

Action in Caerau & Ely

Annual Report
2016 - 2017



ace

Action in Caerau & Ely
Gweithredu yng Nghaerau a Threlái

Our Ambitions For Our Community Through Our Own Efforts



Chair's Report

We might have expected ACE to be gripped by gloom as it faces the end of Communities First funding and unavoidable staff redundancies. But despite the distress and uncertainty, the mood of most staff and trustees is as confident, committed and determined as it's ever been. How is this possible?

Quite simply 2017 had been ACE's most successful year so far. Perhaps the best sign of our growing independence is the move into a building of our own at Our Place Dusty Forge on Cowbridge Road West. After lengthy preparations and hard work we signed a 99-year lease on the former council youth centre in the spring and have established the Dusty as the office base for all our staff, a home for new projects and a welcoming meeting place and activity centre for the community. This is only one of several goals which were far-off dreams five years ago and have become realities this year.

A new contract to deliver crucial mental health support in East Cardiff over the next three years is the result of our first successful commercial tender. This and an energy efficiency project to encourage the take-up of smart meters are also funding landmarks which allow ACE to provide services

in other parts of Cardiff for the first time.

New ways of working and diversifying our funding sources are important aspects of our efforts to achieve long-term financial independence. ACE Training was launched this year, our first fully commercial social enterprise, offering courses and qualifications to people entering the construction industry. At the same time two dedicated volunteer groups at the Dusty Forge have established a café and a popular nearly new shop, which ingeniously includes facilities to help job candidates dress appropriately for interviews.

Staff have taken up the fundraising task with extraordinary energy – producing nearly 20 applications so far this year. Of those where the results are known three quarters have been successful. These include an innovative programme with the Charity's Aid Foundation to help develop ACE's resilience as it faces the challenges of a post-Communities First world, and money to develop a Children's Zone pilot project for Cardiff Council. In December the Heritage Lottery Fund announced funding of £150,000 – our largest grant to date – for a joint project with Cardiff University. This involves planning

community activities and facilities (including our development of Caerau Gospel Hall) connected with the nationally important archaeological site at Caerau Hillfort.

Fundraising progress is undoubtedly a tribute to ACE's growing reputation as a well-managed and effective regeneration organisation. Outcomes of our Communities for Work programme for unemployed people are the best in Wales, for instance, and all Communities First targets have been achieved or exceeded. As awareness of our work has spread wider, in recent months ACE has hosted visits by the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, Carl Sargeant, and the Chief Economist at the Bank of England, Andy Haldane.

I can't thank the staff enough for their skills and commitment in very difficult circumstances which have helped ACE make so much impressive progress. Hearty thanks too to our many volunteers and the resourceful and dedicated trustees who have made my job as Chair so enjoyable.

*Mel Witherden
ACE Chair*

ACE vision, beliefs and objectives



ACE works co-productively with communities to achieve lasting positive change for an equal and just Cardiff. Working co-productively means that we work with local people as equal partners in all aspects of our work.

ACE's vision is of a happy and healthy community characterised by co-operation, equality and social justice. We believe that everyone who lives in our community has something unique to contribute. Our 1,055 members actively participate in turning this vision into a reality.

Through our work we deliver a range of activities across Cardiff through ACE Community Enterprises, a not for profit Social Value Enterprise/Business, embedding community development principles, social impact and a person-led approach into everyday delivery.

We base our efforts on the following BELIEFS:

- Local people know their community best
- Everyone has something unique to contribute
- Everyone's contribution should be valued equally
- Poverty should not be accepted as a fact of life
- Social injustice should be challenged and changed

Objectives for the community:

- To create individual opportunities for residents through community development activity
- To tackle poverty by creating employment and building the local economy
- To improve the quality of life for residents of Ely and Caerau generally by enhancing the environment, improving facilities and fostering partnership and co-production

Organisational objectives:

- To progressively reduce our dependency on grants and to become financially sustainable in the long term by operating a strategy for diversifying and maximising our sources of income
- To design, operate and monitor policies and procedures which ensure high standards of governance and management, financial propriety and personnel management
- To design and operate an effective Promotions Strategy

Our objectives are described in our 5 year Strategic Plan (launched June 2014, available at www.aceplace.org).

ACE Membership



Anyone who lives, or has an interest in, Ely and Caerau, and who supports the aims of the organisation, can become a member. There is no charge.

ACE currently has 1,055 members.

When you join ACE you automatically become a member of Timeplace too, which means you can earn time credits for your efforts in the community. Members who are over 18 can vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and can put themselves forward for election to the board of directors. Every registered member receives an invitation to the AGM with information on making nominations to the board.

The Membership Pledge:

All members are asked to make the following pledge:

I will...

Act with others to help make Ely and Caerau an ace place to live

Care for the streets and parks and places we share as a community

Encourage my family, friends and neighbours to do the same.

Visit our website or contact us for more information and for a membership application form - www.aceplace.org.

Future Plans



We have a future, we have a plan and we are very determined. A strong, persistent commitment to independence and sustainability has enabled ACE to establish a diverse range of income sources including grants, public service contracts, and social enterprise activity. Using an asset based approach, and tapping into the values and approaches of co-production, ACE has placed local people as active participants at the heart of its governance and delivery. The organisation is thus well placed to embrace the opportunities afforded by the end of the Communities First programme - developing an exciting programme of work and activities in years to come.

Over the next three years (led by a new Strategic plan, 2018-21) we will play to our strengths by continuing to develop and deliver projects and services that have a proven track record in tackling poverty and creating community resilience. We will continue experimenting with new approaches that allow local people to take an active lead in these initiatives. We will use freedom from the constraints of Communities First to pilot new ways of integrating projects so that the multiple dimensions of poverty can be tackled effectively and flexibly. We will work across Cardiff supporting communities to develop, delivering community led projects and exploring partnership opportunities with like-minded organisations. We will continue our journey towards sustainability by pursuing new forms of funding, especially by further developing our skills related to social enterprise and contract tendering and delivery.

In 2017 we were delighted to be selected as recipients of support under the Charities Aid Foundation's (CAF) Resilience programme, allowing us to dedicate senior staff time over the following two years to strategic development, improving project management and the design of improved monitoring and evaluation systems.

Planning, careful consideration, community-led activity, determination and hard work gives ACE a way forward, and crucially the ability to exist and serve the local communities of Ely and Caerau - something that we are very proud of.

John Hallett

An ACE journey

Caroline Barr, Participation Officer, met with Elizabeth Lewis to discuss her ACE journey.

My name is Elizabeth Lewis and I am 13 years old, I have been volunteering with ACE for the last 4 years. My journey began when I attended a local litter pick with my mum. At the end we were handed some Timecredits. We didn't really know what they were so we just put them in the drawer when we got home! On our next litter pick we found out all about how Timecredits work and the amazing opportunities you have to use them.

After that, myself and my mum went along to as many things as we could to earn Timecredits as this gave us the opportunity to do things that we wouldn't be able to do as a family otherwise.

Over the years I have loved being a part of the ACE family as it has given me lots of opportunities to be part of my community. I help out at lots of events that ACE have held, but my favourite has to be Ely festival

as I get to meet and talk to lots of community members. I've suffered from panic attacks for quite a while and being able to volunteer and be supported by ACE staff members has helped me with this a lot.

I love the fact that I can take my friends to the cinema using my Timecredits that I have earned volunteering. This gives me a great sense of pride. I recently decided to get my friends involved by having a litter pick so they could have the chance to earn their own

Timecredits. We have now decided to make this into a proper group and will be holding fortnightly litter picks in the area. We are hoping to spread the word of having a pride in our community!

I look forward to many years of volunteering with ACE and have decided that my chosen career path will be to work in my community as I think I've found something that I'm really good at and suited too.

Caroline Barr



Timeplace / Streetace - goes from strength to strength

Timeplace timebank allows us to place equal value on everyone's contribution. The currency underpins ACE's 'co-productive' approach to our work - enabling us to develop projects and activities with people as full participants.

For every hour that is volunteered participants receive one credit. Timecredits can then be spent on local and UK-wide spend opportunities including London Bridge or Blackpool Tower! Closer to home they can be spent at the leisure centre, at a local cinema, at soft play centres, and many other venues.

Timeplace has a very effective steering committee which is made up of local people from Ely, Caerau, Fairwater and Pentreban. They have recently been focusing on helping participating groups to plan their own spend opportunities.

As ever, the number of Timecredits earned this year through Timeplace has increased. Participants say they value being given the chance to earn Timecredits and that it has involved them in a range of new experiences.

8,801 Timecredits were earned through Timeplace in 2016/17. 1,720 Timecredits were spent on local spend activities during the same period.

Over the last year we have continued to run Streetace sessions in the community, setting up a pop up stall to give us the chance to engage with community members we wouldn't normally meet.

Over the last few months we have worked in partnership with the Communities for Work team, using Streetace sessions to promote the training and support available through the programme. The Communities for Work team have reported a significant increase in the number of people taking up support through the scheme as a result. Through Streetace sessions we have also been able to give information about the whole range of activities and projects ACE oversees including - energy saving advice, Pizza Forge provision, CAER Heritage Project and local litter picks. As with so many ACE projects, Streetace is supported by volunteers who are an invaluable source of knowledge, information and enthusiasm. Without the support of these volunteers we would not be able to run such sessions.

Caroline Barr

ACE Training



This last year has seen many milestones achieved in the development of ACE Training, in particular the delivery of Level 1 Health and Safety in a Construction Environment and the Construction Skills Certification Scheme. ACE Training has achieved British Safety

Council accredited centre status, has become a certified Pearson Vue test centre, and has been awarded the ACT / Welsh Government Communities for Work and PaCE contract specifically for the Construction Skills Certification Scheme package.

Our aim as a training provider is to offer a

unique experience for our learners, to step away from the stereotypical rigidity of classroom based learning and replace it with an environment that is welcoming, friendly and engaging, whilst maintaining a professional approach. Our training centre offers 1 to 1 mentoring

support, active learning sessions between training and testing sessions, and free course materials to reduce barriers to learning. We do this with the aim of supporting people over and beyond that of other training providers. Our method is applauded by participants and has consistently gained high outcomes.

In 2016-17 ACE Training has delivered an 87% pass rate for all training participants. We also have had inspections from both the British Safety Council and CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) with no fault marks - achievements we are exceptionally proud of, especially as we are in our infancy as a training provider.

Simon Murray

Pizza Forge



Prince's Trust making ovens



Val and Liam at the Roath Farmers' Market



Kim and Michelle at 'Beating the Bounds' event



The latest oven

It's been a year since the inception of the wood fired pizza oven project. The idea was suggested by an arts organisation in Roath and the inspiration of the dragon theme came from an ACE staff member - Nerys. The oven proved a creative tool for engaging the community by offering free food to people at events and street based outreach sessions.

We quickly realised that we needed to explore the potential of the oven project and secured a stall at the Blas Street Food event in Pontcanna. Despite rather inclement weather conditions it gave us a chance to experiment with different ingredients

and a chance to sell our wares and gain valuable experience of working at an event.

In February 2017 we started attending the Roath Farmers' Market where staff and volunteers ran the stall on a fortnightly basis which enabled us to hone our skills in developing a diverse artisan menu. The construction of the ovens also created opportunities for us to involve others and over the last year we have hosted alternative curriculum young people from Michaelston School, the Prince's Trust and others from within our immediate community. The principles and techniques

involved tied into the construction qualifications we already deliver and many people gained their Level 1 Health & Safety in the Construction Environment and the CSCS card whilst constructing the ovens. We have been hired for countless events such as the Llandaff Hub launch, Cadwyn AGM, Beating the Bounds, Newydd Housing, St Fagans Museum, madeinroath, as well as numerous outings in Ely & Caerau including the Festival.

With ovens out on trial in three separate locations, we now have an excellent product that is in demand. Production is now underway to sell the ovens commercially.

Simon Murray

Breaking the Mould - Hands on Art at Our Place

'Having work on display makes us feel proud, shows our achievement, it's a reminder of what we've done. It's good for the self-esteem.'

- Breaking the Mould participant

Breaking the Mould offers free art workshops run by professional artists. Between March 2016 and October 2017, 56 workshops have been delivered with 45 participants in total. On a Monday you can usually find a friendly, close-knit group of 5-10 adults creating art in the workshop at Our Place: Dusty Forge. Our funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation ends this autumn, but the group plan to continue meeting



informally while we pursue further funding.

Community members have enjoyed exploring different art forms including: painting, sketching, making mosaic and dream-catchers, painting with natural materials, using power tools, ceramic work, Christmas wreaths, print making, wood work and sculpting with willow and flax. The artwork is displayed in the main hall, the café area and the garden at the Dusty Forge.

We've been on trips to the beach, woodland, art galleries and artists' studios, including the Printheus in Canton and Coed Hills Rural Artspace, where we harvested willow to create our own living willow arch for the community garden. We are awaiting the results of a funding bid to partner with Grow Well to develop a Creative Community Garden. If



successful, we'll be creating artwork for the garden from 10am Monday mornings from December to July.

Participants have told us that creating art in a safe space has improved their wellbeing and mental health, helping them feel more creative and confident. We are seeking further funding to enable ACE to invest in this community of developing artists and offer more people locally the opportunity to try out art activities in a relaxed, supportive environment.

Becky Matyus

Diana Gardens

For a number of years volunteers, along with ACE and Cardiff Council, have been trying to utilise an area of land tucked away off Hiles Road in Ely. The space was commonly known as Diana Gardens, as Princess Diana opened a new park there in 1993, during a Royal visit to Ely. The park was used by local residents until it was closed by the Council due to antisocial behaviour. There have been many restrictions on using the plot of land, the main one being the



amount of access available, which was usually only once a month. By the time anyone had done anything to help clear the ground it would be overgrown upon returning to it.

From January 2017, ACE obtained a 'Licence to Occupy' Diana Gardens which means ACE now have access all year round. This is good news, however one big issue has been finding the money and staff time to run anything meaningful on the site.

In July ACE was successful in two funding bids, firstly, Tesco's Bags for Life where £1,000 was awarded to help to clear the site and make it safer to utilise. Secondly, the People's Post Code Lottery



where ACE has been awarded £10,000 to help to buy equipment and run regular sessions to help develop the site.

Recently Sue Ansell, a gardening expert, has come on board, to work with local community members to develop a programme to help improve and cultivate the site, as well as providing volunteering opportunities and training in horticulture and environmental management. We hope to be up and running by the start of October 2017.

Carey Davies

Dusty Forge

ACE's home at Our Place Dusty Forge has gone from strength to strength. We signed a 99 year lease with Cardiff Council in December of 2016, so we're definitely here to stay! These are just some of the things we've been able to get going with members and volunteers...



Hafod Housing team
with ACE staff.

Community Shop



Volunteer Natasha Hayes tells us about Dusty Forge's new community shop.

Back last year Billy (Estate Manager) had an idea to open a community shop. He asked myself, Natasha Hayes, my mum Michaela Ward and dad Arthur Brown if we could help.

We were given a small space in the heart of the Dusty which we filled quite quickly with donations from our local community.

As time went on we were getting donations thick and fast - we were so grateful for everything that came in. We have been going now for nearly a year with a Facebook page and a mention in the Grapevine. The shop is well used daily with people coming from all over the community.

We find that women's and children's clothes and shoes go first, so are always on the lookout for more donations. We are willing to take anything clean and non-electrical. Unfortunately we cannot take anything big as we only have a small space.

Families are so grateful with the help we have given them, here are some of their comments:

'Great for my children who go through clothes and shoes like no tomorrow and I cannot afford full price in a shop'

'The service and people are awesome. They make people feel great and it's nice to be appreciated.'

'Love coming here, makes my day, girls are just great'

'It's always well organised and clean. The volunteers are really helpful and kind. I was very stressed and upset, but left feeling happy and at ease.'

'Friendly staff, make me and my daughter feel very welcome and less self-conscious, will definitely be back.'

To date we see an average of 8 families a day who are able to take items they need for free, or make a cash donation if they are able to. This is then used to help buy essential storage items and rails.

We hope we can move into a bigger space within the Dusty Forge and continue our project.

Many thanks to everyone who has donated, you really don't know how much this has helped families.

Natasha, Michaela and Arthur

Dusty Forge (Val's) Café



Our fantastic volunteer **Val Allen** has been working with ACE to serve food out of the Dusty Forge Café. Val underwent Food and Hygiene training and has put in place safe methods and statements achieving a food hygiene rating of 5. Val currently serves food most weeks on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and has recently been making wonderful homemade food such as corned beef pie, bolognaise, soups, apple crumble, Jamaican jerk chicken and many others. She has even been able to use fresh, home grown ingredients from the Dusty Forge garden. The cafe also offers a variety of hot paninis, jacket potatoes, sandwiches, toasted sandwiches and salads.

Volunteer Amanda Ward helps Val out in the café and there has recently been an upgrade to the serving area outside the kitchen. Everyone is welcome to come along and taste great home cooked food... all at a very reasonable price. Well done Val and Amanda!



Dusty Forge Hafod work days



We were privileged to be selected by Hafod housing Association for one of their 'Give and Gain' staff volunteer projects. 20 staff joined

us over two days to help transform some neglected areas of the building. They laid fresh carpet tiles and painted the walls in the offices, painted the front railings and varnished the back garden fence. We were pleased to be able to provide them with pizzas from the pizza forge ovens as a token of our appreciation. **Thank you Hafod!**



Community Garden

It has been exciting to see a committed group of local volunteers starting to transform the rather drab rear of the building into a new community garden – our little oasis of calm in an otherwise busy environment! A range of veg has been planted and harvested (and recently served up in a very

tasty cottage pie in the Dusty Café, courtesy of Val). Towering sunflowers have brought some much needed colour to the rainier summer months. The Breaking the Mould arts group have contributed some fantastic outdoor art, including a mural and some mosaic tables and chairs. We all enjoyed

celebrating these achievements with a summer garden party (despite the rain!) The group are planning further developments including the installation of a polytunnel. We are also now pleased to be working with partners Grow Cardiff to encourage GP referrals to the garden.

Dusty Shed

We are rapidly approaching the anniversary of our first year as The Dusty Shed, a Men's Shed project supported in no small way by ACE. Aimed at men with time on their hands we have renovated what was the old betting office at Dusty Forge into a wood workshop. Open 3 days a week Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we have seen a steady increase in involvement of men in what we are doing from all over the city. As of September we have had 29 different men through the doors with 12 regular attendees.

The official opening took place in November 2016 by Sarah Rochira, the Older Peoples' Commissioner for Wales, and was attended by



supporters and volunteers who helped make the Shed a reality. The highlight was the visit from Red Watch of Ely Fire Station complete with their fire engine!

Looking ahead we are already working with ACE to secure a larger

building, to build on the success to date.

Thanks to all the volunteers, trustees, local businesses and organisations that helped make Dusty Shed a reality.

Dave King



Community Support

ACE's Community Support programme works with some of the most vulnerable members of our community, providing information and advice on benefits, debt, budgeting, and reducing energy costs. We work closely with Cardiff Foodbank and the Dusty Forge Community Shop to give immediate practical support for those in crisis, which helps us build positive trusted relationships with people accessing our service, and enables us to more effectively tackle underlying issues.

Over the last financial year (2016-17) we have supported 494 community members through weekly drop in sessions, home visits and money-saving workshops with community groups. We aim to provide a friendly, holistic and professional service and are very grateful to our team of volunteers who make this possible. With our partners, we have developed new initiatives to address the needs in our community and have successfully delivered Cosy Cymru, a new pilot project funded

by the energy supplier, SSE. This has enabled us to provide essential appliances to 40 vulnerable households and low-cost energy efficiency measures to a further 70 households. Our key achievements in the last year are:

- 117 clients successfully supported in claiming benefits, resulting in an estimated total annual increase of household income of £153,000.
- 114 clients supported to reduce or better manage debt.
- 209 families provided with low cost energy efficiency devices, giving an estimated total annual energy cost saving of £32,500.
- 70 clients were supported to apply for the Warm Home Discount scheme, giving a total saving of £9,800 on annual electricity costs.

With the changes in funding from Welsh Government, ACE have refocused our support and advice work to target those most in need, and ensure we can continue to provide effective services that help build the strength and resilience of our community.

Sam Froud - Powell

Community Health

This year saw the introduction of 3 new mental health initiatives to help local residents experiencing mild to moderate or stable, severe and enduring mental health issues. The ACE team can now offer the following programmes:

- Stress Control – a six-week self-help course based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, covering techniques to control the body, thoughts and actions.
 - ACTion for Living – a four-week self-help course based on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, teaching a new way to deal with distressing thoughts and feelings
- The Stress Control and ACTion for Living courses are open to anyone and can be used to promote positive mental wellbeing as well as helping with issues such as depression and anxiety. Following the introduction of a successful social prescribing scheme last year, local GPs are now actively promoting the courses to their patients and we have also seen increasing interest through social media and word of mouth. CCI sessions are currently only available via GP referral.

Following successful delivery of the above initiatives within Ely and Caerau, ACE was successful in winning a contract with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to deliver these initiatives within East Cardiff, allowing us to provide this opportunity to another community.

This year has also seen ACE win the contract to deliver patient participation and engagement work within South West Cardiff, supporting patients and health staff to work together to promote healthy lifestyles, improve access and quality of services and identify local solutions to tackle the social determinants of health.

Hazel Cryer

CAER Heritage 2016-17



Researching your past to build for your future

Caerau and Ely are home to some of the most significant heritage sites not just in Cardiff, but in all of Wales. Since 2011 CAER Heritage has been putting local people at the heart of its exploration. This year saw the completion of two projects, CAER Young People's Opportunity Project and The Dusty's First World War Project. Working with young people, school children and community groups, both projects

provided opportunities for people to tell important stories about Ely and Caerau in the past and included the creation of an exhibition about the First World War that was featured at the Cardiff Story Museum and Glamorgan Archives.

Hidden Hillfort Project

Excitingly, in December 2016 ACE was awarded first-stage funding of £157,034 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to develop the 'Hidden Hillfort Project' in collaboration with

Cardiff University and under the banner of CAER Heritage. Over the course of the next year the project team will work with local people to develop the detailed project plans, permissions and networks. Already the team have facilitated 6 open days and 4 co-production



workshops engaging over 800 local people. The second-stage application will be submitted to the HLF in May 2018 and if successful will provide funds to instigate an exciting two-year project of activities transforming Caerau Hillfort as a place to visit, enjoy and learn. Works will involve the development of a heritage and community centre, heritage trails, interpretation and will include a range of initiatives, courses and learning opportunities for local adults and young people.

In recognition of CAER Heritage's work over the last few years the project has been shortlisted for the prestigious Times Higher Education Awards in the 'Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community' category. Winners are announced at the end of November 2017...Fingers crossed!

Olly Davis



Learning

2016-17 has been seen lots of changes in the ACE learning team due to the ending of the Communities First programme but even with a reduced staff we have worked hard to continue to support schools across the community. Becki Miller (Family Learning Officer) has delivered a range of family learning programmes – most of which she designs herself and provides peer support to each school's Family Engagement Officers.

This last year has seen the two high schools, Glyn Derw and Michaelston, permanently close at the end of August and Cardiff West Community High School open in September 2017. This will then move into a £30 million new building on the old Glyn Derw site early in 2019. Change is always unsettling and ACE has played a significant role in ensuring that community members have been kept up to date with developments and that young people and their families have been included in

decision making. We worked closely with the local authority to organise large scale community events to consult with local people and organised pop up events in school playgrounds, encouraging children and their families to help choose the name, branding, logos and uniform for the new school. Finally we organised a school closure event to celebrate the positive legacy the schools have brought to the community over many years.

Primary school pupils took part in a University of the First Age project where they were trained as young researchers and evaluators to find out what they would like to see in their new school. Having collected and analysed data, they presented their findings in a very professional



manner to Governors, Head Teachers and parents at an event in May. These will now be incorporated by the architects in design plans. This exciting new state of the art school will provide a fantastic resource for the whole community to help improve the educational outcomes and prospects for young people living in Ely & Caerau.

Ruth McDonald



Citizen Cymru – An hour with Andy Haldane

ACE continues to work with other organisations through Citizens Cymru to pursue the common good and to tackle injustice. We were pleased to host a visit from the **Chief Economist of the Bank of England, Andy Haldane** (named as one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time magazine in 2014).

Sara Davies, a young economics graduate from Ely, wrote a blog about her experience.

‘Mr Haldane, touring the UK as part of an initiative set out by the Bank of England, sat amongst community members for a round table discussion. Each member took their time to explain a little about their background, their experiences in the community and express their concerns that would later be brought up for discussion.

The main theme amongst the discussion was the ever increasing

costs of living, in particular the rise in prices of necessities such as fuel and energy costs. Others expressed the difficulties that young families are facing with rising inflation meaning that having to buy or replace children’s shoes and clothes eats so much into a family’s income that often it’s a choice between food and clothes.

The day was certainly successful in breaking down barriers between London and the rest of the UK. Andy had an inviting character and jumped at the opportunity to listen, to understand and to discuss matters that were most important to our community members. Whilst the Bank of England do not have full control over many of the difficult matters that societal stakeholders currently face, it was refreshing for people from many different walks of life to come together and talk as one. An hour well spent!’

Sara Davies

Sara was brought up in Ely where she attended primary school, high school, and went on to graduate with a 1st Class Economics degree from Cardiff Metropolitan University in 2017.

Communities For Work – A Year of Achievements

Communities for Work is a Welsh Government Programme delivered in partnership with the Department of Work and Pensions delivering employment support services in Communities First areas. Since its inception in Cardiff West in 2016 the programme has gone from strength to strength with local community members achieving great outcomes as they move through their journey towards gaining employment. Our Advisers and Mentors are based in local community venues namely the Dusty Forge and Ely and Caerau Community Hub. They also host outreach sessions in Fairwater Hub and Ty Bronna Hostel as a means of engaging with those that most need help in getting work.

Outcomes achieved so far:

- 418 people enrolled on to the programme
- 27 people have entered further and higher education
- 131 people have secured employment
- 140 people have gained qualifications
- 25 people are completing a volunteering opportunity
- 11 people have completed a volunteer placement

These outcomes are testament to the hard work carried out by the Cardiff



West Communities for Work team. This has been recognised twice over the course of 2017 in both February and May, with Cardiff West being ranked top of the performance table for South East Wales.

Michelle Powell

Communities First

- Delivering community shaped outcomes in our community



ACE took on the delivery of the Welsh Government Communities First programme in February 2013. During 2016-17 a team of 20 staff delivered a broad range of projects and activities across Ely, Caerau, Fairwater and Pentrebanne in partnership with partner organisations and importantly community members and groups. ACE has worked with 5,957 participants with work focusing on three themes – Healthy, Learning and Prosperous Communities.

The info-gram shows keys successes including 92 local people securing employment, benefit gains of £776,476 helping people with their finances, 1,624 people making

healthier choices and 555 people earning qualifications.

On the 14th February 2017, the Welsh Government announced the closure of the Communities First programme. At the same time a new approach to building resilient communities is being developed with a proposed focus on 'employment', 'early years' and 'empowerment'.

Whilst we are sad to see the closure of Communities First, ACE's position is one of optimism fuelled by careful planning over the past 6 years; ACE was set up to provide a lasting legacy for Communities First and we, along with the support

of the local community, intend to provide one! ACE will be phasing out Communities First work over 2017 and will be continuing to transition into other work areas, activities which will respond to the new Welsh Government's focus of 'helping people into work, supporting children and listening to communities on improving local services'.

Throughout our time delivering the Communities First work, we have been proud of the vital input, changes, and progress we have made to the lives of people in the community areas of Cardiff West.

ACE Staff Team

Maisey Andrews
Employment Mentor

Caroline Barr
Community Engagement Officer

Hazel Cryer
Health and Wellbeing Coordinator

Carey Davies
Community Enterprise Officer

Olly Davis
Project Manager, Hidden Hillfort

Becki Miller
Family Learning Officer

Julie Evans
Finance Assistant

Denise Rahman
Triage Support Worker

Sam Froud-Powell
Community Support Co-ordinator

John Hallett
Director

Dave Horton
ACE Development Manager

Donna Hurley
Communities For Work Adult Mentor

Helena Jones
Communities For Work Youth Mentor

Kimberley Jones
CAER Development Officer

Linsay Jones
Communities for Work Parent
Employment Advisor

George Keane
Communications Officer

Billy Mainprize
Dusty Forge Estates Manager

Becky Matyus
Arts Co-ordinator

Ruth McDonald
Project Lead - Children First

Simon Murray
Community Training Officer

Michelle Powell
Project Manager Employment &
Training



Hywel Price
Communities for Work Community
Employment Advisor

Fiona Robinson
Office Manager

Hasan Roap
Finance Officer

Tazmin Rowe-Anthony
Community Learning Officer

Taela-Mae Davies
Community Involvement Co-
ordinator

Charmaine Simons-Evans
Communities for Work Community
Employment Advisor

Nerys Sheehan
Community Support Officer

Carly Whelpley
Community Mental Health Officer

ACE Board of Trustees 2016-2017

The board of trustees is elected by the membership. We are grateful to the following people who have served during 2016-2017:

Cassie Bodington (Chair) runs a local business and has lived in Caerau for several years.

Barbara Cuddihy lives in Caerau and is a committed volunteer.

Marian Dixey lives in Fairwater. She is an active local volunteer and has worked for the NHS for over 30 years.

Tony Evans is a local volunteer. He has a degree in accounting and finance.

Martin Hulland is the head teacher of Ely and Caerau's new secondary school, Cardiff West Community High School.

Nigel Jones (Vice Chair) is a solicitor specialising in commercial and property law.

Ken Long lives in Caerau and is a volunteer with the Community Ambassadors and a number of other projects.

Carl Meredith is Caerau born and bred! He runs a successful building company.

Veronica Moore lives in Ely. She volunteers on ACE's energy project.

Jean O'Keefe (Treasurer) lives in Caerau. She sits on the Timeplace steering group.

Anne O'Regan lives in Caerau. She volunteers with Age Connects and Families Need Fathers/Both Parents Matter.



Gareth Pierce manages the Ely & Caerau Community Hub.

Mel Witherden (Chair) is a retired third sector/charity consultant.

Gloria Yates lives in Ely. She recently retired from leading Age Concern's Healthy, Wealthy and Wise project.

Cassie Bodington, Nigel Jones, Veronica Moore, Ken Long and Tony Evans resigned their posts during 2016/2017. We thank them for the significant contribution they made to ACE during their time on the board.

ACE Finance Report

Income & Expenditure

1,182,672

The amount of income received by ACE in 2016-17

1,103,901

The amount of expenditure by ACE in 2016-17

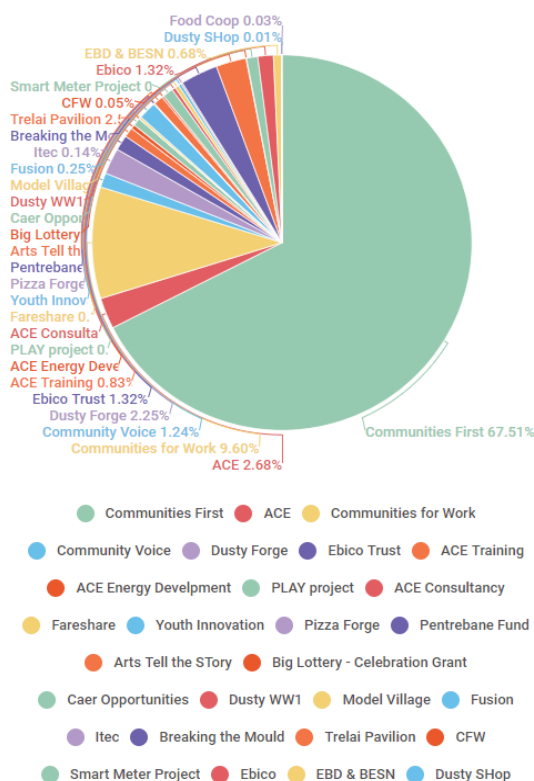


31

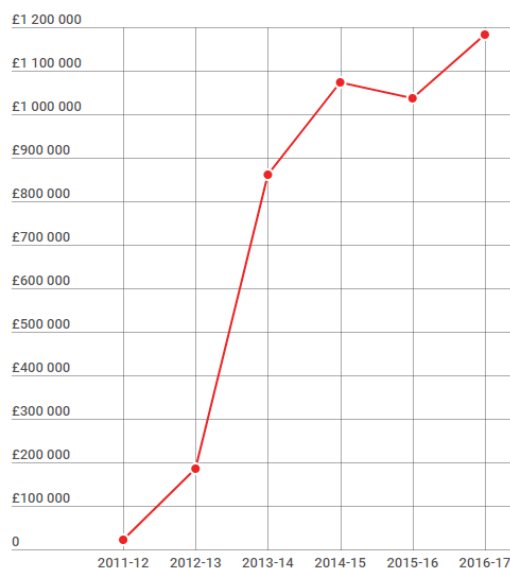
Number of active projects in 2016-17

ACE received a total income of £1,182,672 in the 2016-17 financial year, majority of which was voluntary income such as donations and grants from the government and other charitable foundations. Some of our biggest funders for the year included the Welsh Government, Big Lottery and Cardiff Council. Of the above we spent £1,103,901 for the year.

Project Budgets 2016-17



ACE Income 2011-2017



ACE's income from funders has increased significantly year on year. In 2011-12 we received £22,864 which increased by x8 to £185,359. It then increased to £861,115 in 2012-13 (increase of x4.5 of the previous year) and now in 2016-17 it has increased to £1.18m.

This income is currently spread across 31 projects. The biggest current project is Communities First, which accounts for approx 67% of ACE's income.

ACE Projects



Thank you....

ACE would like to thank the following people for their contributions during the previous year:

The many **volunteers** who invest their time freely for the good of our community.

The **ACE staff team**, who continue to show real commitment to the cause and who regularly 'go the extra mile'.

Our **board of trustees** who work hard, in their own time, to steer the organisation towards a bright future.

Community groups and **partner organisations** who share our values and aims and who develop and deliver projects with us.

The growing group of **funders** who provide essential resources and support.

We look forward to continuing our work with you all!



Partners & Funders



**Our Place: Dusty Forge, 460 Cowbridge Road West, Ely
Cardiff CF5 5BZ, Tel: 029 2000 3132**

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Website: www.aceplace.org
Facebook: [/elyandcaerau.communitiesfirst](https://www.facebook.com/elyandcaerau.communitiesfirst)
Twitter: [@elycaerau](https://twitter.com/elycaerau)