



Growing Mid Wales September Newsletter

Funding driving regional developments forward

September is always marked with the start of the school year and fresh starts. As we near the final chapter of the current EU funded projects, we look ahead now to new beginnings with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which is starting to impact in the region through a variety of projects.

Focusing on the Shared Prosperity Fund in this edition, we look into some of the current projects across the region that have benefitted already. We also share the news that the Multiply call is about to open - make sure you register for the webinar to gain more information on how to apply.

We get to know Becky Jeremy, the Mid Wales UKSPF Regional Manager in our 'Meet the Team' section and find out what her current priorities are for delivery of the funding.

We have news from the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership (RSP) who is supporting the 'Unlocking Berwyn' recruitment campaign and don't forget there's still time to fill out the RSP survey if you haven't already done so - closes on 27th October.

We have a small favour to ask too. We would really like to reach out to more stakeholders across the region – so would appreciate it if you could forward the newsletter on to at least one person/business or organisation that you think would benefit from hearing about our news and developments. That one email could result in new funding, skills or investment opportunities! Thank you very much.

Helping to grow opportunity in Mid Wales,

[The Growing Mid Wales team](#)



Content

- Shared Prosperity Fund
- Shared Prosperity Fund regional projects
- Multiply open call
- Meet the Team
- Regional Skills Partnership Survey 2023
- Other news:

- Unlocking Berwyn: Supporting employers and ex-offenders in the labour market

- Institute of Directors Event: Exploring Export Opportunities

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

In December 2022, the Mid Wales region's application for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was approved, enabling access to the £42.4 million which has been allocated to invest in the region between now and December 2024.

In March 2023, organisations in the region were able to start submitting applications for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in Mid Wales.

Since then, both local authorities, Ceredigion County Council and Powys County Council, have been working hard to put all the arrangements in place to enable organisations to bring their ideas forward for funding, assessing and considering applications for projects that will help develop and deliver across investment priorities and, start to award the funding to successful applicants.

SPF allocations are being invested across the following investment priority areas:

1. Communities and Place
2. Supporting Local Business
3. People and Skills

4. Multiply

The following infographic shows how many projects, across the investment priority areas, have already been awarded funding:

(Please note that further projects are currently being considered for approval under the Supporting Local Business investment priority area. Applications are also currently open in Powys for People and Skills projects (closes 1st October) and an open call for Multiply will commence in October.

Shared Prosperity Fund in Mid Wales



Approved projects

Whilst applications are still being considered in some investment priority areas, we wanted to share with you snippets of information on some of the projects that have already been approved and were awarded funding from the first round of applicants. This is just a sneak peek at two, out of the 81 approved projects. Information on more projects will be shared in due course.

Shared Prosperity Fund in Powys

Project:
Property Flood Resilience

Investment priority area:
Communities and Place

SPF Funding: £825,000

Project summary

- Assist property owners to improve the flood resilience of their individual properties.
- Powys County Council will operate a grant scheme to help households and businesses become more resilient against flooding.
- Bringing together a range of behaviours, actions and measures that together will help people become more resilient to the impacts of flooding and reduce the length of time needed for recovery, if flooding were to re-occur.



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Shared Prosperity Fund in Ceredigion

Project:
Ceredigion Business Support

Investment priority area:
Supporting Local Business

SPF Funding: £677,084

Project summary

- Support pre-start, early-stage and existing businesses, empowering individuals, and businesses by enhancing business skills.
- Delivered bilingually and include a pop-up high street shop where entrepreneurs can test trade with the aim of progressing these clients to occupy market hall space.
- Tailored in-person training and advice will be delivered at a local level.



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Call for projects in Mid Wales to come forward for the Multiply funding programme

From Monday 2nd October, projects operating in the Local Authority areas of Ceredigion and Powys can apply for funding from the Multiply programme. Mid Wales has a budget of £5 million for Multiply projects up to December 2024.

The programme, which is part of the wider UK Shared Prosperity Fund, seeks to attract projects that aim to improve functional numeracy skills through free personal tutoring, digital training, and flexible courses.

Interested parties considering the fund can attend a webinar on 2nd October from 2-3pm to find out more about the fund and what steps are needed to apply for it.

Examples of Multiply projects that are currently up and running across the UK include:

- A budget cookery course where numeracy skills such as weight and measurement, temperature, time, and financial management are explored.
- Informative sessions at a school setting for parents wishing to build their numeracy confidence to help with homework.
- Courses delivering up to and including Level 2 maths qualifications.
- Innovative activities such as breakfast bingo and number tots.
- Training to use technology and apps to help manage household bills and budgeting.
- Courses in cash handling and balancing a till; enabling people to apply for roles requiring this skillset.

“We welcome organisations to explore partnership opportunities with local employers, schools and community organisations and look forward to projects that seek to increase adult numeracy across Mid Wales.”

The deadline for applications is midnight on Sunday, 29th October 2023.

To attend the Multiply Open Call webinar, register your interest through the following link: bit.ly/MidWalesMultiplyWebinar

Please note that the Local Authority areas of Ceredigion and Powys are in receipt of individual allocations for the UK SPF. If you intend submitting a regional bid, please contact both authorities to discuss further.

For more information email:

Ceredigion ukspf@ceredigion.gov.uk

Powys ukspf@powys.gov.uk

To apply for the fund and for more information on the funding calls, including the important details organisations should think about before applying, go to the Mid Wales Shared Prosperity Fund page on the Growing Mid Wales website, www.growingmid.wales/MidWalesUKSPF



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Multiply

What is it?

Multiply is a new funding programme across the UK which aims to improve functional numeracy skills through free personal tutoring, digital training, and flexible courses. Multiply provision should complement but not duplicate existing provision.

We are seeking projects in Ceredigion, Powys or across the Mid Wales region.

Mid Wales has a budget of £5 million for Multiply projects up to December 2024.

Who is it aimed at?

Adult aged 19 and over who do not have a GCSE grade C or equivalent in maths.

They might just want to brush up on their skills to help them get on in life and work, need specific numeracy skills for their work or progression, or be working towards a maths Level 2 Qualification.

What types of projects or interventions can be done?

- Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers for those needing the first steps towards formal qualifications.
- Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children and help with their own progression.
- Courses aimed at prisoners, those recently released from prison or on temporary licence.
- Courses aimed at people who can't apply for certain jobs because of lack of numeracy skills and/or to encourage people to upskill in order to access a certain job/career.
- Additional relevant maths modules embedded into other vocational courses, designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace.



- Innovative programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace.
- New intensive and flexible courses targeted at people without Level 2 maths in Wales, leading to an equivalent qualification.
- Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage their money.
- Courses aimed at over 19s that are leaving, or have just left, the care system.
- Activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners – for example, those not in the labour market or other groups identified locally as in need.

What is Multiply seeking to achieve?

1. Increased adult numeracy across the population – tracking the actual difference taking part in the programme has made in supporting people to improve their understanding and use of maths in their daily lives, at home and at work – and feeling more confident with numeracy.
2. Improved labour market outcomes e.g. fewer numeracy skills gaps reported by employers, and an increase in the proportion of adults that progress into sustained employment and / or education.
3. More adults achieving maths qualifications / participating in numeracy courses.

Examples of projects operating in other areas:

- A budget cookery course where numeracy skills such as weight and measurement, temperature, time, and financial management are explored.
- Informative sessions at a school setting for parents wishing to build their numeracy confidence to help with homework.
- Courses delivering up to and including Level 2 maths qualifications.
- Innovative activities such as breakfast bingo and number tots.
- Training to use technology and apps to help manage household bills and budgeting.
- Courses in cash handling and balancing a till; enabling people to apply for roles requiring this skillset.

For more information

Email: Ceredigion.ukspf@ceredigion.gov.uk | Powys.ukspf@powys.gov.uk

Website: www.growingmid.wales/MidWalesUKSPF

Meet the Team

Becky Jeremy, UKSPF Regional Manager



- **When did you start with the team?**

I joined the team in mid-March on a secondment from Powys County Council where I have worked for over 22 years in regeneration and economic development, primarily on bid writing and project management.

I started working closely last year with colleagues in Ceredigion on developing the Mid Wales Regional Investment Plan to secure funding from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund. Having been involved from the outset, I was keen to continue my involvement so am really pleased to have been offered the job.

- **Can you tell us more about your role?**

My role is to ensure that the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Funding in Mid Wales is managed effectively and achieves its financial and performance targets.

A lot of my work to date has been on establishing the systems and processes to get the Fund off the ground but we are now moving into the exciting stage of delivery and in the coming months, will start to see the benefits from some of the earlier projects.

I am enjoying working regionally with teams from both Local Authorities. Although sometimes there can be added challenges through regional working, there are also many opportunities that arise from working together.

- **What are your current priorities?**

My overall priority is to make sure that we in Mid Wales deliver against our Regional Investment Plan and have a broad mix of projects that will help us to achieve the opportunities and address the challenges in the Region. The Shared Prosperity Fund presents an exciting opportunity for Mid Wales, and I am committed to ensuring its success.

A current priority is to undertake a piece of work to map the projects that have already been approved (currently 81) against the Regional Investment Plan to ascertain if there are any gaps in delivery.

The appointment of an external evaluator is also underway in order to evaluate the programme at its half-way point and also at the end. Being able to determine the impact that the funding has made to our communities is an important area of work.

Now that we are into the delivery phase of the programme, I would like to focus more on communicating the results and achievements from the projects that have been funded.

- **What developments have you seen over the years?**

There have been huge changes in recent years in the world of external funding, primarily due to the UK's withdrawal from the European Union resulting in the move away from EU funds to domestic funding. Regional working is also more prevalent than in previous years which has changed the way that many Local Authorities operate.



1 - Becky completing the London Marathon in April this year

- **What's been your biggest achievement?**

Being involved in securing funding from a variety of sources for a diverse range of projects is one of my biggest achievements, in particular seeing the benefits that those projects bring to an area or community. I also managed the Communities for Work+ programme in Powys for a number of years which provides support to help people into work which was very rewarding at times.

In my personal life, my biggest achievement is completing the London Marathon in April this year having secured a ballot place in October. This came as a complete shock as I had only recently started the Couch 2 5K programme so had a long road (literally) to go in my training! I am so pleased that I did it, but it will definitely be a one-off!

- **One word that sums up the Growing Mid Wales Team:**

Welcoming – from my very first day, everyone in the team has been super friendly and helpful. Despite us all being spread across various counties and primarily home working, there is a great team spirit.

Regional Skills Partnership Survey 2023

If you're a business in the region, please complete the Regional Skills Partnership's [survey](#) - for only 5 minutes of your time you could be helping inform important plans on skills and recruitment that could benefit you, your staff and business. Read on for more information.

Skills Survey



Share the challenges you face as a business and, in particular, around the recruitment of skills now and in the future.

We report back to Welsh Government on the skills landscape for Mid Wales – by answering these few questions we can gather data which will inform and influence change in the right places.

Help us inform Welsh Government what skills provision we need for the economy and the people across Mid Wales to thrive.

Complete the survey [here](#). The survey ends on **Friday 27 October 2023**.

Other News

Unlocking Berwyn

Supporting employers and ex-offenders in the labour market

The poster features a circular image of two silhouetted figures climbing a rocky mountain peak against a bright sun. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with various fonts and colors (blue, green, black) to highlight key information. Logos for partner organizations are displayed at the bottom.

**Unlock HMP Berwyn
EVENT**

Inviting employers to visit the industry units and vocational training workshops at HMP Berwyn.

Gain an insight into the untapped recruitment talent pool, the hiring potential of ex-offenders, and how it can be a potential solution to recruitment challenges.

HMP Berwyn delivers a high quality sector based training offer meaning that people are released with industry relevant qualifications, skills, and experience such as CSCS cards, City and Guilds Level 2 Bricklaying, Joinery and Carpentry, Manufacturing, Food Hygiene and Preparation Level 2 and Level 2 Warehousing.

Come along and see how you can make a life changing difference and benefit your business at the same time.

Dates		To book
21st September 2023	9:30am – 12pm	https://unlockberwyn21september.eventbrite.co.uk
5th October 2023	9:30am – 12pm	https://unlockberwyn-5october.eventbrite.co.uk
11th October 2023	1:30pm – 4pm	https://unlockberwyn-11october.eventbrite.co.uk

Partnersiaeth Sgiliau Rhanbarthol
Cenedlaethol Cymru
Mid Wales
Regional Skills Partnership

canolfanbydgywaith
jobcentreplus

North Wales
Regional Skills Partnership
Partnersiaeth Sgiliau Rhanbarthol
Gogledd Cymru

Ministry of JUSTICE

Cymunedau a Wreiddiau
Communities for Work

Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The North and Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnerships, Ministry of Justice, Careers Wales, Communities for Work Plus, Welsh Government and The Department for Work and Pensions are working together to offer businesses an opportunity to see first-hand the HMP Berwyn employability offer and workshops where you will get an insight into how the skills being developed there can support you and your business.

The Department of Work and Pensions is hosting Unlock HMP Berwyn events for you to attend free of charge on the following dates:

21 September - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/unlock-hmp-berwyn-for-employers-event-21st-september-tickets-691601206827?aff=oddttdcreator>

5 October - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/unlock-hmp-berwyn-for-employers-event-5th-october-tickets-691574607267?aff=oddttdcreator>

11 October - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/unlock-hmp-berwyn-for-employers-event-11th-october-tickets-691599090497?aff=oddttdcreator>

‘Recruiting individuals with the right skills for your business and help change the lives of ex-offenders through employment.’

Institute of Directors Event

Exploring Export Opportunities

Discover new horizons and opportunities in International trade. This enlightening event by the Institute of Directors (IOD) will cover the recently signed CPTPP Trade Deal, in collaboration with Mid Wales Manufacturing Group and the Department for Business and Trade.

Gain insights into how your business can tap into emerging markets and thrive in a dynamic global economy.

When? 19 September 2023, 10am — 12pm

Where? Newtown College

for more information and book a space, visit the IOD website:

https://www.iod.com/events/exploring_export_opportunities_uk_trade_deals_and_beyond2227508432/



Keep up to Date

Need to catch up on what's been discussed in our meetings? Here's a reminder of where you can find the minutes for the following meetings:

- All minutes relating to the Growing Mid Wales Board are hosted on Powys County Council [website](#).
- Papers relating to the Growing Mid Wales Partnership can be found on our [website](#).

Keep up to date with Growing Mid Wales news, developments on activity and organisations we support by following our X (previously known as Twitter) and LinkedIn pages:

<https://twitter.com/growingmidwales>

www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales

We're eager to reach out to as many organisations and businesses across Mid Wales as possible. You can make this possible by following, liking and sharing our pages.

Disclaimer: As a Growing Mid Wales Stakeholder you receive these emails so that we can share news and information with you on a regular basis. You can inform us if you no longer wish to receive these emails by emailing growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk.



UNDEB EWROPEAIDD
EUROPEAN UNION



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**Cronfeydd Strwythurol a
Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd
European Structural
and Investment Funds**