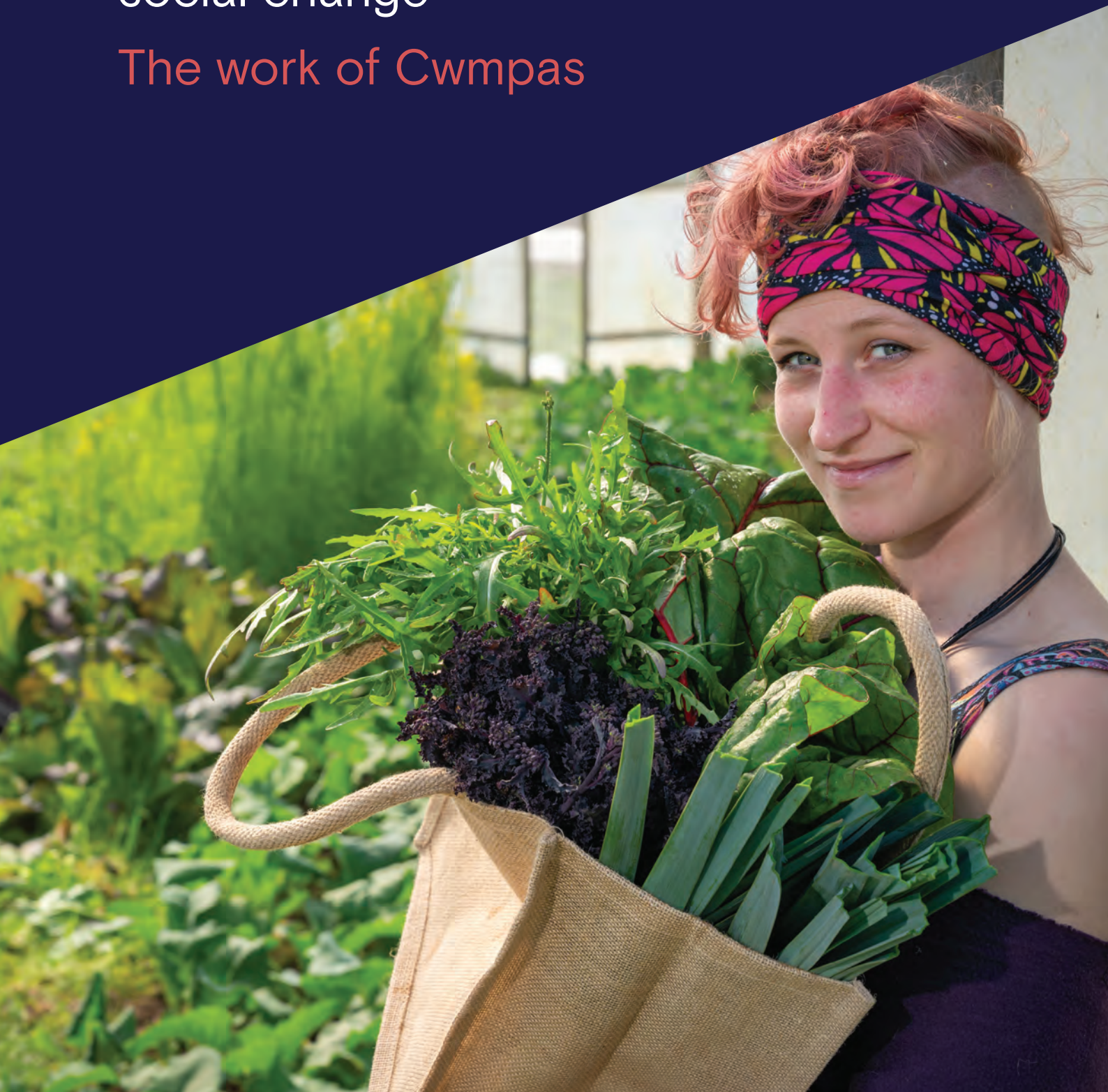


# ewmpas

For economic and  
social change

The work of Cwmpas





How to  
Use  
Laptops



Creating a fairer,  
greener economy

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Building a more  
equal society

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Making positive  
change happen

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Cwmpas is a development agency working for positive change, in Wales and across the UK. We are a co-operative, and our focus is on building a fairer, greener economy and a more equal society, where people and planet come first.

The current economic system is failing to tackle the key challenges our communities face today, from climate change to economic hardship... and the Covid-19 pandemic has made many of these problems worse.

It does not have to be this way.

Our economy and society could – and should – work in the interests of people and the planet.

Established in 1982 as the Wales Co-operative Centre, at Cwmpas we've made it our mission to change the way our economy and society works.



# Creating a fairer, greener economy

We're helping our economy to become both fairer and greener by growing the number and scale of social enterprises, co-operatives and employee-owned businesses.

Social and democratic business models can help to decarbonise local economies, create good-quality jobs, and address inequality and marginalisation. But currently, they only make up a small percentage of businesses in the UK, and their potential is not being realised. We believe that by having more of these businesses, and focusing on building local economies, we can develop a greener and more resilient economy that works for everyone.

At Cwmpas, we've been helping set up social enterprises, co-operatives and employee-owned businesses across Wales since 1982, so we've got a wealth of experience and partnerships to help make every new project a success. In addition, we promote these models to policy makers, the public and private sectors, as well as to education, skills, and training providers.

We also work with mainstream businesses who realise the increased productivity, better wealth-sharing, and community involvement that can come by transferring ownership of the business to employees. With our help, businesses can also develop ways to reduce their carbon footprint and encourage diversity in their workforce.

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**We support social enterprises, co-operatives and employee-owned businesses, and raise awareness of these models more widely.**

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**We enable private-sector enterprises to become stronger and more productive by helping them change to employee ownership.**

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**We strengthen the ability of businesses to tackle climate change and promote diversity.**

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“... we’ve got a wealth of experience and partnerships to help make every new project a success.”

# Building a more equal society

We help to foster equality in our society, by improving the skills of those that are excluded (or at risk of being excluded). We also help marginalised and neglected communities to improve services and facilities in their area.

The UK is one of the most unequal societies in the developed world, with incomes falling year-on-year for many. Things have been made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has hit poorer and marginalised communities the hardest. To stop communities from falling further behind, land-use, property and facilities need to benefit local people. Improving access to digital services also has a critical role in building a fairer society.

At Cwmpas, we play a leading role in developing community-led housing and other forms of community ownership. These programmes enable people across Wales and the UK to raise investment and develop the capacity to take-over and manage local facilities, green spaces and services, with a focus on disadvantaged and under-represented communities. We also influence policymakers to make it easier for schemes like these to happen.

We are proud to be a co-operative, and work hard to tackle inequality and promote social inclusion. Not only that, but we have a strong track-record of helping people to acquire the digital skills that are so useful in improving their access to essential services and fulfilling their role in society.

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**We support the development of community-led housing schemes and the creation of green spaces.**

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**We help communities to tackle inequality and social exclusion.**

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**We help people acquire the digital skills that are essential in today's society.**

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“... we play a leading role in developing community-led housing and other forms of community ownership.”

# Making positive change happen

We provide advice and support to public, private, charitable and voluntary ('third sector') organisations, so they can make a positive difference for their customers and communities.

The response from local communities to the Covid-19 pandemic has been remarkable, with numerous collaborations between local government, statutory partners, social businesses and charitable organisations. But there is a growing expectation (and need) for these relationships to be sustained in the longer term, and we believe this has a role in making the economy and society work for the benefit of everyone.

At Cwmpas, we achieve this by providing people and organisations with expert advice – such as how to enhance participative learning or improving community involvement. We also promote social entrepreneurship as an effective way for people to address social problems.

In addition, we promote and deliver initiatives that build digital skills within social businesses and charitable organisations, as well as the capacity to move business functions online. We build community wealth and social value to ensure a strong 'core' of businesses that provide the foundation to the economy.

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**We provide expert advice to organisations to help them become more active in the community.**

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**We boost digital skills for organisations, helping them to play a stronger role in local economies.**

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**We help organisations make positive change happen.**

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“... providing people and organisations with expert advice.”

To ensure that we rebuild a fairer society and greener economy in Wales and across the UK, our work has never been more important.

We recognise that we can only achieve our missions and goal by working with others. Building collaborations, partnerships and coalitions are central to our approach.

# Talk to us about how we can work with you ...

**T:** 0300 111 5050

**E:** [info@cwmpas.coop](mailto:info@cwmpas.coop)

**[cwmpas.coop](http://cwmpas.coop)**

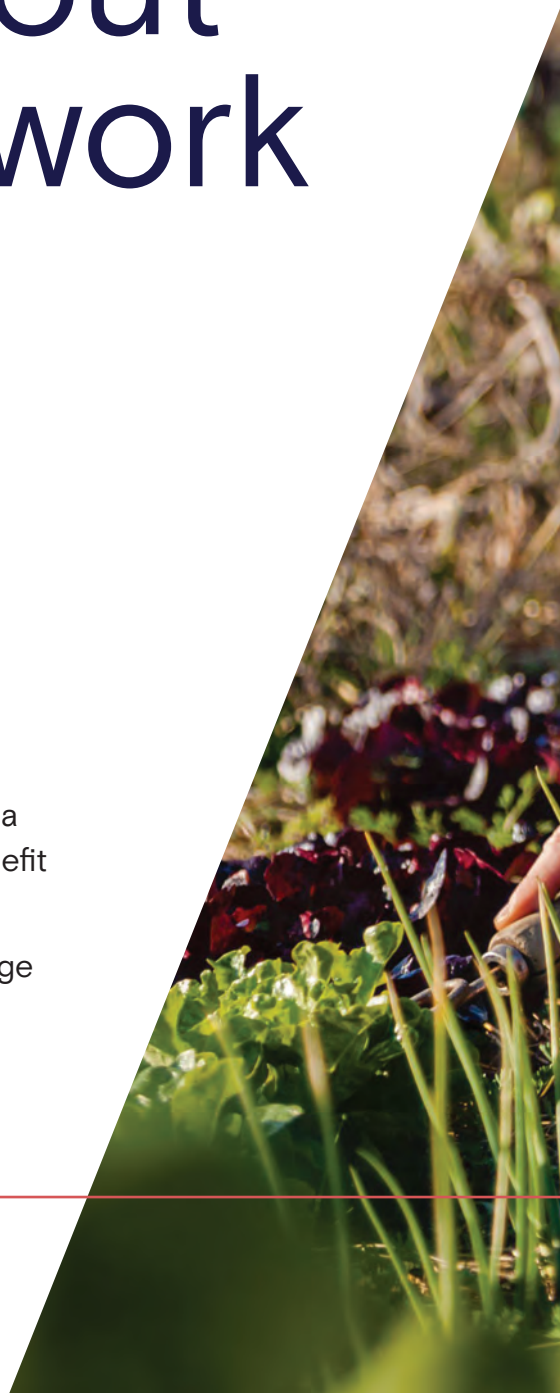
Cwmpas (formerly known as the Wales Co-operative Centre) is a registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, number 24287 R.

This publication is available in Welsh. Other formats, such as large print or braille, are available on request.

We welcome correspondence in English or Welsh and aim to provide an equal standard of service in both languages.

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**cwmpas**





Stylish  
Modern  
Elegant