



Changing Places, Changing Lives

Groundwork Wales/Impact report 2018



At **Groundwork Wales** we strive to change places and change lives, now and for future generations. That's why we have the health, prosperity and well-being of people and their communities at our heart. To this end we work with our partners in communities across Wales to make a real difference to people's lives and prospects.

Welcome/Croeso

Groundwork Wales continues to work at the foundation of Welsh Society, supporting people and the environment to make a positive and lasting difference.

I'm delighted to present our latest Impact Report, which gives an overview of some of our key programmes – and the achievements we've made in Changing Places, Changing Lives.

We continue to work in the spirit of the well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 working with Welsh Government, Local Authorities and partners in the health, private and third sectors.

Our mission – Changing Places, Changing Lives – drives us to make meaningful and lasting difference to people's aspirations and opportunities, connecting them with the environments in which they live. This year we've driven our employment and skills work, and I hear first-hand from our beneficiaries and volunteers, about the impact our team and our programmes

make in helping them to realise their potential and improve their lives, and those of their families. This in turn can reverse generations of under-achievement. In talking to them, I am struck by the multi-generational work we do, linking people from all sorts of backgrounds together, and providing them with opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have.

Thank you, team Groundwork – staff, trustees, beneficiaries, volunteers and funders – for another year of great work!

Katy Stevenson, Chief Executive



836,586

people benefitting from improved spaces



Making a positive difference

We're proud of the way we work. For almost 30 years we've proved to ourselves and others that our distinctive way of working and helping others to work differently pays dividends now and for the future.

Year on year, our innovative initiatives, projects and programmes continue to contribute to the vision of the **7 Well-being goals** at the core of the **Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015**. So we're proud too of our 2018 showcase which illustrates how we're delivering real positive impacts on the health, wealth and well-being of Wales.



3,408

volunteers actively involved



81

biodiversity projects



1.8m^{m2}

land improved and maintained =
262 football pitches



186,144 KG

waste diverted from landfill



9,560

hours of training delivered



1,505

hours of business support



Making a positive difference continued



£43,000

of volunteer in-kind support



3,394

new young people involved in training and community support



64,300 KG

green waste removed



£1.3m

grants made to community projects through Tesco Bags for Help scheme





69

people on 6 week work placements



48

community growing projects



890

community organisations supported



10,248

trees planted



£133,265

of potential cost savings identified
for businesses



822

physical activity sessions undertaken



Working for the well-being of future generations

We're all about well-being in its fullest sense. We deliver programmes designed to improve the physical, mental, social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of individuals and communities across Wales. We work to improve the prospects of people and places now and for the continued well-being of future generations.

That's why we've supported the development of the **Well-being and Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015**. And that's why we continue to apply many of the principles at its core to the delivery of Ground Wales' 3 green-at-heart initiatives: Green Academy, Green Services and Green Enterprise.

The eight case studies that follow, chosen from many more, illustrate how Groundwork Wales' projects are delivering on those 7 goals for individuals, businesses and communities. We are proud to continue to play an increasingly active and successful part in bringing about a better Wales for all.



Welsh Government's 7 Well-being goals

01

A prosperous Wales

02

A healthier Wales

03

A resilient Wales

04

A more equal Wales

05

A Wales of cohesive communities

06

A globally responsible Wales

07

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

P/1

Wood2Work

Programme description

Wood2Work (W2W) aims to provide those who need most help with positive and practical work experiences designed to move them forward into apprenticeships, further training or employment.

The 12-week accredited Agored Cymru programme based at Groundwork Wales’ professional wood workshop in Aberbargoed, Caerphilly, supports local beneficiaries from the rural wards of Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent in the learning of traditional skills such as wood-crafting, carving and willow weaving. In doing so, individuals develop personally and are equipped to contribute to the sustainable development of their rural communities.

Since its inception, W2W has proven to be a valuable resource assisting a diverse range of participants including the unemployed, the lonely, the anxious, those in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse, veterans with PTSD, those with financial and learning challenges and refugees. In a well-resourced and creative environment, it has positively engaged them all, delivering on its remit to prepare for future employment or volunteering opportunities on other Groundwork programmes.

Partners

- + ACT Training
- + Bridges to Work
- + Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent Area Regeneration Team
- + Caerphilly Supporting People Initiative
- + CCBC Community Mental Health Team
- + CCBC Supporting People Initiative
- + CCBC WHQS
- + Communities First
- + Communities For Work/ Communities For Work+
- + Community Support Team
- + Help For Heroes
- + Islwyn High School SEN Department
- + Job Centre Plus

WG Well-being goals addressed

- 01 A prosperous Wales
- 02 A healthier Wales
- 03 A resilient Wales
- 04 A more equal Wales

Coming to the workshop has helped my depression and anxiety and restored my self-esteem by getting me out of the house and involved in something meaningful.

Daniel, Participant and Volunteer Wood2Work

80

beneficiaries engaged

50

beneficiaries working towards an Agored Cymru accreditation

30

beneficiaries accessing further support services



P/2

Routes 2 Life

Programme description

Many of the post-industrial communities of Wales suffer from the worst effects of poverty and disadvantage. Routes 2 Life (R2L) does what its name encapsulates – provides disadvantaged and often vulnerable adults and young people an education and skills development programme as a positive way forward.

Based at Groundwork Wales' horticultural farm site at Pontllanfraith, Caerphilly, R2L provides beneficiaries of all ages the opportunity to learn and develop a range of practical and horticultural countryside skills including, hedging, strimming, fencing, gardening, pruning and growing fruit and vegetables.

Here participants can build social skills, confidence and self-esteem, gain Agored Cymru accredited training and enhance CVs with positive experiences working in the outdoors. Part funded by Caerphilly County Borough Council, R2L also engages with local schools to learn from the land, supporting delivery of the curriculum and promoting greener ways of living. The project also delivers Groundwork Wales' Environmental Traineeships for 16-18 year olds, a six-month qualification in Environmental Conservation – a passport to their individual route to a better future.

Partners

- + ACT Training
- + Caerphilly County Borough Council
- + Cwm a Mynydd Local Action Group
- + Ernest Cook Trust
- + Millenium Stadium Youth Fund

WG Well-being goals addressed

- 01**
A prosperous Wales
- 02**
A healthier Wales
- 04**
A more equal Wales
- 06**
A globally responsible Wales

• The R2L programme was a great experience.
• I learnt a lot of new skills during my time as a
• volunteer. I was able to attend courses and gain
• the right qualifications which helped me find full-
• time paid employment.

Chris, Previous Volunteer with R2L and now Member of Greencare Team

6,000

sq. metres' land improved

675

adult volunteering days

20

accreditations gained



P/3

Healthy Rivers

Programme description

Groundwork Wales recognises that there is no value in wasting talent or neglecting environments that can act as catalysts for growth and prosperity. Nowhere is this more true than in the South Wales valley communities that have often been overlooked and undervalued.

Our Healthy Rivers programme aims to address this by maximising the social, economic and environmental assets of this unique landscape so that it achieves a global profile for all the right reasons. We work at the forefront of river restoration in south-east Wales to improve natural habitats, support greater populations of native fish and improve ecological status.

Through initiatives including the Valleys Regional Park area, local people are being engaged in their local communities. Volunteering opportunities on schemes such as the removal of single-use plastics, enable people to improve skills and life chances and foster a long-term appreciation for river habitats.

Healthy Rivers is not only opening up rivers but importantly, the latent potential within communities, serving generations to come and making for a more sustainable and resilient Wales.

Partners

- + Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- + Caerphilly County Borough Council
- + Dŵr Cymru
- + Keep Wales Tidy
- + Natural Resources Wales
- + South East Wales Rivers Trust
- + Tesco Bags of Help Grant Fund

WG Well-being goals addressed

- 01 A prosperous Wales
- 03 A resilient Wales
- 05 A Wales of cohesive communities
- 06 A globally responsible Wales

• This project has been an important mechanism for delivering work to improve Water Framework Directive status and getting communities involved in their local environment.

Michael Clyde, Sustainable Fisheries Project Manager
Natural Resources Wales

10

barriers to fish eased

4

top 4 finalist in UK River Prize

9

river cleans



P/4

The Furniture Revival

Programme description

Working at the heart of Wales' most challenged communities for almost 30 years Groundwork Wales understands that poverty of aspiration and long-term unemployment have profound negative impacts on the health, wealth and well-being of individuals and the places they live.

Based in Rhymney at our award-winning re-use centre, The Furniture Revival is a social enterprise owned by Groundwork Wales, and one of our Green Enterprise initiatives designed to break this cycle of deprivation. The Furniture Revival is about renewal and regeneration in its fullest sense.

The project diverts waste (household and garden furniture, electrical goods, bric-a-brac) from landfill through a collection service, provides training and engagement opportunities to enhance employability and life skills through its volunteering hub, and at the same time provides affordable second hand furniture to low income households in the community.

The Furniture Revival is proof that fulfilling work is a major factor in helping people build both a more positive future and a sustainable economy, contributing to a more prosperous Wales.

Partners

- + Caerphilly County Borough Council
- + Communities For Work
- + Reuse Network
- + South East Wales Community Economic Development Fund
- + Solas Cymru
- + Ty'r Fesan (CCBC)
- + United Welsh Housing Association

WG Well-being goals addressed

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I can't believe that I won this award (Caerphilly Volunteer of the Year Award), but I am pleased to have received it. I really enjoy working at The Furniture Revival, particularly meeting customers and being part of a team.
Andrew, Volunteer The Furniture Revival

50

job/work placements created

150

people undertaken training

2,000

household/families supported



P/5

Studying Outdoor Skills

Programme description

Many of Wales' post-industrial towns benefit from a beautiful natural environment.

In Tredegar, we are delivering an employability programme to study outdoor skills (S.O.S.) at the Sirhowy Woodlands, the site of the spoil tip for the former Iron Works. Funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), and in partnership with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, the S.O.S. programme is an Active Inclusion project supporting regeneration, working with the long-term unemployed and economically inactive people over the age of twenty-five.

S.O.S. provides practical skills training and qualifications with particular focus on ground clearance and maintenance, conservation, restoration, environmental awareness and tree identification. In addition, it supports participants with CV writing, job searching, and progressing into further learning, volunteering and employment. The project is a template for regeneration, transforming the site into a community asset as well as enhancing life-chances and employability prospects for participants.

Partners

- + Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- + Sirhowy Valley Woodlands Group
- + WCVA Active Inclusion Programme

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I really enjoyed my experience on the Studying Outdoor Skills project. As I have been out of work for such a long time, I found it very interesting. I learned lots of new skills and liked mixing with new people. It was great to get out of the house and be active in the woodlands.
Colin, Volunteer, S.O.S. Sirhowy Woodlands, Blaenau Gwent

42

people actively engaged

5

people entering employment

24

people achieving a part accredited qualification



P/6

Green Dragon

Programme description

There is scientific consensus that human-induced climate change is responsible for significant and widespread irreversible impacts. Depleting finite natural resources is literally costing the earth. Many companies and organisations are committed to a better environment and want to behave differently but are often daunted by the attainment of a formal environmental management system (EMS) such as ISO 14001, holding the view that it is not relevant to the nature and scale of their activities.

Groundwork Wales' Green Dragon Standard offers an alternative solution through the development of an EMS that externally verifies a business' distinctive system and is appropriate to its needs. It's a 5-step approach and organisations can travel through the levels (Level 5 = ISO 14001) or stay at the appropriate level for their particular business needs. Green Dragon covers areas including carbon saving, sustainability, pollution prevention, legal compliance and continual improvement. It supports organisations with international reach and impact such as Wales' most high profile leisure and tourism destinations, The Celtic Manor Resort, as well as delivering environmental education in communities.

Partners

+ Business Wales

WG Well-being goals addressed

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- 07 A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

... We are delighted to have regained our Green Dragon Level 3. This year has been a great success for the Celtic Manor Resort. We'll continue to improve and look for new ways to be as environmentally friendly as possible in the future.

Joel Kirby, Energy and Environmental Manager
The Celtic Manor Resort

124

Accredited Environmental Management Systems (EMS) achieved

£144,012

potential cost saving for business identified

6,516

KgCO2e potential carbon saving for business identified



P/7 Greencare

Programme description

Research has shown that the well-being of individuals is shaped by the physical appearance of where they live, work and visit. Greencare, one of our enterprise programmes delivers high quality landscape services at cost-effective rates that enable everyone and everything to benefit – landscape, skills, employment, and Groundwork Wales’ wider activities.

The Greencare team operates as a social enterprise of paid staff and volunteers, offering local people first-hand experience of the landscape sector as well as offering Environmental Traineeships for 16-18 year olds. Together, the team delivers ground maintenance and space improvement services for local community organisations, housing associations and charities. Currently Greencare is delivering an ongoing Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Celtic Horizons for grounds maintenance and site upgrades on United Welsh Housing Association estates. The programme is an exemplar of how Groundwork Wales’ mission to change places and change lives is succeeding on the ground.

Partners

- + ACT Training
- + Celtic Horizons

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A Wales of cohesive communities

• The Greencare team has delivered a grounds’ maintenance and site upgrade for Celtic Horizons since April 2013. The team has met all service level requirements, shows great flexibility, and manages contract performance effectively.
Estates Services Manager, Celtic Horizons

62,000 KG

of Green Waste removed

1.2m^{m2}

land maintained = 168 football pitches

754

public spaces improved



P/8

Future Steps-NatWest

Programme description

Like all of Groundwork Wales' projects, Future Steps is designed to support communities where there is most need. The project aims to help people who want to get into work overcome barriers that are stopping them: 89% of beneficiaries are long-term unemployed.

In the summer of 2018, Groundwork Wales was successful in securing funding for a NatWest Skills & Opportunities Fund Grant. The grant is enabling Future Steps to work with disadvantaged individuals in the south Wales valleys' communities to improve financial literacy and self-employment skills by providing a holistic package of specialist accredited training and mentoring.

Participants are supported to get 'work-ready' in environments that move quickly from classroom to community. At the end of the period, beneficiaries are more financially literate and equipped with a set of skills and knowledge that empower them to make informed and effective decisions with all their financial resources.

Partners

- + Communities for Work
- + Coleg Gwent
- + Disability Can Do
- + Glyncoch Community Centre
- + Job Centre Plus
- + New Horizons
- + Newydd Housing Association
- + PACE
- + Parish of Pontypridd (Rebuild, Restore, Renew)
- + Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
- + Torfaen CBC

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Future Steps has strengthened my confidence, enabling me to focus on self-employment opportunities in the future. I recommend the project to anyone in my predicament who is looking to branch out and work independently.

Angela, Future Steps-NatWest Project participant

10

individuals supported in Agored accredited team building, financial literacy & budgeting and employment skills on farm site at Blackwood

20

individuals participating in a learning and practical placement programme at Newydd Housing Association, Pontypridd

1+1

1 participant has achieved full-time permanent employment and 1 individual is being supported into a self-employed gardening business



2018

Analysis of income

European Union	£21,650
Local Authority	£215,542
Private Sector	£207,220
Public Agencies & National Charities	£291,335
Welsh Government	£610,434
Social Enterprise Activities	£134,270
Donations	£5,035
Total	£1,485,486

