



Wedi ei ariannu gan
Llywodraeth y DU
Funded by
UK Government

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT MANTELL GWYNEDD 2025-2026



MANTELL GWYNEDD VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT

Background

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) has distributed over £3.4 billion across the UK between 2023 and March 2026. This funding has gone to local communities throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

During 2025-26 £42.4 million of this funding came to North Wales with Gwynedd receiving over £8.1 million. Mantell Gwynedd was allocated £650,000 to deliver the Voluntary Sector Grant.

Mantell Gwynedd's Voluntary Sector Grant offered between £2k and £100k to support local projects which

would lead to improving standards for individuals and communities throughout Gwynedd. Applicants would need to show how each project would strengthen community cohesion and build safer and healthier communities.

This booklet explains how the Voluntary Sector Grant was allocated, which communities and areas benefitted and how we have gone about measuring the value of this important investment.

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Introduction

It gives me real pleasure once again to present this wonderful report showing how Mantell Gwynedd has administered the Shared Prosperity Fund for the benefit of the community and voluntary sector in Gwynedd during 2025-26.

£8.1 million came to Gwynedd during the year and Mantell Gwynedd received £650,000 to establish a grant fund for the benefit of the voluntary and community sector. Despite the tight timetable and some challenging restrictions on how the funding could be spent, Mantell Gwynedd, once again, administered a grant fund which benefited the whole of Gwynedd. We ensured that the funding made a real difference to some much needed areas in the county whilst also ensuring that a considerable legacy would remain in these communities as a result of that funding.

The fund was launched on 12th May and by 30th June, 56 applications for funding had been received which amounted to £2.1 million. With just £650,000 available for distribution the funding decisions this year were extremely challenging.

This year saw us provide funding for two big Gwynedd festivals, Gŵyl Arall in Caernarfon and Sesiwn Fawr Dolgellau. These festivals provide an important cultural platform for the county but as well as that they also make a major economic contribution to the area. Funding was provided to enable the training of volunteers, enhance marketing skills as well as enhance sound and technology skills amongst volunteers. All of these skills provide an important legacy for future events. It was also a pleasure to fund Gŵyl Garn

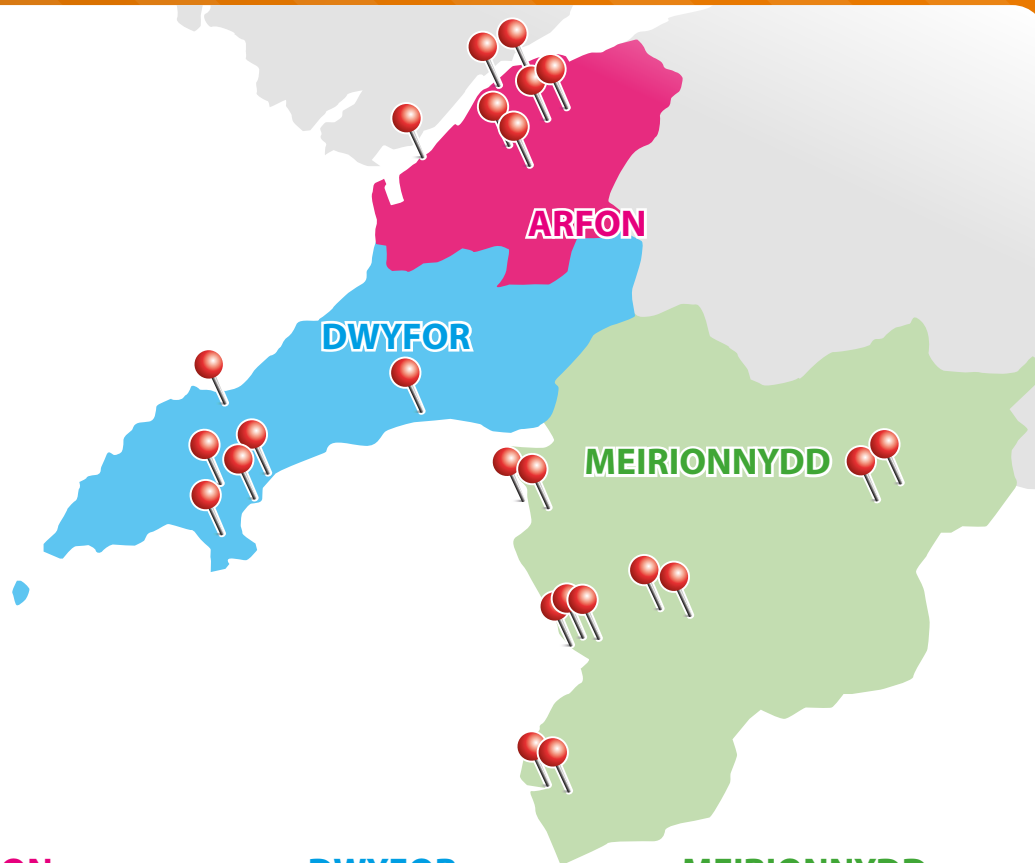
(Garndolbenmaen) with the hope that the small event funded this year will be a catalyst for future community events and activities.

Community Venues and Village Halls as well as sports facilities have also benefitted from this year's fund and as you will see from this report locations right across Gwynedd have been successful. Funding has been allocated to venues from Pen Llŷn to the far end of Meirionnydd and they include Canolfan Glanadda, Bangor, Caban Brynrefail, Clwb Rygbi Bethesda, Canolfan Gerlan, Clwb Rygbi Pwllheli as well as village halls at Brithdir, Talsarnau, Aberdyfi, Theatr y Ddraig and Oasis in Barmouth.

It is wonderful to see communities right across Gwynedd thriving, but it is important to remember that none of this would be possible without volunteers at the helm. These volunteers arrange the festivals, are members of village hall committees, give their time at sports events as coaches and trainers, and so much more. These are the people who ensure that we have a vibrant community and voluntary sector in Gwynedd and these are the people who filled in the application forms for the grant, presenting successful funding bids which have left such a legacy in so many areas of Gwynedd. Gwynedd would be very poor indeed without these dedicated individuals and it has been an absolute privilege to be able to provide them with funding for these worthwhile projects.

Bethan Russell Williams
Chief Officer
Mantell Gwynedd

Project Location



ARFON

- Glanadda Centre, Bangor
- Maes-G Showzone, Bangor
- Caban, Brynrefail
- Antur Waunfawr
- Clwb Rygbi Bethesda
- Cymdeithas Diogelu'r Gerlan Bethesda
- Gŵyl Arall, Caernarfon

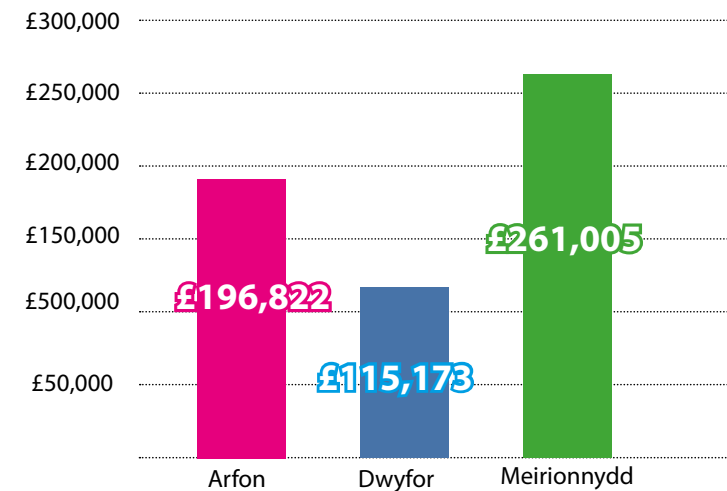
DWYFOR

- Llŷn Maritime Museum, Nefyn
- Pwllheli Town Council
- Pwyllgor Cae Chwarae Llanbedrog Playing Field Committee
- Canolfan Gymdeithasol a Cae Chwarae Garndolbenmaen
- Clwb Chwaraeon Pwllheli
- Grŵp Ti a Fi Sarn Bach

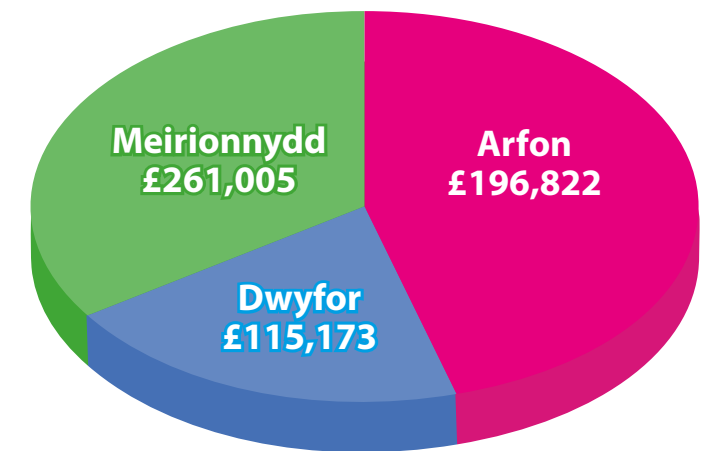
MEIRIONNYDD

- Neuadd Bentref Brithdir
- Neuadd Gymuned Talsarnau
- Neuadd Dyfi, Aberdyfi
- Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn, Bala
- Theatr y Ddraig/Dragon Theatre Barmouth
- Talsarnau Community Council
- Barmouth Oasis Community Hub
- Clwb Pêl Fasged Tegid, Bala
- Sesiwn Fawr, Dolgellau
- Clwb Hoci Dysynni Hockey Club, Tywyn
- Friends of Wern Mynach, Barmouth

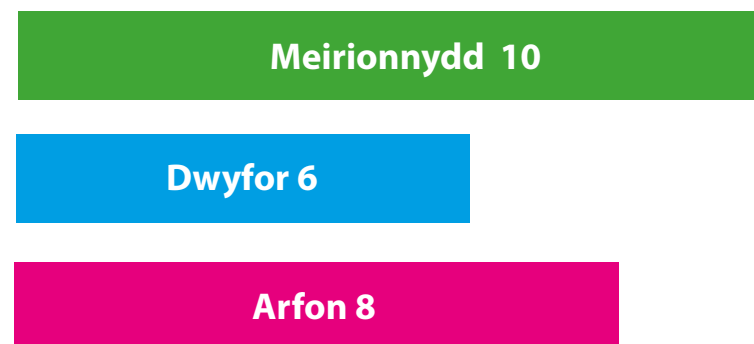
Grant totals allocated across Gwynedd



Grant totals allocated across Gwynedd



Number of projects across Gwynedd



The organisations that were successful

Glanadda Centre, Bangor

£61,112

Renovation of the Centre including a new kitchen, windows, re-rendering of building, heaters, painting and floor covering.

"The improvements at Glanadda have made an amazing difference. The new windows, heating and decoration has made the centre much brighter and warmer. The new kitchen and facilities is fantastic with more members of the community making use of the centre."



Maes-G Showzone, Bangor

Purchasing of technical equipment to accommodate productions and reduce running costs for the future.

"This is brilliant news for us as this piece of equipment will help us for years to come."



Caban, Brynrefail

£71,255

Refurbishment of the Caban including a new kitchen, outside decking area and fence, floor covering and lift improvements.



"Modernising the indoor and outdoor spaces at Caban has created a more flexible environment that can accommodate a wider range of activities, including community events, training opportunities, social gatherings, and co-working. This increased adaptability will help us expand the services and activities we can offer, strengthening our role as a hub for community life in Brynrefail."



Arfon

Antur Waunfawr

£10,975

Refurbishing and purchasing of new equipment to re-open the community café; new car charging points and training opportunities.



"The grant made a very big difference to Antur Waunfawr. Without the financial support to buy the necessary equipment, Caffi Blas y Waun would not have been able to reopen. By now, the cafe is firmly established and going from strength to strength. More importantly, the cafe has become a focal point for the local community - a welcoming place where people can meet, reduce loneliness, and strengthen social ties. It has also created opportunities for the people with learning disabilities who receive training from us, developing their skills and contributing positively to their well-being and confidence."

Cymdeithas Diogelu'r Gerlan, Bethesda

£7,668

Upgrading the centre with the installation of new doors and windows.

"The SPF grant via Mantell Gwynedd has made a big difference to the community centre in Gerlan. It has made the community centre more welcoming, which has created a sense of pride in the community and provides a warm welcome."



The organisations that were successful

Clwb Rygbi Bethesda

£29,649

Improving parking facilities including new exterior lights and tarmacking of the area.

"The grant has enabled improved access and better facilities which will make the hub building more accessible and enable the local community to make use of the building."



Gŵyl Arall, Caernarfon

£8,510

Providing training to upskill volunteers in sound and technology and also marketing.

"This grant has been very important to Gŵyl Arall. We now have a pool of volunteers who are qualified and confident to help with marketing and provide the technical elements in live events. It has been a great way to get to know new volunteers to be part of the Gŵyl Arall team. These skills are essential to enable us to hold a variety of events to a high standard in a sustainable way. In addition, those who were on these courses use their skills to help other organisations and events in the area, so it is not only Gŵyl Arall that benefits."



Llyn Maritime Museum, Nefyn

£45,363

Refurbishing the Museum including re-modelling interior areas, improving insulation of windows, installation of an air source heat pump system and decoration of building.

"The improvements to the heating system and the insulation of the windows, will enable more events to be held or the building to be hired out throughout the year, which will help the Museum's income in the future. The further work which includes new handrails, a ladder for the croglift and the smoke/intruder alarms upgrade is very important to strengthen the safety of the Museum and it's collection."



Dwyfor

Pwyllgor Cae Chwarae Llanbedrog Playing Field Committee

£40,000

Installation of modern accessible equipment at the playground.

"As a result of receiving a Mantell Gwynedd grant to improve the Llanbedrog Playground, the benefits have gone beyond the ability to install new, safe and innovative equipment. It has provided a space that is a haven for the children of the village and beyond gathering in the fresh air to play and socialise. The local nursery school uses it for play sessions, and the primary and secondary school children thoroughly enjoy it. Thank you so much for this invaluable support."



The organisations that were successful

Pwllheli Town Council

£4,999

Commissioning a feasibility study and develop plans to remodel the community skate park.

"The grant from Mantell Gwynedd has been key in enabling the Town Council to carry out a meaningful consultation process, with input for the community to provide the evidence and needed for the feasibility study, that offers an outdoor gym and a ninja path - something that would not have been possible otherwise."



Canolfan Gymdeithasol Garndolbenmaen

£2,000

Supporting Gŵyl Garn to enable the local community to get together, socialise and strengthen community cohesion.

"It would have been impossible for us to hold our festival if it wasn't for support from Mantell Gwynedd. The financial support from Gwynedd Voluntary Sector Grant was crucial to the success of our event and the support from Mantell Gwynedd was invaluable."



Pwllheli Sports Club

£14,833

Commissioning a feasibility study and business plan for the upgrade and remodelling of Pwllheli Sports Club.

"The grant money has allowed Pwllheli Sports Club to move on to the next stage of re-developing and upgrading the Club's resources for rugby, hockey and cricket."



Grŵp Ti a Fi Sarn Bach

£2,858

Enabling a series of activities and to purchase materials for the new group.

"The grant money has enabled us as parents to bring our children to play together but also to socialise. It has enabled us to provide safe, educational and stimulating toys for the babies and children which promote their physical, social and emotional development."

We have also been able to experience a variety of activities such as music lessons, craft workshops, a first aid course, Sara's Sensory and much more."



Dwyfor

The organisations that were successful

Brithdir Village Hall

£17,627

Commissioning a feasibility study and the drawing up of plans for upgrading the Hall. Supply of new tables and chairs for the hall.

"This grant has been of great help to us in our attempt to develop and improve the condition of the Hall. Our aim with the grant money was to carry out preparatory work to enable us to move forward to realise the development. The necessary reports and plans have been completed, and the planning application has been submitted. The new tables and chairs are already in use and well received by the users of the hall."



Neuadd Gymuned Talsarnau

£9,437

Installing a new kitchen in the community hall.

"As a result of the renovation of the kitchen, the hall has attracted more users. The investment through Mantell Gwynedd enables the hall to serve a large number of users over the long term."



Neuadd Dyfi, Aberdyfi

£2,495

Upgrading the network by establishing a modern, reliable, and high-performance digital infrastructure to host a wider array of community events, performances, and activities.

"The Shared Prosperity grant through Mantell Gwynedd came just at the right time for us. Our IT network was struggling with the increased demands we were making on it. The funding helped us upgrade reinforce and improve not just Wi-Fi, but Theatre Sound lighting and live streaming events. Diolch yn fawr iawn."



Neuadd Dyfi

Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn, Bala

£70,000

Renovation of Canolfan Bro Tegid in Bala including repointing of building, remodelling of bathrooms and reception area, new stairs and decorating the centre.

"Upgrading Canolfan Bro Tegid is a key investment for the local community, boosting the centre's role as a hub for social activities in town. By improving the facilities, the centre is accessible, modern, and fit for current and future needs of the community. This project not only increased use of the centre but also strengthened the sense of belonging among local residents. We're extremely grateful for the grant funding received."



The organisations that were successful

Dragon Theatre, Barmouth

£10,691

Training staff to develop a marketing plan, provide new computer equipment along with improvements to the lift and new kitchen equipment.

"This grant has allowed us to massively improve our catering facilities and most importantly our lift which is essential to reach all areas of the theatre side of the building beyond the foyer. Our marketing and audience development have also had a huge boost with the training, laptops and banners. We look forward to seeing the benefit of the better visibility in increased audience numbers next year."



Talsarnau Community Council

£6,015

Improving the entrances to the Talsarnau playing field to enable year-round use of the playing field.

"The grant has helped to improve community facilities which supported the Community Council financially to carry out the work."



Oasis, Barmouth

£89,965

Renovating and creating a new space in the Community Hub including replastering, new floors, ceilings, bathrooms, toilets, kitchen, painting and floor coverings.

"The grant will make a significant difference to our organisation to reach more people in our community."



Clwb Pêl Fasged Tegid, Bala

£2,062

Developing opportunities for children and young people in Bala to take part in developing the Basketball Club and train members to receive a Training Certificate.

"The grant has enabled us to improve the quality of our activities by allowing members to go on training courses, which have consequently developed their knowledge. The grant has enabled us to hold more practice sessions for children and young people for the whole year. Another important element of the grant is that it has allowed us to organise and run taster days for younger children for the development of additional ages for the club. We have also been able to order the necessary equipment for these days."



The organisations that were successful

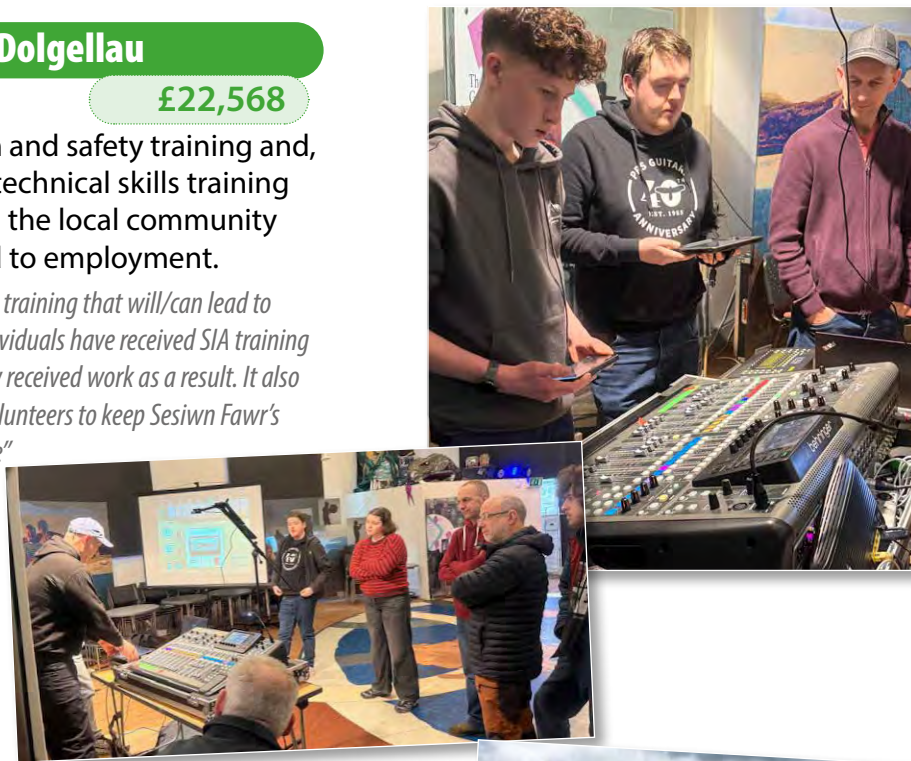
Meirionnydd

Sesiwn Fawr, Dolgellau

£22,568

Providing health and safety training and, also sound and technical skills training opportunities to the local community which /may lead to employment.

"The grant has secured training that will/can lead to employment. Nine individuals have received SIA training and some have already received work as a result. It also supports training of volunteers to keep Sesiwn Fawr's costs as low as possible"



Friends of Wern Mynach, y Bermo

£21,000

Improving facilities including cladding and insulating the community cabin, solar panels to supply electricity on site, fencing and bilingual signs around the community garden.

"The group are forever grateful for the funding given to us by Mantell Gwynedd, only made possible by the Shared Prosperity grant.

The fencing will give us a secure site. The cabin roof will us enable us to collect and harvest rainwater. The solar will enable us to power lighting and low voltage equipment. The signage will help with engagement and create a good understanding of nature, the environment and what a nature reserve is.

All the above is going to enhance our group, help with community engagement and add more volunteers from all ages and backgrounds"



Clwb Hoci Dysynni, Tywyn

£15,000

Developing and installing a new hockey pitch in Tywyn.

"It meant the project could actually go ahead. It was a 360k project and the grant made a huge difference to whether or not the new pitch would be done."



Evaluation

BARMOUTH OASIS COMMUNITY GROUP – COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



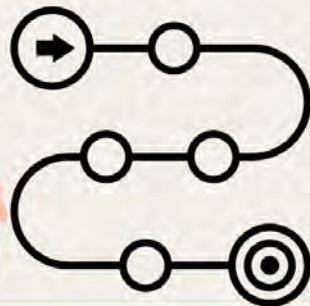
FORECAST SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT REPORT

This report presents a forecast Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis of the Barmouth Oasis Community Group Hwb, evidencing the significant social value generated through its community-based activities. The centre has received a grant from the Shared Prosperity Fund to develop the facilities to ensure improved accessibility and improved capacity to support the wider community.

* OUTCOMES FOR CURRENT BENEFICIARIES



Inputs through financial support and the 8 volunteers who volunteer 52 hours a week between them to support their community



* OUTCOMES FOR VOLUNTEERS



New facilities is forecasted to support more beneficiaries:

- More volunteering opportunities
- Weekly lunch club to support older people in the community
- More social groups including a new weekly baby group
- Facilities to support those who are homeless or struggling with cost of living

For every £1 invested in the community activities and facilities a Social Return of **£5.61** is created with a range of £2.60 - £6.52

"I felt very alone and now I feel part of something special"



Access to services and support on matters such as financial support and energy advice



45 meals currently prepared every week



Food share



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* Full report will be available on www.mantellgwynedd.com

A Social Value Measurement report was completed on 3 projects using the SROI methodology – where the value of what is produced for every £1 invested was measured.

The 3 projects were across Gwynedd, one each in the Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd areas, Caban Brynrefail, Amgueddfa Forwrol Llyn, Nefyn and Oasis Community Hub in Barmouth.

LLŶN MARITIME MUSUEM

Social Return on Investment

Forecast Report

April 2025 - March 2027

OVERVIEW IN NUMBERS

- 310 visitors have visited the Museum
- 350 local people are regularly involved
- 37 volunteers give their time
- 160 pupils and 10 teachers have engaged with the museum



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Visitors: 9 interviewed, 31 survey responses received
- Local People: 26 interviewed, 35 survey responses received
- Volunteers: Focus group with 9 volunteers, and 22 survey responses
- Pupils: Focus group with 18 children, and 16 survey responses
- Teachers: 3 interviewed, 2 survey responses



VISITORS OUTCOMES

- 100% of visitors have better knowledge and engagement with the history and culture of the Nefyn and Pen Llŷn area
- 81% of visitors have the chance to socialize



VOLUNTEERS OUTCOMES

- 95% feel proud that they can display and portray the history of Pen Llŷn and its people.
- 86% have better self-confidence as they learn new information and develop new skills
- 95% feel a growing sense of belonging to the community



SCHOOL OUTCOMES

- 88% of pupils have better knowledge and awareness of local history which leads to a growing feeling of pride for their heritage
- 100% of teachers have better confidence to teach pupils about the Second World War and the local heritage

OUTCOMES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

- 83% of local people feel a growing sense of pride in their heritage
- 66% of local people feel a growing sense of belonging to the community

Forecast Social Return on Investment (SROI)

£1

£3.00 - £6.16

See the full report for more information



Overview in numbers

- There are **2,000** people in the community included in this evaluation
- **10** tenants are a part of Caban
- There are **9** volunteers on the board of directors
- Caban was successful in obtaining **£85,506** in grant funding to upgrade the building

Stakeholder Engagement

People in the community

- **26** in-person interviews
- **2** in-person focus groups with 12 people
- **107** survey responses

Tenants

- **1** in-person interview
- **1** online interview
- **10** survey responses

Volunteers

- **3** meetings with the volunteers
- **1** focus group with 6 volunteers
- **9** survey responses

Outcomes for people in the community

- **84%** of the people in the local community feel an increased sense of belonging within the community by attending Caban
- **87%** of people in the community feel less lonely and isolated because they can attend Caban
- **69%** of people in the community experience an increased sense of purpose because their actions at Caban are having a positive impact on the community

Tenants

- **100%** of the tenants feel an increased sense of belonging due to being a part of Caban
- **90%** of the tenants feel they have increased networking opportunities by being a part of Caban

Volunteers

- **60%** of the volunteers feel a sense of achievement seeing their hard work and efforts benefiting the community
- **80%** of the volunteers feel a sense of purpose in being able to contribute to the long-term sustainability of Caban

Forecast Social Return On Investment (SROI)

*Please see the full forecast report for further information

£1
↓
£3.28 - 5.90



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