficult to decide on a winner in each of the six categories, with merit awards being granted in three categories.

The awards were handed out at our AGM, and the accompanying presentation showcasing the entries gave the event a wealth of beauty and vibrancy. We're already looking forward to Spring and the launch of next year's competition. Here's hoping we'll see an entry from your community.

The competition is made possible thanks to the support of local sponsors



Best Kept Communities Award Winners 2019

**Best Kept Village/Community,
under 1000 population**

Llanasa

**Best Kept Community or Town,
over 1000 population**

Joint winners:

Higher Kinnerton & Caerwys

**Best Kept Town Centre,
over 5000 population**

Mynydd Isa

Best Kept Senior Citizens' Estate

Joint winners:

**Belvedere Close, Queensferry
&
Hafod-y-Bryn, Brynford**

**Best Kept Community Garden / Wildlife Area
Pantymwyn Village Hall Garden**

Schools

Brynffordd CP



L to R Competition judge Pip Perry (MBE), Mrs Linda Greenough from Ysgol Brynfford, Steve Thomas (Airbus), Cllr Marion Bateman, Mrs Elaine Shickell from Ysgol Brynfford, competition judge Heather Price, Ysgol Brynfford pupils Morganne and Tesni Kerfoot-Davies.

Looking forward to the High Sheriff of Clwyd Community Awards 2020

These awards recognise the outstanding contributions individuals, voluntary or community organisations and charitable groups make to their respective communities.

FLVC is proud to play a role in the awards by accepting nominations for individuals, projects and groups in Flintshire, and providing these to the High Sheriff for consideration. The judging panel will select two individuals and one organisation or group from Flintshire to receive an award.

We look forward to the award ceremony to be held at Theatre Clwyd on 20th March 2020.

We're delighted to feature a piece written by the High Sheriff of Clwyd, Stephanie Catherall, in this edition of Voluntary Voice, providing an interesting insight into her year in office so far, and her perceptions of third sector activity in the county.

"In March 2019, I put on my High Sheriff's Uniform for the first time. I joined my Chaplain the Reverend Andrea Jones at her beautiful St. Deiniols Church in Hawarden, along with the Church Choir, Flint Male Voice Choir and 150 guests and dignitaries for my service of declaration.

My shrieval year has been a delightful blend of insightful visits and special events in wonderful venues, together with the opportunity to meet so many outstanding people who make such a positive impact in our county. It is such a great honour to hold the office of High Sheriff and one which I will never forget.

So far in my year of being out and about in our "preserved county" of Clwyd, I have been shocked by the levels of deprivation and vulnerability that I find on our doorstep, but equally uplifted by the care, compassion and dedication that I have encountered all over the county.

I believe that in our world full of contradictions and outside pressures, Clwyd can be proud of itself and the large numbers of people who work in our statutory

public services and charitable, not-for-profit sector, who do a remarkable job. I have seen this confirmed over and over again in places I have visited and ceremonies I have attended.

The word duty has cropped up a number of times this year, and I have felt humbled by what I have seen in the charitable and voluntary sector. So many people giving their time and knowledge with unstinting generosity because they see it as their duty, and I have seen people taking duty way beyond what is expected of them. My High Sheriffs Awards Evening in March 2020 will be the highlight of my year, recognising these unsung heroes."

Find out more about the High Sheriff's year so far, and the role itself, at www.highsheriffclwyd1920.co.uk



What have we done for you lately?

Third Sector Support Wales draws all County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) in Wales together and its remit includes collating information to demonstrate the difference CVCs make, or, to put it another way, the impact they have.

Your feedback is invaluable to us in achieving our mission to support, promote and develop voluntary and community activity in our county. If you've been in touch with us but haven't yet completed a survey on your experience, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TSSWimpact2019> or, if you've received an email from one of our team, click the link contained within the signature section. We're so grateful to you for taking a few minutes to tell us what we're doing well, and how we could increase our effectiveness.

WHAT RESPONDENTS SAY ABOUT FLVC

"We're grateful for the excellent guidance & support... on legal & constitutional issues... (6) practical support on planning & finance."

"They are inclusive, do everything possible to support local community groups & volunteers..."

"...it has been very useful to have the support & wise advice from FLVC particularly when dealing with the Charity Commission."

"JUST HAVING THE SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL... TO... ORGANISATIONS SEARCHING FOR FUNDING... ALSO BEING POINTED TO EXPERT ADVICE ON LEGISLATURE."

Please complete the survey and tell us if you agree with recent feedback about the service we provide.

Third Sector Support Wales releases Impact Report 2018-19

Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) is the organisation that draws all 19 county voluntary councils in Wales together. Its report on the sector's

impact over the last financial year is available at <https://bit.ly/2DmBaEv>

Case Studies are used in the report to demonstrate that County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) have played an integral role in supporting new and existing third sector organisations and projects. Flintshire Early Health Hub is featured, and William, who volunteers for the Salvation Army in Mold, is quoted talking about how, through volunteering, he has improved his prospects in the job market, increased in confidence, and found many new friends.

The sector's performance is measured against key indicators linked to the four pillars that provide the primary focus for all TSSW partners:

- Volunteering • Good governance • Strategic engagement and influencing • Sustainable resources •

Here's a snapshot of the statistics contained within the report, showing the collective impact of all CVCs in Wales.



Have your say in local and national consultations

Keep a look out for your opportunity to influence the agenda you're passionate about with these quick links to all open consultations.

UK government

<https://bit.ly/2q3FCoU>

Welsh Government

<https://bit.ly/2Dmtous>

Flintshire County Council

<https://consult.flintshire.gov.uk/portal/>

Training Opportunities

DATE	COURSE / TOPIC	DURATION	COST
20th January 2020	Mental Health First Aid Level 2	ONE DAY	£60 non-members £45 members To book, please call 01352 744000 or email info@flvc.org.uk
20th January 2020	One-to-one sessions – getting to know the new Volunteering Wales website	ONE HOUR	Free. Book online at https://bit.ly/2OOgPNQ
21st January 2020	One-to-one sessions – getting to know the new Volunteering Wales website	ONE HOUR	Free. Book online at https://bit.ly/2pXRUiq
6th February 2020	Community Asset Transfer Information Event	AFTERNOON	Free. Booking details will be shared in our e-bulletin
19th February 2020	Health and Safety Level 2	ONE DAY	£60 non-members £45 members To book, please call 01352 744000 or email info@flvc.org.uk
31st March 2020	Third Sector - Alternative income generation	ONE DAY	Free. Booking details will be shared in our e-bulletin

TRAINING & FORUM DATES

Keep up-to-date with training opportunities by:

Registering for the FLVC e-bulletin <https://bit.ly/35EWhhB>

Check the “Learning Zone” section of the FLVC website <https://flvc.org.uk/learningzone/>

FLVC network meeting dates 2020

	Volunteer Organisers Network	N.E.W. Wellbeing Network	Trustee Network
JAN		9th January 2020 9:30am – 12:30pm	
FEB	10th February 2020 9:30am – 12pm		
MARCH		12th March 2020 9:30am – 12:30pm	31st March 2020 9:30am – 12pm
APRIL			
MAY	18th May 2020 9:30am – 12pm	14th May 2020 9:30am – 12:30pm	
	To book a place please contact info@flvc.org.uk or 01352 744000	To book a place please contact info@flvc.org.uk or 01352 744000	To book a place please contact info@flvc.org.uk or 01352 744000

Volunteer Organisers Network

This is a supportive network giving third sector organisations a chance to share and learn from each other.

NEW Wellbeing Network

For staff and volunteers from third sector organisations and groups working in Flintshire and Wrexham on all things related to health, social care and wellbeing.

Trustee Network

The effective running of a voluntary or community initiative is the focus. You don't have to be a trustee to be part of the Trustee Network. It's open to anyone involved in the set-up and maintenance of a community venture e.g. board and committee members, secretaries and treasurers.

Funding surgeries – saving you time, effort and money

Throughout the year, we've held surgeries to support those seeking funding. Delivered in partnership with funders, surgeries provide an opportunity to gauge opinion on the likelihood of your bid succeeding, and to receive advice on how best to present your bid.

With recent research revealing that, despite the majority of applications failing, charities are investing significant resources in making bids, the benefits of attending a surgery are clear. It's satisfying to know that we've brought those that attend our surgeries closer to a grant award, or helped them to spend their valuable time and resources more productively. Subscribe to the FLVC e-bulletin to find out when the next surgery will be held. Demand for appointments is high so early booking is advisable.

Research conducted by Brevio, a collaborative working to create an easier, less risky and cheaper grant-making system, and the University of Bath revealed:

- Each charity or community group applies for an average of 22 grants per year
- In the last year, the average failure rate of grant applications was 63%
- It takes an average of 18 hours to complete a typical funding application
- Registered charities spend £1.1bn a year writing bids



Sarah Bowles from the National Lottery Community Fund in Wales, and Sabina Dunkling from the Comic Relief Community Fund in Wales welcomed potential bidders to a surgery in September.

Flintshire projects secure £987,000 from funding streams signposted by FLVC

Our Funding Outreach Officer Heather Hicks has helped charities and community and voluntary initiatives in the county attract a massive £987,000 in funding since April.

As well arranging and co-ordinating funding surgeries where attendees are signposted to the grant givers most likely to support an idea, and given tips on how to present a bid, Heather responds to a raft of ad hoc enquiries from organisations needing money for a whole variety of reasons.

The success enjoyed by bidders in Flintshire is testament to Heather's extensive knowledge not only of funding streams, but also of what grant givers look for in the projects they support.

We're hopeful that, by the end of this financial year, we could have had a hand in successful bids exceeding £1m. If you've got a funding gap to plug, you know who to contact!

Silver lining as Sychdyn's Friday Club closes

As organisers closed the doors to Sychdyn's Friday Club for good, Heather enabled its formal dissolution by helping to distribute remaining funds to the following groups that meet in the village:

1st Sychdyn Rainbows
Sychdyn Playgroup
Friends of Ysgol Sychdyn
Sychdyn Bowling Club

Heather said "It's pleasing that something positive came out of the closure of Friday Club. Those that ran the club were keen for remaining funds to benefit the village and I was only too happy to help make this happen."

Resources from Inspiring Impact help give bidders the edge with funders

Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, the Inspiring Impact website draws together resources to help organisations and projects better understand and increase their impact. You'll find everything from how-to guides and self-assessment tools, to research reports, diagnostic tools and outcomes frameworks.

Heather Hicks said "Charitable Trusts and Foundations have seen an increase in requests for grants, but without any increase in budget, they have to make some difficult decisions. In reality this means that projects are competing against each other for limited funds. Applications for projects which bring the most benefit and have the most impact will be the successful ones."

WCVA is the Wales partner for the Inspiring Impact programme. To find out more, or to join the Inspiring Impact peer network, please contact Mair Rigby: mrigby@wcva.org.uk.

Easy funding with Easyfundraising.org.uk

More than 3,700 online retailers are willing to thank customers for shopping with them online by making a donation to their chosen cause, and website Easyfundraising is the platform that makes it possible. Any good cause, from PTAs to charities, sports clubs to support groups, can register with Easyfundraising to receive donations from retailers, with contributions totalling £15 or more paid out every three months by bank transfer or cheque. Once you've registered, you can use the website's marketing tool kit to invite supporters to select you as the cause to benefit when they shop. The website's reporting function allows you to watch the donations accumulate.



Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) – new Multipurpose Application Portal (MAP)

If you're applying to a fund that WCVA manages, including the Active Inclusion Fund, Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme, or a fund falling under the Social Investment Cymru umbrella, now's the time to find out more about its new application portal.

Colwyn Bay was amongst the locations WCVA visited in November to introduce the portal, and explain more about the funds it runs. Their presentation is now available online to help those who were unable to attend familiarise themselves with the new bidding and application management system:

<https://bit.ly/2EfmgXy>

For more information, contact AJ Perkins at WCVA: aperkins@wcva.org.uk

Gwynt y Mor new small grant fund

In 2020, FLVC will launch a new funding stream for organisations within the Gwynt y Mor catchment area. Organisations can apply for up to £2000 for a wide range of projects. For further details, please contact Heather.Hicks@flvc.org.uk, or call **01352 744000**

Funding opportunities closing to applications soon

National Churches Trust's Gateway Programme
9th January 2020

FCC Flintshire Community Chest
10th January 2020

Landfill Disposal Tax Communities Scheme
13th January 2020

The Woodward Charitable Trust
31st January 2020

Voluntary work skills sessions enhancing the University experience for students

Our volunteer centre has delivered accredited Voluntary Work Skills training to students studying at Glyndwr University. The university recognises that volunteering provides invaluable real-world experience for its students and invited us to partner with them in providing undergraduates with an opportunity to consider and appreciate the skills, attributes and behaviours conducive to getting the most from a volunteer placement. We've also shared information on where to find volunteering opportunities, and explored how best to secure one. The training has been well received by a cross-section of cohorts within the Faculty of Social and Life Sciences. Volunteering Development Officer Debbie Long said *"Students have actively engaged in the training sessions and it's so encouraging to see that they appreciate how volunteering can benefit their personal development, compliment their academic studies and increase their prospects in the job market. We look forward to training more students from all faculties."*

Cathy Hewins, Senior Lecturer Health and Wellbeing, said *"Volunteering builds the confidence of our students to engage in the development of projects and interact with communities or groups of people they may have not considered working with. Students comment that volunteering is also beneficial to their academic studies as it helps with their time management and allows them to apply the theory they learn in a real world setting."*



The Volunteer Centre's Debbie Long with Glyndwr University students who've benefited from accredited Voluntary Work Skills training.

Volunteer Centre continues to prepare & match volunteers

Since March, our Volunteer Centre colleagues have helped more than 120 individuals on their journey to volunteering. The centre prepares people for a volunteering role by offering supported volunteering programmes, and it signposts those who are ready to volunteer in Flintshire to opportunities that match their interests, passions and goals. They help organisations with their volunteer recruitment too, and support projects to provide a quality experience for their volunteers.

If you're interested in completing a supported volunteering programme, we're inviting the next cohort to join us from February 2020. For more details, please contact Debbie Long - Volunteer Development Officer:

Debbie.long@flvc.org.uk
01352 744017

Young Volunteering Project brings Christmas cheer to care home residents

The Volunteer Centre continues to invite local people aged between 16 and 25 to join its four-week Young People's Supported Volunteering Project. The project provides an opportunity for young people to utilise their existing skills, and to learn new ones, by undertaking volunteer taster sessions with a range of initiatives throughout the county. Participants also work towards an OCN level one voluntary skills qualification.

In October, participants completed garden maintenance in Wepre Park, Connah's Quay, and at Wild Ground's Lane End Nature Reserve in Buckley. During its final session, the group prepared gift boxes for Age Cymru's Christmas Gift Box Appeal.

24 year old Johnno joined the project to help fill his time during a period of unemployment. When asked what he'd enjoyed most about the experience, Johnno said *"It's been good to get out and about, to pick up new skills, and to get to know and to work with new people."* The project has led to the prospect of a

volunteering placement where Johnno can utilise his I.T. skills.

Alex studied horticulture at college until June, and joined the project on his journey to work readiness. The 22 year old said *"I was irritated by doing nothing and was glad of the chance to apply my gardening skills. The project is easy going and relaxed, and I've enjoyed meeting new people. I've felt more positive since joining the project, and recently started to volunteer at a café. I'm hopeful that a period of volunteering can give me the confidence to take on paid work."*

If you're interested in participating in the project, or you can offer a volunteer taster to a group of young people, please get in touch with the volunteer centre.

placement provider on the value they've added.

We're hosting one-to-one advice and guidance sessions at **Corlan on Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st January 2020**, for organisations wanting to learn how they can use the website to promote volunteering opportunities and to manage their volunteers.

To book a one-hour, one-to-one session for your organisations, please get in touch.



Local young people prepared gift boxes for Age Cymru's Christmas Appeal as part of FLVC's Supported Volunteering Programme.

Get to grips with the new Volunteering Wales platform

Volunteering Wales, the one-stop shop for volunteering opportunities in Wales, has upgraded its website to a brand new platform. Whether you're an organisation looking to promote volunteer opportunities, or an individual looking for a volunteer placement, head to

<https://flintshire.volunteering-wales.net/>

So far, more 300 local people have expressed an interest in volunteering by registering on the site, and are now actively seeking the opportunity that matches their passions and aspirations. Once they've found a placement, volunteers can use the website to keep track of the amount of time they've invested in an organisation, feedback to placement providers on their experience, and receive comments from their

Is your organisation looking to recruit volunteers?

Are you looking for a volunteering opportunity in Flintshire?

Join us at Jade Jones Pavillion between **11am and 1pm on Wednesday 15th January 2020** for our Volunteering Information and Recruitment Day. For organisations, it's a chance to showcase the opportunities you can offer to volunteers, to find out how you can use the Volunteering Wales website most effectively to attract new volunteers, and to be reminded of how FLVC can support you. If you're an individual looking for a volunteering opportunity, come along and meet the organisations hoping that they're the right fit for you. You're guaranteed a warm welcome.

Revised Code of Fundraising Practice came into effect on 1 October 2019

The Fundraising Regulator published the new code three months before it came into effect on 1st October. It takes into account the 114 responses received to a consultation focussed on making the code easier to use and to navigate.

The new code, which promises to be easy to digest, is available on the Funding Regulator's website, www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk.

Cyber Crime Awareness session offered during Charity Fraud Awareness Week 2019

The awareness week in October was marked with a session for local third sector groups and organisations about the crimes they may be exposed to online, and the preventative measures they can take to remain safe. FLVC delivered this in partnership with North Wales Police and OWL Cymru.

Attendees were signposted to a wealth of information on how to protect, detect and respond to fraud committed against third sector organisations, including help sheets, case studies, webinars and tutorials. To find these resources, type "Charity Fraud Awareness Hub" into your search engine.

Have your say on the Charity Governance Code

A consultation on how to improve the current edition of the code, published in 2017, went live on 4th November 2019. In a bid to strike a balance between remaining current, and minimising disruption to those using the code, it's proposed that the main focus on the 2020 refresh is on the code's seven principles, with the consultation document outlining a case for urgent change in specific areas.

The consultation closes on 28th February 2020. It can be accessed at www.charitygovernancecode.org.

The code also joined Twitter in October 2019 [@charitygovcode](https://twitter.com/charitygovcode)

Homegrown tips for good governance

During Trustees' Week in November, we were pleased to welcome local people accepting our invite to learn and

share top tips for running a voluntary and community organisation, charity, group, club or society.

Our guests benefited from advice given by Wales Council for Voluntary Action's (WCVA's) Governance and Safeguarding Manager.

If you have tips to share, or if you have an idea for a workshop that would benefit those creating and maintaining groups, clubs and societies in our area, we'd love to hear from you.

Charity Commission updates safeguarding guidance

The guidance helps charity trustees to ensure that the safety of anyone who comes into contact with their charity is prioritised. The update reflects feedback from a consultation on its usefulness, and now includes:

- Practical steps to ensure policies and procedures are working
- More clarity on expectations around the need to undertake criminal records checks
- Advice on determining whether other checks are needed
- New practical resources from experts

You can access "Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and trustees" via our website:

FLVC.org.uk > [Good Governance](#) > [Essential resources](#) > [5. Trustees & governance](#) > [5.11 Safeguarding](#)

Preparing for Brexit

Third sector capacity to prepare for Brexit has been built with the creation of the Wales Civil Society Forum of Brexit. Forum partners, Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and Cardiff University, funded by the Legal Education Foundation, applied policy and legal expertise, and engaged with groups in Wales, to develop its findings. These were presented to Welsh Government as a series of asks. In response, former Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mark Drakeford said "..... I welcome the Forum's position paper as it will help the third sector consider the implications in a number of key areas, such as equality and human rights, immigration, EU citizenship and the environment and animal welfare."

Information about the Forum, including its findings, can be found at <https://www.brexitforumwales.org>