Social Investment in Wales

Matthew Brown
Communities Investment Manager
Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)
Introduction –

• WCVA is the umbrella organisation for the third sector in Wales.

• We represent, support and advocate for the third sector.

• Since 2006 WCVA has been active in the area of social investment.
How we see Social Investment -

- The providing of repayable finance to third sector organisations.

- Supports the creation or expansion of trading income

- Supports the creation of jobs and wealth creation in our communities

- Creates additional added value through further social or community benefits
What we have achieved –

• Invested around £5 million (€6.3m)

• Repayments of over £2m repaid (€2.55m)

• In last 2 years supported the creation over 60 jobs

• Invested where commercial lenders will not

• Supported the social economy to become more entrepreneurial as public support continues to decline
Investment examples –

• Antur Stiniog – Championship downhill mountain biking. Led to a rise in visitor spend from £0.20 per head to £17 (€0.25 / €21.7) in their locality.

• Community Wellbeing Coaches – Previous public sector activity that was cut but re-established as a social enterprise earning income and employing 17 people.

• Theatr Mwldan – Now a thriving rural community arts centre that redeveloped to include the ability to stream live performances from London.