

References

ⁱ It is acknowledged that an SLA will in fact form either a grant or a contract depending on the detail of the arrangement. As it is common in the sector to refer to SLAs as a separate category, and it is frequently quite difficult to determine the status of the agreement, it was not deemed practicable to ask organisations to decide whether each of their own SLAs forms either a grant or a contract hence we have placed these into a separate category.

ⁱⁱ In the first year of the survey the question regarding the hours contributed by volunteers caused some confusion and led to significant follow-up work to clarify the meaning of the figures submitted. The question itself has been improved for this edition however the results suggest that respondents have again found this an extremely difficult figure to assess. The more easily quantified figures, such as those relating to hours worked by employees, numbers of employees and numbers of volunteers have varied within a range indicating reliability. However, the variation in the responses for hours contributed by volunteers suggests that these should still be viewed with some caution.

ⁱⁱⁱ Mean hourly wage rate. Annual survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Analysis by all employees 2007. Whilst some voluntary roles may correlate to lower paid employment there are also many hundreds of solicitors, accountants, company directors (charity trustees) and senior managers working in VCS organisations on a voluntary basis hence the selection of this figure.

Acknowledgements

We would like thank all the people involved in voluntary and community organisations who took the time to complete the survey. Thanks are also due to the Safer and Stronger Communities Forum for funding this research. The majority of the funding for this survey is being provided by the Bournemouth Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership however ChangeUp funding enabled an extension to be made to this in respect of Children and Young People's organisations.

For more information about our work, a copy of the full report of this research, a copy of our directory or details of membership please contact: Bournemouth Council for Voluntary Service Boscombe Link, 3-5 Palmerston Road Bournemouth, BH1 4HN
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Concluding Remarks

Voluntary and community organisations offer services which are innovative, creative and responsive. They play a major role in delivering the outcomes identified in the Children and Young People Plan and in enabling the objectives of 'Every Child Matters' to be achieved, ensuring that children and young people are healthy, stay safe, enjoy life and contribute positively to their community.

Voluntary and community organisations are particularly effective at reaching marginalised and 'hard to reach groups' and are trusted within local communities. They are well placed to identify local need, gather feedback from children, young people and their families and can contribute to the planning of future services. They can enable effective participation from children and young people. The services they deliver are often preventative in nature and can potentially save money on high cost multiple interventions at crisis level. They have specialist skills in specific areas and many organisations take on a public education or awareness raising role too.

Voluntary and community organizations have the ability to draw on a range of funding sources that are not accessible to public sector bodies and as this report has demonstrated investment in the sector produces significant returns. It is crucial that current levels of funding should be maintained to ensure that children, young people and their families in Bournemouth receive the best quality services. It is vital that grant aid should also continue as it enables new and smaller groups to gain access to funding in order to focus on local needs.

Do you work in a Voluntary organisation which provides a service to children and / or Young People? If so why not come along to the Voluntary Sector Forum - Children and Young People (CYP) which meets three times a year.

It aims to ensure the effective involvement of the voluntary and community sector in all aspects of the planning and development of services for children and young people.

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State of the Voluntary Sector Survey 2007 Children & Young People's Organisations

Introduction

BCVS is in the process of conducting a series of annual surveys to give information about the Voluntary and Community Sector in Bournemouth.

The intention is to:-

- Identify the size and scope of community and voluntary groups offering a service within Bournemouth.
- Evaluate their contribution to the local economy.
- Record the contributions of staff, both paid and unpaid, working within the voluntary and community sector.
- Measure the changes to the above over the three years.

Methodology

A total of 208 community and voluntary groups were targeted for the survey. This was 8 less than last year as the process in 2007 identified some organisations which were beyond the scope of the project. At the beginning of 2008 a questionnaire was sent out and this was followed up over a fourteen week period with a letter and subsequent telephone calls.

Of the total number of respondents 33 were classed as children's and young people's organisations. This was a significant reduction than in the previous year when 57 such groups contributed. However, 26 of those submitting information this year did so in 2007 hence meaningful comparison between the two has been possible.

The survey was expanded this year to include a more detailed analysis of the sources of statutory funding, in particular a breakdown of statutory funding into grants, service level agreements (SLAs), and contracts. ¹ These figures have not been used to draw comparisons between the two years as this is an extension of the original survey but it is hoped to identify in subsequent years whether or not the perceived shift from grants to contracts is in fact taking place. Comment on the total falling into each category has been made.

The survey had a response rate of 56%. No attempt has been made to account for those organisations which did not respond hence the figures are, once again, likely to be a very conservative estimate of the total economic value of the Sector to the local economy.

Key findings from responding organisations

The information collected this year relates to January 2007 to December 2007. Where total figures are provided relating to 2007 the corresponding figures for 2006 are included in brackets immediately after those for 2007.

Figures and diagrams in the Section 1 relate to all of the groups that responded and aims to draw conclusions about the sector as a whole. Section 2 looks only at those organisations which responded in both years and seeks to comment on changes in the sector.

*Supporting voluntary and
community action in Bournemouth*

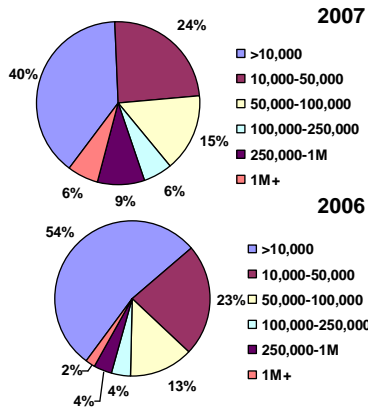


Bournemouth Council for Voluntary Service

Section 1: All organisations

(Gross income of organisations)

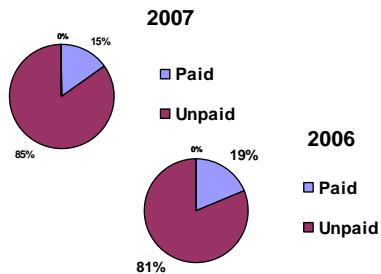
Organisations were placed into a series of income bands. It can be seen more of the larger organisations responded this year than last.



Number of employed staff and volunteers

173 (321) paid staff were employed by the responding organisations supporting 947 (1387) volunteers. This represents an increase in the number of volunteers per employee from 4.3 to 5.8. This ratio is higher than that for the VCS as a whole (3.5) reflecting the higher proportion of volunteers in the Voluntary Youth Sector.

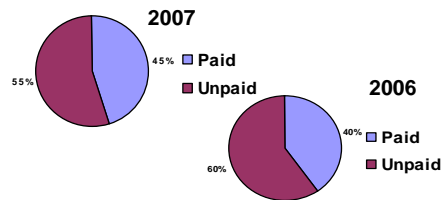
Number of paid staff compared to volunteers



Number of hours worked by paid staff and volunteers

Paid staff worked a total of 2150 (4391) hours per week. Volunteers worked a total of 2329 (5859) hours per week. After adjusting for annual leave, paid staff worked an estimated 98,900 hours per year while volunteers worked an estimated 121,004 hours per year.

Proportion of hours worked by paid vs. unpaid workers in VCS



The direct economic contribution of the Voluntary and Community Sector

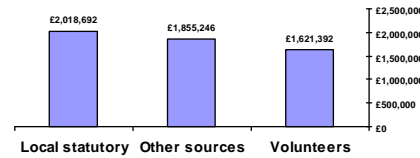
The results show that the voluntary and community organisations responding this year contributed £3.87 (3.70) million directly to the economy of Bournemouth in 2007. This figure has been calculated by adding together the total gross income of the responding groups. £1.91 million was contributed by Bournemouth Borough Council and £0.11 million by other local statutory organisations.

The direct and indirect economic contribution

In addition to the £2.02 million contributed by local statutory organisations the respondents generated a further £1.85 million from other sources such as charging for services, fundraising events and grants from trusts.

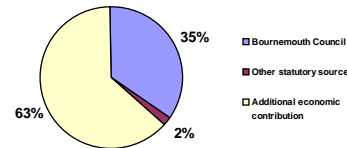
The income generated was also used to support 947 volunteers. A total of 121,108 hours was contributed by the volunteers in 2007. Valuing this time at the national average wage rate equates to an indirect economic contribution of £1.62 million to the Bournemouth economy. ⁱⁱⁱ

Direct and indirect economic benefit from various sources



By adding the indirect economic benefit of £1.62 million provided by voluntary work to the £1.86 million generated from other sources, it can be seen that for every £1 contributed by the public sector an estimated additional £1.72 of economic benefit was generated.

Proportion of statutory income compared to total direct and indirect economic contribution



Section 2 - Comparisons between 2006 and 2007 figures submitted by 26 organisations responding in both years

Gross income of organisations

Organisations submitting income figures in both years reported a 35% increase across the organisations in total. A substantial amount of this increase was due to large amounts secured by a very small number of organisations however 54% of the contributors reported an above inflation increase in income.

Number of employed staff and volunteers

For those reporting in both years there was an increase from 4.3 volunteers per employee to 5.6.

Number of hours worked by paid staff and volunteers

The total number of employed staff in comparable ^{iv} organisations increased by 14% however the total number of hours worked by these employees decreased by 13% as the number of hours worked per week per employee fell from 10.0 to 7.7.

The direct economic contribution of the Voluntary and Community sector

The total number of employed staff in comparable ^v organisations increased by 14% however the total number of hours worked by these employees decreased by 13% as the number of hours worked per week per employee fell from 10.0 to 7.7.

Number of Service Users

Organisations submitting comparable figures indicated a 3% increase in service use.

There was a notable shift reported in the number of young people accessing services in each of three age ranges used for the survey. The lower and upper ranges gained considerable numbers of users whilst the mid age range saw a reduction.

