

Trustee Report 2020

Twyn Community Hub

Activities and objectives:

To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 25 living in Merthyr Tydfil and the surrounding area by providing advice and assistance and organizing programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of:

- (a) advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;
- (b) providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for people living in the area of benefit who have need by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons."

Organisational Reserves Polciy:

Twyn Community hub are keenly aware of the need to secure our viability beyond the immediate future. In order to be able to provide reliable services over the longer term. Twyn community hub must be able to absorb setbacks and take advantage of change and opportunity. We provide for this by putting aside, when we afford it, some of our current income as a reserve against future uncertainties.

A minimum level of reserves required for 1 quarter = £15,000 Twyn Community Hub accepts that where possible it will need absorb setbacks and take advantage of change and opportunity. Twyn Community provide for this by putting aside, when we afford it, some of our current income as a reserve against future uncertainties. Twyn Community hub aim to secure this reserve over a 5 year period (£3,000 per year).

Twyn community hub will continue to fundraise, welcome donation and use our premises for rental to retain and build reserves. Since our hire charges are significantly cheaper than other

local halls, there is unlikely to be a problem increasing our rates if we need too. Twyn Community hub is also expanding its café and catering services to develop further income.

Achievements and performance:

This year has been a challenging one for Twynrobyn Community Hub with many new issues to overcome through the Covid-19 pandemic. However, we have extended our reach in terms of creating positive impact in the community and engaged with many inspirational new volunteers which are great positives for us as a charity focused on wellbeing. Throughout this year our young people have faced a challenging time and we have had to be innovative in approach to ensure continued engagement, safety and wellbeing needs are met. Young volunteers have been inspirational in bridging the generation gap and showing humanity to those who are in need within the community, additionally we have seen a growth in the young people with many new ideas already being put forward for 2021. The community support and positive feedback we have received has been instrumental in how we have carried on despite constant challenges and problem solving. However, this has only shown the bravery, kindness and humanity within the community and within Twynrobyn Community Hub. Consequently, the charity is now looking to expand its objectives to cover all ages and needs with the pandemic uncovering many unmet needs within the community. The following have been achieved this year :

Our Work within the Community has significantly developed over the last year and changed dramatically in approach. Our aims are always centred around improving wellbeing, developing confidence and building self esteem, all of which have been successfully achieved if through very different ways this year. The focus this year was to continue face to face engagement empowering and commending skills people within the community already possess without knowing how valued they are, this has been achieved through different ways of working, not ideal but still positively impactful with skills embedded to take active involvement with the current project and those upcoming.

An example of some of the innovative ways we have delivered activities and the Covid response we have provided include:

Community outreach and wellbeing checks : Regular phone conversations to check wellbeing, referrals and signposting and walkabouts when restrictions allow.

Minibus project : We have acquired a lottery funded minibus in order to allow those facing mobility barriers to attend and benefit from all that we offer in the hub.

Covid Response : This has included delivering food parcels, daily hot meals, prescriptions, activity packs and prescriptions to those who need it. This has been a coordinated effort between the staff and the many new volunteers we have inducted.

Activity packs delivery : We have had to adapt our project delivery in order to fulfil our funders criteria and aims, therefore we have delivered activity, baking, wellbeing and gardening packs in accordance with each grant aim in accordance with targeted beneficiaries. Where face to face engagement has been permitted outdoor sessions have still taken place with limited numbers attending indoor sessions.

Events : We have had breakfast with the elves, Christmas grotto, science fair and a Christmas market despite a restrictive year, the community are now planning a summer fête and the further development of our outdoor area and eco garden in preparation of another year of meeting the needs of the community despite challenges.

Community digital project : This was a face to face session delivered to support intergenerational work, however it has had to be adapted to accommodate the restrictions this has included accessing a grant for iPads to lend to those not digitally equipped and facilitating a support project to ensure more people have access to gaining resources online. The activity is in partnership with MVH and the Wales Co-operative Centre- 25 young people were trained by the Wales Co-operative Centre – young people will continue with older residents in the next year to use their devices, this first intergenerational project will be built on to explore further work with older residents

Bingo Fridays : Again this has had to move online with tickets and any needed pens etc sterilised and delivered to those community members who want to engage but lack provisions, presently we are engaging 12 people weekly consistently from ages 13-78 with these sessions and are looking forward to moving back to face to face whenever this is allowed.

Monthly Book Club: This is also a really successful and empowered group who have consistently attended face to face before Covid and have engaged well with the online book club sessions. This group regularly has 7 attendees.

Environmental group : This group has thrived throughout the current pandemic starting off as a group of 8 young people aged from 11-18 years, however this has grown to cover all ages and has been a life saver as it has been a life saver for many people suffering mental health symptoms. This project looks at the climate and environment for educational purposes, looks at where food comes from and its benefits and looks to teach healthy and valuable skills.

Additional activities and new projects.

Teddy bear picnic – Designed and carried out within Covid restrictions.

Reboot and refresh project– This aims to relieve loneliness and isolation through connecting to qualified personal trainers and health coaches.

Helping hearts project– This project is NHS funded and intended to limit hospital admissions throughout the winter period where Covid risks are greater supporting community members to stay safe and provided for.

Twyn community Hub again this year has made every effort to ensure that everyone could benefit the project. We continue to advertise on our Face-book Page, website, text system alongside marketing through leaflets, partnerships and through our various projects and outreach. We also have maintained good links with the local schools including our local our local Welsh and SEND schools with all sessions being socially inclusive. Our new relationship with Merthyr Council is progressing well – the council now take active involvement in promoting the project to the wider borough of Merthyr Tydfil.

We have also continued to work collaboratively, including the Workers Educational Association, Gellideg Foundation Group, Dowlais Engine House, VAMT, Merthyr Job Centre and Drug Aid – many of who also promote our services. We have also strengthened our links with Merthyr Valleys Homes who have provided support with capital works including re tarmacking our drive to allow our minibus to enter safely.

We constantly evaluate the project including activity feedback, community consultations self & event evaluations. Good sharing practice informs best policies and working frameworks in order to stay focused on our aims and objectives. The trustees are very confident in our growth as a charity and in our ability to maintain this going forwards ensuring we can still meet the needs of the community whether these be existing or new needs.

Report on public benefit:

Our charity purpose is to act as a resource for young people up to the age of 25 living in Merthyr Tydfil and the surrounding area by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities.

We have continued to run a Youth club 2 evenings per week however this is now as previously mentioned this has now been moved online with direct contact from youth workers to the young people in terms of daily wellbeing calls, training opportunities, delivered activity packs and volunteering opportunities.

Grants and Fundraising:

Twynrodyn Community Hub has been lucky enough to receive a lot of grant funding this year many of this directed at Covid response these include :

TAG General

Children In Need

Peoples Health Trust 8515- Community Project

MTCBC Service Level Agreement

Peoples Health Trust 8510- Young People Project

Twyn Community Hub- Building Fund

Big Lottery- ABCD

Twyn Community Hub Staffing Fund

Lottery Eco Project

Marget Davies Charitable Fund

Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil Covid 19

Moondance Foundation Covid-19

Lottery Covid-19 Top Up Grant

Community Aid Foundatoin CAF

WCVA Covid19

Health Board Transformation

Gosling Foundation

Western Power

Legal and General Covid19

Martin Lewis Fund

Community Foundation In Wales

Legal and General

The Albert Hunt Trust

Lottery Minibus

The Grub hub

Newbry Trust

Clothworkers Foundation

Lottery Summer Project

Children in need Top Up

The Bernard and Sunley Foundation

DM Thomas Foundation- Les Mills

WCVA Recovery Fund

Reboot, Rebalance Refresh (VAMT)

Recover Respond (Community Foundation in Wales)

