

Annual ReviewApril 2021—March 2022

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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 that affect 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.



Healthy Minds Haven

TCC's Youth in Action group has been campaigning to improve mental health support in secondary schools through their Healthy Minds Haven resource, with an optional award. In December 2021 the group held an online showcase event for school leadership teams from across the region to hear about Healthy Minds

Haven, and the importance of supporting mental wellbeing across the whole school community. Karen Evans the Chief Officer Education & Early Intervention at Wrexham Council, Jack Sargeant the Member of the Senedd for Alyn & Deeside and the Headteacher at Hawarden High School were some of the guest speakers who supported the event. Staff from schools and organisations working in education joined the event, and four schools signed up to Healthy Minds Haven.

Local action on the Climate Crisis



TCC leaders engaged with councillors and took to the streets of Wrexham to call on the Clwyd Pension Fund to divest. This was <u>featured in the press</u>, and was followed by a meeting with the Fund in August. After meeting with us, they agreed to our ask of consulting with pension fund members on their investment strategy, and committed to bringing forward their divestment targets by five years. Much more is needed for significant meaningful change, however this is a step in the right direction. We continued applying pressure by contacting elected representatives and supporting Wales' divestment

coalition, coordinated by Friends of the Earth Cymru. In addition to this longer-term issue, TCC leaders from Rhyl, Denbigh, Llangollen, Wrexham, Holywell, and elsewhere in North-East Wales continue to take action locally. On International Women's Day, TCC leaders staged the first ever Women's Climate Strike in Wales, "striking" up conversations and pulling out stories of how climate change impacts us all.

Bevan Foundation Partnership Project

TCC worked in partnership with CLPW CIC, South Riverside Community Development Centre, and the Bevan Foundation on a year-long migration project exploring how people with lived experience of migration can be more involved in policy development, influencing and decision-making in Wales. This partnership enabled us to build relationships with groups outside our membership. With the Bevan Foundation's support, participants have shared their skills and experiences to influence policy in Wales through engaging with Senedd Inquiries, Welsh Government Consultations, and research projects on a number of areas including debt, housing, and ESOL. Participants were particularly delighted to see their impact on recommendations from the Senedd's Equalities and Social Justice Committee report following the Childcare & Parental Employment Inquiry. Participants accessed training on the Senedd, virtual impact, media interviewing, making policy in Wales, and an introduction to community organising.

Our members Currently we have thirty-five groups in membership and are always looking for new groups to join us. All groups pay annual membership dues, based on their size and income. 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 members, and access TCC's training free of charge.

Changing Places Toilets

TCC leaders from several community groups in Flintshire raised the shortage of Changing Places Toilets as an issue for TCC to work on. Changing Places are specially adapted toilets, which have hoists and adult-sized changing beds as standard features. There are only around fifty of these in the whole of Wales and only nine in North-East Wales. Leaders from Outside Lives, the FDF Centre for Independent Living, Flintshire Do-It, St



Christopher's School, and others have come together to take action on this. The issue group responded to a Welsh Government consultation on public toilets and changing facilities in May 2021. Since then, the group has worked with the Marble Church in Bodelwyddan to improve the accessibility of their toilets, and worked with Broughton Retail Park to get their commitment to put a Changing Places Toilets at the park. Since then, TCC leaders have filmed a campaign video which will be launched to tie in with Changing Places Awareness Day on 19th July. This campaign is ongoing, and we invite all members and allies to support with upcoming actions.

Annual Planning Day



We held our second online Planning Day in February 2022. The day was split into a morning and afternoon session with different group leaders attending throughout the day. Leaders, staff, and trustees reflected on the challenges and successes of 2021 and identified actions to progress TCC's work in 2022. Having strong relationships is key to having a thriving alliance that can take effective action together, and all agreed that the priority for

this year ("post Covid") was to strengthen those relationships, in-person and hybrid when possible. Given the tumultuous and transformative two years we have all experienced, and taking into account our diverse and evolving membership, we committed to re-evaluating our values and mission for the future. This work is ongoing, as we build a community "manifesto" that reflects who we are now. We look forward to organising and building community power with our member groups over the coming year.

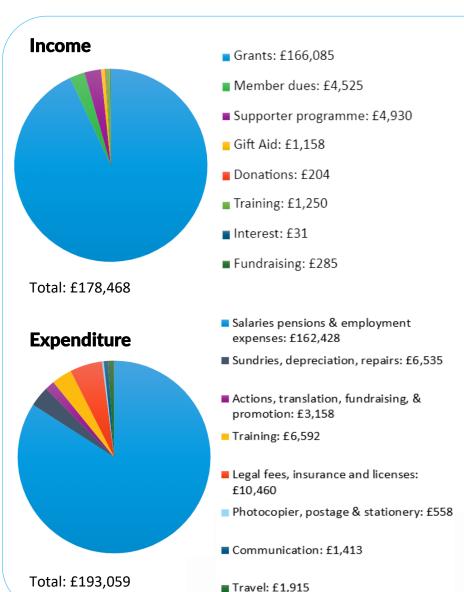
TCC leadership and funding

2021—22 was a challenging year, as we saw significant and ongoing changes related to Covid. Like most organi-

sations in the third sector, TCC saw staffing changes in 2021. In August, Hugo Panayiotou left to work for Remploy. The previous lead organisers, Kay Polley and Sam Rex-Edwards, moved onto a job-share role at the Finance Innovation Lab in September. A new community organiser, Amy Jones, joined at the end of November. In December, youth organiser Chloe Gallagher left to work with the Children's Commissioner.

Throughout September – December 2021, Mike Harrison stepped in as interim lead organiser to support trustees and staff exploring next steps. A decision was made to not replace the lead organiser and focus on collaborative working. It was agreed that a completely "flat structure" was not viable but a distributed leadership model was agreed upon. This restructuring is a strategic approach to ensuring organisational resilience.

In addition to an internal restructure, staff worked hard to secure new funding to support core costs and recruit for additional staff.















Our staff During this year Hugo Panayiotou, Kay Polley, Sam Rex-Edwards and Chloe Gallagher said farewell to TCC, and we wish them well in their new roles. At the end of the year the staff team comprises two community organisers, a youth organiser, a communications officer and operations lead. The team works collaboratively with a distributed leadership structure. Sue Williams is the lead for Operational Success. Kelly Huxley-Roberts is a community organiser, leading TCC's work involving People, Campaigns, and Learning. Our communications officer until March 2022 has been Lucy Kebell. Amy Jones is as a community organiser. Lucy Allin works as TCC's youth organiser and also led on TCC's migration work.

Our trustees Our board of trustees meets at least four times a year. The board in this year were: Rev Anna Jane Evans (chair), Mrs Sylvia Partington (treasurer), Mr Bill Long, Ms Alison Tudor Williams, and the Venerable Chris Potter. Mr Peter Burke was co-opted to the board in December 2021, and Mrs Katja Jewell, and Mrs Zoe Lavery co-opted in March 2022. Lord Bishop Gregory Cameron continued to serve as TCC's patron. All groups are encouraged to nominate members to become trustees.

Our funders We are very grateful the funders listed above as well as the Presbyterian Church of Wales, who all provide grants to support TCC's day-to-day running. Full, independently examined accounts are included in TCC's annual report.

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