

Cwmpas AGM Board Nominations – Personal Statements

Damian Bridgeman

I am writing to nominate myself, Damian Joseph Bridgeman, for a position on the Compass Cymru Board of Directors. With a robust background in social care, healthcare, public governance, and education, I believe my skills and experiences align well with Compass Cymru's mission and values. More importantly, I believe my personal journey and commitment to authenticity resonate deeply with the values Compass Cymru holds dear.

Commitment to Compass Cymru Values:

I am deeply committed to Compass Cymru's values of cooperation, support, fairness, integrity, positivity, and inspiration. Throughout my career, I have worked collaboratively with various stakeholders to achieve mutual benefits. My approach to leadership is rooted in providing support, sharing expertise, and encouraging others. I strive to be open and honest in all my endeavors, and I am dedicated to achieving positive outcomes that inspire individuals and communities to reach their potential.

Skills, Knowledge, and Experience:

My professional journey spans multiple sectors, including public and private business, government, education, media, and the NHS. I hold a BA Hons in Community Studies, focusing on Health and Social Care, an MSc in Pediatrics and Child Health, and a PGCE in post-16 education. Additionally, I possess an ILM Level 7 certification in Coaching and Mentoring and am a certified practitioner with the European Coaching and Mentoring Council (Business Wales, n.d.; About.me, n.d.).

In my career, I have played a significant role in the implementation of landmark legislative acts such as the Social Services and Well-being Act (2014) and the Regulation and Inspection Act (2016). These reforms have significantly impacted social services, reflecting my commitment to inclusivity and collaborative reform (RSA, n.d.). My advocacy for the social model of disability, which focuses on societal rather than individual adjustments, further underscores my dedication to creating inclusive environments.

Innovative and Inspirational Leadership:

One of my key contributions has been the development of screen-reading technology, inspired by my journey with dyslexia. This initiative not only showcases my problem-solving abilities but also my commitment to breaking down barriers and making technology accessible and inclusive (RSA, n.d.). As a mentor and coach, I have worked with various organizations to develop future leaders, using tailored coaching programs grounded in updated theory and research [Business Wales, n.d.).

Advocacy and Community Engagement:

I am a strong advocate for co-production and citizen engagement, ensuring that policies are crafted with, not for, the community. My efforts to empower Welsh citizens and support

localised governance demonstrate my commitment to community-led initiatives (RSA, n.d.). My leadership is characterized by ethical governance, inclusivity, and a collaborative approach, all of which are essential for driving societal progress.

Personal Commitment to Authenticity:

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I firmly believe in the importance of authenticity in all my leadership roles. It is crucial for members of society to see leaders who reflect themselves in societal organizations. My commitment to being genuine and true to myself in every aspect of my work helps foster an environment of trust and inclusivity, encouraging others to embrace their identities and potential.

Leadership Roles:

In addition to my other roles, I am proud to serve as the Deputy Chair of the RSA Fellowship Council. This position allows me to further advocate for ethical governance, co-production, and inclusivity at a strategic level, aligning with the values and mission of Compass Cymru (RSA, n.d.).

Commitment to Cultural Learning:

As a proud Welsh learner, I am dedicated to embracing and promoting the rich culture and language of Wales. This commitment not only enhances my connection to the community but also reflects my dedication to diversity and inclusion.

In conclusion, my extensive experience, unwavering commitment to Compass Cymru 's values, and innovative leadership make me a strong candidate for the Board of Directors. I am eager to contribute to Compass Cymru 's continued success and growth by leveraging my skills and experiences to foster inclusive environments and mentor future leaders.

Marquis Caines

I am truly honoured to be considered for a position on the Board of Cwmpas. Since moving to Wales, I've admired the incredible work Cwmpas has done within the social sector and local communities. I'm excited about the opportunity to contribute to such a meaningful mission.

As the co-founder of Diversity X, an award-winning Angel Syndicate, I am deeply committed to supporting overlooked and underestimated founders who are building sustainable businesses and driving positive social change. My background as a serial entrepreneur has given me a strong foundation in what it takes to create successful ventures, and my journey as a Black startup founder from Bermuda has fuelled by passion for empowering underrepresented communities.

I firmly believe that by bridging the social and investment sectors, we can foster a more innovative and equitable society. My work at Diversity X focuses on investing in startups tackling critical global challenges in areas like climate, health and education. I'm dedicated to exploring how social enterprises and angel investment can work hand-in-hand to create lasting impact.

I'm excited about the chance to bring this perspective to Cwmpas and to help fuse these sectors together for a better future for all.

Amanda Rees

Having been a co-opted member at Cwmpas since 2021, I feel the time is right to put my name forward for election by the membership. Joining Cwmpas' Board, working with past and present members, Chairs and CEOs has been a story of great personal and professional growth. I have listened to and contributed to discussions on key matters of strategy, funding, stakeholder management (during and after the Covid crisis) as well as questions of culture, people skills and organizational development. I believe that I have a thoroughly informed, shared understanding of the values and socially inclusive objectives that make Cwmpas such a unique and purposeful organization. More broadly, as a creative industries leader with an innate understanding of the culture, politics and economy of Wales, I believe I can make a valuable contribution to realizing Cwmpas' vision of creating a fairer, greener economy and a more equal society that has the interests of future generations at its heart.

Throughout my career I have been passionate about unlocking diverse talent and pushing creative boundaries, first as a documentary maker and owner of my own production company, then as a Content Director and member of S4Cs unitary board (2016 – 2021) and most recently as Director of S4C Platforms (2021 – 2023). I have extensive experience of leading at a strategic, executive and non-executive level in national organisations as well as agencies and charities that are close to my heart. I am currently a Non-Executive director of Ofcom's Wales Advisory Committee, a trustee of a dog rescue charity, Saving Saints Rescue UK and a freelance business consultant.

I have a thorough understanding of the accounting responsibilities associated with managing public funding and am experienced in curating expenditure in a way that supports creative innovation whilst ensuring value for money. I am a skilled in managing people and consider strategic planning and leading organizational change to be core strengths. I am a collaborative and transformational leader who advocates for inclusive organizational cultures based on values of trust and transparency. At board level I celebrate diversity of opinion and perspective, I advocate for respectful inquiry and critical discourse in conversations with executive members whilst welcoming all opportunities to actively listen and reflect on my own performance and contribution.

As well as a degree in Music (BMus) I have a Masters |Degree in Business and Organisational Psychology and recently qualified with a CMI Diploma (Level 7) in Professional Consultancy; testament to the value I place on personal development and life-long learning.

It is a transformative, exciting time to apply for election by membership, as Cwmpas driven efforts to deliver its strategic objectives in an increasingly competitive, changing market.

It would be a privilege to help solve some of the challenges that come with realizing this vision; to provide supportive leadership and objective appraisal that enables the executive team to achieve their strategic objectives, creative ambitions and future vision.