

Cwmpas AGM Board Nominations 2025 – Personal Statements

This year there are five vacancies on the board and nominations have been received from the following five members:

1. Jed Rual

2. Gareth Evans

3. Peter Tyndall

4. John Chown

5. Gareth Yeoman-Evans

Their personal statements are below.

Jed Rual

As a values-based and solutions-focused leader, I am passionate about making a meaningful contribution to socio-cultural-economic-environmental change in Wales and beyond. Identifying as a member of the LGBTQ+ community with lived experience of disability as an autistic person and coming from a lower socio-economic background, I'm acutely aware of broad socio-economic inequities, their negative impacts, and how entrepreneurship and social enterprise is a key enabler in responding to some of these challenges.

I have worked for Cardiff University for > 8 years, where I am currently a Technology Transfer Officer leading commercialisation of SHAPE (Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts for People and the Economy/Environment) research. My expertise lies primarily in intellectual property, commercialisation and new venture creation, and impact. I work collaboratively as a creative and critical friend to the academic community, supporting the development and commercialisation of new or improved technologies, products, services, and processes; social, economic, cultural and environmental impact is a key driver for many I support. I have first-hand experience of supporting the creation of research-based social enterprises and a wide network of trusted internal and external collaborators. I have influenced key stakeholders to ensure the benefits and value of SHAPE commercialisation is recognised, developing a pipeline of impactful projects from often underrepresented disciplines in academic entrepreneurship.

I'm an advocate for effective, fair and transparent governance with interest and experience in risk, reputation, and financial management. I hold several leadership positions, the experience from which I will apply as a Board member of Cwmpas:

- Director, Nisien.ai Ltd.
- Director, Evidence to Impact Ltd.
- Board Member, Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK, Cardiff University
- Board Member, Impact Acceleration Account Operations Board, Cardiff University
- Board Member, Aspect Network
- Chair, Research Commercialisation Community of Practice, Aspect Network (2024- 2025)

I can actively engage in Board level discussions, providing meaningful guidance, support and strategic direction alongside my fellow Board members. I work collaboratively to ensure KPIs are met, finances are managed appropriately and externally advocate for the organisations and entities I represent. I subscribe to the Institute of Directors' Code of Conduct.

I'm also the current Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Lead for The Research Service, Cardiff University, responsible for promoting a diverse and inclusive workplace and professional service, incorporating sector best practice in ED&I and organising comprehensive training on topics of significance. I can use my personal experience of marginalisation to ensure that others are educated and equipped with the necessary knowledge and tools to ensure a more equitable workplace for all.

An advocate of professional development and lifelong learning, I have undertaken accredited financial management courses to improve skills and experience in financial and management accounting to develop my efficiencies as a Board member and leader. This has been instrumental in my ability to effectively analyse and interpret company accounts and financial data to inform ethical, fair, and transparent decision-making processes, which I have been able to apply in my positions. I have secured and manage a portfolio of public funding of ~£200,000 with the aim of creating social, cultural, economic, and environmental impact through commercialisation.

In my professional role, I actively promote social enterprise as a pathway to achieving meaningful, long-lasting impact. If successful, I hope not only to affect strategic decision making and governance at Cwmpas, but apply the substantial learnings from the Board and company in my job to foster new collaborations, co-create solutions that address Wales' challenges, and propagate an ecosystem of research-informed social enterprise to build a fairer, greener, more equal Wales, in Wales, for Wales.

I am committed to Cwmpas' values to be co-operative, supportive, fair, have integrity, be positive, and be inspirational.

Gareth Evans

My extensive experience working with organisations across the public and third sectors in Wales at a local, regional, and national scale has equipped me with a deep understanding of strategic issues, financial constraints, and political realities within which positive outcomes for citizens are delivered. My career has required me to develop a deep understanding of the factors within which co-operatives thrive including alternative ownership models, approaches to social partnerships, making the case for and managing multiple funding streams, and communicating effectively in both English and Welsh.

Co-operative: I believe in working collaboratively for mutual benefit. My experience in managing relationships with external partners has taught me the importance of co-operation and teamwork. I have developed governance architecture and working protocols with Boards of public sector organisations, ensuring alignment with broader government policies while maintaining an independent perspective.

Supportive: I am committed to giving my time, expertise, and encouragement to support others. My ongoing commitment to nurturing an inclusive and respectful culture has been a significant part of my career journey to embed an ethos of equal opportunity at the individual, team, and organisational level.

Fair: I value diversity and democracy and am passionate about fostering inclusivity within teams and organisations. Through my work, I have created a shared culture of inclusivity where stakeholders from diverse backgrounds contribute to the development of objectives and programmes. Embracing these differences brings benefits in terms of combining different ways of working, perspectives, and experiences.

Integrity: Integrity is at the core of my professional ethos. I strive to be open and honest in everything that I do. I have consistently promoted a culture of transparency and accountability in my work, ensuring regular and productive collaboration between stakeholders, delivery organisations, and local and national government.

Positive: I invest my energy in achieving outcomes. I am committed to exploring new ideas and approaches to address complex challenges and drive positive change. I will endeavour to support Cwmpas' Board through a challenging yet positive approach.

Inspirational: I aim to stimulate people, communities, and businesses to take control and reach their potential. I am a passionate promoter of innovation in public service delivery and am dedicated to making a meaningful impact.

I am very excited about the opportunity to contribute to Cwmpas' objectives. I am confident that my skills, knowledge, experience, and commitment to your values will enable me to make a meaningful impact as a Board member. With your support for my nomination, I will work to ensure that the Co-operative values remain at the heart of decision-making across Cwmpas' leadership.

Peter Tyndall

My career has been exclusively in public service. I am strongly committed to the values which have under-pinned it. Our communities in Wales are struggling with the continuing impact of the loss of traditional industries, and many now have economic inactivity rates exceeding 50%. Sustainable employment is the only route to regeneration, as so many other key factors such as health and educational attainment are determined by the access to work. Conventional economic development has not succeeded and a radical, innovative approach is required, which Cwmpas is well equipped to deliver.

My recent work as Ombudsman in Ireland and previously in Wales requires the utmost integrity, but also an ability to work collaboratively with public services to drive improvement. I have always been outcome focused and can point to many changes brought about as a consequence of my work. My early career was in developing alternatives to institutional care for people with intellectual disabilities and I was a founder of two of Wales' largest NGO service providers. I have a background in social housing, and am currently on the Board of Cynon Taf Community Housing Group. This illustrates my commitment to the two factors underpinning success in re-building communities, access to affordable housing as well as sustainable and properly remunerated employment.

Working as an officer of the Senedd, and the Oireachtas (parliament) in Ireland brought me very close to the democracies in both settings. It is a privilege to work in such a role in a democracy, but I was also very active in supporting colleagues facing challenges in countries where democracies were less well established. I am very mindful of the threat to our democracy, not least because so many of our citizens do not have access to work. Cwmpas can, through its practice, help to reinforce democratic values in the face of the current threats.

My background in developing and managing services for people with intellectual disabilities gives me a particular perspective on equality issues, and while working in housing I also managed services for homeless people, the travelling community and refugees and asylum seekers. As Ombudsman in Ireland, I successfully gained jurisdiction over residential services for refugees and asylum seekers and introduced an extensive outreach programme with staff present on the ground driving local improvements and major changes in Government policy. As Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, I was very conscious of the under-representation of certain groups among complainants, particularly as they were often more likely to depend on public services. I introduced detailed monitoring of outcomes, to ensure that there was no inherent bias, and targeted outreach based on the findings.

I have extensive board experience stretching back to the early 1980s. I have established and chaired organisations in Wales, chaired organisations at UK and Ireland and World levels, and have always been an active contributor to the organisations I have served on. At Cwmpas, I can bring knowledge and expertise from a diverse and successful CV, a strong focus on good governance, a good understanding of the local political landscape and a drive for positive outcomes based on co-operative values. I am a good team player, supportive of colleagues and able to challenge in a constructive fashion. I would welcome the opportunity to participate as a Board member.

John Chown

I have shown my commitment to the Centre's values by having been a management board member for around 20 years. I fully support the Cwmpas' aims and believe that it has achieved a massive amount over the years for people and organisations throughout Wales and hope, and expect, that much more will be achieved in years to come.

I am a qualified chartered accountant and have had a professional involvement in providing assurance services, advice, support and training in the not for profit sector covering charities, credit unions and other voluntary organisations for a number of years.

As well as being a board member and treasurer of Cwmpas my other current other voluntary activities are:

- Chair of Cynon Tat Housing Group.
- Trustee of The Bevan Foundation.
- Trustee of Daring To Dream, The Emotional Health Charity.
- Board member of Ynni Teg Cyf, a community energy company.

I believe that my range of experience in those different activities provides a number of benefits that can assist organisations where I am involved. These benefits include:

- In depth financial knowledge and experience.
- Knowledge gained from being a board member/trustee for a range of different organisations resulting in an understanding of how to take a collaborative and co-operative approach to making strategic decisions in the best interests of those organisations.
- Being an external adviser to a range of organisations in the voluntary and not for profit sector and therefore understanding the issues that can affect those organisations and the potential solutions to the practical and regulatory problems that can occur.

Gareth Yeoman-Evans

As a senior finance professional with over 20 years' experience in the housing, care, and support sector, I am passionate about continuing my contribution as a Board Member for Cwmpas.

A fluent Welsh speaker originally from west Wales, I now live in south Monmouthshire with my wife and two daughters. I bring a strong sense of place and purpose to my work, rooted in the values of community, fairness, and collaboration.

I am recognised as an innovative and inspirational leader, with a proven ability to engage and influence a wide range of stakeholders. Throughout my career, I have built strong, lasting relationships across public, private, and community sectors, always striving to create meaningful impact.

Colleagues describe me as approachable and easy to work with. My adaptability and openness to change enable me to respond effectively to evolving priorities and embrace new challenges with confidence.

I bring extensive governance experience at Board level, with a strong ability to interpret complex information to support effective decision-making and drive continuous improvement.

In my current role as Executive Director of Resources at Tai Hedyn, I champion innovation and continuous improvement, with a focus on cost efficiency, quality outcomes, and robust governance. I work closely with the Board to shape and strengthen our financial, HR, risk management, assurance, value for money, and governance frameworks.

Since joining the Board of Cwmpas in 2021, I have thoroughly enjoyed contributing to its mission. I would welcome the opportunity to continue in this role and support the organisation in building a fairer, greener economy and a more equal society.