



# Annual Review

## April 2016—March 2017

Registered charity number: 1086434  
Company number: 4033853



Refugees Welcome

After a long campaign, North East Wales councils agreed to welcome Syrian refugees. In the lead up to Wrexham Council making its decision TCC published an open letter to the council, signed by our patron Bishop Gregory Cameron, as well as 18 other local faith and community leaders, offering to work with the Council to make sure refugees are truly welcomed to the local community.

As part of this commitment, we ran 'Communicating Effectively for Change' training, in partnership with HOPE not hate. This covered the facts and figures on refugees, and techniques for having conversations confidently and effectively on challenging issues such as immigration and race.



Increasing police presence

TCC tackles social injustice by supporting diverse communities to gain the power needed to enact change. We do this through community organising: bringing together local groups, supporting them to set their own agenda, take action, and improve communities.

Our members are many different faith groups, community groups, and schools from across Wrexham, Flintshire, and Denbighshire. At our monthly meetings any of our members can raise an issue for TCC to work on, meaning our members really set our agenda. Once agreed by the other groups, we research the issue thoroughly, finding out who else might be involved, and who has the power to make a decision which will change the situation. We think about what is in their interest, and how this can be combined with the community's interests to have a positive outcome for everyone.

We work in the public arena, often with those in power, but we don't have any political allegiances. Our main aim is to build relationships and power in the community, so that people are able to have a say on decisions made about them. Since being founded in 1995 TCC has been incredibly successful in doing so.

This annual review outlines a few of our successes from the last year. A full annual report which includes the independently examined accounts is available from the TCC office and from the Charity Commission.

Young people had a fantastic win when they successfully campaigned for increased police presence at a local skate park. The group are from St. Christopher's School in Wrexham, a school for pupils who have special educational needs. They took part in weekly community organising training sessions, and identified the skate park as an issue to work on, as they were concerned about anti-social behaviour and drug use there. After lots of research and preparation the group met with their PCSO to voice their concerns, ask their questions, and put forward a request. The PCSO was impressed by the presentation, and as a result agreed to visit the skate park twice a day. The group were thrilled and hope this will make a big difference for themselves and other young people in the area.

This year TCC gained national recognition by becoming one of five charities to win the Guardian Charity Awards. Member groups, trustees, and staff were absolutely delighted to win the award, especially as over 700 other charities applied. The award recognised TCC’s work over the last 21 years, and judges especially noted the way that TCC had “pioneered community organising for the whole of the UK”.

In December the award was presented to TCC representatives by Sir Ian McKellen at a special ceremony. Prizes include £3,000, an iPad, and a package of training and support.



### Note from the lead organiser

It’s been another fantastic, successful, and busy year for TCC. Ahead of the Welsh Assembly elections we worked in partnership with the Welsh Refugee Council, HOPE not hate, and Oxfam Cymru to hold a very well attended accountability event, ‘Making Wales a Welcoming and Prosperous Nation’. This focused on issues such as low pay, improving our migration strategy, and the community holding decision makers to account. Afterwards, TCC leaders met with our newly elected Assembly Members to continue building relationships and working together.

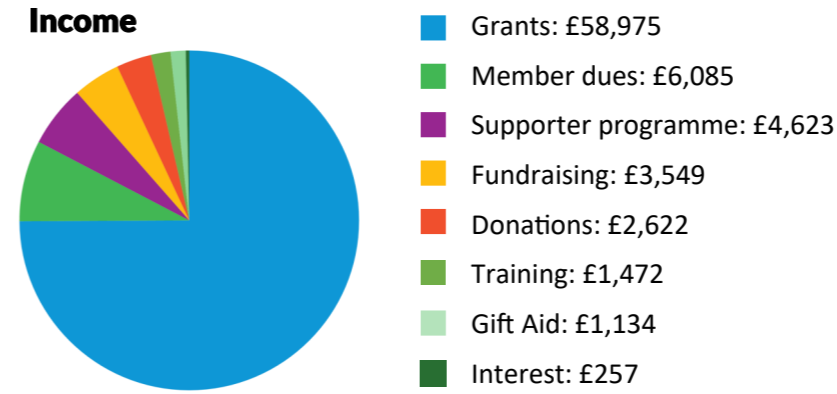
Our work with children and young people has continued to flourish; this year our group at St. Joseph’s Catholic & Anglican High School were successful in making their school the first ‘School of Sanctuary’ in North Wales. To achieve the award pupils wrote new policy statements, delivered workshops to other students, and organised a ‘refugee day’ with over 80 pupils taking part in activities. Wrexham MP Ian Lucas visited the school to present the award, calling their work “inspirational”. As a result, the group was later invited to make a presentation at the Welsh Assembly. Many thanks to the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation in particular for making our work with young people possible.

This year we ran two residential community organising training sessions, training 32 new community leaders, including five secondary school aged young people. We also visited Thrive Teesside and the University of Glasgow to deliver training sessions there.

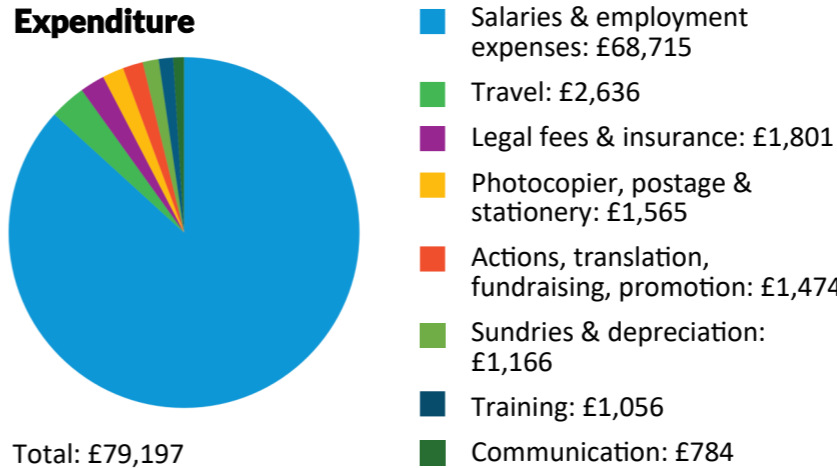
On top of this, young leaders organised a ‘human library’ event to share diverse experiences, we met with the governor of the new prison, took part in the Stop Climate Chaos lobby by meeting with Assembly Members, and held another successful fundraising TCC Week. During the year we were also thrilled to welcome the Wrexham Mission Area into membership, meaning we’ve gained six new member groups (two churches were already in membership).

Thank you and congratulations to all TCC’s members and supporters.

Sam Rex-Edwards



Total: £78,717



Total: £79,197

**Our funders**

We are very grateful to our funders who provide grants which support TCC’s day-to-day running. In this financial year we received grants from The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, The Presbyterian Church of Wales, St. Asaph Diocese, and the Cymru Synod of the Methodist Church.

Full, independently examined accounts are included in TCC’s annual report.

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**Our members**

Currently we have 33 groups in membership, and are always looking for new groups to join us. All groups pay annual membership dues, based on their size. However as you can see the majority of our funding comes from grants.

Being a part of TCC means that groups can raise issues for TCC to work on, share in the support and strength of other member groups, and access TCC’s training free of charge. This could be either through attending one of our regular residential courses, or arranging training specifically for their group.

**Our staff**

TCC has two community organisers: lead organiser Mrs Kay Polley, and youth and community organiser Mrs Chloe Gallagher, who joined the organisation in May 2016. In November Kay took maternity leave, and from then the lead organiser post has been filled by Ms Sam Rex-Edwards. TCC’s part-time administrator is Mrs Sue Williams.

**Our trustees**

Our board of trustees meets at least four times a year. The board in this year were: Rev Dr Jennifer Hurd (chair), Dr Farookh Jishi (vice-chair), Mr David Day (treasurer), Rev James Harris (stepped down in July), Mrs Nia Higginbotham, Rev Nan Powell-Davies, Mrs Maria Rimmer, Ms Melanie Sinclair, and Ms Alison Tudor Williams, with Lord Bishop Gregory Cameron as TCC’s patron. All groups are encouraged to nominate members to become trustees.