

Annual Review 2019/2020

About the Bevan Foundation

The Bevan Foundation is Wales' most influential and innovative thinktank. We develop lasting solutions to poverty and inequality and achieve real social change.

Our vision

Our ambition is to help create a Wales free from poverty and inequality, where everyone has a 'good life' irrespective of who they are or their background.

What we do

We have a carefully thought-through theory of change, based on years of experience.



Who we are

We were established in 2003, and are a registered charity no. 1104191 and company limited by guarantee no. 4175018.

We are led by our board of trustees, who are elected by our members. They are supported by the Bevan Foundation's staff, at a modest office in Merthyr Tydfil.

We are actively working to increase diversity.

Trustees 2019/20

Vivienne Sugar (*Chair*), Tamsin Stirling (*Vice chair*), Duncan Forbes (*Secretary*), John Chown (*Treasurer*) from Jan 2020, Sandy Blair, Mark Hooper (*resigned July 2020*), Lynne Hughes, Anthony Hunt, Michael Imperato, Caroline Lewis, Rachal Minchinton (*resigned July 2019*), Sally Power, William Powell

Staff

Victoria Winckler (*Director*)
Huw Anslow (*from Feb 2020*)
Helen Cunningham
Steffan Evans
Lloyd Jones (*from Jan 2020*)
Rachael Simmonds
Claire Thomas (*from June 2019*)

Welcome to our review of 2019-20

The Bevan Foundation is Wales' most influential and innovative thinktank. Over the year we've used our insights and ideas to make a real difference to people's lives. And with tough times ahead, our work is more vital than ever before.

Big challenges

During the year we focused on some of the key issues facing people in Wales:

- Solving poverty
- Building economic resilience
- Creating cohesive communities

We've also worked on reducing health inequalities and strengthening democracy.

Big impact

More than ever we have generated lasting solutions to poverty and inequality, which have made a real difference to people's lives.

Our output has been huge. We've released a major report nearly every month and published at least one online article a week. We've also produced three issues of our supporters' magazine Exchange.

Our ideas and analysis have reached a large and diverse audience. We were proud to host the Bevan Tent at the Homeless World Cup 2019 in Cardiff, featuring many high-profile contributors. We've also engaged over 1,000 people in Twitter chats and Facebook Live events, talks at the Eisteddfod, as well as meeting delegates at all major political party conferences. And we've organised seminars and roundtable discussions, and contributed to Welsh and UK print and broadcast media.

Coronavirus

The Coronavirus outbreak in March 2020 had an immediate effect on the Bevan Foundation. We quickly switched to remote working and adapted our activities to produce a series of briefings and webinars on the impact of the pandemic. These were very popular indeed, and demonstrated the need for the Bevan Foundation's independent insights into poverty and inequality.

We also had to rapidly revise our plans for income-generation and our forward work programme.



11 Major Reports



57 Online Articles



3 Magazines



2,000 people at events



50% increase in website visitors

Solving poverty

One in four people in Wales is trapped in poverty, struggling to afford to put food on the table and keep up with bills. Poverty affects how well children do at school, increases the likelihood of people having to live in inadequate housing and impacts on people's health and wellbeing, both in the short and longer term.

The Bevan Foundation is determined to solve poverty by understanding its root causes, developing practical proposals and changing public policies.

What we did

Our major activity over the year was improving devolved schemes that help people on low incomes. We listened to people's experiences of these schemes including receiving Free School Meals (and what happens in school holidays), living on Educational Maintenance Allowance, and accessing help with housing costs and Council Tax. We recommended these schemes be reformed and reorganised into a Welsh Benefits System, which would provide better support that is easier for low-income households to access.

The work on Free School Meals meant we were able to respond quickly when the Coronavirus outbreak hit. Our call for cash to be paid in lieu was taken up by 17 out of 22 local authorities, and the Welsh Government provided funding for free meals over the school holidays.

The experience of poverty and its solutions vary between different people and different places. We heard from more than a hundred women about how they struggle to find decent work at the same time as caring for children and other family members. We recommended major changes to childcare provision and the widespread introduction of the real Living Wage to help improve women's prospects at work.

We also highlighted local variations in poverty

through a unique analysis of local poverty rates, a major conference with the Welsh Local Government Association and by working with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

The Bevan Foundation contributed to the work of the Welsh Parliament in scrutinising the Welsh Government by submitting both oral and written evidence to Senedd inquiries. These inquiries included the Finance Committee's inquiry into the draft Welsh Budget, the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee's inquiry into benefits in Wales and the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee inquiry into the Welsh Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy.

Looking ahead, with poverty amongst people who are in working families increasing, we began a new project to find how 'fair work' could be encouraged in some sectors of the foundational economy.

Raising public awareness and understanding of poverty is key to lasting change. We were proud to host the Bevan Tent at the Homeless World Cup, with talks, poetry and book readings on aspects of poverty and inequality. We also screened a film, A Northern Soul, spoke at events at the Eisteddfod, and spread the word through social media as well as Welsh and UK print and broadcast media.



WLGA Conference



Homeless World Cup

What we achieved

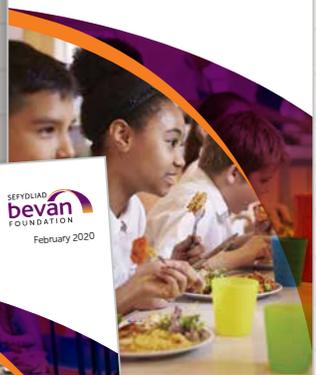
We made a real, practical and lasting difference to poverty in Wales.

- Children in low income families benefited from the Welsh Government allocating an extra £2.9 million for school holiday play and food activities, following our proposals.
- The majority of families whose children receive Free School Meals benefited from cash payments when schools closed because of Coronavirus, and from extra cash in the school holidays.
- The Welsh Parliament and Welsh Government have agreed in principle to take forward our recommendations for a Welsh Benefits System.
- The recommendations of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee echoed our evidence that the Welsh Government's fuel poverty strategy should primarily focus on poverty.

Grateful thanks

We are grateful to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation for funding our work on poverty. We are also grateful to Chwarae Teg for commissioning us to work on women's experience of poverty, to the Welsh Local Government Association and Neath Port Talbot Council for working with us on local aspects of poverty, and to the Welsh Government's Foundational Economy Challenge Fund for a grant towards activity on fair work. Thank you also to the many individuals who gave to our 'hands up against holiday hunger' appeal.

Kids on the breadline: Solutions to holiday hunger



Learning a living, better support for post 16 learners



A Welsh Benefits System, how it can help solve poverty



"One of the boys last year, he moved out to a flat in Ponty and he couldn't get any overtime because it clashed with college ... In the end he had to drop out ... because he had to work the hours to get money to live."

Craig, student aged 18, Coleg y Cymoedd

Building economic resilience

The Welsh economy has been hard hit by the closure of traditional industries, recession and globalization. The resulting shortage of jobs and lack of opportunities have blighted many places, especially the south Wales valleys.

The Bevan Foundation's ambition is for Wales to have a fair and resilient economy that meets the needs of people and communities. We want to encourage business activity that is socially responsible, environmentally sustainable and economically viable.

What we did

Our work on the south Wales valleys got fully underway in 2019/20. We began with an overview of the Welsh Government's Valleys Taskforce, looking at its achievements against the scale of the challenge head. We argued for a major shift in approach, including a spatial strategy based on the idea of 'anchor towns' which would be a counter-weight against the development of cities. The idea has been commended by regeneration experts.

We highlighted the potential of community assets to help regenerate local economies, listening to the varied experiences of community enterprises. We concluded that much more needs to be done to release the economic benefits of assets, including enabling communities to have the right to control assets.

Social businesses not only create jobs but they also provide useful goods and services, and help to retain value locally. We worked with social entrepreneurs and with organisations that support them to share experiences about 'what works'.

Towards the end of the year we began to explore how best to realise the potential of the foundational economy in three south Wales valleys towns.

Throughout 2019/20 we engaged a wide range of

people in our activities. As well as speaking on local radio and BBC Wales, we organised a conference for regeneration professionals, contributed to an international symposium on the development of former coalfields and spoke at the Welsh Conservatives annual conference.

What we achieved

We have substantially shaped policy and practice about the regeneration of the south Wales valleys.

- The Valleys Taskforce has responded positively to our contributions on the future of valleys towns including our work on anchor towns and support to valleys businesses.
- Our Anchor Towns idea has been debated in the Welsh Parliament and is influencing some local development plans.
- Economic resilience has gained considerable traction across the debate about what kind of economy and places should be supported in any "post-covid recovery."

Thank you

The Bevan Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support of the Friends Provident Foundation, UnLtd and the Welsh Government's Foundational Economy Challenge Fund in the financial year. We are also grateful to several local authorities and social landlords for funding in 2018/19.



Learning Journey



BBC Radio Wales interview live in the Rhondda



Coal Transition Conference



"I was excited and very encouraged by yesterday's event. It was packed with ideas and inspiration"
Event participant, Making the Most of Community Assets



Hefin David MS in his debate on anchor towns

"I think this report has been a valuable contribution to this debate, and there are things in here that I think should inform Welsh Government strategy in the future"

Hefin David MS



The Deputy Minister for Economy at our regeneration conference

Building cohesive communities

Many people who come to Wales from outside the UK experience discrimination and hostility: reports of race-related hate crime have increased, and some migrants face barriers trying to access public services.

The Bevan Foundation is committed to creating a diverse and cohesive Wales, in which migrants can play a full, active and equal part in our society.

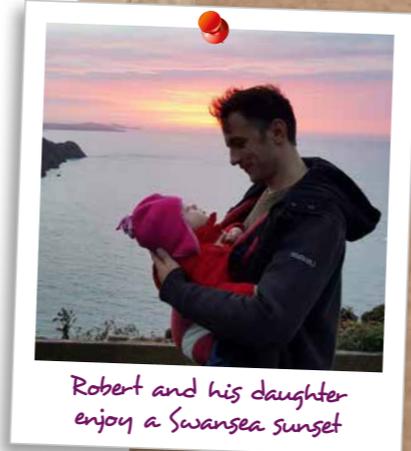
What we did

We started the financial year by publishing a review of immigration policy and by asking which tier of government should decide who can live, work or study in Wales. We said that there was a strong case for the Welsh Government to have a say in economic migration to ensure that migration policy complemented its economic development powers.

We then listened to the experiences of migrants in three communities (Swansea, Carmarthen and Newport) to gain insights into their experiences in coming to and settling in Wales. We found that community cohesion depends on creating lasting social bonds between people of different backgrounds. We recommended that much more should be done by the Welsh Government, local authorities and others to enable those bonds to develop.

We were particularly concerned about EU citizens living in Wales, whose migration status is changing as a result of Brexit. Our report released in June highlighted the issues surrounding the EU Settlement Scheme, including recommendations to ensure nobody is wrongly denied the right to live in Wales. Towards the end of the financial year we began to listen to the experiences of people born in the EU and living in Swansea, to find out 'what made Wales their home'. Their stories and our recommendations will be available in 2020/21.

Public attitudes to immigration and to migrants are fundamental to greater integration and cohesion. We have reached a substantial number of people by organising a Twitter chat and a Facebook Live discussion, highlighting migrants' stories via an easy-read booklet and in social media graphics, and by holding two discussion sessions on migration in the Bevan Tent at the Homeless World Cup.



"I was at a store and was with my aunt who is disabled and hard of hearing, another customer asked my aunt to move and she didn't hear her and they heard us speaking Polish and they said something derogatory about Polish people ... This was a needle in my heart"
Female from Poland, came to Wales in 2005 and lives in Swansea

Christmas appeal 2019

What we achieved

We achieved considerable success in informing and shaping public policy on migration.

- The Welsh Government echoed our proposal that they should take decisions on economic migration, when they responded to the UK Government's plans to change legislation on immigration.
- A Welsh Parliament Committee endorsed our proposals for an immigration policy that better reflected Wales' circumstances, for a new approach to cohesion policy and for greater efforts to protect EU citizens.
- The Welsh Government inclusion team are currently developing a national 'principles of cohesion' document, and we meet with them regularly to keep them up to date with our work.
- At the launch of our 'What makes Wales my Home' project, the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip thanked us for our policy contribution and expressed a commitment to work with us on migration issues in the future.

We have also reached an estimated 500 members of the general public with insights into the experience of migrants in Wales.

Thank you

We are grateful to the Paul Hamlyn Foundation for funding received in 2018/19. We are also grateful to The National Lottery Community Fund and the many individuals who gave generously to our Christmas 2019 appeal to say 'Croeso' to migrants.



"It is like the Windrush. You are not given any card or anything [to prove your right to live in Wales]. Lots of our clients have printed out the screen shots and kept it in their handbags because they are scared because there is no physical evidence [that they are entitled to live here]."
A Stakeholder

Reducing health inequalities

People on low incomes have poorer health than people who are better off. They are more likely to suffer serious illness such as cancer or heart disease, are more likely to feel their health is poor, and have shorter lives.

The Bevan Foundation wants to reduce health inequalities, through improving health and social care and tackling the underlying determinants of ill health.

What we did

Our main activity focused on access to GP services by older people, working with the Age Alliance Wales. We listened to the experiences of several hundred people and to groups representing older, disabled people. Many hugely appreciated their GP and practice staff, but we also heard about difficulties caused by practice closures, the challenge of booking an appointment and the discrimination against disabled people especially those with sensory or cognitive impairments.

We recommended that continuity of care be valued, that appointment booking arrangements change and that GP practices comply fully with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

What we achieved

We raised awareness of need for change amongst older people's groups, and were pleased that the Welsh Government subsequently announced plans to establish access standards for appointment bookings.

Thanks

Thanks to Age Alliance Wales for funding received in 2018/19.



Strengthening Democracy

Public bodies are often unrepresentative of the population they serve and too few people have a say in decisions. Participation in civil society is relatively low, with concerns about accountability, public trust and confidence.

The Bevan Foundation want people to have a strong voice in the decisions that affect them. Wales' public institutions should be representative of a diverse population, with high levels of engagement in democracy, social movements and civil society.

What we did

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the National Assembly for Wales. We marked it with two debates on the process of devolution – one looking back at the Yes for Wales campaign and another looking forward to the next steps for devolution.

We explored the role of civil society in a devolved nation, first by investigating the role of think tanks, in conjunction with the Wales Institute for Social and Economic Research and Data, and second by organising a seminar with the Electoral Reform Society Cymru.

Towards the end of year, we screened the film Knock Down the House, which explores the involvement of minority groups in politics, in conjunction with the Morgan Academy at Swansea University.

What we achieved

We created space for reflection and debate about devolution and political engagement – vital when devolution and its institutions are still relatively young – and opened up new topics for further discussion.

Thanks

We are grateful to WISERD for a contribution to the costs of our work on think tanks, and to the Electoral Reform Society Cymru and Morgan Academy for working with us.



Financials 2019/20

Financials

The Bevan Foundation's fundraising strategy continued to bear fruit, with income increasing two-and-a-half-fold over three years. It benefited from a mix of grants from charitable trusts and foundations, individual donations and organisational subscriptions, plus income earned from commissioned research and events.

Its expenditure has also increased, reflecting its significantly increased activity. Almost all its expenditure was on charitable activities across its three top priorities. Its spending on fundraising was below the charity average, at 16%.

The charity began the year with £114,434 of restricted funds and £45,330 of unrestricted funds. Going into 2019/20, it will carry forward £91,274 in restricted funds for expenditure in that and future years. It will also carry forward £95,359 in unrestricted funds.

Forward plans

The Bevan Foundation plans to step up its output and impact even further in 2019/20. We will continue to offer our resources and expertise to help mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, with regular briefings, reports and an exciting webinar programme.

We will also bring together our major findings from recent work to inform the development of political parties' manifestos, arguing that solving poverty, building economic resilience and creating cohesive communities should be at the centre of any commitments for Wales' future.

Funding will continue be challenging, especially in the light of Coronavirus. We will review our funding strategy and keep tight control of expenditure.

Thank You

The Bevan Foundation remains entirely dependent on the generous support of many individuals, organisations and charitable trusts and foundations – we are grateful to all.

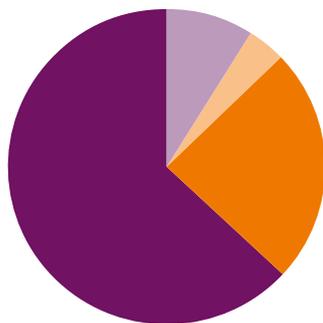
Total Income £312,372

63%
Charitable grants

24%
Subscriptions and donations

9%
Commissioned research

4%
Events



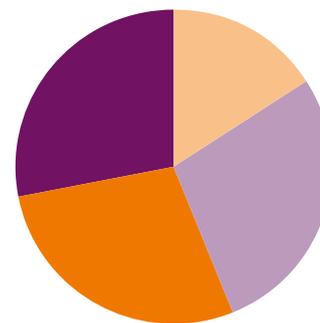
Total Expenditure £285,977

28%
Solving poverty

28%
Building economic resilience

28%
Creating cohesive communities

16%
Fundraising



To support our vision of a Wales free from poverty and inequality, visit:

www.bevanfoundation.org/support-us or contact info@bevanfoundation.org