

Annual Review

April 2019—March 2020

Registered charity number: 1086434

Company number: 04033853



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.



“Through organising with TCC, we have brought about a national change.” Stephen Garthwaite, headteacher of Ysgol y Grango

Stop School Hunger

TCC started working on school hunger after teaching staff from TCC member group Ysgol y Grango raised the issue. Staff shared their experiences of young people coming into school hungry and spending their free school meals allowance as soon as they could on breakfast. This meant they then couldn't afford to eat a proper meal at lunchtime as well, and teaching staff were

stepping in to provide food or money so that pupils could eat. These stories were backed up by TCC research, which showed that this was happening across Wales. In response, TCC launched the Wales-wide Stop School Hunger / Dysgu Nid Llwggu campaign in November 2019, and in December TCC members met with First Minister Mark Drakeford on the issue.

As a result of the campaign, the Welsh Government committed £450k to run a pilot in secondary schools, starting in September 2020. This will mean pupils eligible for Free School Meals will be able to buy breakfast as well as a lunch. If successful, this will be expanded the following year with approximately £4m to providing funding for every eligible child in secondary schools across Wales.

Headteacher of Ysgol y Grango Mr Stephen Garthwaite, said “I'm delighted and proud that the daily experience of our staff illuminated a national story. Through organising with TCC, we have brought about a national change. It will mean pupils can start the day with food in their stomachs, which can only be good for their well-being as well as their ability to learn”.

Teaching assistant, Mrs Yvonne Girvan said: “I couldn't stand by when pupils were arriving at school hungry. Most staff I know were doing the same, spending their own money on feeding children, and TCC's research showed this was happening across the country. This is brilliant news for the poorest children in Wales, and it shows what we can achieve as communities when we take constructive action on the social issues facing us”.

Wrexham Town of Sanctuary

People with experience of seeking sanctuary were clear that one of the things needed most in Wrexham was training for those who work with refugees or asylum seekers in their professional roles, both to enhance a feeling of welcome and to improve the experience of sanctuary seekers when accessing services. In response, the Wrexham Town of Sanctuary group supported those with lived experience to create and deliver training. This was warmly received by the representatives from the local authority, NHS, community councils, faith and voluntary organisations who attended.

Refugee week 2019 saw over 120 people come together at Tŷ Pawb to acknowledge the experience and contribution of refugees and asylum seekers through a film, poetry and music evening. Members of Wrexham Town of Sanctuary and the Wrexham VOICES Network also played a key role in the 2020 Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration.

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.

Youth in action TCC young leaders worked on an impressive array of issues this year. The Young Power Group won Coleg Cambria's commitment to working towards becoming a college of sanctuary. In different schools, commitments to improve school life were secured by young people who wanted their school to introduce British Sign Language training as part of staff induction, to significantly improve the pupil toilets, and to create a chillout space to support young people's mental health.



Outside of school, young leaders got a PCSO to take action to reduce anti-social behaviour in a Flintshire town. Mental health is a concern across many of our groups, and young leaders have responded by meeting with local Members of the Senedd about this and developing a best practice award for schools, which was informed by a consultation event run by young leaders.

Note from the lead organisers

This was a particularly exciting year, as we saw significant progress on our longer term strategy to expand our work across Denbighshire and Flintshire. In May, we were absolutely thrilled to learn we had been successful in securing five year funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to employ two new community organisers. We're grateful for this funding, which will allow us to develop new relationships and work more consistently with existing member groups in those counties, identify and train community leaders and secure positive change on community issues. Hugo Panayiotou and Kelly Roberts joined TCC in October, and quickly set about building relationships across North East Wales. We are also grateful to The Tudor Trust for committing funding towards TCC's core running costs.

TCC's youth work remains dynamic, and the leadership and creativity of our young leaders continues to be a joy to work with. Whilst much of our youth work is delivered in schools, many of our young leaders this year participated in monthly strategy meetings and our annual planning day, and this joint work between young and adult leaders is a real strength for us. We're grateful to Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for funding which has enabled this work over the last four years and are delighted to now be working with Act for Change Fund (a joint initiative between Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation) to take this work forward for the next two years.

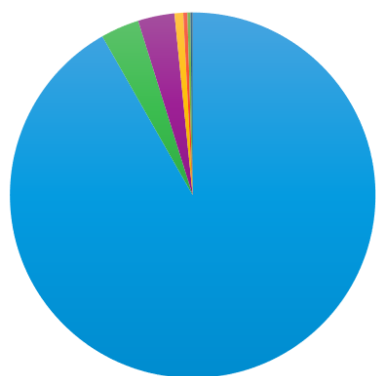
Young leaders were also fully involved with the comprehensive, rapid response small group meetings we held with general election candidates across North East Wales. These meetings are the groundwork in building public relationships with political decision makers, and the large number of people involved is testament to how seriously our member groups take democratic engagement and accountability.

Part of the joy in our work as organisers is building relationships with new community leaders, and deepening the relationships with experienced ones. Our residential community organising training brings together people with powerful stories, experiences and skills, and the training we held this year was no exception to that. This year, we were also delighted to welcome KeyRing (Flintshire and Denbighshire) and Wrexham VOICES Network into membership. We celebrated TCC's women community leaders through highlighting their contributions as part of an interview series for International Women's Day.

The reporting year finished just as the COVID-19 lockdown began. We immediately switched all our activities online and we anticipate our future work will be significantly informed by the social impacts of the pandemic and lockdown. We look forward to organising, and building community power with our member groups over the coming year.

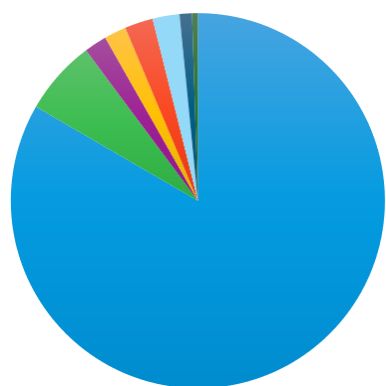
Sam Ix-Edwards & Kay Riley

Income



Total: £158,243

Expenditure



Total: £144,505



Our staff Our lead organiser role operates as a job share between Kay Polley and Sam Rex-Edwards. Similarly, Lucy Allin and Chloe Gallagher job share the youth and community organiser position. Lucy also has the role of Town of Sanctuary coordinator one day a week. In October, Hugo Panayiotou and Kelly Roberts joined the team as community organisers. TCC's part-time administrative support worker is 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 Sylvia Partington (treasurer), Rev Anna Jane Evans, Mr John Gallanders, Mrs Nia Higginbotham, Mr Bill Long, Mrs Ann Owen, Mrs Maria Rimmer, Ms Melanie Sinclair, and Ms Alison Tudor Williams, with Lord Bishop Gregory Cameron serving as TCC's patron. In February 2020 the board co-opted two additional trustees: The Venerable Chris Potter, and Mr Harry Perera, who joins the board as TCC's first young trustee. 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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