



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 community groups, faith 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, we research the issue thoroughly, finding out who else might be involved, and who has the power to make a decision. We then support the people affected by the issue to lead a campaign, meeting directly with the decision maker to create a change.

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, and in 2016 won the Guardian Charity Awards.

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.

Hungry at breakfast

The extra practical support schools are needing to provide to pupils and families hit the headlines this year. After one of our member groups saw a rise in free school meal eligible pupils using their allowance to buy breakfast at a local secondary school, and then not having enough left for lunch, we took a closer look. We surveyed 489 pupils across Wrexham and Flintshire and 106 staff. For a small but significant number of young people there was not enough money at home for breakfast, and cutting into the allowance at the start of the day was a real problem. Teachers too, said that they were increasingly providing breakfast for young people. We took these results to Wrexham's lead member for education, and officers at Wrexham, Flintshire, and Denbighshire Councils, and have built some good working relationships to take the issue forward. We also contributed these findings to the Children's Future Food Inquiry. We will be scaling up this campaign over the next year, hoping to achieve an increase to the free school meals allowance so that pupils can afford to buy breakfast as well as lunch.



Youth in Action



Our new Youth in Action meeting launched in September. It gives young leaders from across TCC's member groups the opportunity to work on issues together, whilst further developing their community organising skills. The group is now regularly attending TCC's strategy meetings and both young people and adults have given very positive feedback about their participation.

TCC young leaders have worked on a wide variety of issues this year and have had several successful meetings with Assembly Members Mark Isherwood and Jack Sargeant, as well as senior local authority councillors, to build support for their campaigns on mental health and British Sign Language.

Young leaders have also worked on single-use plastic, anti-social behaviour hot spots in Connah's Quay, and the Wrexham Town of Sanctuary project. This has included recording a series of 'Read Between our Lives' interviews with people from the community of Wrexham, aiming to challenge stereotypes.

TCC is the only organisation in North East Wales offering this opportunity for young people to use community organising to take action on issues which affect their communities. Please contact the TCC office if you would like to find out more.

Wrexham Town of Sanctuary

In February, together with other local organisations, we launched an exciting initiative to make Wrexham a Town of Sanctuary. A Town of Sanctuary is a welcoming place of safety for all, where people are proud to offer sanctuary to those fleeing violence and persecution. Over 100 people attended the launch event, which featured powerful testimonies, poetry, and music from sanctuary seekers. Pledges and commitments were made by the Deputy Mayor, the Member of Parliament, and Assembly Members. TCC's Patron, the Bishop of St Asaph reflected on the contribution sanctuary seekers make to our community, and TCC's young leaders talked about their work on Schools of Sanctuary. The campaign will continue into the next year, with the aim of Wrexham being officially awarded Town of Sanctuary status.



Note from the lead organisers

When we look back on each year we are always amazed by the depth and diversity of issues that our members bring to TCC, and that we take action on together—and this year has been no exception.

Wales had established a moratorium on fracking for some time, but with newly devolved powers, there was the possibility that this could be jeopardised in October. TCC leaders met with four Assembly Members, including the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs to ask them to support implementing a full ban on fracking—and in December it was announced that Welsh Government will not support any applications for fracking in Wales.

We can hardly believe that it has been 10 years since Wales became a Fairtrade nation and we were delighted to join Flintshire Fairtrade Coalition to celebrate!

In the previous financial year we received funding from the Big Lottery Fund Awards for All, which enabled us to run a special event at Gladstone's Library in October to introduce community organising to more groups across North East Wales. Over 60 people attended and we have built some great relationships and gained new members as a result. A big welcome to Flintshire Youth Forum, Hawarden High School, Llangollen Quakers, and Ysgol y Grango, who all joined this year.

It was important to TCC members that they together express solidarity with the Muslim community, following the attacks at mosques in New Zealand, and they did so by joining together at the Wrexham Islamic Cultural Centre in March.

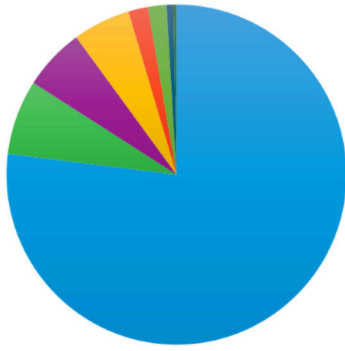
You'll see from our youth update that our work with young people is flourishing. We were pleased to be commissioned by Senedd yr Ifanc Wrecsam to run two training sessions for their young people, which TCC's young leaders also took part in. We also ran two residential community organising courses, open to all of TCC's member groups.

We had our best ever result from TCC Week and raised over £4,000! We are grateful for everyone's enthusiasm and contributions to events including the quiz night, sponsored 5k obstacle race, Elvis Cymraeg concert, mindfulness afternoon, strawberry tea, young talent concert, and twmpath.

We would like to extend a big thank you to our member groups, leaders, and trustees for all their work and support over the last year; you are essential to the impact TCC has in community organising for social justice across North East Wales.

Samlex-Edwards & Kay Polley

Income



Total: £91,346

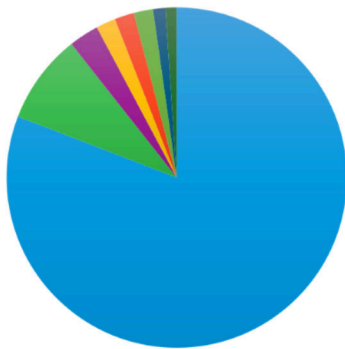
- Grants: £70,300
- Member dues: £6,500
- Supporter programme: £5,377
- Fundraising: £4,999
- Training: £1,705
- Gift Aid: £1,605
- Donations: £596
- Interest: £264

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, and the Diocese of St. Asaph.

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

Expenditure



Total: £90,200

- Salaries & employment expenses: £72,926
- Actions, translation, fundraising, promotion: £7,698
- Photocopier, postage & stationery: £2,558
- Travel: £1,681
- Legal fees & insurance: £1,669
- Sundries & depreciation: £1,655
- Communication: £1,048
- Training: £965

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  TCCWales

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

Our lead organiser role operates as a job share between Mrs Kay Polley and Ms Sam Rex-Edwards. For part of the year, Sam was on maternity leave and Kay increased her hours to cover the role. We were delighted to welcome Mrs Chloe Gallagher back from maternity leave and that Miss Lucy Allin joined her to job share the youth and community organiser position. Enabling job share positions is new to TCC and has worked very well for the organisation. TCC's part-time administrative support worker 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), Mrs Carol Jones (treasurer), Ms Anna Jane Evans, Mr John Gallanders (from July 18), Mrs Nia Higginbotham, Mr Bill Long (from March 19), Mrs Ann Owen, Mrs Maria Rimmer, Ms Melanie Sinclair, and Ms Alison Tudor Williams, with Lord Bishop Gregory Cameron serving as TCC's patron. All groups are encouraged to nominate members to become trustees.