

Insights and Ideas to end Poverty, Inequality and Injustice

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bevan
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL
REVIEW
2022/23



Joint message from the Bevan Foundation Chair and Director

The Bevan Foundation is Wales' most influential think tank. We work to end poverty and inequality by creating insights, ideas and impact. As Chair and Director of the charity, we are proud of the Foundation's achievements over the last year.

Our work is needed more than ever. Deep poverty, an acute shortage of housing and a severe shortage of advice and support for some of Wales' most vulnerable people show the urgent need for new solutions and effective action.

Despite the difficult climate, over the year our insights and ideas helped to ensure that thousands of people in financial crisis could get an emergency cash payment to help to buy food or heating. We were also instrumental in ensuring 16-18-year-olds from low-income families received an extra £10 a week to help with the cost of living while they study. We have highlighted the inadequacy of Local Housing Allowance and shaped action to increase the number of homes for local people. And we have contributed to the Welsh Government broadening its approach to support for migrants beyond forced immigration, and put the plight of people with no recourse to public funds on the agenda.

We could not have done this without our dedicated board of trustees and committed staff. We particularly pay tribute to Vivienne Sugar, who stood down as Chair in February 2023 – it is no exaggeration to say that the Bevan Foundation would not be here today without her leadership.

We are also grateful to the many trusts and foundations, individuals and organisations whose kind donations saw our income grow by 21 per cent compared with the previous year.

Impressive though our achievements are, we still have more work to do. Looking ahead, we will continue to work to end poverty and injustice. Please join us on our journey to create a fair and prosperous Wales.



Gavin Thompson
Chair of the Board of Trustees



Victoria Winckler
Director

The year in numbers:

2022/23



11 Evidence-based Reports



51 Online Articles



9 Statistical Briefings



2 Training Courses



2 Issues of our Magazine, Exchange



13 Seminars or Webinars attracting 1,000 Attendees



7 Employees



12 Trustees



£30m
minimum of additional support agreed for those on low-incomes



£424,604
Income

Poverty & living standards

Insights

Around a quarter of people in Wales live in poverty. Over the year the Bevan Foundation generated unique insights into poverty and living standards to increase understanding of low income in Wales. We commissioned surveys from YouGov and worked with people with experience of poverty, notably with Action for Caerau and Ely in Cardiff.

14%

Households unable to afford basics sometimes, often or always.

22%

Families in arrears on a bill.

48%

People whose mental health is harmed by their financial position.

Ideas and Impact

We urged the Welsh Government and other public bodies to put cash in people's pockets to help them to cope. We drew up an action plan, contributed to the Welsh Government's expert group on the cost of living, and spoke at many conferences and webinars across Wales and the UK.

Our calls for change were debated in the Senedd, UK Parliament and in the media, and will make a real and lasting difference to people's lives.

Discretionary Assistance Fund

80,000 households | **£100 emergency cash**

Our findings on people in severe financial hardship persuaded the Welsh Government to improve emergency financial help from the Discretionary Assistance Fund. The budget was increased by £18 million, and the value of a payment raised to £100. An estimated 80,000 households will benefit.

Education Maintenance Allowance

17,000 learners | **£40 p.w.**

Our findings persuaded the Welsh Government to increase the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), paid to 17,000 low-income learners, to £40 a week. The Welsh Government has strengthened the administration of EMA and committed to review eligibility.

Welsh Benefits System

7 devolved benefits | **£4,000 a year**

Working with nine partner organisations, our route map to streamline the administration and take-up of seven means-tested, devolved grants and allowances is being implemented by the Welsh Government. The additional support is worth up to £4,000 per year for eligible households.



Housing and rent

Insights

There is an acute housing crisis in Wales. In 2022-23, we substantially increased understanding of the problem, in particular the role of the private rented sector. We collected and analysed data from property websites and holiday lettings platforms to shed light on the affordability of rents, the adequacy of help with housing costs and the role of holiday lets. We began work on how Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) can help to reduce homelessness.

32

Number of homes to rent privately in Wales that were affordable to people on benefits.

14,343

Number of potential homes listed as holiday lets on AirBnB.

£7M

Amount of DHPs spent on mitigating the 'bedroom tax'.

Ideas and Impact

We called for action to help people with the cost of their rent, putting Local Housing Allowance (LHA) on the agenda for the first time in many years. We stimulated debates in Westminster and the Senedd, shaped the recommendations of a Senedd Committee and prompted the Welsh housing minister to take up the cause. We also urged improvements in how LHA rates in Wales are set and called for better regulation of holiday lets to ensure homes are available for local people.

Housing Green Paper

211,396 private rented homes

Our call to ensure that Local Housing Allowance (LHA) is based on good quality data was included in the Welsh Government's Green Paper on housing. It would mean information is collected on the 211,396 properties registered with Rent Smart Wales.

Homes for local people

7,559 homes for local people

Our evidence has informed Gwynedd Council's plans to require planning permission for use of properties as holiday and second homes. There are 7,559 properties in Gwynedd that are not available for year-round occupation that could be homes for local people.



Access to justice

Insights

Wales is a legal advice desert leaving thousands of people unable to access help to enable them to live in Wales. In November 2022, we began to investigate the barriers to accessing legal advice and the development of possible solutions in a devolved context. Our first key output argued that being a 'Nation of Sanctuary' must be underpinned by the ability to exercise an individual's rights, and that the concept should include all migrants.

9,000

Estimated number of migrants in Wales who do not have documents to prove their status.

5,900

Number of children in Wales who have No Recourse to Public Funds

50%

Reduction in the number of premises providing free immigration legal services in Wales since 2018.

Ideas and Impact

We have called for the Welsh Government to take a broader, proactive and inclusive approach to immigration in Wales, extending the Nation of Sanctuary policy to include all vulnerable migrants such as those who are undocumented, people with No Recourse to Public Funds and people on the ten-year route to settlement. We have urged the Welsh Government to ensure that all migrants living in Wales can access legal advice and representation to exercise their rights.

Migrant Integration

More migrants included in Welsh policies

Reflecting our calls for a broader approach, the Welsh Government has extended its work on migration and integration to include undocumented migrants, EU citizens with pre-Settled Status and other migrants as well as asylum-seekers and refugees.

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

More help for people with NRPF

As a result of our highlighting the challenges facing people with No Recourse to Public Funds, the Welsh Government is investigating ways to support local authorities to accurately assess and legally determine the assistance that they can provide.



Economy and work

Insights

Wales' economy and labour market are relatively weak. Over the year, we completed work on low-income self-employment, raising awareness of its importance in many local economies. We continued our work on economic resilience in the south Wales valleys, in particular the Cynon Valley, and began a new project to build connections between the area and north Wales, notably Blaenau Ffestiniog.

13%

Percentage of economically active people aged 16+ who are self-employed.

28%

Percentage of self-employed people who live a low-income household.

62%

Proportion of people of working age in employment in the Cynon Valley.

Ideas and Impact

We urged economic development organisations to take action to boost the incomes of low-income, self-employed people and called for public bodies to remove barriers to access to means-tested grants and allowances. In the Cynon Valley, we proposed that a development trust be established to drive forward a community wealth building approach and contributed to local plans to do so.

Community wealth in Cynon

Cynon Valley Development Trust

Thanks to the Bevan Foundation and others, a development trust is being established to grow and support community businesses and social enterprises in the Cynon Valley.

Supporting self-employed people

Business Development Programme

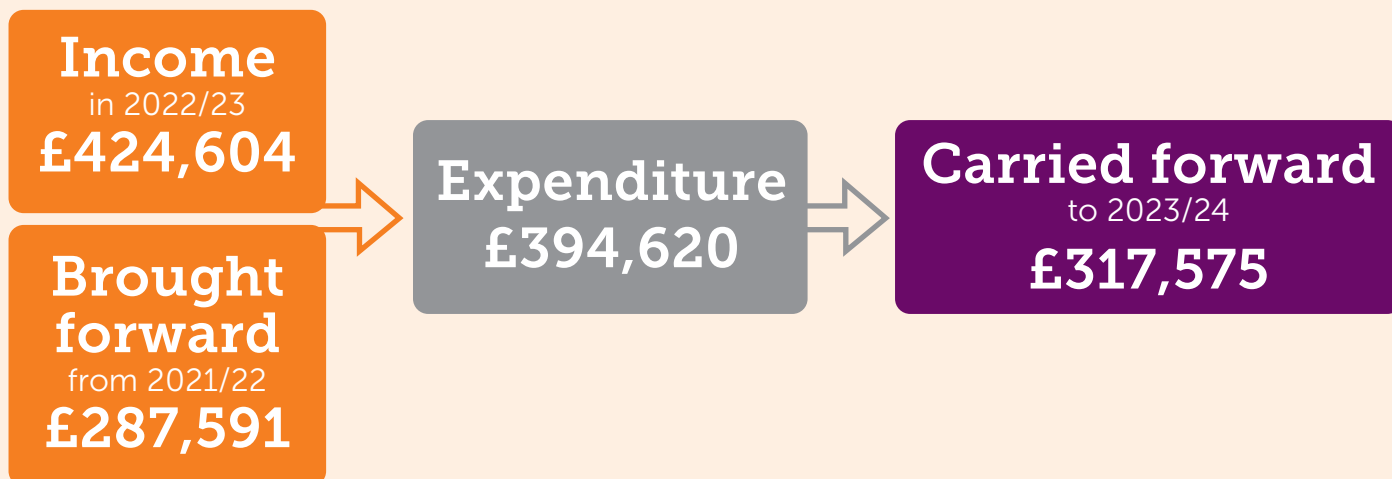
Our findings have informed the work of Business Wales and the Arfor programme.



Finances

The Foundation's income increased in 2022/23 compared with the previous year.

In addition, it brought forward £287,591 from 2021/22 – mainly income received in advance. Expenditure totaled £394,620, so that £317,575 is carried forward to 2023/24. More than half (58%) of the funds carried forward into 2023/24 are grants received in advance of the financial year – the rest is unrestricted reserves.



Who funds us?

Trusts and Foundations

The Bevan Foundation gratefully acknowledges grants from the following:

AB Charitable Trust	£20,000	Lipman Milliband Trust	£1,860
Abrdn Financial Fairness Trust	£17,982	Lloyds Bank Foundation	£40,473
Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust	£7,330	The National Lottery Community Fund	£9,921
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	£129,085	The National Lottery Community Fund	£9,813
Justice Together Initiative	£23,815	Waterloo Foundation	£17,500

Government and public bodies

The Foundation acknowledges grants from the Welsh Government and the Third Sector Resilience Fund, both of which were under £5,000.

Donations and subscriptions

Thank you to the many individuals and organisations which contribute to the Bevan Foundation's work. No individual or organisation gave more than £1,000 during the year.

Training and research

The Foundation undertook commissioned research, paid advertising and training during the year. Contributions of more than £7,500 were received from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (£31,638), WLGA (£9,000), and the next highest were Digital Health and Care Wales (£6,900) and Hywel Williams MP (£6,000).