

# Gwynt y Môr Community Fund

First Annual Year Report 2015/2016



- More than £19 million over 25 years
- Building strong and sustainable communities
- Creating prosperity and economic growth
- Reducing poverty and inequality

[www.gwyntymorfund.cymru](http://www.gwyntymorfund.cymru)





It has been an exceptional first year for Community and Voluntary Support Conwy (CVSC) developing and delivering the Gwynt y Môr (GYM) Community Fund. In 2015/2016, the first full year of the fund, we have worked with 107 different groups and organisations and so far 43 of those have been successful in their applications. I am so proud of what the fund has achieved in the first twelve months of this exciting and innovative programme.

We have built firm foundations for the future of the fund. There are clear and straightforward application processes for both the small and large grant schemes, and appropriate advice and support is made available to applicants. We have a grants panel that meet regularly to consider applications. Panel members bring with them a wealth of experience and knowledge which leads to lively discussions and well informed, robust decision making.

I would like to thank all of our partners: **GYM Offshore Wind Farm Ltd, Flintshire and Denbighshire Voluntary Councils** and the **Cambrian Credit Union** who have worked with us in the fund's development and launch. The panel members and team at CVSC have also played vital roles in the success of this initial development and implementation phase.

**Wendy Jones**  
Chief Officer, Community &  
Voluntary Support Conwy

In this first year I have been impressed with the number, quality, creativity, diversity and passion of the applications received. These have surpassed our expectations. There are some extraordinary people doing amazing things across North Wales, often with very limited resources. Due to the fund's flexibility this is not simply about supporting capital projects through funding bricks and mortar, we have also been able to support some of the more challenging revenue initiatives that can make a real difference to the fabric of our communities.

At the end of this first year the GYM fund has committed **£636,738.00** to help make our communities more vibrant, more prosperous and more equitable. A huge thank you to everyone involved in making this first year a resounding success.

# Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm

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GYM Offshore Wind Farm, located off the coast of North Wales, was officially opened in June 2015 as the world's second largest wind farm. This innovative wind farm has the potential to generate enough renewable energy to power the equivalent annual needs of approximately 400,000 average UK households.

It represents a total investment of more than £2 billion, currently shared between innogy SE (50%); Stadtwerke München GmbH, Munich's municipal utilities company (30%); the UK Green Investment Bank (10%) and Siemens (10%).

## Meet the Gwynt y Môr Community Fund team

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**Wendy Jones,  
CVSC Chief Officer**

Heading up CVSC my role is to represent, promote and advance the interests of the third sector throughout Conwy County as well as day to day management of CVSC. At the GYM fund I am responsible for monitoring and evaluation of delivery of the program.



**Sabina Dunkling,  
CVSC Development  
Officer**

My job on the GYM fund is to support Neil with the administration of the grants, preparation for panel and keeping social media up to date. I also work on wider group development beyond the fund which includes training, governance and funding searches.



**Neil Pringle,  
Gwynt y Môr  
Program Manager**

I work full time on the GYM fund with support from the rest of our team. This includes all aspects of grant administration including supporting our grant assessing panel. The key part of my work is to advise, support and guide prospective community groups in developing ideas, projects and submissions to the fund.

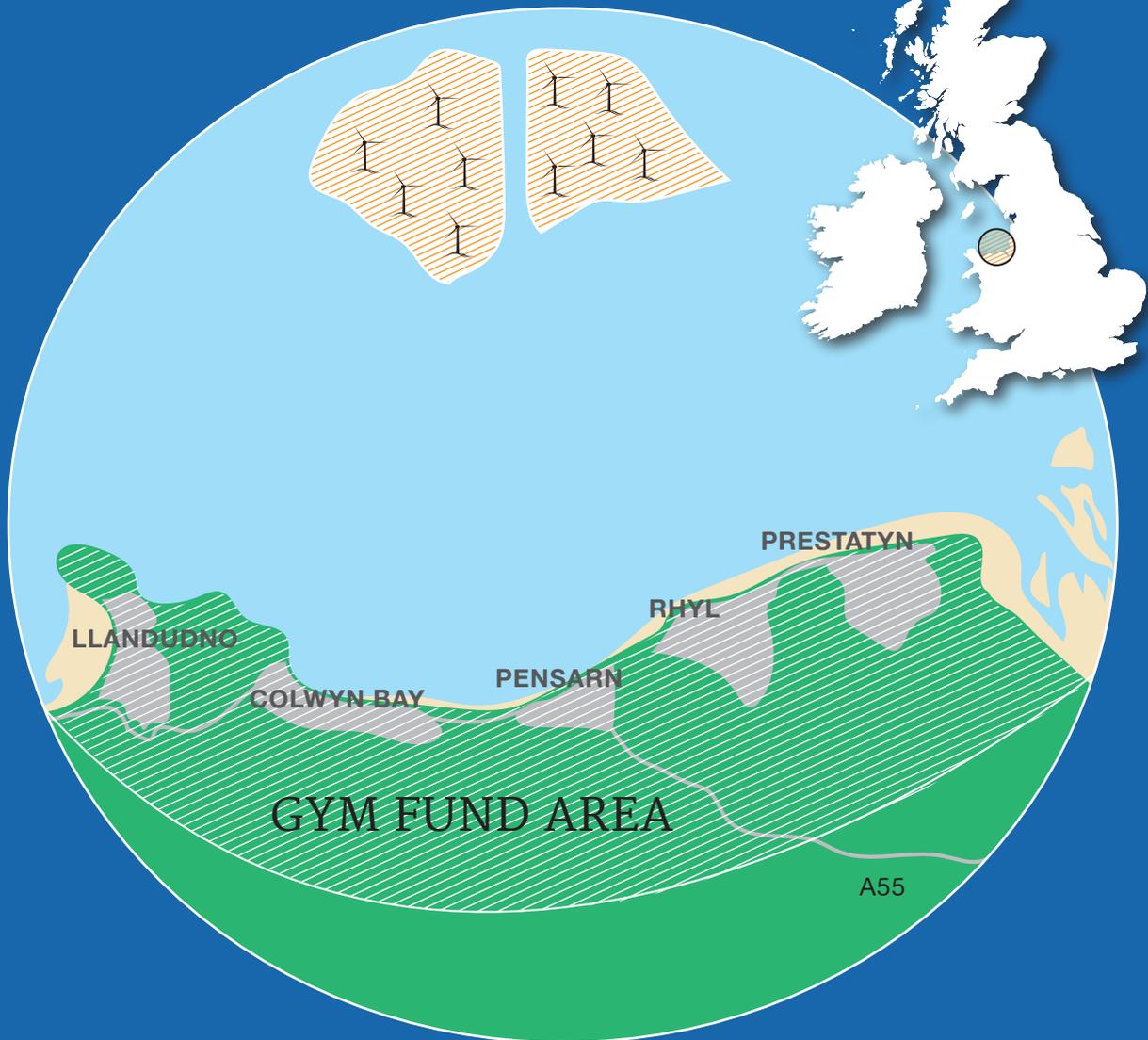


**David O'Neil,  
CVSC Business  
Manager**

My responsibility for this fund is processing the grant payments, balancing the bank account and all accountancy functions associated with the GYM grant scheme.



## The area we work in



The GYM fund area extends from Penmaen Bach Point in the West to Glan y Don (East of Mostyn Dock ) in an Easterly direction. Extending inland as far as St. Asaph the arc also takes in an area along the A548 stopping some half a mile from the community of Llanfairtalhairn.

The area features 43 different electoral wards and has a population of approximately 155,447.

This part of the North Wales coast can be a great place to live – but communities still face many challenges.

**66.8%\***

of people are economically active

**33.2%\***

of people are economically inactive

**15.9%\***

of people are on long term sick

**25%\***

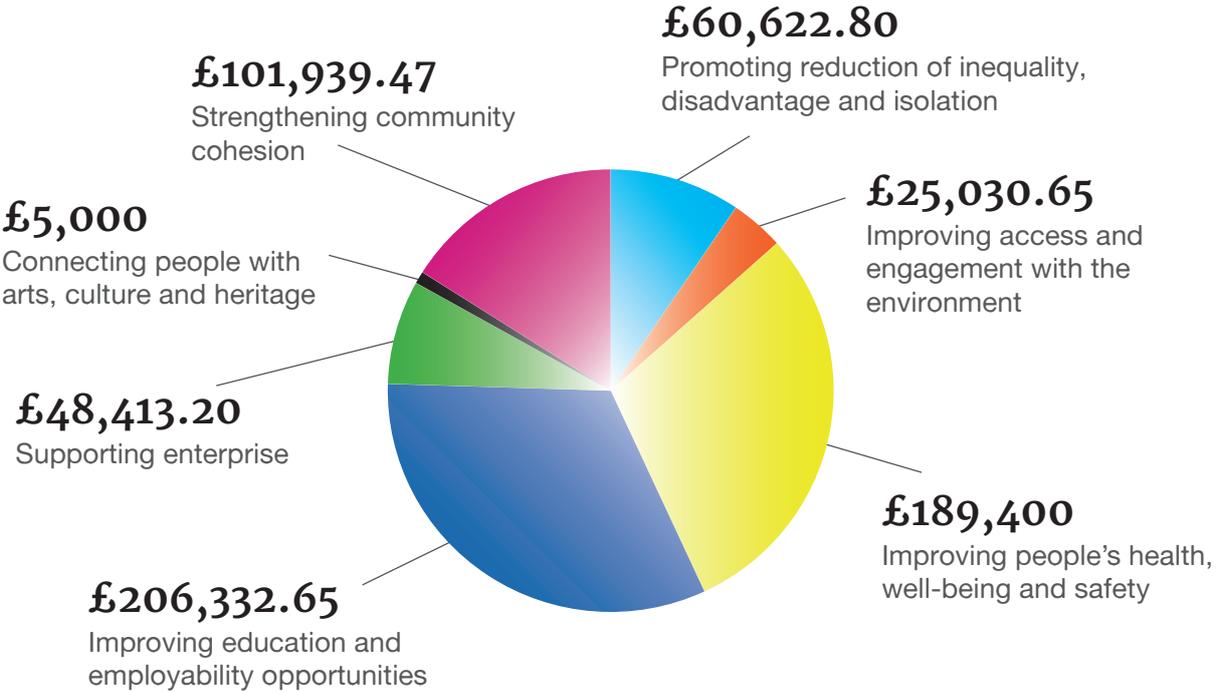
of people over 16 in these wards have no formal qualifications

\*average percentage of population in the GYM fund area wards

# What we have achieved in the first year

<b>£636,738</b> Funds committed	
<b>£195,598</b> Match funding secured	Match funding secured from other funders including – County Councils, Town Councils, Big Lottery Fund, Arts Council, North Wales Housing Association, Trusts such as the Morgan Foundation and Cemlyn Jones Trust along with other offshore wind farm community funds.
<b>107</b> Number of groups worked with	<b>43</b> Number of projects supported
<b>21</b> Number of projects rejected	Reasons for grant rejection included projects being ineligible; not having significant benefit in the fund area, not providing enough value for money.
<b>39</b> Number of small grants (under £10,000)	<b>4</b> Number of large grants (over £10,000)
<b>24</b> Number of community groups supported	<b>15</b> Number of registered charities supported
<b>4</b> Number of social enterprises supported	

## The difference we make – the grants we have committed and the areas they impact





Bodelwyddan Castle Trust

# Building strong, cohesive and sustainable communities

1,060 volunteer opportunities created  
7 different community building and resource projects supported

**The GYM Fund has supported projects which bring people together, that unite different generations, ethnic communities and people from different social backgrounds. By assisting projects that support the social, economic and environmental health and resilience of communities in the fund area – we want to help them work towards long term sustainability.**

## Bodelwyddan Castle Trust

Bodelwyddan Castle Trust established a community orchard and secured match funding from the Grow Wild project. The project provided valuable life experiences for volunteers with learning difficulties who struggle with speech, language and communication issues.

### Highlights of the project included:

- 22 practical project days
- Directly worked with 124 people
- Built partnerships with Cambrian Pengwern College and “Include Us Too” youth project.
- 15 families attended a tree planting day



Dangerpoint

*“Very impressed, the rangers were excellent, we liked the interactive elements.”*

*“Each area was well presented and interactive which engaged children. Very relevant to the children’s current lives and situation.”*

## Dangerpoint

Dangerpoint secured a three year package of funding to support subsidised visits for schools and community groups. They matched the grant with their own funds.

Visitors can learn about safety at this interactive visitor centre. Its full of fun, entertaining activities which also teach how to prevent everyday accidents which result in 6,000 household deaths across the UK each year.

- 1,984 participants either visited or booked to visit so far in the first year
- Average pre-tour quiz score of 38% and a post tour score of 84% achieved
- 41 buses have been allocated to remove transport barriers

## Bryn Newydd Bowling Club

Bryn Newydd Bowling Club now has 100 members playing in five teams. A new shelter funded by GYM community fund, has doubled their spectator capacity, extended the playing season and enabled members to keep actively involved with other people throughout the year. This was an excellent example of partnership working between a statutory body, in this case Denbighshire County Council and a community organisation.





# Developing prosperous, enterprising communities with strong economic growth

**Jobs and opportunities are critical to the long term success of the communities in which the GYM Fund operates. By supporting projects that create and retain jobs, enhance skills, promote and develop enterprise, the fund is contributing towards the long term prosperity of the area.**

- 14 new jobs have been created and 64.5 jobs safeguarded
- 26 young people took part in a live engineering project gaining experience for the Enterprise and Employability challenge in their Welsh Baccaulaureate

## Events

The GYM fund has supported six events which have attracted 74,700 visitors to the area and included

- Salsa Amor Cymru
- Llandudno Extravaganza
- Ymuno Festival
- Cambrian Rally
- North Wales Bluegrass Festival
- Llandudno Junction Traxz



North Wales Bluegrass Festival



Salsa Amor Cymru

JODY KITE PHOTOGRAPHY

*“Salsa Amor cymru attracted visitors from across the UK booking 150 local hotel beds during the quieter offseason, and had over 300 attendees. They secured additional funding from Conwy County Borough Council, Go North Wales and some crowd funding enabling the GYM funding to go even further.”*

## G2G Communities CIC

G2G Communities CIC matched a GYM grant with their own funds to launch a new project which helps individuals who want to set up and develop their own businesses. The aim is that businesses will grow and employ other local people or offer volunteering opportunities. G2G Communities CIC provides help, support, training and hosting of web sites. The project also helps participants to develop new, or improve existing skills by providing one-to-one help and support based around ‘work ready’ skills, self-employment and qualifications. G2G learning centre and LEGO centre is used as a drop-in facility for participants in the project.

### So far:

- 32 young people and adults have been provided with training / next step employment opportunities
- Three virtual business websites launched and three in development
- Volunteers have gained qualifications including level 3 Paediatric Emergency First Aid and level 2 Food Hygiene

### Course feedback included:

“Being forced to take the time out (away from the slog of doing the actual work) in order that the actual work can be celebrated and promoted. Ultimately leading to better work and a more sustainable business. G2G Communities CIC & Gwynt y Môr Community Fund have been a fantastic life line! Thank you!”



Rhyl Men's Sheds

# Reducing poverty and inequality in communities

**Disadvantage and exclusion are the root cause of so many challenges communities face. The projects we support aim to re-dress inequalities, reach out to the marginalised and vulnerable and offer them hope. Some of our smallest grants helped to make a really big difference to the quality of people's lives.**

## Rhyl Mens Sheds

Rhyl Men's Sheds is helping to support men with learning difficulties. At the Shed, 184 members and 50 regular attendees benefit from a place to meet, have a warm healthy meal, make friends, feel included in activities such as volunteering while simultaneously gaining in confidence and learning new skills. Support from the GYM fund, alongside match funding from the Morgan Foundation, Big Lottery Fund and Comic Relief has helped to renovate a kitchen, provide a disabled toilet, a hearing loop and an access ramp. The shed is now fully inclusive and accessible to everyone. and has been building strong links with other agencies including receiving referrals from the local authority, social services and the Red Cross.

**Comments from those attending include:**

*"It's a fun place to be" "It is home" "It's part of life, part of growing up"*



## Hope Restored

Hope Restored used a small grant to secure vital supplies and resources for homeless people in Llandudno. This included:

- 2300 hot meals
- 250 food parcels
- 30 sleeping kits (tents/sleeping bags etc)
- Taken 41 people off the streets and sheltered in suitable accommodation

## Carers Outreach

Carers Outreach supports unpaid carers in North Wales, they recognise that every carer's situation is unique and aims to ensure no one has to care alone. A grant from the GYM fund has helped to:

- Employ a coordinator
- Support 235 carers including preparing plans for carers
- Secure a further £54,505 in benefits for carers

## Our Finances 2015 / 2016

CVSC has an initial 5 year contract to administer the GYM fund. All funds paid are ring fenced for use to address the funds themes within the fund area of benefit. An administration fee is included which covers the costs of administering the fund, this includes the provision of a full time Fund Manager as well as the administration and finance support required.

### THE FUND

Community fund received from GYM Offshore Windfarm Ltd: **£1,275,967.32**  
Administration fees from GYM Offshore Windfarm Ltd: **£93,000**

### GRANTS AWARDED

Hope Restored	<b>5,700.00</b>	St. John's Methodist Church	<b>9,999.00</b>
Bodelwyddan Castle Trust	<b>5,915.70</b>	Ysgol y Foryd, Kinmel Bay	<b>3,875.00</b>
Llysaen Village Hall	<b>51,027.43</b>	Llandudno Football Club	<b>9,999.00</b>
Prestatyn Royal Airforce Cadets	<b>9,999.00</b>	Botanical Gardens Enterprises Ltd	<b>1,687.07</b>
Salsa Amor Cymru	<b>9,995.00</b>	Book of You CIC	<b>7,500.00</b>
Creating Enterprise	<b>8,768.00</b>	Cyffordd Llandudno Junction Trakz	<b>1,500.00</b>
EESW/Stem Cymru	<b>9,999.00</b>	Prestatyn & Meliden Community	
Int. Yachting Fellowship Rotarians	<b>3,000.00</b>	Action Group	<b>9,064.00</b>
North Denbighshire Domestic		Prestatyn Town Council -	
Abuse Service	<b>9,500.00</b>	Community Allotment	<b>8,278.62</b>
Dating Welsh Houses	<b>5,000.00</b>	Peulwys Go Green Association	<b>2,503.00</b>
Carers Outreach Service	<b>9,999.00</b>	Wales Pre-School Providers	
Abergele Community Action Ltd	<b>141,191.00</b>	Association (Wales PPA)	<b>9,585.00</b>
Turn2Us	<b>5,936.00</b>	CAIS Ltd	<b>9,998.86</b>
Bryn Newydd Bowling Club	<b>2,000.00</b>	Ymuno Events CIC	<b>9,594.20</b>
Llandudno Victorian Extravaganza	<b>3,960.00</b>	The Rotary Club Prestatyn	<b>6,100.00</b>
Gronant Friendship Club	<b>3,800.00</b>	You'll Never Walk Alone Volunteers	<b>3,000.00</b>
English Baptist Church Old Colwyn	<b>980.00</b>	North Wales Bluegrass Music Festival	<b>5,000.00</b>
Clwb yr Efail	<b>4,213.80</b>	Flintshire Disability Forum	<b>4,840.00</b>
Rhyl Men's Sheds	<b>9,440.00</b>	Home Start Conwy	<b>9,990.00</b>
G2G CIC	<b>20,000.00</b>	N Wales Energy Advice Centre	<b>8,333.33</b>
Llandudno and Conwy Valley		Ysgol y Gogarth	<b>8,269.79</b>
Railway Society	<b>1,497.97</b>	Home Start Denbighshire	<b>9,990.00</b>
North Wales Car Club	<b>9,596.00</b>	Feed The Children	<b>1,554.00</b>
Dangerpoint	<b>164,560.00</b>		

**TOTAL: £636,738.77**





# A look to the future

There is no indication that the scale of interest and demand for support from the GYM Fund will diminish. With an increasing remit placed on third sector organisations and the need to resource diverse sectors within our society we are convinced the GYM Fund will continue to play a pivotal role in the regeneration and development of North Wales' coastal area.

In recognition of North Wales' prominence in the tourism industry, the GYM Fund is pleased to have supported a number of high profile events and with it, supported employment, training and volunteering opportunities aiding the service and local producer sectors. We expect that demand is likely to continue in this area for the foreseeable future.

Securing external funding is increasingly challenging; however it is re-assuring for communities that they have a long term, secure and dependable funding stream. The GYM fund's innovation is also extending into new areas. Working in partnership with the Cambrian Credit Union, the fund will now be able to offer a loan facility to help kick start

new initiatives particularly within the social enterprise sector. We look forward to seeing this unique service flourish in the coming twelve months.

Since its inception the fund has strived to deliver a more joined up approach to funding across North Wales and is already building strong relationships and links with other funders active in the area. We intend to build on this work stream in the coming year exploring both the traditional and more innovative approach to working together with other partners to support the very best outcome for the local community.

The GYM Fund's unique selling point is its "community ethos". Located in the community, for the community and run by the community. Applicants are encouraged not to submit unsolicited bids. Our primary role is to support groups along their journey. A proposal shared from the start is likely to be a proposal that achieves more, builds better partnerships, secures more match funding and delivers greater impact for the whole community.

We look forward to next year with anticipation, to work with groups, organisations and ideas new and old in our quest to create vibrant, prosperous and equal communities in which to live, work and play.

To find out more about the fund and how to apply please visit [www.gwyntymor.cymru](http://www.gwyntymor.cymru)



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