

References

ⁱ BCVS is aware that one of the groups contributing in 2007 has since ceased to function however a number of new organisations have been formed during the past year and some have contributed to this year's survey.

ⁱⁱ 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 organisation to decide whether each of their own SLAs forms either a grant or a contract hence we have placed these into a separate category.

ⁱⁱⁱ The figures shown in the 2007 survey report were accurate however an error had been included in the corresponding chart. This has been corrected here.

^{iv} This marked reduction in the hours contributed by volunteers was generated in part by the significant number of smaller groups failing to respond this year these tending to rely entirely on volunteers, and by problems which became apparent when analysing the results to this question in the first years of the survey. Estimating the contribution of volunteers however continues to be a difficult task for organisations.

^v 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.

^{vi} In year 1 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 number of volunteers have varied within a range of indicating reliability. However, the variation in the responses for hours contributed by volunteers suggests that these should still be viewed with some caution.

Concluding Remarks

Investing in the voluntary and community sector can show significant return. The funding which is invested by local statutory organisations and in particular the local authority is especially important because it represents sustained income for core costs.

It is essential that the local authority voluntary sector grants programme is maintained as it is a crucial part of the local funding mix and remains particularly important in supporting small groups and thriving communities.

In addition to the economic benefits that accrue from a vibrant voluntary and community sector, many indirect benefits also accrue. The voluntary and community sector can reduce demands on statutory services and may result in more appropriate provision of services to the most vulnerable communities. Employment and volunteering opportunities offered by the voluntary and community sector increase the knowledge and skills of the local population

Bournemouth Council for Voluntary Service has had and continues to have an important role to play in developing new and existing voluntary and community organisations.

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.

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:
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State of the Voluntary Sector Survey 2007

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.

The information collected this year relates to the calendar year January 2007 to December 2007. We received 117 responses to the survey (144 were received the previous year). Of these, 82 organisations contributed last year and there were 35 new respondents. The significant number of organisations which responded in 2006 and again in 2007 has enabled us to make a meaningful comparison across a variety of categories¹

With the support of all of those helping us with the project we hope to be able to continue this in the coming years in order to identify trends. Throughout this report corresponding figures for 2006 are shown in brackets immediately after those for 2007. Figures and diagrams in 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.

Methodology

We have identified 246 voluntary and community organisations offering a service in Bournemouth. A total of 208 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 over a fourteen week period with a letter and subsequent telephone calls.

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.² No conclusions have been drawn as yet 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 in Bournemouth. Comment on the total falling into each category has been made.

We 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.

*Supporting voluntary and
community action in
Bournemouth*



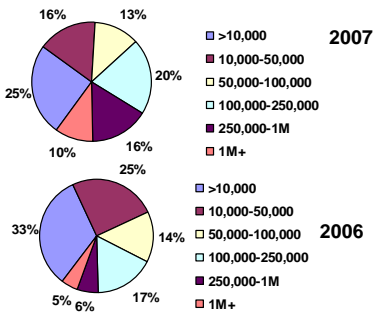
Bournemouth Council for Voluntary Service

Key findings from responding organisations

Section 1: All organisations

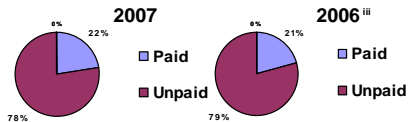
(Gross income of organisations)

A higher proportion of the larger organisations responded this year and there were significantly fewer responses from small youth groups.



Proportion of unpaid & paid staff in VCS

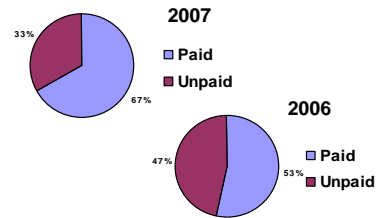
726 (730) paid staff were employed by the responding organisations supporting 2510 (2815) volunteers.



Number of hours worked by paid staff and volunteers

Paid staff worked a total of 15,312 (15,895) hours per week. Volunteers worked a total of 7689 (14,000) hours per week.^{iv} After adjusting for annual leave, paid staff worked an estimated 704,352 hours per year while volunteers worked an estimated 399,828 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 117 voluntary and community organisations responding this year contributed £19.59 (£8.96) 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.

The indirect economic contribution of the Voluntary and Community sector

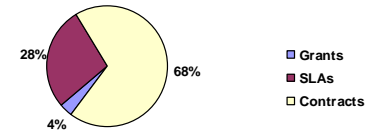
Volunteers contributed a total of 399,828 hours in 2007. Valuing this time at the national average wage rate^v equates to an indirect economic benefit of £5.35 million being contributed to the Bournemouth economy.^{vi}

The impact of statutory funding

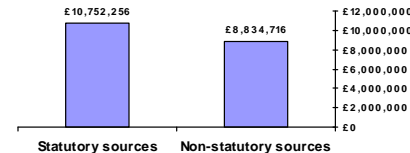
During 2007 the total income of the voluntary and community organisations responding was in the region of £19.59 million.

£10.01 million of this was contributed in some form by Bournemouth Borough Council and £0.74 million by other local or national statutory agencies. A further £8.84 million was generated from other sources such as fundraising events, grants from trusts and legacies and charging for services.

Bournemouth Borough Council funding by type

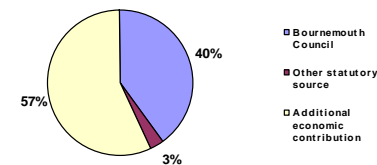


Amount of funding from Statutory vs. non-statutory sources



By adding the indirect economic benefit of £5.35 million provided by voluntary work to the £8.83 million generated from other sources, it can be seen that for every £1 contributed by the statutory sector an estimated additional £1.32 of economic benefit was generated.

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



Number of Service Users

The population of Bournemouth is 163,444. The voluntary and community organisations which responded reported that 74,319 (80,967) people used their services in 2007.

In 2006 an average of 562 people used each service. In 2007 this figure was 635, an increase of 13%. Taking into account the reduced number of respondents in 2007 this suggests a significant increase in the use of Voluntary and Community Sector services.

Section 2 - Comparisons between 2006 and 2007 figures submitted by 82 organisations responding in both years

Income

66% of organisations submitting income figures in both years reported an above inflation increase in total income. There was a total increase in income amongst those organisations of 14% however most of this was the result of large sums received by 4 charities with the remainder reporting more modest increases.

Employees and worked hours

The total number of employed staff decreased by 4% however the total number of hours worked by these employees increased by 1%.

The number of hours worked per employee per week in these organisations increased from an average of 19 to 20.

Service use

Organisations reporting in both years reported a 7% increase in service use from 61,839 to 66,108 people.