



**Flintshire Local Voluntary Council**  
**Cyngor Gwirfoddol Lleol Sir Fflint**



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# Third Sector Difference

Ann Woods – Chief Officer



**Our Vision:** A strong, sustainable and effective voluntary and community sector, involving and serving Flintshire people.

**Our Mission:**

Support, develop and promote voluntary and community activity in Flintshire  
Strengthen the capacity of voluntary and community groups to contribute to the quality of life of Flintshire people and communities.

Our aims are to maintain support for third sector organisations

- to help them maximise resources,
- lever other funding into their community,
- and support the massive contribution made by volunteers.

Joined FLVC at a time of austerity – all organisations facing funding cuts and reductions in levels of service.



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# Third Sector Difference

- Pressure on statutory services – increased pressure on third sector organisations
- Public sector funding for the third sector - very small part of overall public expenditure.
- Reductions in funding for the third sector - multiplier effect by losing additional funding and resources levered in on the basis of public sector funding.
- Reducing funding for preventative work, early intervention and building community capacity and resources will lead to greater demands for more expensive statutory services.



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# Third Sector Difference

Everyone who supports third sector - motivated by a desire to achieve **social, environmental and cultural benefits** for people and communities.

Diversity of the sector - includes community associations, self-help groups, voluntary organisations, charities, faith-based organisations, social enterprises, community businesses, housing associations, cooperatives, mutual organisations as well as many others.

- Over **3200 third sector organisations** active in Flintshire
- Over **1200 based** in Flintshire
- Over **1500** included on our database

In touch with the needs of local communities

Support of volunteers has never had a more significant value – a well resourced third sector organisation has flexibility and time to **engage fully** and make a mammoth difference to the lives of individuals and communities. Also provides opportunities for individuals to have their voices heard by representing their concerns to decision makers.



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## Core Roles

- Chief Officer
- Finance and Business Manager
- Volunteer Centre Manager
- Health and Social Care Manager – inc SPoA Facilitation
- Funding Officer
- Information and Advice Officer
- PrintRoom – discounted design and print service for groups
- Meeting Room and Conference Space
- Dedicated hub for Third Sector Activity - Support for facilitation between funders/statutory partners/charities/community groups/individuals wanting to help in their local community

**Support for any individual or group that would like help to develop voluntary or community activity**



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## Opportunities for development

Increase in number of volunteers requiring additional support before engaging in community activity (referrals from Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Support Workers, working with JobCentre to support long-term unemployed)

Seeking additional funding for projects that combine

- Accredited Qualification (OCN in Volunteering and Community Engagement)
- Supported Volunteering placements
- Digital Inclusion Support (Universal Credit, Jobmatch, CV support)

Working with the new **Digital Communities Wales** to develop a program to ensure Welsh Government Resources for IT support reach as many beneficiaries as possible (cascading learning through volunteers and community support groups) – can you help?



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# Flintshire Compact

In light of current funding cuts and to develop more efficient use of public funds, working with Karen Armstrong, FCC Head of Policy and Performance to co-ordinate future funding streams

## **What we want to achieve (aims):**

1. Better co-ordinated and effective services for the people of Flintshire

## **What we want to demonstrate (objectives):**

1. Generate closer partnership working to support the delivery of the Council's objectives
2. Develop ways of working to support and sustain the third sector in Flintshire
3. Reduce potential duplication of funding across the third sector
4. Increase the effectiveness of service delivery
5. Ensure value for money is delivered through internal and external funding streams
6. Maximise the opportunities for funding streams



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## Flintshire Compact contd

Stage 1 Mapping of funding streams between the 3rd sector and FCC against identified themes (to be determined, but could be the SIP, existing funding streams and/or identified groups e.g. adults, children, carers, transport etc).

Stage 2 - (i) Review of funding streams across themes to determine 'best fit' for facilitated group work

(ii) Review of other 3rd sector funding strategies (BCU / WG) Lead KA/AW

Stage 3 - Facilitated workshops with organisations within determined 'themed' groups Lead AW

Stage 4 - review and consider outcomes Lead KA/AW

Stage 5 - recommendations for future funding decisions

Stage 6 - report and agree outcomes for decision letters to organisations

Stage 7 - implementation of new arrangements - April 2016





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# Community Asset Transfer

## Partnership with Flintshire CC to support the process

- Administrative processes for FLVC to log, assess, signpost and report on CAT enquiries
- A team of FLVC staff to provide bespoke support to community groups in the development of potential Community Asset Transfers
- A programme of surgery/workshop-type events tailored to the needs of interested parties
- Participation and support for a multi-disciplinary Panel to filter Expressions of Interest (EOI's) and assess business plans for due diligence by FCC.
- Bespoke training and support for those groups/organisations whose EOIs have sufficient merit to progress towards a detailed business plan submission.
- Partnerships with existing and potential partner organisations within the sector to provide direct and in-kind support to empower the transferee.
- Monitoring of Expressions of Interest and support for a smooth and efficient transfer process.
- Liaison with FCC to identify potential assets, issues and beneficiary groups.



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# FCC Community Asset Transfer Process

- Process launched at FLVC Social Enterprise Conference in October 2014
- 63 Expressions of Interest received by end of March
- Comprehensive Training given re CAT Process and Landlord and Tenant Act
- FLVC facilitating ongoing surgery-type events for support and information sharing
- FLVC supporting process as an independent body, to help ensure best possible outcomes for local communities



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# National and Regional Developments

Memorandum of Understanding with Neighbouring Counties' Voluntary Councils to look at more effective partnership working, shared service provision and cost saving. Exploring core roles of a CVC, coupled with each county's individual projects.

Welsh Government White Paper – Devolution, Democracy and Delivery

'Power to Local Communities'

'Supporting Community Participation'

Valuing and supporting voluntary and community action, whilst recognising that voluntary action requires support and management, which does not come for free.



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# Third Sector Difference

## The Future

- 4.17% cut from Welsh Government Third Sector Infrastructure Agreement
- 10% year on year cuts from Flintshire CC
- Seeking to retain quality of service with reduced resources is not easy
- Looking at new ways of delivering services - involving 'co-production' enabling citizens and communities to work in partnership with service providers
- Clarity is required about the circumstances in which procurement or grant-funding are used to fund third sector services
- The sector's independence should be recognised, valued and supported.
- It is a privilege to be involved in supporting third sector groups – we want to do it well.



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Thank you  
Diolch yn Fawr

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