

Concluding Remarks

This survey has demonstrated the significant contribution to the local economy that volunteering makes. In addition to this, volunteering also brings a number of benefits to individuals ranging from building their confidence and increasing their skills to combating personal isolation.

Volunteering also helps to build safer andⁱⁱ healthier communities. The Volunteer Centre has a crucial role to play in harnessing the contribution of potential volunteers. It also plays a crucial role in helping organisations across the public and private sector to publicise opportunities and develop best practice in the recruitment and retention of volunteers.

References

ⁱ In 2006 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 indicating reliability. However, the variation in the responses for hours contributed by volunteers suggests that these should still be viewed with some caution.

ⁱⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱⁱ Taken from "volunteering works" a report on volunteering & social policy - published by The Institute of Volunteering Research and Volunteering England.

Are you looking for volunteers?

Bournemouth Volunteer Centre can help the following groups who are looking for Volunteers: Voluntary and Community Groups, Charities, Statutory organisations, Faith Groups, who are based in Bournemouth or who provide services in the Borough or who are seeking volunteers from the area.

Do you manage volunteers?

Bournemouth Volunteer Centre holds bi-monthly volunteer coordinators meetings. The meetings provide an opportunity to:

- Share information, experience and good practice.
- Support one another.
- Learn about training and other forthcoming events.
- Learn about national developments in volunteer management.
- Listen to visiting speakers.

Joining the Network

If you are unable to attend meetings you are still welcome to participate in promotional events around Bournemouth' join the e-mail group and exchange information or questions through the network. To subscribe to the network email: Volunteering@bournemouthcvs.org.uk

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to our funders for their support for the Volunteer Centre:
Bournemouth Borough Council
Safer & Stronger Communities Forum
Capacity Builders

For more information about our work or to register with us please contact:
Bournemouth Volunteer Centre
Bournemouth Council for Voluntary Service
Boscombe Link, 3-5 Palmerston Road
Bournemouth, BH1 4HN
Tel: 01202 466130
Email: contactus@bournemouthcvs.org.uk

Bournemouth Volunteer Centre

Volunteering in Bournemouth in 2007

Introduction

Bournemouth Volunteer Centre and Bournemouth Council for Voluntary Service are working together to monitor trends in the Voluntary and Community Sector in Bournemouth between 2006 and 2008. The Volunteer Centre is particularly interested to:-

- Record the contributions of volunteers working within the voluntary and community sector
- Evaluate the contribution of voluntary work to the local economy.
- Measure the changes to the above over the three years.
- Provide evidence to the Local Strategic Partnership for National Indicator 6 and National Indicator 7.
- Campaign to achieve more local recognition and support for volunteers.
- Contribute to national research about the value of local volunteering.

The information collected this year relates to the calendar year January 2007 to December 2007. 117 responses to the survey were received.

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 about the number of hours contributed by volunteers in each year. 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.

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.

We had a response rate of 56%. The research has focussed only on those volunteers who are working within the voluntary and community sector and no attempt has been made to account for those organisations which did not respond. Hence the figures are, likely to be a very conservative estimate of the total contribution of volunteers to the Town.

We're working in partnership with



Volunteer Centre
Poole

Supporting voluntary and
community action in
Bournemouth

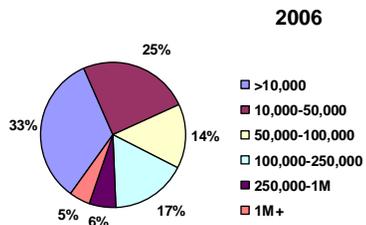
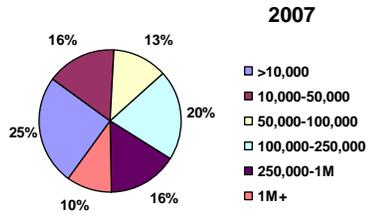


Bournemouth Council for Voluntary Service

Key findings from responding organisations

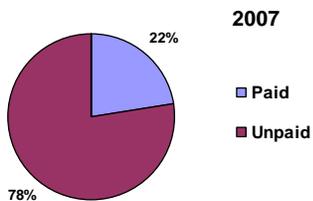
Gross income of organisations

Organisations were placed into a series of income bands.



Proportion of volunteers vs. paid staff

In 2007, 2510 volunteers were involved with the responding organisations compared to 2815 in 2006. The volunteers were reported to be supporting 726 paid staff in 2007 as opposed to 730 in 2006. Volunteers make up nearly one quarter of the workforce.



Number of hours worked by volunteers and paid staff

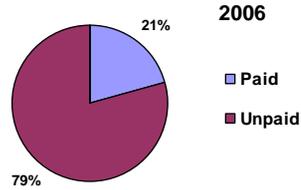
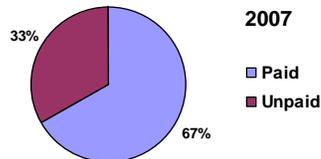
The responding organisations reported that Volunteers worked a total of 7689 hours per week in 2007 compared with 14,000 in 2006. This marked reduction in the hours contributed by volunteers was generated in part by the significant number of smaller groups failing to respond this year, these tending to rely entirely on volunteers, and by problems which became apparent in the wording of the corresponding question in 2007. Estimating the contribution of volunteers however continues to be a difficult task for organisations.

Paid staff were reported as working a total of 15,312 hours per week as opposed to 15,895 in 2006.

After adjusting for annual leave, paid staff worked an estimated 704,352 hours per year while volunteers worked an estimated

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

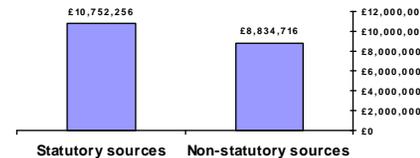
Volunteers make up 1/3 of the hours worked in the sector.



The indirect economic contribution of Volunteers to the Bournemouth economy

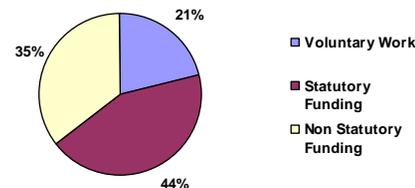
Volunteers contributed a total of 399,828 hours in 2007. Valuing this time at the national average wage rate equates to an indirect economic benefit of £5.35 million being contributed to the Bournemouth economy. ⁱⁱ

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 by the voluntary and community sector from other sources, it can be seen that for every £1 contributed by the public sector an estimated additional £1.32 of economic benefit was generated.

Proportion of contribution from different sources

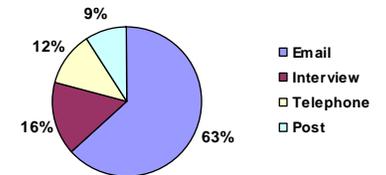


Bournemouth Volunteer Centre

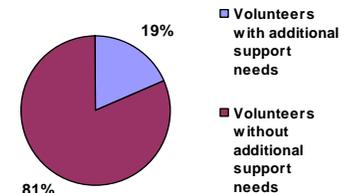
From June 2007 we worked in partnership with Poole Volunteer Centre and seconded a worker to re-establish the Volunteer Centre brokerage service in Bournemouth.

In its first few months of operation the Volunteer Centre helped 236* volunteers to find out about volunteering opportunities through; sending voluntary vacancies brochures, one to one interviews, telephone enquiries and by responding to email enquiries received via the national Do-it website.

Volunteer enquiries



Of these volunteers, 44 stated they had additional support needs, including learning disabilities, mental health problems, drug / alcohol addictions, disabilities and ex-offenders.



When development work began there were 205 opportunities listed from 84 organisations. There are now over 370 opportunities registered to 145 organisations.

**In a full year we hope to help in the region of 800 volunteers per year.*