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UK Government



Wedi ei ariannu gan
Llywodraeth y DU

Doing the Small Things Fund – End of Grant Report

The Doing the Small Things Fund was a small grant scheme delivered as part of the wider Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS), Active Citizenship & Engagement (ACE) project with funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). The ACE project aimed to make a positive difference by encouraging more people of all ages to get actively involved in helping out in their communities.

Through the Doing the Small Things Fund small to medium third sector groups across Pembrokeshire applied for up to £3,000 to run a 6 month project, with spend and activity completion by 30th November 2024.

The Fund was launched at the beginning of April 2024, with a 5-week application window.

PAVS held an online Question & Answer session for groups wishing to find out more about the fund and provided guidance for groups interested in applying. Materials were developed to ensure that groups were clear of the expectations of any fund holders.

Doing the Small Thing Fund Priorities:

- Create new formal and informal volunteering & engagement opportunities
- Encourage people of all ages to help out in their communities, building pride in place
- Make a positive difference to their community through active citizenship, engagement & community action

Each funded projects provided information as to how their proposed project aligned with these priorities. These priorities were adapted from the SPF aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK by investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people & skills.

28 applications were received by the advertised deadline on **Monday 29th April 2024** and pre-panel checks carried out on these by PAVS, these were then sent to the multi-agency panel for review prior to the panel meeting.

At the fund panel meeting **25 groups were approved** to deliver a range of projects, all felt by panel members to demonstrate a contribution to the Fund priorities. 25 groups spent **£65,633.23** of funding on the supported projects, as follows;

The poster features the UK Government logo and the Welsh text 'Funded by UK Government' and 'Wedi ei ariannu gan Llywodraeth y DU'. It highlights the fund's purpose: 'Up to £3,000 for 6 month revenue projects encouraging volunteering, developing a sense of place and community action.' Below this, it states 'Hyd at £3,000 ar gyfer prosiectau refeniw 6 mis yn annog gwirfoddoli, datblygu ymdeimlad o le a gweithredu cymunedol.' The deadline is 'Deadline Dyddiad cau 29/04/24'. The bottom right corner features the 'FFYNIANT LEVELLING -BRO- -UP-' logo and a photo of a woman in a blue 'VOLUNTEER' shirt holding a 'DONATIONS' box.

Table of Funded Projects

Ref	Group	Amount approved
DTST-01-24	Arts Care Gofal Celf	£2,713.70
DTST-02-24	Blue Horizons Adventures CIC	£2,852
DTST-03-24	Camrose Sports Association	£2,185.90
DTST-04-24	Child of the Earth CIC	£2,747
DTST-06-24	Cwm Arian Renewable Energy	£3,000
DTST-08-24	Dinas Wellbeing Hub	£3,000
DTST-09-24	Eco Dewi	£3,000
DTST-10-24	Fishguard Bay Sustainable Food Initiative	£3,000
DTST-11-24	Fishguard Sports AFC	£2,390
DTST-12-24	Greener Growth	£3,000
DTST-13-24	Martletwy Community Council	£920
DTST-14-24	Megans Starr Foundation	£2,890
DTST-15-24	Milford Haven Community Society	£2,366.20
DTST-16-24	Newport Forum	£3,000
DTST-17-24	Pembrokeshire Lido Park Society	£2,750
DTST-18-24	Pembrokeshire Pride	£2,647.25
DTST-19-24	Pobl Tir Mor CIC	£3,000
DTST-21-24	Silbers CIC	£3,000
DTST-22-24	Span Arts	£3,000
DTST-23-24	St Davids Befrienders	£3,000
DTST-24-24	Tenby Town Council	£2,735
DTST-25-24	The Tenby Project	£2,065
DTST-26-24	The VC Gallery	£3,000
DTST-27-24	Transition Bro Gwaun	£2,971.48
DTST-28-24	Victoria Hall	£399.70

Outputs Achieved

Every funded project was supported on the basis that activity would contribute to the overall achievements of the PAVS ACE project under the three headings:

- 1) Events/ Activities
- 2) Training/ workshops/ Qualifications
- 3) Volunteers

Achieved Outputs / Outcomes Table

OP/OC Ref	Outputs / Outcomes	Total claimed by DTST projects	Actual as per UKSPF evidence and/or duplicates removed
OP15	No of local events/ activities supported	73	47
OP23	No of volunteering opportunities supported	198	90
OP25	No of people reached	953	117
OP27	No of people attending training sessions	171	89
OC19	No of volunteer opportunities created as a result of support (number of roles)	45	45
OC64	People gaining a qualification of completing a course following support	142	78

Column 4 shows the **Actual Outputs/ Outcomes Achieved** where groups provided required UKSPF evidence and any duplicates were removed.

In addition, Column 3 shows the **Total Outputs/ Outcomes Reported to PAVS** by Doing the Small Things Fund supported projects, the difference between the figure provided here and in Column 4 represents those where Output/ Outcome evidence did not meet the SPF requirements when PAVS checked and collated evidence provided. This also included some where duplicates had been counted.

Additional Value

Through delivery of projects funded by Doing the Small Things Fund groups achieved the following added value:

- 4076.25 volunteering hours were completed
- Value of volunteer time - £46,632.30
- £58,653.75 of additional funding was secured by organisations delivering projects. Some of this related to grant funding and some relate to the value of donated goods, materials and staff time gifted to projects.

Volunteer Engagement Project



Silbers CIC

The community events held at the garden contributed positively to the area by promoting active citizenship and engagement. For many attendees, this was their first time learning about the garden and the benefits of growing food. This exposure sparked interest and participation beyond the event, empowering individuals to engage more actively in their community. By creating opportunities for hands-on involvement, we fostered a spirit of community action that will continue to positively impact the area long after the events concluded.

St. David's Befrienders

This project has made a world of difference to the people attending! It has been the catalyst for change. People have made valuable connections, taken pride in their community space and seen its future potential. This is just the start!



Community & Volunteer Engagement events taster sessions

Blue Horizon CIC

I have enjoyed my time volunteering and getting the chance to do it with my daughters. Family life with teenagers can sometimes be difficult but every day we helped out, we worked as a team sharing laughter and smiles. These moments not only gave me time out from a frantic family life but gave me the experiences of helping others who appreciated every moment of being in the sea.

Project to train & strengthen volunteer community

Funded by UK Government



JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

Blue Horizons needs your help with assisting on Adaptive surf lessons. If you have 1 hour or a day in the week to spare, we would love to hear from you!

OUR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- Expenses paid ☑
- Training events ☑
- Gain qualifications ☑
- DBS Certificate ☑

Visit Our Website www.bluehorizons.wales

Contact Us 07561419894

FFYNIANT BRO

POWERED BY LEVELLING UP

Maes Glasfryn Volunteering Events, Activities and Training



We are proud of the overwhelming positive feedback to the course and events we ran, how they were run and interest in doing more. This is hugely rewarding... and is a testament to the course/event organisers and instructors as well as the subject matters chosen. Being able to offer free courses to the wider community has also meant there have been no barriers to entry, giving everyone an opportunity to get involved.

Cwm Arian Renewable Energy

Project empowered local volunteers to take ownership and adapt the initiative to meet the specific needs of the community. This has created a sustainable model that not only addresses food insecurity but also strengthens social connections and encourages ongoing engagement.



Project to expand the Community Freezer

Pembrokeshire Pride



Participants were empowered to accomplish goals they might not have been able to achieve independently. A key highlight was witnessing the inclusive nature of all our initiatives, where individuals of diverse faiths and backgrounds came together to share ideas, experiences, creativity, meals, engage in conversation, reduce social isolation and enjoy each other's company. We take great pride in seeing the community unite to achieve something meaningful for both the LGBTQ+ and wider communities in Pembrokeshire.

Community Champion Project; creating small scale change through events & activities

Project Highlights & Learning

All funded projects told us that they were successful and learnt something of value through their project delivery. Some upskilled people involved in their group through training, whilst others trialled new projects and new ways of delivering elements which will inform future plans.

Projects reported positive learning for the groups and a positive impact on future direction and development of activities. Some groups reported successfully accessing other funding opportunities as a result of the activity delivered through this Fund.

Outcomes were short term by the nature of the short monitoring deadline post delivery. These included improved skills, more volunteering resource, broader volunteering opportunities, increased wellbeing, more physical activity, better nutrition, increased confidence, building the capacity in the community, more community involvement and better social and community connections leading to enhanced well-being. The longer-term impact of these projects could only be anticipated given the timeframe for monitoring feedback.

Challenges experienced by groups

- Publicising projects to encourage people from the community involved, this also impacted delivery given the strict deadline
- Needing to change spend as unforeseen circumstances cropped up. Through discussion with PAVS adjustments were made and projects continued to deliver provided they remained in line with activities and the original spend criteria of the fund
- Hard to attract and retain volunteers when they have other life commitments
- Short timeframe of the project
- Poor weather impacting a few of the outdoor projects and required groups found alternative ways to deliver project activity
- Groups reported a significant amount of time taken to complete the required monitoring and evidence of delivery of the projects
- Understanding and fulfilling the requirements of the Fund for evidence & monitoring at close of delivery
- Publicity and getting the word out, learn from this and build in more time for publicity, also more of a challenge with a shorter project delivery window

Fund Delivery Learning and Challenges

Gathering and collating the required evidence of the outputs and outcomes proved challenging, both for the groups and for the Fund administrator to ensure that these met requirements. A significant amount of time was spent by groups in pulling this together but also of note is the significant input by PAVS to support the projects through the Fund process;

- Q & A session (also recorded and sent out to groups)
- Clear terms and conditions of the grant
- Grant guidance clearly set out record keeping requirements
- Fund acceptance set out what each group would need to do

- Each group had an implementation meeting with PAVS officer
- PAVS produced a Publicity Toolkit and a Guide for Supporting and Recruiting Informal Volunteers, given to each project delivery organisation (which included template forms)
- PAVS met with groups to explain and clarify the understanding of requirements and chasing up gaps in information provided to be able to evidence the achievement of outputs and outcomes as a direct result of project activity
- PAVS checked and filed all evidence provided and chased up gaps in that information

The overall achieved and evidenced outputs are lower than had been predicted and hoped for by the delivering projects. Groups adjusted these to be more realistic given the reporting requirements. There were some groups which did not return their evidence of activity , so could not be included as part of the final reported outputs.

Final comments

Funded projects provided a range of evidence to show immediate benefits to the communities and individuals engaged during their delivery in line with the fund priorities.

A significant number of individuals were involved and engaged in informal community volunteer opportunities and moving forward from this Fund it is anticipated that most of the groups supported will go on to see some longer term outcomes as a result of the projects delivered, growing some of the initial steps taken to connect more with individuals to grow community activity through volunteering opportunities, events and activities in response to community need.

Written by Lorna Livock, PAVS February 2025

(The photo pages showcase some of the funded projects. Monitoring evidence for all projects including feedback, photographs & the agreed sample of detailed financial evidence have been retained by PAVS)