

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.

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.

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

Investing in a local Volunteer Centre for Bournemouth would pay dividends by generating even more volunteers.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the people involved in voluntary and community organisations who took the time to complete the survey. We would also like to thank Beccie Roberts for all her work in making contact with organisations to explain the purpose of the survey and encourage them to respond.

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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The role of Bournemouth CVS

Development

Supporting, encouraging and training groups of individuals who want to create new organisations or set up new projects to meet needs that they have identified in their community

Providing support, encouragement and guidance for existing groups so that they meet new areas of need.

Liaison

Helping voluntary and community groups deal effectively with other sectors (Health, Local Authority, Central Government, Private Sector).

Providing forums for groups to share ideas and information and to learn from each other.

Enabling representation

Assisting groups to identify their aspirations and helping them to voice their concerns and mount campaigns

Assisting the voluntary and community sector to respond to changing laws, rules and opportunities.

Providing practical services and support for local groups including:

Lending resources

Printing and copying

Help with bookkeeping

Providing training and information about training

Providing information through a Directory of Local Community and Voluntary Organisations

Providing a channel of communication to voluntary and community groups. Enabling communication between organisations through newsletters, web pages, e-forums, public presentations and telephone advice.

Partnership working

Strengthening local partnerships through the informed and enthusiastic involvement of the voluntary and community sector.

BOURNEMOUTH COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

State of the Voluntary Sector Survey 2006

Research into the voluntary and community sector working in Bournemouth in 2006

Introduction

Voluntary and community organisations have a crucial role to play in creating a sense of community and fostering social cohesion. In Bournemouth the Safer and Stronger Communities Forum wishes to promote the growth of the community and voluntary sector and in order to begin this process they commissioned Bournemouth Council for Voluntary Service to carry out a survey to establish the current situation by:

- Identifying the size and scope of community and voluntary groups offering a service within Bournemouth.
- Evaluating their contribution to the local economy.
- Recording the contributions of staff, both paid and unpaid, working within the voluntary and community sector.

144 voluntary and community organisations responded to the survey. The results which are presented here give a snapshot of the state of the voluntary sector in Bournemouth in the period January 2006 - December 2006. It is the first in a number of surveys which will be carried out annually over the next few years in order to monitor changes in the sector.

Methodology

A total of 216 community and voluntary groups were targeted for the survey. Grant giving trusts and national organisations providing limited services in Bournemouth were not included.

At the beginning of 2007 a questionnaire was sent out and this was followed over a twelve week period with a letter and subsequent telephone calls. 144 of the target groups responded giving a 67% response rate. This compares very favourably with the average response rate for postal surveys of around 20%.

Only the raw data of the 144 responding organisations are reported within this document and the figures have not been adjusted to reflect non-respondents. The findings therefore represent very conservative estimates of the value of the sector.



Supporting voluntary and community action in

Bournemouth

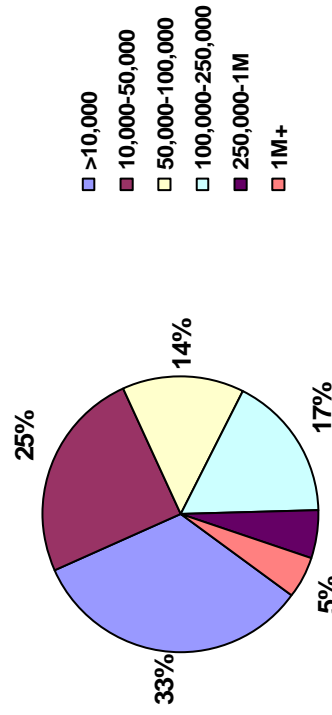
SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FROM RESPONDING ORGANISATIONS

The findings which are presented here relate only to the 144 organisations which responded to the survey.

Gross income of Organisations

Organisations were asked to select from a series of income bands.

Proportion of VCS groups by annual income bands (£)

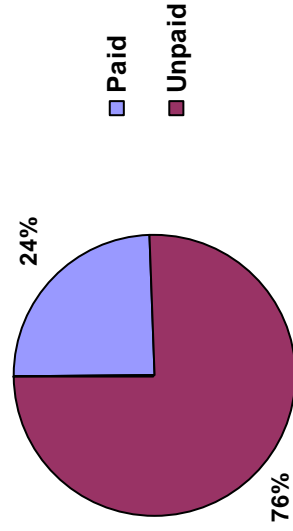


The largest proportion of organisations have an income of less than £10,000. Just 11% of those who responded had an income of £250,000 and over.

Numbers of paid staff and volunteers working in the organisations

730 paid staff were employed by the responding organisations supporting 2815 volunteers.

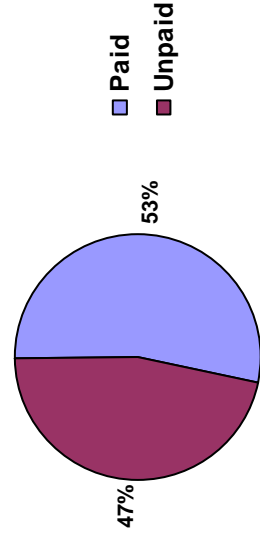
Numbers of paid vs. unpaid workers in VCS



Number of hours worked by paid staff and volunteers

Paid staff worked a total of 15,895 hours per week. This equates to an average of only 22 hours per worker per week reflecting the low levels of funding within the sector. Volunteers worked a total of 14,000 hours per week. After adjusting for annual leave, paid staff worked an estimated 731,170 hours per year while volunteers worked an estimated 728,000 hours per year.

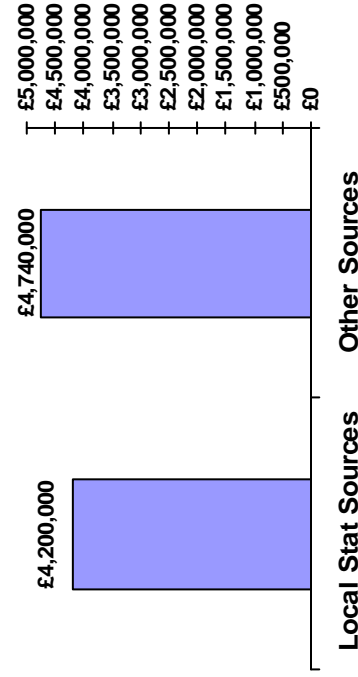
Proportion of hours worked by paid vs. unpaid workers in VCS



The economic contribution of the voluntary and community organisations

The results show that the voluntary and community organisations responding contributed 8.9 million directly to the economy of Bournemouth in 2006. This figure has been calculated by adding together the total gross income of the responding groups. £4.2 million of this was contributed by local statutory agencies.

Amount of funding from local statutory sources vs. other sources

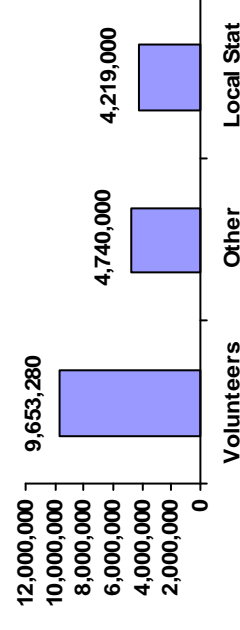


The direct and indirect economic contributions

In addition to the £4.2 million contributed by local statutory organisations the respondents generated a further £4.7 million from other sources such as charging for services, fundraising events, grants from trusts and legacies.

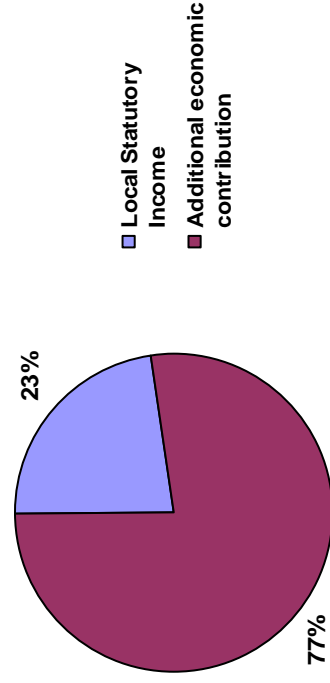
The income generated was also used to support 2815 volunteers. A total of 728,000 hours was contributed by the volunteers in 2006. Valuing this time at the national average wage rate¹ equates to an indirect economic contribution of £9.7 million to the Bournemouth economy.

Direct and Indirect economic benefit from various sources



By adding the indirect economic benefit of £9.7 million provided by voluntary work to the £4.7 million generated from other sources, it can be seen that for every £1 contributed by the local statutory agencies an estimated additional £3.40 of economic benefit was generated from elsewhere.

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



Numbers of Service Users

The voluntary and community organisations responding reported that 80,967 people used their services in 2006. This is almost half the local population of 163,444². While there will be an element of double counting as some people may use the services of more than one organisation, usage of the services provided by the voluntary and community sector in Bournemouth is clearly very substantial.

Self Help and Enterprise

In addition to providing services to the public a number of organisations reported that they provide some form of service to other voluntary organisations.

- 20 provide training
- 13 provide premises (mostly office accommodation)
- 1 provides payroll services

Response Rate and basis of reporting figures

33% of voluntary and community organisations did not respond, including some of the largest voluntary organisations in Bournemouth. So, the figures presented in this report could be reasonably multiplied by 1.5 to give a better indication of the true figures and a more accurate estimation of the impact of the voluntary and community sector on the town.

Sources:

1. Annual survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Analysis by all employees 2006
2. Figures based on Census 2001, National statistics.