

Cwmpas AGM Board Nominations – Personal Statements

Babs Lewis

Cwmpas' values mirror both my professional and personal priorities. As a mentee, who has sat with the board over the past year, I have been constantly impressed by the way the organisation lives those values to help people in Wales work together and support each other to achieve better outcomes. I am a professional with skills and experience at national and local level in both business development and project management. I would appreciate the opportunity to make a contribution to such an effective and impactful values-led organisation as a board member.

In Wales, we have world-beating legislation focused on the wellbeing of future generations and the sustainability of our communities. We also have chronic health and social care shortages, whole system failures and more challenges to come as our population ages. For the last decade, I've worked in health and care with people in communities supporting them to find better ways of working together across traditional boundaries to boost health and wellbeing. I have first-hand experience of the kind of challenges and complexity Cwmpas sets out to address.

In my business life I've developed people powered approaches to transforming services and systems, managed and delivered programmes for my own organisation – Nesta, the Social Innovation Agency - and with high-level partnerships, including Welsh Government. At heart all my work has focussed on enabling people to build the kind of relationships needed to work collaboratively across boundaries for mutual benefit. I believe this experience and expertise can be of value to Cwmpas as an organisation and to the board.

My approach is always to meet people where they are, supporting them to get clear on how they can come together to co-design new ways of solving the complex challenges we now face. Valuing diversity and democracy is at the heart of my work.

I hope as a board member both my skills and experience can make a contribute to supporting Cwmpas to continue to put people first to achieve economic and social change.

Grahame Sturges

I believe I can bring useful experience to the Board of Cwmpas. I have recently retired as a Board member of United Welsh Housing Group. I have been a Board member for 10 years and Chair for 7 of those. Alongside this role I served as a Board member of Caer Las; a homelessness charity based in Swansea. I have also served as a Board member with Spectacle Theatre, where the Board structure reflected an emphasis on the staff owning the creative process. I am passionate about Social Entrepreneurship, the potential of cooperative structures, empowerment and how communities can benefit against a social and economic order that is stacked in favour of personal gain and large corporations profits. I have played a role as Chair of UW developing a timber frame factory during the pandemic, whose values include a measure of social entrepreneurship, with a focus on benefits for the organisation's tenants.

I believe the main ingredient of a high performing Board is excellent Governance. To this end, I am committed to promoting the Boards role as guardian of the organisation's ethos and values, strategic direction, the understanding and management of risk, organisation viability and compliance with regulatory and legal requirements. I am committed to the Boards role in holding the executive accountable within this broad framework and to encouraging an environment where the executive can bring their best selves to work.

I welcome the opportunity to be considered for the role as a Board member of Cwmpas.

Nigel Keane

I have been a board member of Cwmpas for approximately ten years and have contributed to the team effort that has guided Cwmpas through the many changes seen in that period.

I am a long-term supporter of co-operation and co-operative values, having previously served at all levels of the Co-operative Group's democratic structures. I also served on the board of the Cardiff and Vale Co-operative Development Association.

Although now retired, I spent the last twenty years of my career facilitating policy engagement amongst the business community, trades unions, the Welsh Government and Senedd Cymru. I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and have had a number of finance related roles in both the private and public sectors.

Cwmpas performs a key role in providing alternative solutions to economic and social issues and can often turn adversity into opportunity. I hope to be able to continue working as part of a unique organization and with a superlative team.