Third sector health and social care groups are continuing to struggle to cope with increasing demand for their services amid decreasing health board funding.

While some are relying on charitable donations to get by, others are fighting to secure grants in a congested bidding market.

‘We are continually trying to source free venues to host our support groups,’ said Parents in Partnership South Wales Health Visitor Clare Shears.

‘Many of the venues used are also charities - church halls, etc - and require financial support, too, as their budgets have been cut. We are in a vicious cycle of all third sector organisations competing and fighting for funding.’

And Phil Griffiths, Co-ordinator with Blaenau Ffestiniog mental health support centre Tan Y Maen, described it as ‘a full time job in itself keeping abreast of the available funds in our area of work.

‘The most problematic area is core funding, which is the money that keeps us going on a day to day basis,’ he added. ‘Funders are generally looking for new, exciting or innovative projects.’

Parents in Partnership provides breastfeeding peer support services for families across the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board area.

The Welsh Government and health board are encouraging more mothers to breastfeed, but greater demand on midwives and health visitors is preventing them supporting mothers to the extent that the charity’s peer supporters do, Clare Shears told Network Wales.

Evidence shows that breastfeeding improves the health of mothers and babies living in poverty. Working in partnership with the health board and Flying Start, peer supporters are very active in supporting and contacting parents via Facebook, blogs, email and texts - which midwives and health visitors are unable to do.

However, the charity’s Welsh Government Breastfeeding grant - 99% of its total funding - has been reduced and is now paid directly to the health board’s midwifery service. It was now at the board’s discretion how much funding the charity would receive, said Clare Shears.

‘We have had to bid for money via a panel of midwifery and health visiting heads of service so they can decide how much of the grant to give us,’ she added.

‘There is a general feeling of disappointment, considering how hard and dedicated our volunteers are. Morale is low and motivation of volunteers has to be continual, which can be exhausting for their supervisors.’
The 2014 Wales Volunteer of the Year Awards are now open for nominations.

As well as the five existing categories, we are also inviting nominations for International Volunteer – to be presented to people who have volunteered with international partners and organisations in Wales.

The new category recognises the increase in recent years of volunteers involved in global development projects through over 130 Wales Africa Community Links across Wales, as well as Fairtrade groups, health and diaspora links, and youth programmes such as UNA Exchange and Active Citizens.

The other categories are for Adult volunteer, supported by Cardiff’s Research and Marketing Group (RMG), Young Person, supported GwirVol, Green volunteer, Trustee and Group. The presentation ceremony will take place during annual national Volunteers’ Week in June.

To make a nomination, visit www.wcva.org.uk or contact the Helpdesk on 0800 2888 329.

Tan Y Maen has also seen a reduction in its statutory funding from the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Gwynedd Council, with which it has Service Level Agreements.

One aim of the organisation is to support people to gain employment or skills, and it also works with the local Church in Wales foodbank. ‘Demand for employment support has increased by 50% since we set up our work club in 2012,’ said Phil Griffiths.

‘There are more long-term unemployed people in our area, with people not understanding the new systems introduced and in need of support. We have more people experiencing poverty coming to us for help and there is also more demand for core services and special projects, especially our involvement in the local food bank service.’

But a lack of funding meant the charity had to make a paid post redundant and limited the service’s opening hours.

‘I don’t think I need to tell anyone in the sector that this is a specially difficult time for funding for small charities such as ourselves,’ Phil Griffiths added. ‘Funders are generally looking for new, exciting or innovative projects, without really realising that it is the core work which underpins all the other projects we do.’

Tan Y Maen recently secured a contribution towards core funding from Lloyds TSB Foundation. ‘But had it not been for this, we would have been facing a reduction in our core grant this year of 5 to 10%, and would have had to consider further reductions in staff hours and in core activities.

‘It is simply not realistic to expect third sector providers to continue to provide, and even improve, services with an ever reducing pot of money available for basic service provision.’

‘It is simply not realistic to expect third sector providers to continue to provide, and even improve, services with an ever reducing pot of money available for basic service provision.’

Meanwhile, a Llanelli breast care unit established to improve and speed up treatment has seen an upturn in its fortunes due to the generosity of the public.
Wellbeing legislation nears end of scrutiny

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Bill has entered the final stages of scrutiny.

The Bill aims to change the way social services are delivered by adopting a more person-centred approach, focusing on the outcomes necessary to promote an individual’s wellbeing. It will introduce a statutory framework for the protection of adults and national leadership arrangements for safeguarding.

It also recognises the role of carers by giving them the equivalent rights to support as those they care for.

Deputy Minister for Social Services Gwenda Thomas said: ‘We are now nearing the end of three years of hard work which has been focused on a shared ambition - to make a real difference to the lives of those who need care and support in our society. In the face of continued pressure on public services, the Welsh Government wants to be able to continue to offer quality services that protect people in need of care and support and which improve their lives.

‘To do this we have to make sure social services are sustainable for generations to come and this legislation is key to making sure that happens. By placing a clear focus on the rights of an individual and by making sure services are based on outcomes, we can also be confident that social services in Wales are focused on what people need most.’

Constance Adams, WCVA Senior Policy Officer, said: ‘WCVA welcomes the progress of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill, placing people’s voice and rights at the centre of their care and support. The third sector working with people who use services, carers and families, and as service deliverers has played a key role in helping shape this.

‘We value the Deputy Minister’s commitment to deliver legislation for Wales that will enable a transformative difference to the lives of people and their well-being.’

You can read more about the Bill at http://wales.gov.uk/

Send us your photos and make it snappy

The WCVA Members Photography Contest, supported by Pugh Computers and WEA Cymru, is open to all our members. No matter what your group does and no matter its size, we want you to snap your volunteers doing what they do best – improving the lives of others.

The first prize winner will receive a certificate for a photography training course (worth up to a value of £100) from WEA Cymru, which they can use on any WEA photography course at any venue across Wales. They will also get a copy of Corel PaintShop Pro X6 Ultimate (RRP £100) from Pugh Computers – a professional-quality photo editing software and design tool. And the contest runner-up will receive £25.

Not only that, but we will select the top entries and they’ll be exhibited at Swansea National Waterfront Museum for four weeks over summer, before moving to our Eisteddfod stand in Llanelli for a week from 2 August.

We want you to take a picture of your volunteers at work and email it to news@wcva.org.uk by 5pm on Friday, 9 May 2014, or send it by post to WCVA Members’ Photography Contest, WCVA, Baltic House, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff, CF10 5FH.

And if you’re short of inspiration, go to http://tinyurl.com/payn87z to see all the entries selected for exhibition last year. See below for the runner-up entry last year, from Mantell Gwynedd.

Please make sure you have asked permission of the people in your photo before entering. When receiving your entry we will assume that you have obtained the necessary permission(s), and will not accept any liability for publishing photographs without such permission(s). A full set of rules can be found on the website.

Send us your photos and make it snappy
Public service or public sector?

A recent Welsh Government consultation highlighted an important point in the debate about the future of public services in Wales. Gareth Coles, WCVA’s Public Service Delivery Officer reports for Network Wales.

The consultation on Supporting our Public Service Workforce through Collective Leadership and Legislation sought views on a Draft Public Services (Workforce) (Wales) Bill, which would give the Welsh Ministers powers to issue statutory guidance on certain public service workforce matters.

While there is recognition from Welsh Government about the importance of the third sector in delivering a new order of partnership working, the consultation itself is imprecise about its focus.

It uses the terms ‘public sector’ and ‘public service’ interchangeably. It refers to the Workforce Partnership Council as being at the heart of Welsh Government’s commitment to social partnership on public service workforce matters, but in fact the focus and membership of the Council is exclusively about the public sector workforce. Frequently the consultation uses the term public service when in fact it means public sector.

For many years WCVA and others in the third sector have highlighted the need for the Welsh Government public service improvement agenda to be specific about whether its focus is the public sector or public services.

This is because people use and rely on – and in reality may not distinguish between – any combination of services that are:
1. Directly provided by the public sector
2. Commissioned by the public sector and provided by the third sector
3. Commissioned by the public sector and provided by the private sector
4. Provided by the third sector with its own resources

Services provided under (1) are services provided by the public sector workforce. Services provided under (2), (3) and (4) are provided by the wider public service workforce. Employees may move from any one sector to any other. Of course, people also rely on informal services and support provided by family and carers, friends and neighbours, community groups, churches, etc.

WCVA has argued previously about the need for clarity and precise language in these matters. But this distinction is more important as we face increasing demands, increasing expectations and decreasing public spending. The Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery has concluded that:

‘For public services to meet the needs and aspirations of their local population these challenges must be recognised and addressed. As we said in our introduction, the only viable way for that to happen is to shift the emphasis of public service towards coproduction and prevention: designing and implementing solutions which sustain long term wellbeing and which prevent rather than respond to critical situations. This in turn can only be done in a spirit of partnership with citizens and communities themselves.’

WCVA agrees with this diagnosis, and with the Commission’s call for the basic purpose and nature of public service to be redefined with a much greater focus on co-production with citizens and communities. This must mean moving away from a narrow focus on the public sector, and towards a far more inclusive and collaborative approach to public services which places people at the centre, and which draws on all of the services that matter to them, whoever provides them.

Looking forward it is important future public service policy is relevant to and addresses the differing needs of the diverse workforce and the much broader range of employers (of all sizes) that make up the wider public service.

May policy events to focus on equality

WCVA will soon host policy events to examine equalities in Wales.

In association with the Welsh Government’s Fairer Futures Division, the NHS Centre for Equality and Human Rights, Public Health Wales, the Welsh Local Government Association’s Equalities Unit, and county voluntary councils, three events will focus on engaging the sector in sharing and reflecting on the performance of public bodies in the months and years since the Equality Act 2010 came into play.

The Act demands that public bodies have due regard to the need to:
• eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act;
• advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not;
• foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The events will take place in Newport on 7 May, Lampeter on 8 May and Rhyl on 15 May. They will feature presentations from key stakeholders followed by workshops facilitated by members of WCVA’s Equality and Human Rights Coalition and CVC colleagues. The afternoon sessions will be hosted jointly with Sport Wales, and further details will be available on www.wcva.org.uk.

The discussions and intelligence shared at these events will also feed into discussions at the next meeting of the Equalities and Human Rights Coalition on the 20 May where Sharon West, Head of the Equality Unit in the Welsh Government’s Fairer Futures Division will meet with the Coalition.

Helen Wilkinson, Senior Policy Officer at WCVA, said: ‘We welcome the fact that the Welsh Government are engaging the sector in early stage discussions around their planning and preparation for this report, and we see these events as really important influencing opportunities for the sector. Discussions that take place at these events have the added benefit that they will help inform our partners’ work as they review and reflect on progress in preparation for the first Equality 2014 Minister’s report due to be published in December 2014.’

To book your place at one of these events, visit www.wcva.org.uk.
Co-operatives and mutuals can help re-balance a public sector-dominated economy

An important element of the debate around the future structure of the Welsh economy and our public services has been published by the Cooperative and Mutuals Commission. Here is a report from Matthew Brown, WCVA’s Communities Investment Fund Manager.

Last month, the Welsh Government published a report which documents the contribution that co-operatives and mutuals make to the economy, showing there are clear advantages to Wales by taking a more co-operative approach.

For WCVA, the ability for communities to have a greater input and influence over their local services and economy, through the co-production method that we advocate, is important in creating and retaining wealth in local economies as well as retaining and improving local services.

This report adds to the ever increasing amount of information underlining the need for a stronger counterbalance to the economic norms of the public and private sector-dominated economy we have in Wales today.

The ongoing budget restrictions on our public services, with local authorities now facing the brunt of the next phase in spending reductions, creates a situation of retreat from providing the kind of community infrastructure that supports those most vulnerable in society.

The report recommends an improvement to the support infrastructure that wraps around co-operatives and mutuals in Wales, as well as the ability for communities to have first refusal of public assets, and this is to be welcomed. But the report could have gone further in strengthening the call for further use of the model and wider social enterprise movement to work with public bodies in co-producing solutions where the delivery of local services is threatened.

The current approach to closing, reducing or centralising services will create short-term savings for public services, but as the recent report by the Older Peoples Commissioner into The importance and impact of community services within Wales highlights these are only short-term cost savings that often create greater pressures and thus spend on other areas of the public sector.

Hopefully, this report is another addition to the ongoing conversation in Wales on how we better deliver and organise our public services, as well as remodel our economy, at a time that recent figures released by EuroSat show that the per person GDP of West Wales and the Valleys is 64% of the EU average, and the whole of Wales is only 74%. These figures, although relating to 2011, are hugely disappointing and show how Wales was disproportionally hit by the economic recession in comparison to our European neighbours and could not better illustrate the need to build a more resilient economy in Wales.

These figures … are hugely disappointing and show how Wales was disproportionally hit by the economic recession in comparison to our European neighbours

To have an economy that creates wealth, opportunities and equality in Wales we need to raise the game of the third sector, including the co-operative and mutual movement, to play the important role of counterbalance between the public and private sector, and this report adds another layer to the ongoing discussion in Wales as to how we achieve this.

The Report of the Welsh Co-operatives and Mutuals Commission can be found at www.wales.gov.uk

Programme launched for Wales Charity Law and Governance Conference 2014

It can be hard to keep your organisation on track when rules and regulations seem to change by the day. This event, brought to you by WCVA and Geldards law firm, is the leading legal and regulatory conference for Wales’ third sector and offers a wealth of practical assistance for voluntary organisations of all sizes.

Taking place on Wednesday 21 May 2014 at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea, the conference offers a varied programme with something to suit everyone. Expert speakers and workshop leaders will be there to give information and guidance on a wide range of legal issues, all to help your organisation stay on track with its responsibilities and governance. There’ll also be plenty of opportunity for networking and to enjoy a range of exhibition stands.

Speakers will include Linda Lawrence, a leading governance consultant with expertise in conflict management and mediation, and Stephen Jenkins, Partner at Geldards and experienced employment law expert. There will also be a wide variety of breakout sessions throughout the day, on topics that include:

- The ways in which charities can trade to raise funds
- The essentials on getting your accounts right
- Safeguarding and risk governance when using the new DBS Update service, and
- The real issues that organisations need to consider when looking to merge

The full programme and details of how to reserve a place are available at www.wcva.org.uk.
After 25 years of service at WCVA, Graham

In a career spanning 25 years at the forefront of the third sector in Wales, Graham Benfield’s tenure as Chief Executive of WCVA has crossed political eras from the last vestiges of Thatcherism to the Welsh devolution settlement and current-day austerity struggle. As he prepares to step into retirement, Graham reflects on a remarkable journey which has seen unprecedented growth in WCVA membership and world-first legislation being passed through the National Assembly for Wales.

Let me stress that this government is determined to forge the strongest possible links with the voluntary sector and to support it in every way we can.’

Those were the words of the new Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies, at WCVA’s 1997 annual conference. Words which set the tone for a new era for the third sector in Wales and a sea-change that can be traced back to Graham Benfield’s first analysis when he became Chief Executive of WCVA in 1989.

‘The relationship between government and the sector was badly undeveloped at the time’, said Graham. There was a real need to strengthen it and to start talking to local government and health authorities. That was my priority and WCVA’s mission, along with building a bigger membership.

‘Government was quite disinterested in the sector back then. It wasn’t hostile, but Ministers and civil servants didn’t see the need for any real dialogue, and there was a narrow perception of the sector as a whole.

‘We were being pro-active in changing it, but the sort of things the sector wanted to talk about were not the sort of things that Westminster was really concerned with. And if it wasn’t on the radar of Westminster, it was very difficult to get the Welsh Office interested – even on issues around volunteering and sustainable development.

‘One thing I recall was that government did not like use of the word ‘poverty’. We were running an anti-poverty project but it was not really encouraged because government barely acknowledged that poverty existed.

‘So the ability of Welsh organisations to influence policy in London was very limited. Most of the influencing was being done by UK organisations because there wasn’t the political space for it in Wales.’

‘While the changing politics and devolution of the late 1990s unlocked a new era between government and the third sector, the creation of the national lottery in 1994 became a building block for progress.

‘There were some significant policy gains for the sector in the early 1990s and it was John Major’s government that established the lottery.

‘The first proposals only had arts and sport as good causes so we lobbied alongside other organisations to get the definition broadened to include charities. That was absolutely crucial. It’s been worth about £1 billion to the sector since and has had a very positive effect on the work of thousands of organisations and the people they support.

‘Around that time, we were also seeing an interest from the Labour Party. They were re-thinking their attitude towards the sector and were starting to see us as an important part of society. That was a very significant change.

‘After they came into office in 1997, we developed a Compact agreement between government and the sector. Our role was to make sure there was a Welsh Compact, not just a UK one, and that set the ground for the relationship being recognised in the founding legislation of Assembly.’

‘The Government of Wales Act in 1998 committed the Welsh Government to work with the sector through the creation of the Voluntary Sector Scheme. In September 2000, then First Minister Rhodri Morgan said: ‘This puts the voluntary sector on an equal footing with local government and business in their partnership arrangements with the Assembly. It has the full support of all political parties represented in the Assembly.’

Government had gone from disinterested observer to formal partner in a decade.

Government had gone from disinterested observer to formal partner in a decade. The winds of political change were opening new doors and devolution created the political space which Graham describes as the landmark moment in his 25 years at the helm of WCVA.

‘Suddenly, the opportunity to influence policy exploded’, he said.

‘It was a very exciting time. We had a new government prepared to talk about things that hadn’t been talked about before. People were becoming receptive to policy ideas in all sorts of areas. In Communities First, there was an anti-poverty programme which was community-led, and growing public expenditure was also benefiting the sector.

‘So we had an enormous period of growth; both in ideas and influence. The concept of the social economy and social enterprise was developed. The lottery and Europe also brought resources into the sector, and policy areas were being opened up through the Voluntary Sector Scheme. It was the first time anywhere in the world where the relationship between government and the sector had been put into legislation.’
Benfield retires with a parting message

‘The sector was growing in many ways and becoming a respected partner in building a new Wales. It was a period of considerable achievement and WCVA played an important role in an era of real change.

‘That period of investment in the third sector benefited every community in Wales’, said Graham.’

‘The growth in voluntary action allowed people to benefit from a wide range of services and there was a huge investment in social capital.

‘As a result, I think we have a much stronger society than we otherwise would. Social capital is higher here than in many other places. Communities are more integrated. That’s the product of ten years of investment and partnership, and I think Wales has benefited hugely from it.’

As the scope of the sector was growing, so was its umbrella body. WCVA was borne out of the depression of the 1930s and helped unemployed people, funded district nurses and supported libraries and co-operative schemes during that period.

Since then, it has helped establish the network of Citizens Advice Bureaux in Wales and supported the creation of organisations such as Age Cymru and Disability Wales.

When Graham Benfield joined WCVA in 1989, it had 200 members and was based out of a small office in Caerphilly. Today, its membership stands at over 3,400 organisations with offices in Cardiff Bay, Aberystwyth and Rhyl.

In 2005, WCVA worked with Welsh Government on the detail of the new partnership agreement which gave five-year funding commitment for WCVA, the CVCs and volunteer centres in Wales.

which is a very important component of civil society in Wales.

‘Members have also benefited from the ability of WCVA to go into the funding marketplace and bring finance into the sector. WCVA’s size and ability to balance cash-flows has allowed hundreds of smaller organisations to access funding through our projects and Europe. It’s important that the sector has a resilient and respected umbrella body, particularly during more difficult times.’

More difficult times were signalled by the banking collapse in 2008 and the subsequent recession. The economic downturn and public spending cuts continue to put greater demands on third sector services at a time when funding is being reduced and sustainability threatened and there is no end in sight.

The period of growth came to an end in 2009 and has been replaced with an approach which has not just seen cuts of 25 per cent in the last three years, but seems to criticise more than praise, monitor more than encourage, review rather than innovate and suspect rather than trust.

However, a consensus is building across Europe which is exciting, mobilising and transforming based on treating people and communities (and their organisations) not as problems but as assets, making resources go much further by sharing them in new ways which strengthen people and communities.

This emerging new way is not yet here in Wales and is hindered by a fear of change and a desire to stay well within undemanding comfort zones, combined with a reluctance of organisations to think ‘outside the box’ and speak out about poor decision making and practices.

When prompted for personal highlights during his 25-year tenure, Graham points to the opening of WCVA’s Baltic House headquarters in 2000 and the acceptance and implementation of many of the ideas originally set in WCVA’s Design for life and Civil society, civil space manifestos.

He believes that the ability and experience of WCVA’s governance and staff will stand future leaders in good stead and is passionate about the independence of the sector to speak out and pioneer ideas that become the government priorities of tomorrow.

When he leaves WCVA at the end of this month, he plans to travel and spend more time with his family and the local organisations he’s involved with. His first new commitment has been to accept the role of Chair of the Big Lottery Fund’s Building Communities Trust.

With another transformational era on the horizon, his view on a range of issues is already being sought and he remains keen to add his voice to debates across Welsh public life.

‘If we are to meet the needs and aspirations of the people of Wales, we will need to see a radical shift in the way services are organised and financed. It’s crucial this happens – there is no plan B and if I can contribute to how this process evolves in Wales, I’d be delighted to do so.’
Help uncover Wales’ First World War legacy

Welsh volunteers have been asked to help identify landmarks and buildings that played a key role in the First World War.

Home Front Legacy 1914-18 is a campaign to record the physical remains of the war on home territory, run by groups including Cadw, the Council for British Archaeology, English Heritage, Historic Scotland and others. It aims to bring together existing records with people’s local knowledge to record the remains of the war that are still around today.

Jon Berry, Senior Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Archaeology at Cadw, said: ‘Archaeology is the study of past society through material culture. This includes landscapes, buildings, structures, earthworks, buried features, artefacts and documents. Studying these remains can help us understand the impact of the war on the communities and landscapes of Wales.

‘As we prepare to remember the events of 100 years ago there has never been a more appropriate time for communities across the country to get involved in this part of our history. We look forward to working with the other project partners in making Home Front Legacy a success.’

John Griffiths, Culture Minster said: ‘The Home Front Legacy 1914-18 is a really good and worthwhile project. The First World War, and the part that Britain and the Commonwealth played in it, changed the course of history. Discovering, preserving and identifying for the public, sites and buildings from that era will help bring that part of our national history alive for generations to come.

‘So I hope lots of people, young and old and from all over the country, will get involved. Local and family history groups, parish and county-based centenary projects, schools, young people, those interested in the part played by women or Commonwealth communities – there will be buildings and sites to be discovered that mean something to everyone.’

‘There are a range of activities across Wales to help you discover and identify sites relating to the War. You can find out more about these by visiting Cadw’s website at www.cadw.gov.uk, or by visiting the Home Front Legacy website at www.homefrontlegacy.org.uk.

Training course hits the mark

When Lindsay Bruce took over as Chief Executive of substance misuse charity, NewLink, in 2011, the organisation faced financial uncertainty and needed to modernise how it worked.

During the organisational turnaround, Lindsay accessed support from WCVA’s Sustainable Funding Cymru while rebuilding the charity and planning for a more sustainable future.

‘I joined NewLink as Director of Volunteering in May 2011 and within a short time it became apparent that the organisation was in a difficult financial position’, she said.

‘After our Chief Executive had retired and my co-director left, I was asked to step up as acting Chief Executive. I’ve worked in substance misuse for 15 years but I’m a therapist so I needed to quickly get to grips with the funding environment and understanding how to make the charity sustainable.

‘Alongside the financial position, the organisation had got a little bit out of date. Drugs had changed, the way people worked had changed, and the way we recorded outcomes in the sector had changed.

‘I believed in what we were trying to achieve, but we needed to modernise and rebuild the organisation.’

During that time, Lindsay discovered WCVA’s Sustainable Funding Cymru project which offered advice, support and training to help third sector organisations become more sustainable.

‘I went into the training wondering whether it might be the kind of course that tells me what I already know. I’ve been on a few of those! But after about half an hour I thought ‘this is a Godsend, this is exactly what we need’.

‘The trainer gave us a lot of guidance in how to list our outputs, outcomes and impacts and explained the importance of that.

‘After the training I sat down with our management team and we did that breakdown for every single project that we ran. It really helped us identify what we were trying to achieve, where the gaps were and it became integral to all our operational plans.’

In the following couple of years, NewLink underwent major changes and restructuring that have put the organisation on a firm financial footing.

‘It’s a different place’, said Lindsay. ‘We’ve rebranded, restructured, all our projects have been redesigned and we’re now generating surpluses.

‘This stability has opened up new avenues which are making us financially sustainable and helping us generate other sources of funding.’

Between 2006 and 2013, WCVA’s Sustainable Funding Cymru project helped over 4,000 third sector organisations across Wales.

The Sustainable Funding Cymru project was funded through the Big Lottery Fund until the end of March 2014. To find out more about support available please contact WCVA’s Helpdesk on 0800 2888 329 or visit our website at www.wcva.org.uk/funding.