

Cwmpas

Cwmpas x PLANED

Case Study

A commercial project
conducted by Business
Growth and Consultancy.





Cwmpas was commissioned as an external evaluator for the 5-year Big Lottery-funded – Digital Assets and Training for Rural Innovative Solutions (DATRIS) project.

Cwmpas believes the purpose of evaluation is to bring out the best in any project, which is demonstrated in this case study.



Jenny Phillips

Consultant: Business Growth and Delivery, Cwmpas

Jenny is a project evaluation specialist at Cwmpas, with has 20 years' combined experience in project management in the voluntary sector, processing, analysing and visualising data with Swansea University and supporting digital inclusion across Wales



Dr Sarah Evans

Director of Business Growth and Consultancy, Cwmpas

Sarah is the Director of Business Growth and Consultancy at Cwmpas and has previously worked as a principal manager in Local Government and a Senior Lecturer/Researcher at Wrexham University.



Marc Davies

Lead Consultant: Digital, Cwmpas

Marc has 23 years' experience working in digital and social inclusion. His work primarily involves digital enterprise support in Wales and has a sound understanding of what digital support is required by organisations throughout the country

Evaluation Services by Cwmpas

Our team deliver post-funding/grant evaluation and provide an analysis of the outputs and outcomes against the objectives.

Our aim is to uncover the value delivered by a funding and demonstrate the impact and findings.



Our work with PLANED

The DATRIS Project set out to enable and support locally-led solutions for rural communities which reach out to individuals and groups who may experience; poverty, social isolation, health issues and/or digital exclusion. It allowed us to get to know the local Pembrokeshire community and its organisations, which unveiled key information about the success of DATRIS.

John Ewart, Cydlynnydd Cadarnhad Coordinator at PLANED, said:

“Having worked alongside the staff of Cwmpas for the duration of the DATRIS project we were delighted that they won the bid for the evaluation of the project.”

To explore and reflect both the strengths and weaknesses of the project within our evaluation, Cwmpas conducted open and inclusive conversations with all stakeholders. This evaluation was conducted collaboratively with both the project delivery organisation team at PLANED and the organisations supported by DATRIS across Pembrokeshire.

John added:

“Cwmpas have always been friendly, knowledgeable and approachable and we could not have chosen a better organisation to carry out the evaluation.”

We used the three BIG approaches to evaluate how the project has contributed toward these broader outcomes – **People-led, Strengths-based, Connected**.





Evaluation stages

1. Research: A desk-based review of paperwork and reports provided by DATRIS.
2. Focus groups and interviews: Facilitating one focus group and eight individual interviews with organisations supported by DATRIS, contextualised by an interview with Iwan Thomas, Chief Executive Officer at PLANED
3. Meetings: Collaborative meetings with DATRIS and the BIG Lottery to discuss initial findings.
4. Evaluation: Production of evaluation summary in English and Welsh (which included two summary videos)
5. Report: Synthesis of information into written report.



Impact

DATRIS empowered groups they supported to reach wider audiences and make new connections through technology. Through our thorough evaluation work, Cwmpas was able to identify and highlight the positive impact of DATRIS. For example, the evaluation work carried out by Jenny Phillips identified impacts such as:



The DATRIS project team continued to find innovative ways to reach isolated and disadvantaged communities across Pembrokeshire during the pandemic.



We consistently found evidence of the lasting and positive impact of the project on rural communities.

Due to strong local knowledge and awareness, project like DATRIS was Established trust: successful because of the compelling reputation of trust and competence within the wider community, along with positive word of mouth.

Inclusive consultation: DATRIS engaged with 58 groups and organisations, all with different client groups, interests and aims

Interactive mapping: The [map](#) provides a way to visualise the reach of the project and the many connections made by DATRIS in the local community and community-led organisations.

Strong communication: High degree of satisfaction with the level and frequency of contact

Reputation building: DATRIS is referred to repeatedly by the organisations and individuals that we interviewed as “vital.”

·Efficient approach: Throughout the evaluation, we saw evidence of the DATRIS projects innovative and inventive approach to using the project time and funds.

Better outreach: Podcasts helped DATRIS to raise awareness of their work and the work of other key community organisations, despite production of podcasts not being an aim at the outset.

Building skillsets: Creating films and upskilling local community groups with the skills to make their own films was another unintended benefit of the DATRIS project.





Recommendations

- Establish a support planning process that can be used with all organisations to agree goals, timescales, actions, responsibilities and capture achievements.
- Continue the valuable work of DATRIS in digitally connecting and upskilling community assets and village halls throughout Pembrokeshire.
- Enable key individuals to share skills, knowledge and expertise with other communities and PLANED team members to ensure continuity.
- Establish an internal and/or external steering group, to maintain a clear focus on the core project aims, including; the importance and value of digital motivation, access, skills and confidence in supporting rural communities.

John Ewart concluded by saying:

“Their findings have enabled the project to evolve into a more focused, training based project that builds on the experiences and networks developed in the original DATRIS project.”



Cwmpas

Find out more:

Telephone: 0300 111 5050

Email: info@cwmpas.coop

Web: cwmpas.coop

Search for **Cwmpas**
on social media

