





VOLUNTEERING **MATTERS**

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**OUR VISION IS OF A SOCIETY WHERE
EVERYONE CAN PARTICIPATE IN
THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY
THROUGH VOLUNTEERING AND
SOCIAL ACTION**

Volunteering Matters – who are we




-  A national organisation leading in volunteering policy and practice
-  Core interests in mentoring and befriending, social action and peer support
-  A trusted recipient of funding
-  A belief in working positively with voluntary sector and community organisations, local authorities and other statutory agencies.


What do we do in Wales?



- We engage with more than 3000 volunteers
- We work with all ages
- Welcome Friends, Knitting Network, Newport Support Partnership, Cars4Carers, Learn Together Cymru, Rural Wisdom
- Youth projects: Activ8, Mind Matters, No....SH
- Employee Volunteering
- Full-time volunteering

Getting things done together.....

 Newport Support Partnership, supporting carers – a successful multi-agency collaboration between Volunteering Matters, Reach, Dewis and CAB

 PACTO (Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations) – schemes coming together to be more effective. 12 years old and still innovating.

Common benefits of our projects?



- They increase confidence
- They boost a sense of community
- They encourage citizens to look out at life and give their time to others – everyone can make a difference
- They promote recognition and awareness of social issues
- They listen to the quietest voices and ensure they are heard
- They help groups get together.



Rural Wisdom

- Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund – Accelerating Ideas stream
- Partnership between Outside The Box, Volunteering Matters and NDTi (National Development Team for Inclusion)
- Across Scotland and Wales
- Encourages communities to achieve modest goals with the help of a worker
- Works to the community's brief
- ***SHARES THE LEARNING!***



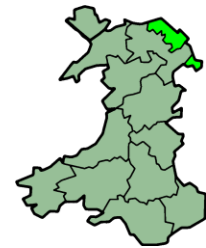
We need to see that older people have....



- a stronger voice
- opportunities for more social connections in their communities
- more activities led by and supportive of older people, co-produced in the community
- a relationship with all age groups to create communities that work well for older people
- the chance to contribute to local and national policy.

Rural Wisdom Welsh locations

- Two years' work has taken place, both in Scotland and Wales
- Wales pilot communities from 2017 to 2019:
 - Leeswood/Pontblyddyn (Flintshire)
 - Milford Haven (Pembrokeshire)
- From 2019:
 - Holywell (Flintshire)
 - Dale peninsula (Pembrokeshire)



What has been achieved so far?

- Leeswood/Pontblyddyn



- Maximising use of the fantastic village hall, including re-modelling of part of the hall to create space for a new weekly community café
- Work with the local school to grow food and to involve the children in the naming of the new community cafe
- Afternoon teas and carvery events to bring people together over great food
- A regular Film Club
- Litter picks to encourage community pride.

What has been achieved so far?

- Milford Haven



- An events listing for the town to enable residents to find low-cost/no-cost community activities....now taken on by Youth Matters
- A local email group (100 members) to share news and events.....now taken on by Youth Matters
- Help given to community members to revive a much-missed lunch club
- Various weekly social groups established.....handicraft and board-games
- Worked with community members to provide mental health sessions and weekly lunches in an area of town where there is hardship
- Worked with community disability campaigner and Port Authority to place seating at local supermarket.

Community engagement

- Informal volunteering
- Encourages the building of relationships between community members
- Encourages people to feel hopeful about what they can do in their communities and what their communities can do for them
- Realizes the small dreams.



The learning.....

- Communication between areas
- Communication between participating nations
- Routine exchange visits lead to other things...







An innovative care conference in Pembrokeshire inspired by experiences in Scotland

Transport meetings in Scotland to which Pembrokeshire people were invited to talk about community transport.

The project's key messages...



-  It works to the community's wishes and vision
-  It speaks to the people with ideas and a thirst for change.....they will carry forward and sustain any developments
-  It encourages learning from everything....even from what does not work
-  It shares all the learning with other parts of the project, the other participating home nation and any community it can help.

Useful links and contacts:

- volunteeringmatters.org.uk
- <https://volunteeringmatters.org.uk/project/newport-support-partnership/>
- <http://ruralwisdom.org/>
- <https://otbds.org/>
- <http://www.pacto.org.uk/>
- Rachel Evans, Volunteering Matters
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thank you!