

# BAVO

Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations  
Cymdeithas Sefydliadau Gwirfoddol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

## Annual Impact Report 2022-23

25  
Years



# Chair and CEO's report

Welcome to our Annual Report which provides a snapshot of what we have achieved in 2022-2023. As ever it's hard to showcase everything here because so much was crammed into the year!

2022/23 saw us celebrate our 25th anniversary year, and whilst we have been around quite some time now, BAVO, like the rest of the third sector, is still needed **now more than ever!** A timeline of achievements is further on in this report, but first here is a bit of history about our 'coming of age'.

Prior to 1997, we were part of Mid Glamorgan Association of Voluntary Organisations (MGAVO). However, with the Government of Wales Act and local government re-organisation, BAVO emerged. We are an independent charity along with the other County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) in each local authority area in Wales.

At that time, the Welsh Assembly and local authorities agreed to provide CVCs with joint funding to support the local voluntary and community sector. The importance of the third sector was later written into the Government of Wales Act in the form of a 'Third sector scheme'.

In 1997, BAVO had a team of 3 part-time staff. Sharon Headon, our Volunteering Officer was one of the original team joining us from MGAVO. She remains with us today and we would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution Sharon has made over 25 years.

Through the years European and other funding helped us grow. In 2004 we had a team of 25 and outreach spaces in Bridgend, Maesteg, Porthcawl, Cornelly and Pontycymer. As a result, there was much more hand-holding and capacity building support available for community and voluntary groups. This support helped our local sector to grow and flourish.

In 2007-08 all that changed with the end of 'EU Objective 1' monies. The team reduced to 11 staff and with it the need to consolidate, rebuild and shift what we could offer groups. Whilst the need for our core

services has not really changed over the years, we have had to work smarter with the resources available to us.

Each year the pressures on BAVO and our sector continue. The lingering effects of the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the repercussions of Brexit persist. Add into that mix the economic climate; the cost of living crisis and stretched central and local government budgets, it's clear that reliance on our sector to meet the increasing levels of demand will continue.

Yet, if the pandemic taught us anything it is that we are both resilient and resourceful. Our strength is in our ability to network and coalesce around issues. Collaboration will help us navigate these challenges together and help us find some innovative solutions to the struggles faced.

We will get through these tough times together. How do we know this? Because it's been done before, many times. Local groups have shifted, evolved, re-purposed, grown, shrunk, merged - we should be proud of how flexible, resourceful and creative we all are. It's these characteristics that enable us to continue to be responsive to people's needs and to make a difference to people's lives. We have showcased some of our collective outcomes and stories in this report.

So, 25 years later, much has changed, and yet so much remains familiar and cyclical. BAVO continues to work across various partnerships to ensure that the voice of the sector is loud, clear and heard. The sector deserves recognition and must be valued.

We would like to thank all the BAVO team and Trustees, past and present, for all the hard work and contributions made to BAVO's 25-year journey. A massive thank you is extended to the groups, charities and volunteers who play pivotal roles in making our corner of the world a better place. We also send thanks to all our funders. Here's to the next 25 years!



**Steve Curry**  
Chair



**Heidi Bennett MBA, MCIPD**  
Chief Executive

# How does BAVO help?

## The outcomes we aim to achieve:

-  **Stronger third sector organisations**  
Through providing support, advice and training and learning opportunities, skills development and capacity building.
-  **Active and diverse communities**  
Through supporting and promoting volunteering and active citizenship, equal opportunities and diversity.
-  **A sustainable third sector**  
Through attracting investment, brokering partnerships, coordinating opportunities for collaborative working, promoting funding opportunities and administering grants.
-  **A vibrant and influential third sector**  
Through ensuring the sector influences strategy, policy and ways of working. Embedding the sector in co-production and solutions to local issues.
-  **A voice for citizens and communities**  
Through engaging with service users, people with lived experience, communities and citizens to enable their voice to be part of local decision-making processes that affect them and their lives.

## Our Mission

BAVO exists to support, encourage and promote the development of a voluntary and community sector in Bridgend County Borough. We strive for a sector that is effective and efficient; informed and influential; and having a positive impact on people's lives.

## Our Values

The work of BAVO is guided by a set of values that help to determine priorities and the overall style of working. We recognise that Bridgend County Borough is diverse and everyone has the right to equality of opportunity and to make a positive contribution to their community.

## What we deliver

In collaboration with WCVA and other county voluntary councils (CVCs) in Wales, we deliver on four key themes, these are:

- 1 Good Governance** - Support for groups and organisations for a thriving third sector.
- 2 Volunteering** - Enabling more people and communities to benefit from volunteering.
- 3 Sustainable Funding** - Providing information, guidance and support to increase the capacity of organisations to secure and grow income.
- 4 Engagement and Influencing** - We listen to the voice of the sector and communities; including disadvantaged and minority groups. We connect with public services to influence strategy and policy.

We also manage several projects and services that seek to support both individuals and community groups including our Community Companions Scheme, Focus Forward and Community Navigators service.

We work closely with Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) University Health Board, Public Health Wales and represent our sector on both the Public Services Board and CTM Regional Partnership Board.

BAVO has a membership of over 400 third sector organisations. Our FREE membership is for local community, voluntary and not-for-profit groups and social enterprises.

## Snapshot of the year

<b>Good Governance</b> 1,191 Requests for support 262 Groups supported with governance advice 423 Member organisations	<b>Volunteering</b> 326 New volunteer enquiries 176 Volunteers supported 67 Volunteers matched with opportunities	<b>Sustainable Funding</b> 155 Organisations supported to access funding £287,618 secured with the support of BAVO £202,535 in grants distributed	<b>Engagement and Influencing</b> 434 people engaged in networks and forums 15 networks and forums coordinated 95 different meetings with BAVO presence
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

# Good Governance

## What did we do?

BAVO works with community and voluntary groups supporting them achieve their mission. The team provides information and guidance that helps Trustees and groups to be competent, confident and robust in the running of their organisations.

We:

- Provided information, professional guidance and support
- Helped groups with their governance structures, trustees, policies and procedures
- Signposted groups to specialist support and funding opportunities where appropriate
- Added resources onto the shared 'Knowledge Hub' where groups can access online information 24/7 – [knowledgehub.cymru](http://knowledgehub.cymru)

## What did we achieve?



## What difference did this make?

### Cornelly Outreach Group (COG)

BAVO's support enabled Cornelly Outreach Group (COG) to set up a safe space to support with people living with drug and alcohol addictions. Creating the new group has given people local support and a safe place to have chat. People can also be signposted to specialist services if needed to help them with their recovery.



**Founder Anthony explains why the group works so well:**

“Mental health, alcohol and addiction – all three are like a washing machine effect, going around and around from one to another with what seems to be no escape, and no short-term solutions. With such long waiting lists in the mental health referral system, and no quick responses while you are waiting, this is where the COG can really help people.”



## Porthcawl JOY-riders

Porthcawl JOY-riders approached BAVO for support in setting up a new charity. They wanted to bring some joy to those who were no longer be able to walk themselves along Porthcawl Promenade.

Keen cyclist Steve started the group with inspiration from the Cycling Without Age initiative.

He said: “Cycling gives me exhilaration and joy and everybody benefits from being active outside, especially by the sea. I wanted to give people the opportunity to experience the same”.

From this spark, JOY-riders was born and now offers free rides in a Trishaw along the seafront. BAVO supported Steve with setting up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), putting policies in place, finding volunteers as well as offering general operational guidance.

The small charity is powered by volunteers, on a mission to brighten up the lives of as many people as possible. The volunteers and passengers all enjoy the physical and emotional benefits, appreciating the outdoors and making new friends.



“With two trishaws delivering five rides a day that’s up to 100, happy, windswept passengers per week. BAVO’s professional input helped make a challenging task far less onerous”

Steve, JOY-riders

## The Bridge Community Hub

The Bridge wanted to ensure they had a good understanding of the legalities of running a charity.

Over the course of a month, BAVO provided support with an organisation ‘Health Check’ which identified ways in which the organisation could improve their governance, achieve best practice and strengthen their services.



“I really appreciated the support BAVO provided. It helped me to understand my role and the importance of good governance within the organisation. I was able to identify areas that needed updating and how I could go about doing this.

BAVO has helped us ensure we have the foundations needed to grow and become more sustainable in the current environment.”

## Caerau Vestry Singers

A group of local people in Caerau wanted to start an open singing group for people with dementia and their carers. They knew what a positive impact singing can have on brain activity, the respiratory system and general wellbeing, and they wanted to bring people together.

With support from BAVO they agreed their group name - Caerau Vestry Singers. They were supported with the process of developing their constitution, setting up a bank account and access to relevant training. With the right structure in place, they are now able to apply for funding to meet future needs.

The group meets every weekend to sing, and feedback has been very positive. For carers and those with dementia it gives them something to look forward to at the weekends.

Not only does singing have a positive impact on their mood, but feelings of isolation and loneliness are reduced. The singers and musicians who have attended have commented on the difference they see in the participants and benefits of the friendships that have developed since the group has started.



# Volunteering



## What did we do?

Volunteers play a vital role in keeping community groups running and delivering support to individuals.

BAVO offered support with:

- Good practice and policy development to help ensure safe and appropriate recruitment and management of volunteering placements
- Facilitated a network and training to encourage shared learning and shared practice exchange to support continuous improvement
- Managed the opportunities in Bridgend County on the Volunteering Wales website. The website promotes volunteering opportunities and connects people that want to volunteer – [volunteering-wales.net](http://volunteering-wales.net)
- Provided mentoring and support to those considering first steps in volunteering
- Helped organisations consider innovation, new roles and ways to attract more people into volunteering that reflects the diversity of the community they serve.

## What volunteers have said



“By volunteering I have attended training and events had the chance to meet other people too.”



“I was supported by my Occupational Therapist and visited BAVO to look at options to volunteer my time a few hours a week.

Knowing that people were struggling with their finances, made me think that volunteering to support a project that helped in some way to alleviate that pressure would be good. And it’s made me feel good in the process.”

## What did we achieve?

- 326** volunteer enquiries handled
- 176** volunteers supported
- 67** volunteers matched with opportunities
- 21** young volunteers aged under 25 supported
- 3** volunteer managers meetings facilitated
- 32** information days and events to promote volunteering attended
- 82** organisations supported with volunteering good practice guidance

## Focus Forward

Focus Forward is a joint initiative between BAVO and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to help people move closer to achieving gainful employment.

BAVO provided one-to-one mentoring to individuals that helped improve their confidence and self-esteem, meet new people, become an active member of their community, take on new challenges, learn new skills, improve their sense of personal wellbeing and to eventually volunteer. The work helped with the building of a CV and ultimately seeks to help individuals achieve future employment.

- **29** individuals supported
- **12** people became volunteers
- **8** people attended training



“Volunteering has been an opportunity to build my confidence to get out and give it a go.”



“Volunteering to me is making a difference to other people in the community, reflecting my positivity and giving them something to do and a purpose that is helpful for both parties. Helping to improve your own wellbeing and hopefully someone else’s too”

**Focus Forward Volunteers**

## Unsung Hero Awards

The Unsung Hero Awards, hosted during Volunteers' Week showcased the crucial contribution volunteers make and the impact they have on people's lives. Hundreds were nominated and the variety of nominations was extremely broad evidencing the diversity of volunteering opportunities available in Bridgend County.

Shortlisted nominees were encouraging wellbeing through coaching and delivering physical activity, raising awareness on mental health and suicide prevention, advocating for equality and diversity, tackling social isolation and keeping services running through either giving their time to a cause or fundraising for a cause. And of course, the role of Trustees in providing responsible governance and leadership was also recognised.

As always, the fantastic nominations made it a difficult job for the awards panel to choose the winners. However, all the nominations were rewarded with a certificate of recognition.

**Samantha Lambert-Worgan**  
National Autistic Society and friends of Heronsbridge School – Winner of the Volunteer of Year award over-25:

“Winning the award meant more to me than I can say. It's been a difficult journey getting to where I am today, and volunteering is my life now. I enjoy giving back to my community so much and being recognised for that makes me so emotional.

The award means the world to me, my family, and the people that I serve when I volunteer are reaping the benefits.”

**InclusAbility – Winners**  
Community/Charity Group of the Year award:

“We were delighted to be nominated for an award, never mind winning it! It felt like a fantastic achievement for our team, as we only recently set up InclusAbility. It was lovely to have the recognition for all our hard work and to celebrate the difference we had made to the local community.”



## Community Companions

Community Companions is a befriending service provided by volunteers. The volunteers provide befriending to older, and often housebound people. The service helps reduce loneliness and isolation and supports people to live independently.

Over the year befrienders gave a minimum of 1,900 volunteer hours. This has supported individuals to access community groups, attend appointments and the service has helped improve self-confidence and emotional wellbeing, led to a reduction in social anxiety and helped keep people safe and independent at home which has a positive impact on individuals and often their families too.

### What did we achieve?

- **35** people befriended
- **£19,798** In added social value (volunteer hours)
- Volunteers had training in: suicide awareness, safeguarding, first aid and Dementia Friendly sessions
- Achieved re-accreditation for the Quality in Befriending (QiB) Award



**Community Companions**  
Offering friendship and support



“I'm very grateful to my volunteer. She looks forward to seeing me and I look forward to her coming. My volunteer thinks of everything, and she is one in a million.”



“It's been a presence that I've needed. My volunteer has been a god send.”



“Community Companions was like a lifeline that would phone up and I could share all my worries with.”

# Sustainable Funding

Outcome

*A sustainable  
third sector*

## What did we do?

BAVO helped groups secure funding and access the resources they needed to continue delivering services. Whilst we all faced the challenge of 'Covid recovery' and a 'cost of living crisis'.

## What did we achieve?



**155**

Organisations supported with funding

**£287,618**

Secured with the support of BAVO

**£202,535**

in grants distributed by BAVO



**255**

Funding enquiries responded to with 1-2-1 support

## What difference did this make?



"Very happy with the help from BAVO!"

With their help we've secured a few grants thanks to assistance with completing of forms and the information on what is available.

The latest grant was for £10k from Comic Relief to build an outdoor shelter so that more children can enjoy the outdoors even in adverse weather conditions. Thank you so much BAVO."

**Donna Jacka, Girlguiding, Porthcawl and Central Glamorgan**



"BAVO helped us all the way, getting our ideas together and making the application. We were so excited to get the grant, it really gave a boost to our group.

We couldn't have done this without your support!"

**Happy Crafters Group**

## Happy Crafters Group

The Happy Crafters group had one-to-one support on organisational governance and on how to prepare good funding applications. They went on to secure £4,980 from the National Lottery Community Fund for their 'Keeping Cosy' project. This enabled them to buy essential yarn and equipment to knit and crochet a range of cosy scarves and wraps to donate to keep local vulnerable people warm over the cold winter months.



## Choirs for Good – Social Isolation Grant

Choirs for Good were able to support 41 individuals with a Social Isolation Grant.

The choir supports people to live more connected and fulfilling lives in the heart of their community. The funding enabled them to provide a warm and welcoming space and encourage more people to attend.

The benefits go beyond singing. With the group celebrating birthdays sharing homemade cakes and biscuits and supporting each other when times are hard. The project has created lasting friendships.



“Choir is the absolute highlight of my week, I don’t know what I’d do without it!”

## Bridgend Youth Led Grants

This small grants scheme enables young people to take a more active role in their community and seeks to encourage more youth volunteering. To be eligible applications need to have young people involved in the design and delivery.

Supported and facilitated by BAVO and funded by Welsh Government, the funding panel is made up entirely of young people who make the funding decisions. Taking part in the panel develops their skills in due diligence, budgeting, grants management, application assessment and decision-making. The grants:

- Funded **4** youth led projects
- Distributed **£6,585** in funds
- Enabled a further **48** young people to volunteer



“The difference for my volunteering is that my mental health has improved and it’s made me enjoy doing things more.”

Young person, Aberkenfig Ministries



## What difference did this make?

“Volunteering has provided me with the skills and confidence to apply for jobs and get employment. Volunteering has made me realise that working together is important.”

Young person, KPC Youth and Community

“It allowed staff to build and progress positive relationships with the young people. It also enabled KPC to provide a reward for young people for all their volunteering.

“The young people gained confidence and visited a place of their choice. Opportunities they would not normally have. A few of the young people involved have gone on to gain employment.”

KPC Youth and Community, Staff

# Engagement and Influencing

## What did we do?

BAVO coordinated facilitated and represented the sector at a range of networks and forums with a focus on health, social care and wellbeing. The reach of our participation spanned mental health, carers, food sufficiency, refugees, veterans and green prescribing to name a few.

Community and service user voice is integral to our influencing and engagement work. Through connection with community and voluntary groups, we engaged with people including service users and people with lived experience.

The team:

- Promoted the third sector perspective at strategic partnerships
- Facilitated and support networking opportunities via a range of networks and forums
- Supported opportunities for organisations to work collaboratively
- Responded to community initiatives and amplified the voice of communities

## What did we achieve?



## How did we do this?

- Worked with **Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW)** to deliver service improvements and provide resources, including digital tools, that meet members' changing needs in a cost of living crisis.
- We worked with **Bridgend and Cwm Taf Public Service Boards (PSB)** on the wellbeing plan and ensured the sector was included in mapping, consultation and engagement. This influenced the priorities of the PSB as it started its journey into a new single regional Public Service Board – [www.ourcwmtaf.wales](http://www.ourcwmtaf.wales). BAVO and fellow CVCs sought to ensure hyper-local community assets and voluntary work were not at a detriment because of the move to a more regional focus.
- As members of the **CTM Regional Partnership Board (RPB)** we championed co-production and promoted several 'hackathon' events – [ctmregionalpartnershipboard.co.uk/events](http://ctmregionalpartnershipboard.co.uk/events). Hackathons are creative participatory events that bring together service users and service providers. We also ran numerous events, forums, workshops and discussions on a range of issues focussed on older people issues, dementia, youth and unpaid carers and more. Giving voice to a diverse range of perspectives which is important for shaping health services.
- We facilitated a local **Health Social Care & Wellbeing Network**. This brings together voluntary and community groups with health-focused stakeholders such as Public Health Wales, the Health Board and local authority. The network considers the wider determinants of health and has an eye on upcoming priorities.  
  
Members are kept informed about seasonal public health planning and kept on message. For example the flu and Covid immunisation programmes reported increased turnout at clinics.



“BAVO facilitated a discussion with the Network, which was a great way to meet local voluntary and public sector organisations in and around the area to hear their views directly on health and wellbeing and the redevelopment of Maesteg Community Hospital.”

Outcomes  
*A vibrant and influential third sector*

*A voice for citizens and communities*



“Bridgend Carers Centre have had excellent support from BAVO. We find attending the Carers Network and the Trustees Network facilitated by BAVO helpful.”

Helen, Bridgend Carers Centre – Attends the Carers Network and Trustee Network



“The network meetings have been very useful to assist partnership working, setting standards and identifying opportunities.”

Alison, Baobab Bach CIC – Attends the Food Network and Green Network

- We connected **GP clusters and surgeries** to community-based support groups. As a result, GPs were aware of the scope and availability of third sector services and could signpost to community provision. This offers people more immediate and sometimes more appropriate help. It also served to reduce GP waiting lists.
- As a partner in the development of **Maesteg Hospital**, BAVO connected local groups into the programme of work of remodelling the onsite services. Additionally unpaid carers and people living with mental health conditions shared lived-experience helped shape the new proposals in an aim to achieve a more appropriate support options. We created conditions for collaborative working with service providers focussed on helping carers.
- We linked with **BCBC and Cwmpas on their ‘Connecting Carers’** project. Local organisations and people caring or looking after family or friends, were invited to come together and think about their own well-being needs. From this they were able to join in mutually supportive groups which reduced isolation and anxiety.
- The **Carers Network** continued to share good practice. The network aims for equitable access to services for carers across region and provision that recognises and values the expertise of third sector providers. Information is shared and we work to help grow of a diverse range of services that complement rather than compete with each other.
- We co-hosted the first **CTM Regional Third Sector Mental Health Forum**. The workshop considered purpose and values, protocols for accessing funding, membership, representation and communication. The system and structures have resulted in more consistency engagement levels.
- The **Drug, Alcohol, Mental Health Service Network (DAMHSN)** creates a communication channel between the statutory and voluntary sectors. With service user voice woven into the discussions. This network allows vital service plan information and funding opportunities to be shared. The network has benefited from training from Diverse Cymru’s Cultural Competency scheme, Dementia Friends and Ara (Addiction Recovery Agency).
- The **Service User Network (SUN)**, a lived-experience group for mental health service users met monthly. The sessions provided peer support, information exchanges and engagement opportunities. This key function opens the way for the right support being designed and delivered in the right way and in the right places.
- We led on a **‘Reward & Recognition’** framework, working in collaboration with the CTM Health Board and CVCs in Merthyr and RCT. This piece of work is addressing how to reward and recognise individuals with lived experience of poor mental health for the time commitment and engagement they provide. This can include participating in strategic activities such as representation and co-producing, co-designing, and sometimes, even co-delivering solutions and services.
- We supported the work of the **Bridgend Green Network**, hosted by Plantlife Cymru. The network connected local groups, communities and projects providing ‘wellbeing and nature’ type activity. The work provided a multi-faceted wellbeing offer to people for example environmental volunteering to using green spaces for exercise and personal wellbeing. Our Navigator team had support with green prescribing.
- **The Food Security Network**, initially developed during Covid, work continued as a result of cost of living pressures. The network connected food banks, community pantries, Big Bocs Bwyd, community kitchens and warm hub/cafes together to make better use of resources and to provide a coordinated response to those in poverty. It ensured resources and capacity was as secure as possible. BAVO continued to act as a food voucher distributor for the food banks.
- **The ‘Croeso Bridgend’ Network**, initially set up in response to the situation Ukraine, continued with work bringing together multi-agency partners to support refugees and asylum seekers. Support has provided donations of toiletries, clothes and toys, help with confidence building, CV’s and job seeking, English lessons and visa applications to name but a few. This has helped with integration and created diverse and cohesive communities.

# Community Navigators

## Social Prescribing

BAVO now has a team of 8 Community Navigators (including part-time staff). They provided a social prescribing service across whole County Borough.

The service:

- Helped people to maintain their independence
- Enabled people to access services and support based in the community
- Improved wellbeing through reducing social isolation and loneliness
- Reduced demand on statutory service easing the pressure on GPs, A&E and other health and social care services
- Helped community groups by linking them to other services for governance support, funding and volunteers.

The Navigators take a person-centred approach to support people's wellbeing. They take time to have conversations and listen to find out 'what matters' to people. The team received 'Making Every Contact Count' (MECC) training so they could share consistent and concise health and wellbeing information and support people to gain an understanding of the range of factors that affect how they feel and help them 'take control' of keeping well.

There are many reasons for the referrals. Most of the referrals are from older people. The referrals received are diverse. Individuals present with wide range of issues, barriers and often complex support needs. Navigators remain responsive, adaptable and sensitive to issues such as culture, religion and communication needs.

Examples of support provided:

- A trans woman supported to navigate the health system through cancer diagnosis

- A visually impaired young woman with learning disabilities assisted to use direct payments and access transport, volunteering and community activity
- An asylum seeker, with little English, and who had lost their Biometric Residence Permit to access entitled benefits and use a multilingual helpline



We worked to ensure the most vulnerable in the community got the support they needed. Individuals getting support from the Navigators consider the service to be a 'lifeline'. Regular access to a navigator who understands, and not being passed from pillar to post were reported as being two important factors for lots of people.

The service was a significant complementary preventative service to health and social care partners as it often reduced escalation of need which could had resource implications on health and statutory services.

Our signposting and information opened opportunities for individuals to access local services. Accessing one or two activities a week can change people's lives. Making small changes enables them to have better relationships, build friendship groups, connect with their community and build confidence. It often leads people to take more control of their wellbeing and helps them remain independent.

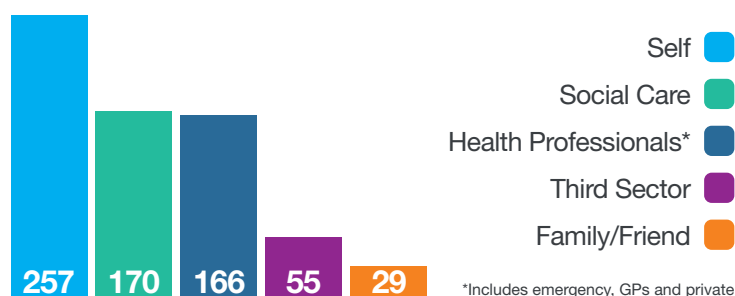
Of the **5,579** referrals we made, **89%** (4,965) were to third sector organisations. With the remaining **11%** (614) to statutory or private health services.

This is clear demonstration of the breadth of community-based provision offered that directly helps people through a diverse range of health and wellbeing needs.

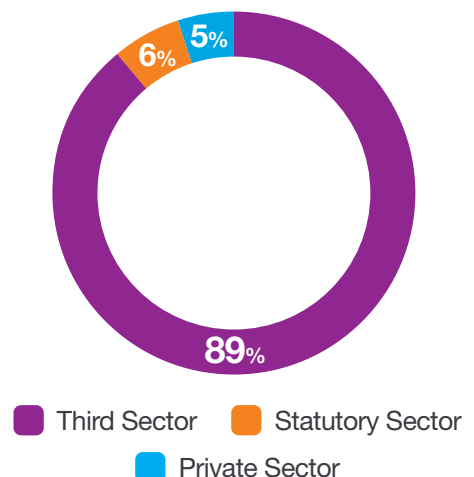
### The top three presenting issues were linked to:

1. Cost of living
2. Social isolation and loneliness
3. Mental health

### 677 Referrals



### Where we referred and signposted



## What did we achieve?

**5,579**

referrals and signposting instances to third sector provision (individuals may have been signposted to several services)



**600**

people able to access support in the community new to them



**482**

new clients



**677**

new referrals



**85**

people reported increased social connections



**106**

people reported they felt they could influence decisions that affected them

## What difference did this make?

“I am more optimistic. I am able to go out alone, I am less nervous if I know where I am going and more willing to try things. I am feeling fitter and have built activities into my week and am feeling the benefit of this. It makes me feel I have done something for myself.

Even though there is still a long way to go I feel more positive I will be able to get there. I now believe in myself because it gives me hope for the future I can prioritise and work towards goals – I now know I can succeed.”

**Electric wheelchair user who'd lost confidence during pandemic**



“I contacted Community Navigators for a foodbank voucher for a young woman living in our accommodation. The Navigator told me that there wasn't a local foodbank open until after the weekend and suggested visiting a local pantry that was open. The pantry was able to provide food for my client to feed her over the weekend. Using the pantry on a weekly basis is helping the client to manage her money.”

**Support worker, for client in supported housing**

## National Grid Warm Hubs

Through a National Grid Warm Hub grant BAVO was able to co-host 4 warm cafes across the county in Pyle, Bridgend, Aberkenfig and Maesteg. We were also able to distribute warm clothing and accessory packs, blankets and hoodies to individuals and families struggling to stay warm and manage their fuel bills.

Through the grant we helped:

- **72** Adults
- **10** Children (8 families)
- **20** older people (60+)
- Over **350** people through attending **4** warm hubs

Navigators were able to directly distribute warm packs to people coming into our service but BAVO also took referrals from partners such as Warm Wales, Citizens Advice, food bank and food pantries.

25  
Years

1997



- BAVO was established with team of 3 people. Peter Wakefield is our Chair.

Google.com domain is registered on 15 September 1997

1999



- Tejay De Kretser appointed as Director. BAVO has a team of 6 part-time and 3 full-time staff.

The National Assembly for Wales met for the first time on 12 May 1999

2004

- BAVO joins a range of partnerships including Community Safety, Bro Morgannwg Health Board and the Local Strategic Partnership.
- We provide outreach services in Bridgend, Maesteg, Caerau, Porthcawl, Cornelly and Pontycymer.

4 February 2004 Facebook launched



2005

- The Wales Spatial Plan is published. The Third Sector is included in strategic decision making. EU structural funds helping to address the challenges of the Welsh economy.

7/7 Terror attack in London



2006

- BAVO secured funding for our own premises in Maesteg.

21 March 2006 Twitter launched



2011

- Enterprising Communities Officer appointed to deliver tailored social enterprise support.
- Our Media 3 unit set up in Maesteg to support digital inclusion and provide IT access for community groups.
- We create a BAVO Facebook account @BAVOhub.

Bank of England UK interest rates at 0.5%

2012

- BAVO registered as a charity. Mark Davies is our Chair.
- There are 493 members.
- We start using Twitter.
- Success with a Big Lottery grant securing £800k for a new befriending scheme.

The London Olympics opens 27 July 2012



2013

- £1m funding for a Community Voice Big Lottery project which involved 8 voluntary partners and set up an LGBTQ+ project, supported the Disability Coalition and a self-harm self help group amongst others.

Prince George is born 22 July 2013

2018

21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Year

- Our 21<sup>st</sup> year!
- We received a record 5,119 enquiries.
- HR support provided to Social Business Wales (Cwmpas) clients.
- Western Bay 'Engage to Empower' network substance misuse service set up.

25 May 2018 GDPR regulations came into effect

2019

- We launched our Big lottery 'Link Up' project for Trustees in collaboration with Swansea and Neath Port Talbot CVCs.
- Community Navigator team was set up to deliver social prescribing.
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board established. BAVO are members along with CVCs in Merthyr and RCT.

12 December 2019 UK General Election won by the Conservative Party



2000

- Bridgend Volunteer Bureau opens at Park Street in Bridgend.
- First BAVO grants made with a pot of £65k distributed.



A new millennium

2001

- Mal Reeves is BAVO Chair.
- EU funding sees the staff team grow to over 20.

7 June 2001 UK General Election – Labour wins a second term

2002

- BAVO's launches its first website.
- We have 256 member organisations.
- £227k in grants distributed.



Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Year



2007

- Heidi Bennett appointed as Director.
- BAVO moved out of Park Street and into our current office on Commercial Street in Maesteg.



Bank of England raised UK interest rates to 5.25%

2009

- Successful bid with ABMU (now Swansea Bay University Health Board) for £1m to support the third sector in delivering suicide prevention services.
- Russell Commission Youth Volunteer Advisor appointed to the team.

Barack Obama, becomes 44<sup>th</sup> President of USA



2010

- Co-led on the development of a Carers Strategy.
- Never Too Old Action team was initiated with BCBC.
- Our 'Future jobs' apprentices joined us (and stayed 10 years!) and a Community Transport Development Officer appointed to the team.

6 October 2010 Instagram launched



2014



- Volunteer achievement Awards event was re-launched.
- Suicide prevention programme ends. The work reached 4,408 people.

"Gangnam Style" becomes the first video to reach 2 billion views on YouTube

2015

- Wheels to work scheme funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner to offer moped loans to young people needing vehicles to access employment.

7 May 2015 UK General Election - Conservative Party wins with a majority of 10 seats

2017

- New Volunteer Centre in Bridgend town opens and BAVO achieves the PQASSO Quality standard.
- We set up Maesteg Parkrun as part of the Llynfi Valley 20 health project.

14 June 2017 Grenfell Tower fire



2020

- We managed an influx of hundreds of volunteers from shoppers, drivers, befrienders and prescription collectors across the county.
- Steve Curry is BAVO chair.



The Covid pandemic hits - 23 March 2020 first lockdown

2021

- Our Super-Agers project goes digital offers due to lockdown restrictions.
- We supported our local diverse communities with health messaging and information through the secondment of a BME Outreach worker from the Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support Team.

4 January 2021 first Covid vaccine given in the UK

2022 - 2023

- BAVO's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year.
- Much to celebrate and we continue working hard to support the third sector across Bridgend County.
- We are proud to receive the Cultural Competency Silver Award.

Russia invades Ukraine on 24 February 2022

25 Years

# Finance

## Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO)

### Balance Sheet – As at 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	178,818	-	178,818	187,874
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	76,469		76,469	140,904
Cash at bank and in hand	1,823,326	579,713	2,403,039	2,361,282
	<b>1,899,795</b>	<b>579,713</b>	<b>2,479,508</b>	<b>2,502,186</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year	(111,708)	-	(111,708)	(281,242)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>1,788,087</b>	<b>579,713</b>	<b>2,367,800</b>	<b>2,220,944</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,966,905</b>	<b>579,713</b>	<b>2,546,618</b>	<b>2,408,818</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,966,905</b>	<b>579,713</b>	<b>2,546,618</b>	<b>2,408,818</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds			1,966,905	1,813,196
Restricted funds			579,713	595,622
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>2,546,618</b>	<b>2,408,818</b>

## Independent auditors' statement to the Trustees of the Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO)

We have examined the summarised financial statements of the Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and auditors

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustees' Annual Report. We also read the other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

### Basis of opinion

Our examination involved agreeing the balances disclosed in the summarised financial statements to full annual financial statements. Our report on the charity's full annual financial statements describes the basis of our opinions on those financial statements and on the Trustees' report.



# Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO)

## Statement of Financial Activities – Year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>				
Donations and legacies	15	500	515	170
Other trading activities	23,675	-	23,675	21,901
Investment income	12,777	-	12,777	671
Charitable activities	313,486	725,894	1,039,380	1,316,299
<b>Total</b>	<b>349,953</b>	<b>726,394</b>	<b>1,076,347</b>	<b>1,339,041</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>				
Charitable activities	196,395	742,394	938,547	1,139,307
<b>Total</b>	<b>153,558</b>	<b>(15,758)</b>	<b>137,800</b>	<b>1,139,307</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>153,558</b>	<b>(15,758)</b>	<b>137,800</b>	<b>199,734</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	151	(151)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>153,709</b>	<b>(15,909)</b>	<b>137,800</b>	<b>199,734</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
Total funds brought forward	1,813,196	595,622	2,408,818	2,209,084
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>1,966,905</b>	<b>579,713</b>	<b>2,546,618</b>	<b>2,408,818</b>

### Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of the Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

#### Bevan & Buckland

Ground Floor, Cardigan House  
Castle Court, Swansea Enterprise Park  
Swansea, SA7 9LA

### Statement by Trustees

These summarised financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 are not the full statutory accounts of the association, but contain a summary of information extracted from the annual accounts

relating to both the Statement of Financial Activities [SOFA] and the balance sheet.

These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information, the full financial statements and the Trustees' annual report should be consulted; copies of which can be obtained on application to BAVO.

The full financial statements have to be subject to external examination by an independent auditor and received an unqualified report. The full report and financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 19 July 2023 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission and to the Registrar of Companies.

## Current Team

<b>Heidi Bennett</b>	CEO
<b>Kay Baker</b>	Operations & Partnerships Manager
<b>Caroline Wellings</b>	Finance Officer
<b>Alison Mawby</b>	Development Team Leader
<b>Angela Davies</b>	Communications & Engagement Officer
<b>Claire Emanuel</b>	Development and Grants Officer
<b>Rhodri Powell</b>	Third Sector Networks Officer
<b>Jackie Prosser</b>	Community Networks Builder
<b>Laura Dadic</b>	Mental Health Development Officer
<b>Lucy Williams</b>	Mental Health Service User Officer
<b>Catherine Thomas</b>	Health Partnerships Officer
<b>Alex Bowen</b>	Green Network Officer
<b>Sharon Headon</b>	Volunteering Officer
<b>Abi Jenkins</b>	Community Companions Officer
<b>Ian Davy</b>	Data & Performance Support
<b>Lorraine Surringer</b>	Dementia Friends worker (on secondment from Alzheimer's Society)
<b>Mark Fitzgerald</b>	Development Officer (until 2023)
<b>Cian Griffiths</b>	Marketing Officer (until 2022)

# BAVO

Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations  
Cymdeithas Sefydliadau Gwirfoddol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr



## Community Navigators

<b>Gail Devine</b>	Community Navigator Team Leader
<b>Julia Andrews</b>	Community Navigator & Business Support
<b>Rob Wood</b>	Community Navigator
<b>Georgina Powell</b>	Community Navigator
<b>Fiona Burlingham</b>	Community Navigator
<b>Russ Creemer</b>	Community Navigator
<b>Tom McGeoch</b>	Common Access Point Broker
<b>Paul Evans</b>	Community Navigator (until 2023)

## BAVO Trustees

<b>Stephen Curry</b>	Chair
<b>Marged Griffiths</b>	Vice Chair
<b>Phillip John</b>	
<b>Amanda Edwards</b>	
<b>Phil Fiander OBE</b>	
<b>Richard Young</b>	
<b>Mari Major MBE</b>	

## Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations

112/113, Commercial Street, Maesteg, CF34 9DL

01656 810400

bavo@bavo.org.uk

@BAVOhub

www.bavo.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1146543 • Company No. 07691764



## Thanks to our funders

