



**YOUR VOICE
ADVOCACY &**
WEST GLAMORGAN PEOPLE FIRST

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Registered Charity Number: 1001271

Company Registration Number: 2553487



CONTENTS

Page(s) Contents

3	Executive Chairperson's Foreword 2020
4-7	About Us – Your Voice Advocacy
7-8	Our Services
9-11	How We Did in 2020/21
12	Our Funders
13	Annual Accounts
14	Contact Us



“YVA Helped me build confidence to allow me to become a volunteer and to sing on my own at karaoke. I have developed my computer skills so I can co-host ZOOM meetings.”

Executive Chairperson's Foreword 2020/21

Our tiny organisation has big ambitions for learning disabled people in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. Even when faced with the worst pandemic since the Spanish Influenza in 1918 the resilience of staff and members shone through. Like everyone else they were worried and anxious but at the same time they knew people needed the help of YVA more than ever.

In the first lockdown, restrictions meant we couldn't leave the house so everyone that could went online and learnt new skills and surprised themselves with how quickly they got used to the new ways of working. Sandi figured prominently in all aspects of our work aided by Louise, Neil and a growing number of volunteers. Not only did YVA not collapse, but the membership grew. More people than ever took part in activities and received regular activity sheets and newsletters. We kept in touch with our most vulnerable members via phone and social media. More organisations than ever got to know about us and what we do.

We were helped as well by being given money to keep going, which we used to help members get online and even needed to get their groceries. By the winter of 2020/21, any hope that Covid 19 was a flash in the pan evaporated when a second wave of infection hit the UK. The sad loss of several members to Covid laid bare the much worse health outcomes experienced by learning disabled people.

The Trustees Board similarly embraced the online world and was very pleased to welcome new Trustee Adelaide Morgan. She brings a wealth of experience from the charitable and private sectors. On the financial side, Trustees agreed the audited accounts for 2020/21 which once again recorded an increase in our reserves, up from £26,412 in March 2020 to £29,109 in March 2021.

We have every reason therefore, to be proud of the achievements of the past year and look forward to 2021/22 with optimism and enthusiasm.

Bill Williams (Executive Chair)

About Us

Our Values

1. We believe in the rights of people with disabilities to **make choices and understand those choices**
2. We are committed to the principles of the right of people with disabilities to **live as valued individuals in the community** providing additional support as necessary
3. We recognise **our greatest assets are the people who work for Your Voice Advocacy** and we continue to value our staff
4. We recognise the value of abilities that play a part in the organisation and **focus on the importance of individuals.**

Our Objectives

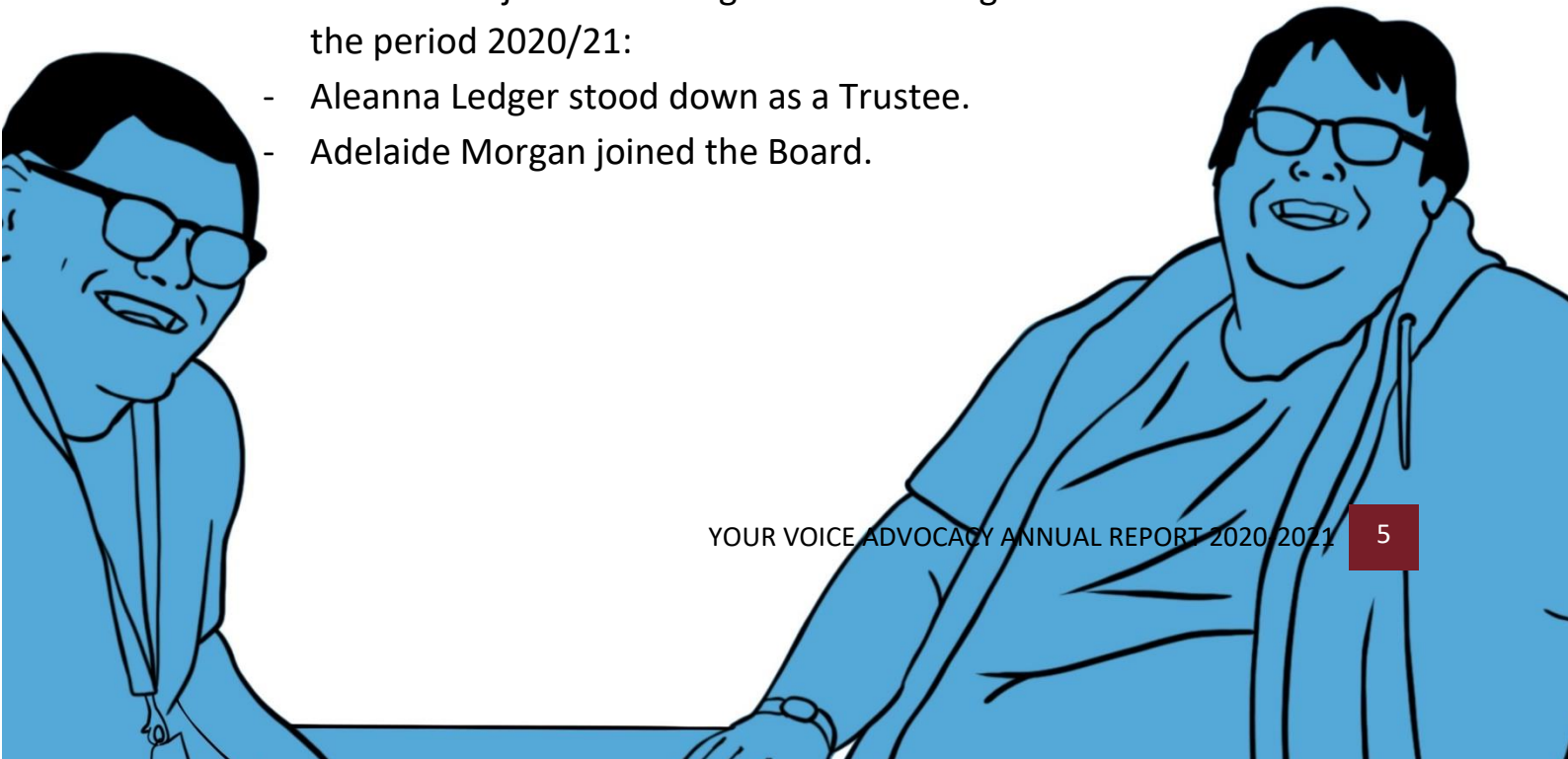
We aim to:

1. **Improve the confidence and help members to engage, participate and connect with others.**
2. **Increase opportunities for members to speak about their lives and shape the support and services they access.**
3. **Provide Members with greater opportunity to shape and lead the work of YVA.**
4. **Strengthen the reputation and influence of YVA.**

About Us

Management Committee

- Running YVA is the responsibility of the Management Committee of Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Charity Commission Scheme.
- The Committee liaise with our Project Co-ordinator who oversees the day to day running of the organisation.
- The Management Committee at year end on March 31st, 2021:
 - Carl West (Treasurer)
 - Mike Cohen (Secretary)
 - Barbara Jacobs (Trustee)
 - Eugene Jenkins (Trustee)
 - Rick Wilson (Trustee)
 - Richard Williams (Trustee)
 - Adelaide Morgan
- There were just two changes to the Management Committee over the period 2020/21:
 - Aleanna Ledger stood down as a Trustee.
 - Adelaide Morgan joined the Board.



About Us

Staff

As of 31/3/21 Your Voice Advocacy Project employed four staff to support the activities and services of the organisation.

- Sandi Mitchell (Peer Advocacy Officer)
- Louise Peck (Development Worker)
- Neil Williams (Development Worker)
- Bill Williams (Project Coordinator)

To achieve these aims and objectives YVA runs several projects and services supporting people with learning disabilities with a wide range of difficulties: These include:

- Independent One to One Advocacy – representing someone who is facing a particular problem or issue in their lives
- Peer advocacy – empowering service users to support themselves and their peers
- Social/Participation Groups – supporting people with learning disabilities to take a fuller role in their communities and enjoy social interaction.
- Easy-read conversion – helping other organisations to communicate in a way understandable to people with a learning disability.



About Us



Members

2020-21 has seen our membership grow to over 130. The intention is to build a genuinely member-led organisation, placing members at the centre of decision-making by ensuring that the majority of the Trustees Board is made up of members.

Volunteers

Volunteers provide a unique and invaluable service, strongly represented in advocacy where it is important that advocates are independent from services. Due to the pandemic, only 3 volunteers gave over 100 hours of their time to the work of YVA, mainly in running online groups via Zoom. We intend to employ someone who can spend all their time finding and training volunteers from amongst our membership and the wider community.



Our Services 2020-21

Adapting to the Covid 19 Pandemic

In March 2020 everything was 'locked down' to try and stop the spread of the deadly Covid 19 flu bug. For their own safety, staff had to work from home, our office was closed, and members could no longer meet.



Sandi acted quickly to move all our activities online and support members in the best way we could by sending out activity sheets that would give information and something to do. The big danger was that people would become depressed, separated from their friends and loved ones and not allowed to go out and socialise.

In the early weeks getting food from the shops was also difficult, so straight away Sandi had to help 30 members to access food and get themselves on the food parcel register. Links to food banks were established and Tesco Glynneath donated food to be sorted and taken to members.

It took time and a lot of hard work, but by the end of the year five groups were meeting online every week. Members had not only learned how to use Zoom, but some were running groups themselves! During the whole year there were 223 group sessions, i.e., 508 hours of Zoom activity. As if this wasn't enough Sandi delivered 17 sessions of training and 40 hours-worth of wellness and relaxation via Zoom. Another 19 events took place celebrating birthdays, special events or just having fun through quizzes and scavenger hunts.

How we did in 2020-2021

Active Members
in 2020/21

39



"Thank you for helping me to talk to
people and be understood."

17



Training sessions
delivered to
members



Relaxation
and
wellness

20

223

Sessions

Total Zoom
sessions
delivered
in 2020-21

508

Hours

The number of other
online events
organised in 2020-21

19



"Now I've got the
confidence to speak up for
myself"

"I couldn't have done it
without YVA's help –
they were amazing!"

100+

Hours of Zoom
sessions delivered by
member-volunteers
in 2020-21



How much money
we received this
year



£98,168

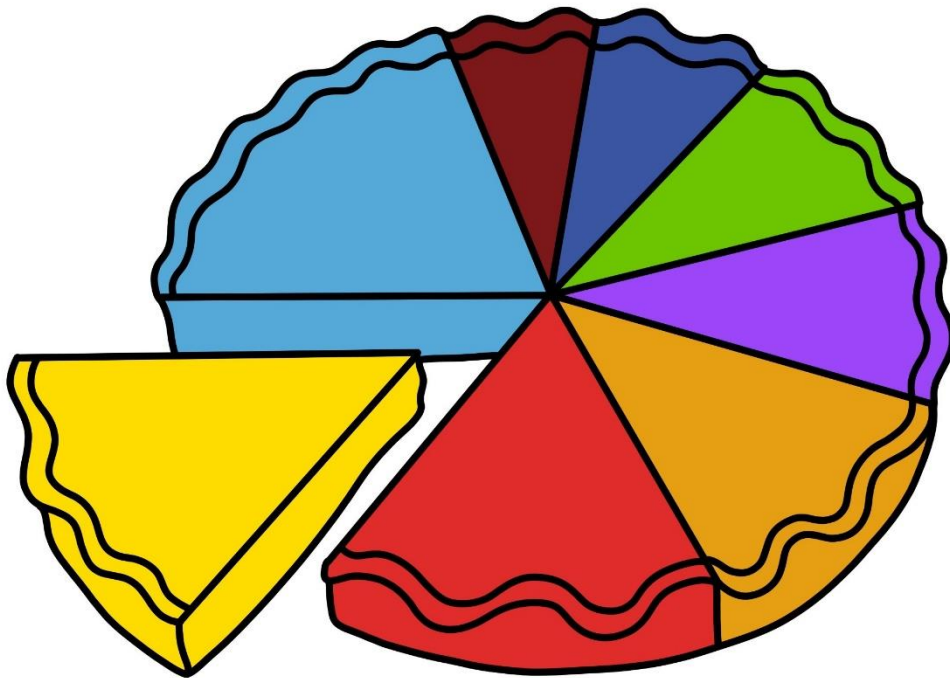
How much money
we spent this
year



£76,127

"YVA is always there for me and never lets me down."

Pie chart showing how many hours of Zoom activities were provided by YVA.



Karaoke	Films	Wellness	Training
			
Additional events	Advocacy Group	Arts & Craft	Bingo
Includes: Birthday party's Quizzes Scavenger hunts			

Our Funders 2020-2021

Your Voice Advocacy would like to thank all our supporters and funders who have helped us in 2020-21.



First for Philanthropy in Wales

**LLOYDS BANK
FOUNDATION**

England & Wales



**GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES**

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

Annual Accounts

YOUR VOICE ADVOCACY PROJECT
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Wages and salaries	49,363	82,146
Pension costs	810	1,573
Rent	7,960	6,368
Rates and water	616	539
Light and heat	494	487
Repairs and maintenance	228	1,169
Insurance	388	1,083
Other motor/travel costs	326	3,098
Legal and professional fees	120	2,417
Telephone	6,285	5,866
Other office costs	4,528	2,960
Depreciation	970	356
Other interest payable and similar charges	87	142
Sundry expenses	96	135
Staff training	838	1,081
Advertising	539	838
Event costs	0	4,032
	<hr/> 73,648	<hr/> 111,808

Contact Us

Email: info@yourvoiceadvocacy.org.uk

Website: <https://yourvoiceadvocacy.org.uk>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/yourvoiceadvocacy>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/YVAdvocacy>

Address:

Your Voice Advocacy

PO BOX 737

Phone:

07496 189771

or

07534 056109

