



FLVC

Flintshire Local **Voluntary** Council

CGLISFf

Cyngor **Gwirfoddol** Lleol Sir Fflint

Supporting, Promoting and Developing the **Voluntary** and **Community Sector**

Annual Impact Report 2024/25



Flintshire Local Voluntary Council



OUR TRUSTEES

from April 2024

Peter Agnew Chair

Barbara Roberts

Pip Perry MBE

Marjorie Thomson

John Hatton

Ian Papworth

Tim Byram

Karen Armstrong

David Wisinger

Natasha Wait

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Company Limited by Guarantee Number 3301204
Registered Charity Number 1062644

Annual Impact Report 2024/25

OUR STAFF

from April 2024

Ann Woods Chief Officer

Tessa Willow

Third Sector Development Manager (Core Services)

Katherine Hussey

Third Sector Development Manager
(Health and Social Care)

Admin Team

Nicola Valentine Senior Administrator

Geraint Jones Administrator

Volunteer Centre

Emily Morgan Volunteering Development Officer

Robyn Lee Volunteering Development Officer

Funding and Governance

Shaun Darlington Third Sector Development Officer
(Governance)

Heather Hicks Third Sector Development Officer
(Funding)

Social Prescribing Team

Charlotte Anderton Social Prescribing Team Leader

Kate Howard Social Prescribing Team Leader

Dafydd Gwynedd Social Prescriber (SPoA)

Joanne Overton-Jones Social Prescriber
(Early Help Hub)

Stephanie Jones Social Prescriber (SPoA)

Lewis Williams Social Prescriber (SPoA)

FLVC CHAIR'S REPORT



Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC) has been promoting, developing and supporting voluntary and community activity for over 26 years. Supported by a dedicated Board of Trustees, our staff team have completed another year of responding to community need – supporting community groups in the running of their organisations and linking Flintshire residents with the support and activities that those groups provide.

Our organisation is one of a network of 19 County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) spanning the length and breadth of Wales. Our main funds come through an infrastructure agreement with Welsh Government, but we also rely on funding from Flintshire County Council and a number of other national and local bodies, including Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Families First. Each CVC offers a unique package to support the work of the third sector and in our team of 13 employees, we have dedicated teams working in the following areas:

- **Social Prescribing** – working alongside healthcare and other professionals to link Flintshire residents with voluntary and community-based services.
- **Volunteering** – Promoting volunteering experiences and training volunteers to maintain the sustainability of the third sector.
- **Governance and Funding** – Providing much needed advice on governance and funding to the 2000+ voluntary and community organisations in Flintshire.

Over the last five years, FLVC has had to respond to a manifold of challenges in our county, including the COVID pandemic, with the knock-on rise in social isolation and mental health issues, spiralling living costs and increasing financial constraints from our funders. As families face increased pressures, we are seeing an increase in the complexity of need in our referrals, reflecting the increased demand on all public and third sector services. However, our philosophy as an organisation is that we should not merely be seeking to respond to situations, but to influence policy through our work with a range of national and local health and wellbeing organisations. One example of this is the way that our Chief Officer has been able to guide and advise key local decision makers through her role as Chair of the Public Services Board.

As a Board of Trustees, it is our job to act as a 'critical friend' to FLVC, ensuring the integrity of the organisation, from financial probity (FLVC is responsible after all, for significant sums of public money) to ensuring that the correct employment policies are followed.

We also help FLVC to position itself strategically to meet the current and future needs of the Flintshire community. This entails taking a 'step back' and drawing on our experience as trustees from a wide range of backgrounds, to advise the Chief Officer. We are proud of the work we have done with the team at FLVC in promoting the use of impact measurement tools to quantify and evaluate the progress we are making across the whole organisation. Looking to the future, we have recognised that there is a growing demand from voluntary organisations across the county to boost the already noteworthy work we do in providing expertise and guidance on funding, so this will be a key initiative in the coming year.

I would like to close by expressing the heartfelt gratitude from all on the Trustee Board to the Chief Officer and her team at FLVC, for their unstinting professionalism and dedication throughout the year. You will see many examples in the pages that follow, of the vital work that they do and of the impact they are making to improve the lives of people in Flintshire. But I would also like to end with an appeal to those of you with an interest in becoming a trustee. We are a tight-knit group of people from a range of backgrounds, who have a shared passion for changing lives in the community. If you share this commitment, we would love to hear from you.

Peter Agnew Chair FLVC

ENGAGEMENT AND INFLUENCING

FLVC continues to play a key role in the strategic development of public services.

The Chief Officer of FLVC represents the third sector at the North Wales Regional Partnership Board and has Chaired the Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board (the first non-statutory Chair of any PSB in Wales).

- We regularly meet with statutory and third sector partners as part of local, regional and national partnerships.
- In 2024 we worked with Flintshire County Council to deliver a conference at Coleg Cambria on links between statutory provision for education and third sector services
- We are members of Flintshire's Economic Recovery Steering Group, who have overseen the assessment of the Shared Prosperity Fund applications in Flintshire.
- We have worked with Flintshire County Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to influence procurement practice for a multi-agency approach to public services.



- We have worked with TSSW partners on the national Learning and Development Strategy, Impact workstream and safeguarding community of practice.
- We represent the North Wales CVCs on the Local Resilience Forum (Emergency Planning) and we attend North Wales Humanitarian Aid and Volunteering subgroup.
- We regularly meet with new and existing community groups and charitable organisations to link them to the wider sector and statutory partners.
- We represent the third sector and social prescribing at Flintshire GP accelerated Cluster meetings which bring together all local services involved in health and care.

Ann Woods Chief Officer FLVC

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VOLUNTEERING

“

Over the past year, North East Wales Mind has greatly benefited from the incredible support of the Volunteer Centre at FLVC. Working with them has been an immense help, especially in developing and strengthening our volunteering platform through Volunteering Wales, which has now grown from strength to strength.

”



This year the Volunteer Centre team have delivered some excellent events for volunteer managers and coordinators, incorporating short training sessions on topics such as volunteer recruitment, impact measurement and involving young people as volunteers whilst also giving participants the opportunity to network and learn from others in similar roles. We have received some outstanding feedback from people who attended these events, and we will continue to deliver these sessions each quarter, responding to the needs and suggestions of people who work with volunteers.

We also ran a volunteering event for young people which gave over 200 students the opportunity to meet organisations who offer roles to those who are under 18 years old.

We changed the delivery model for our supported volunteering project, in response to feedback from partners and young participants. We now offer one- and two-day taster sessions for anyone aged 14+ who would like to try out some volunteering activities and get some one-to-one support to help them find a suitable role.

Our Youth Led Grant panel, who are all volunteers aged between 14 and 25, has flourished this year and members took on the additional role of deciding the winners of our annual Youth Volunteering Awards (the Tom Jones Awards); their professionalism and commitment are an inspiration.



165

people supported to access volunteering opportunities

61

participants at 4 Volunteer Organisers' Network Meetings



25

groups and organisations provided with direct support and advice on matters relating to volunteering and good practice

“

Emily is such a great asset to the team. She is a great communicator, with a positive and can do attitude, very knowledgeable about volunteer management and recruitment. Emily is an absolute asset to FLVC and a joy to work with as our roles support each other.

”

FUNDING AND GOVERNANCE

“ Our group has received a great deal of assistance whilst dealing with a change of status and also understanding the legal requirements of Companies House and more. ”

A significant development this year was the rolling out of the Shared Prosperity Fund (part of the UK government's Levelling Up programme). FLVC works in partnership with Cadwyn Clwyd on the Prosperous Communities Flintshire key fund, supporting local organisations to access funding for improvements to their premises and to develop their activities. This work continues into the 2025-26 financial year and is expected to invest close to £750,000 in local voluntary and community groups in Flintshire. FLVC staff members have in-depth knowledge of local groups and this has contributed significantly to the success of this programme.

Over the year a total of £775 000 was distributed to 50 organisations through three rounds of Shared Prosperity Fund grant funding. Positive feedback and excellent results mean that the partnership work will continue into 2025-26 with a further transitional year of funding to support new and predevelopment projects of existing applicants.

During this year we supported 245 groups with advice and guidance on all aspects of running their group / organisation, including help with constitutions, charity registration, funding information, policy development, governance and legal requirements.

“ we received support and advice as to how to best use the funding provided to achieve the best results possible. ”



We helped a wide range of local community and voluntary organisations to access more than £600k from multiple funding sources.

We administered two grant funds:

Flintshire Youth Led
Grants awarded six
grants, totalling **£5,335**



FCC Community Chest
awarded 26 grants
totalling **£19,722**

Meet the funders events (including a joint one with Hannah Blythin MS) and individual surgeries were held with a range of funders, including:

- **The National Lottery Community Fund**
- **Landfill Disposal Tax Fund**
- **Easyfundraising**
- **Park Adfer Community Benefit Fund**
- **Sport Wales**
- **Cadwyn Clwyd**
- **Steve Morgan Foundation**
- **Business Wales**
- **National Churches Trust**

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board fund key Health and Wellbeing Facilitator roles within each CVC in North Wales. This role provides a key strategic link between health, social care and third sector organisations. FLVC also have a social prescribing team, working collaboratively with statutory sector colleagues to link Flintshire residents with community-based health and wellbeing services.

In 2024/25

We contributed to local, regional, and national health and social care partnerships.

In collaboration with AVOW in Wrexham, we have facilitated regular Health and Wellbeing network meetings. We bring together third sector organisations and statutory partners (local, regional and national) operating in Flintshire and Wrexham with an interest in health, social care and well-being, these meetings provide networking opportunities and a forum to discuss topical issues and to share information and best practice ideas.



We continue to run our Children's and Young Persons network in Flintshire, attended by up to 25 participants, offering networking and collaboration opportunities, focusing on third sector and statutory partners who work with 0-25-year-olds.



In the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, the social prescribing team have supported over 1850 Flintshire residents.



Our social prescribing team receive referrals from a wide range of sources including health professionals, social workers, community projects, family and friends, and self-referrals. Individuals we speak to value our listening ear and expertise.



I feel that I've been going round in circles and this is just going to tie things together nicely"

"you've taken a weight off my shoulders, I can breathe again, I feel blown away I didn't expect this"

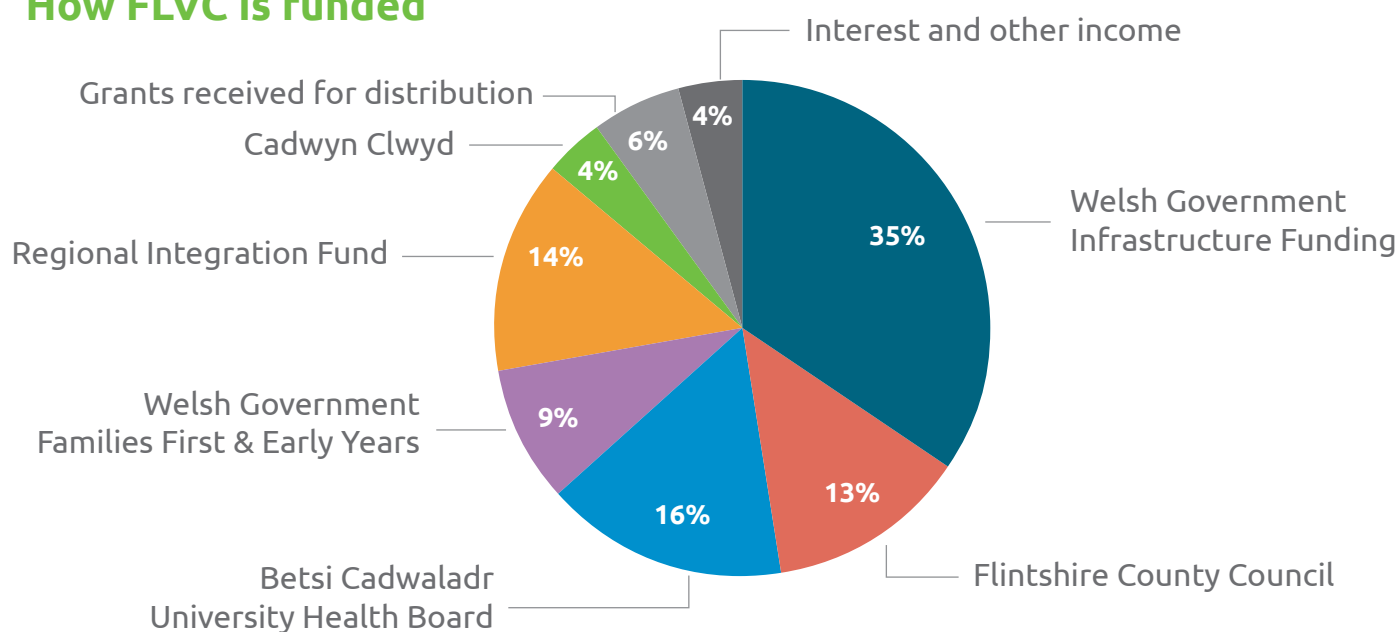
"The service provided by FLVC is fantastic. They are very responsive to any queries and have always been able to signpost to relevant resources.



SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

For the year ending 31 March 2025

How FLVC is funded



Total Income during 2024/25 **£651,325**

Expenditure 2024/25 and 2023/24

	2025	2024
Staff costs	466,682	472,105
Premises costs	76,136	72,724
Depreciation	-	-
AGM expenses	1,390	640
Professional fees	14,797	25,641
Volunteers and training	147	1,991
Insurance and Indemnities	3,383	2,039
Governance costs	6,708	2,960
Grant disbursements	31,864	44,579
TOTAL	£601,107	£628,125

Total expenditure during 2024/25 **£601,107**