

I have attended an excellent conference last week in Cardiff hosted by The Lloyds Bank Foundation highlighting the importance of sustaining small to medium sized charities.

Lloyds Bank Foundation's Chief Executive, Paul Streets invited charities from across Wales, joined by sector representatives, staff and supporters to explore the findings of new research into what makes small charities distinctive.

The Value of Small was commissioned by Lloyds Bank Foundation and conducted by an independent research team comprising the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University; the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR) and the Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership at the Open University.

Speaking at the event Paul Streets, Chief Executive, Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales said: "As our name makes clear we're an investor in Wales as well as England and we currently fund 76 small and local charities here to a value of £4.1 million. For over 30 years we have funded thousands of small and local charities knowing their work changed lives, but this research sets out why - they're distinctive in who they serve, what they do and how they work. Those charities are the lifeblood of their communities and in many cases the glue that holds them together".

As a CEO of a medium sized charity, employing 27 staff, I value the support from this foundation to lobby on our behalf- and Paul even mentioned CYCA's work with Looked After Children!