



VSJLC

Overview of Research Work 15th April

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working in Wales for over
40 years.



We are working to
build a fairer,
greener economy
and a more equal
society,
**where people and
planet come first.**

About Cwmpas

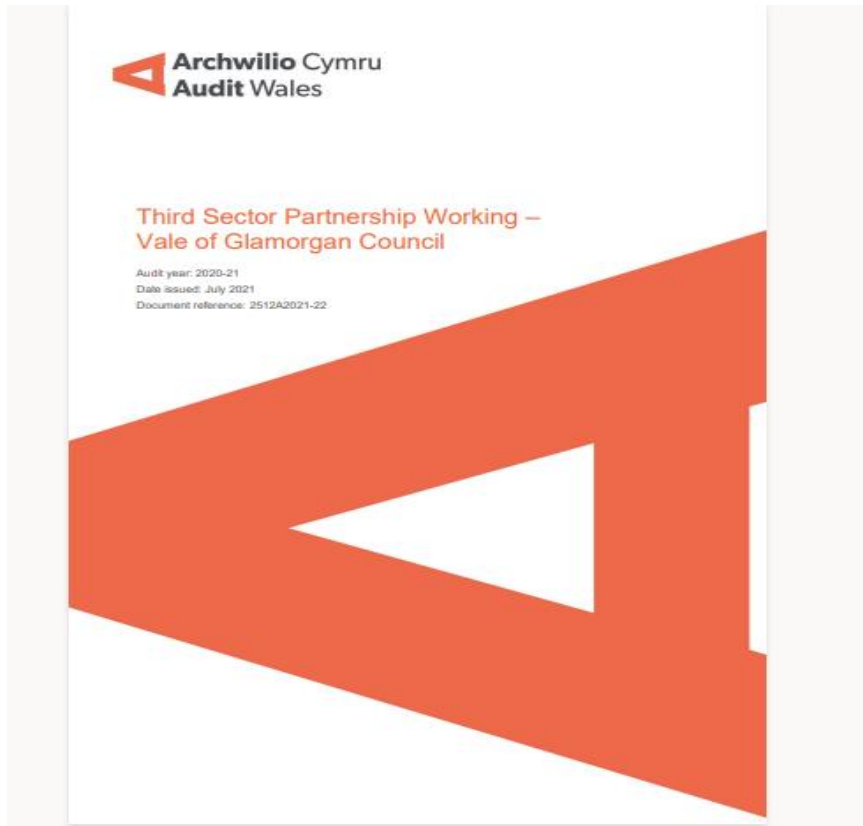
- Social Business Wales
- Digital Communities Wales
- Consultancy Service
- Newid
- Community lead housing
- Community shares
- Shared Prosperity Fund
- Social care

Our work with the Council

- **Internal engagement**
- Social enterprise workshop
- Review of Poverty Work

- **External engagement**
- Third sector and social enterprises
- Town and Community Councils
- S16 workshop
- VSJLC

Audit Wales Reports



Key Findings from the Social Enterprise report

- Our overall conclusion is that local authorities are not effectively working with Social Enterprises to maximise their impact, make better use of resources and improve services for people and communities.
- Most local authorities have adopted a passive leadership role, often responding to Social Enterprises that approach them but not proactively seeking to work with Social Enterprises or help stimulate new ones. This leadership vacuum has resulted in Social Enterprises often being at the fringes of local authority business.
- Most local authorities are not delivering their responsibilities under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and effectively promoting Social Enterprises.

Specifically, on S16 duties

- We found that relatively few local authority officers we spoke to were aware of their legal duty to champion the use of Social Enterprises and very few could set out how they are working to grow the sector and deliver their Section 16 responsibilities. The imprecise language in the Act is unhelpful in this context; specifically, the word 'promote.'
 - A number of authorities simply focus their efforts on working with existing Social Enterprises with little active promotion to encourage others and help create new ones.
 - Few authorities are investing time and resources in refreshing policies and procurement procedures to build capacity and provide more opportunities to existing Social Enterprises, as well as helping to stimulate new ones.
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Conclusions from the Third Sector Report

- We found that the Council's arrangements support its current way of working with the third sector, but now could be strengthened to maximise opportunities to enhance the relationship to support the delivery of the Council's strategic recovery priorities.

We reached this conclusion because:

- the Council's arrangements serve it well for its current way of working with the third sector;
- the pandemic has highlighted the importance of the third sector in helping communities and there are opportunities to enhance its role; and
- the Council is keen to work more collaboratively with the third sector and will need to consider how its arrangements, including its approach to funding and oversight, need to adapt to support such a shift in culture.

Third sector views on working with VoGC

- Strong relationships with individual staff
- Staff listen
- Staff respond
- Engage proactively about potential opportunities
- Viewed as a partner, But;
- Would like to get more involved before decisions are made
- Funding decisions
- Paying funding (Can take months)
- To provide commissioned services
- Need opportunity to shape services

Reflections on S16 workshop

- In person on the 6th of April
 - Good attendance and input
 - Examples of coproduced solutions (Llamau)
 - Third sector want to innovate and develop new services together
 - Role of S16 forums: More dynamic and engaging work programme?
 - Procurement as an enabler (not a barrier)
 - Support to develop and monitor impact measures
 - Highlight social value/wellbeing impact
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Questions

- Thoughts on findings to date?
- Role of this committee
- Compact expired in 2021; what next?