

24 May 2024.

Dear Jenny Rathbone MS, Chair of Equality and Social Justice Committee,

Re: Beyond Essentials: Community Responses to the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

I am writing to you on behalf of Building Communities Trust, who published brand-new research examining the ways in which community groups and organisations have responded to the Cost-of-Living Crisis, earlier this week.

The research, also attached alongside this letter, specifically examines the impacts of the crisis on community groups and organisations, as well as on the staff and volunteers who work for them. To date, this is one aspect of the Cost-of-Living Crisis which has not been comprehensively analysed. In doing so, the research highlights the types of support community organisations feel they need to continue doing their vital work, in addition to the challenges they face. The research shows starkly how that work really has become essential for many people – not only in terms of providing the essentials of life – such as food and fuel – but also increasingly stepping into shoes once worn by public sector organisations.

The research amplifies the experiences and needs of community groups and organisations undertaking much of this vital work. The lived experiences of people working or volunteering for community groups and organisations have shaped the report's findings and recommendations.

We believe this research will be of interest to the broader work of the Committee. Should you want any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on eleri.williams@bct.wales.

Yours sincerely,

Eleri Williams
Policy and Research Advisor, Building Communities Trust.

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