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Things You Should Know About Voluntary And Community Groups in Bournemouth¹

- 1 There are at least 1,000 voluntary and community groups in the borough, and may be as many as 2,000.
- 2 There are about 370 registered charities in the borough with a total income of more than £65 million a year
- 3 Two thirds of registered charities and 88% of all voluntary and community groups have an income of less than £100,000 a year
- 4 Three in ten registered charities and nearly three quarters of all voluntary and community groups have an income of less than £10,000 a year
- 5 Nearly two thirds of registered charities do not receive any state funding.
- 6 Over a third of charities work to improve health and wellbeing and nearly a third improve education and lifelong learning.
- 7 40% of registered charities mainly work for the benefit of the whole borough and another 28% for their local neighbourhood
- 8 8,500 volunteers work for registered charities delivering about 1.5 million hours of unpaid labour per year contributing about £20.5 million a year to the local economy

¹For more details see our publication "The Hidden Sector"



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The Hidden Sector

A Picture of Voluntary and Community Groups in Bournemouth

Introduction

Voluntary and community groups are a vital, and essential, part of Bournemouth life which make a difference to at least half the population. They:

- Provide essential services to the most vulnerable
- Improve the quality of life for many residents
- Provide a way for local people to be involved in local life
- Bring people together
- Raise money for good causes and local services
- Provide a voice to local people and particularly for those without one

This brief paper sets out some of the key statistics of this often forgotten, but highly significant, sector. A detailed survey has not been carried out on the sector for some years and so this paper pulls together statistics from the last survey we carried out in 2008¹ of 118 groups, one carried out by central government in 2010² of 171 groups and estimates based on more recent national research³.

¹State of the Voluntary Sector Survey 2008, www.bournemouthcvs.org.uk/documents/sos2009full.pdf

²NSCSE 2010 A survey of the 403 registered charities, Community Interest Companies and Industrial and Provident Societies based in Bournemouth, which received a 42% response rate. www.nscsesurvey.com/download/2010/

³NCVO UK Civil Society Almanac 2013 <http://data.ncvo-vol.org.uk>

What is a Voluntary or Community Group?

There is no universally accepted definition but one often used is that they are:

- Independent of government and constitutionally self-governing, usually with an unpaid voluntary management committee⁴
- Value-driven - they exist for the good of the community, to promote social, environmental or cultural objectives in order to benefit society as a whole, or particular groups within it
- Not run for financial gain - they re-invest any surpluses to further their objectives

The sorts of groups that make up the sector includes charities (registered and unregistered), community groups, Community Interest Companies, friendly societies, social clubs, many sports clubs, churches and other faith groups, and voluntary organisations.

⁴BCVS has decided that there should be a majority of unpaid committee members to meet this criteria

How Many Groups are there in Bournemouth?

Unfortunately there is no one comprehensive list. Charities with an income of more than £5,000 a year must register with the Charity Commission. Looking at the national register there are about 370 registered charities. As well as registered charities there will be many more smaller charities and other voluntary and community organisations which will not be on any official register, quite often termed Below The Radar (BTR). Unless a lot of money was spent in Bournemouth researching these organisations we will not get an accurate picture. However elsewhere in the country there have been detailed surveys and so we can use these as estimates. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations estimates that for every registered charity there are about 5.5 voluntary and community groups⁵. This would give a figure of about 2,000. However other local studies calculated that for every 1,000 population there were 3.66 BTR⁶ giving a figure for Bournemouth of 670. Therefore the total number of voluntary and community organisations in Bournemouth could be between 1,000 and 2,000.

⁵<http://data.ncvo-vol.org.uk/a/almanac12/civil-society/what-is-civil-society/>

⁶Mohan, J et al (2010). Beyond 'flat-earth' maps of the third sector: enhancing our understanding of the contribution of 'below-the-radar' organisations. Northern Rock Foundation Briefing Paper http://www.nrfoundation.org.uk/thirdsectortrends/tt_reports.html

What Do They Do?

Over a third of registered charities in Bournemouth work to improve health and well being (this is their main purpose for a quarter of charities), closely followed by about a third working on education and lifelong learning (with a fifth having this as their main work).

Area of work	% who work in the area	% which is their main area of work
Health and well being	37	26
Education and lifelong learning	34	22
Leisure	29	19
Training	27	16
Community development/ mutual aid	24	13
Culture	21	12
Economic well being	18	10
Religious	18	14
Accommodation/housing	15	12
Cohesion/civic participation	14	1

(NSCSE 2010)

40% of registered charities mainly work for the benefit of the whole borough and another 28% for their local neighbourhood (NSCSE 2010)

In 2008 an average of 678 people used each service in Bournemouth.

How Big is the Sector in Bournemouth?

Income is one way to measure the size of the sector and in 2008 we estimated that the total income for the sector was £66.5M. However this income is skewed towards the larger organisations. It can be fairly well assumed that the 600-1700 Below the Radar groups have an annual income of less than £5,000 a year. For the registered groups again the majority of groups will have very low incomes (two thirds attract less than £100,000 a year).

Income	%
No income	5
£1-£5,000	13
£5,001-£10,000	12
£10,001-£30,000	21
£30,001-£100,000	15
£100,001-£500,000	16
Over £500,000	8

(NSCSE 2010)

Where Does the Money Come From?

As you would expect three quarters of registered charities raise money through fundraising but many also rely on money from their users (membership fees and subscriptions). Research shows that the smaller below the radar groups also rely on these two types of funding.

Source	Income from (%)	Most important (%)
Donations and fundraising	75	30
Membership fees/subscriptions	44	23
Earned income from trading	25	12
Statutory grants	21	11
Contracts	19	9
Investments	32	8
Grants from non-statutory sources	22	3
Lottery distributors	9	2
Other national statutory funding	4	1

(NSCSE 2010)

Although grants and contracts from local and national government are received by one in five groups it is not their most important form of funding. The source of funding from the state varies but the majority of groups do not receive any such support at all.

Source	Grant (%)	Contract (%)
No national statutory funding	70	69
No local state funding	64	49
Bournemouth council	23	12
Quangos (including lottery funding)	10	1
Other local statutory funding	5	2
Central government departments	5	5
Other national statutory funding	4	1
Local partnership	4	4
Local NHS	3	5
Local police/fire	1	0

(NSCSE 2010)

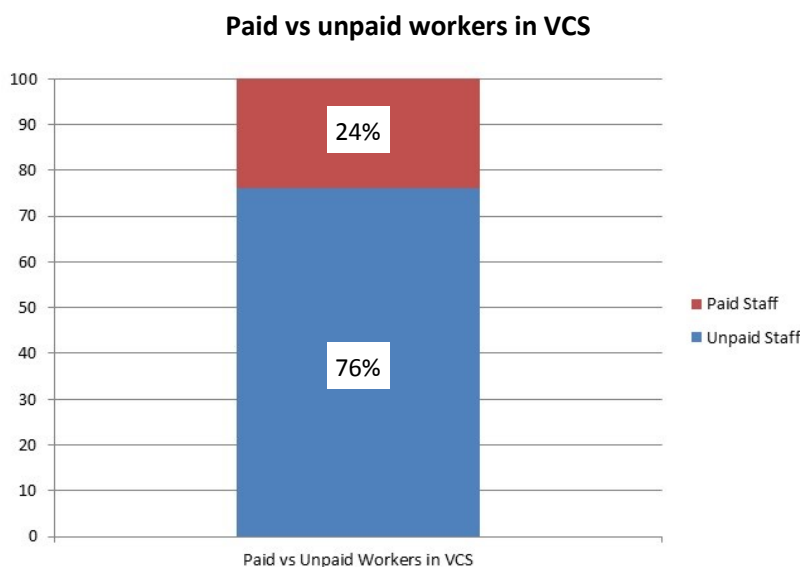
Although money from the state could be viewed as a minor contributor it is a very important one as it quite often:

- Pays for services for those in most need
- Is a contract to deliver a service identified as needed by a statutory body
- Helps organisations to bring in other money

Who Does the Work?

Half of all registered organisations have no staff and another quarter 5 or less. BTR will almost certainly have no paid staff. In 2008 we estimated that the sector employed 2,800 staff (3.4% of all posts in Bournemouth in 2008).

The sector relies on volunteering. Latest central government estimates are that 29% of adults volunteer regularly at least once per month through organisations (rather than informally). This would mean that there are about 44,000 regular adult volunteers in the borough out of a population of 183,500. About 60% of registered charities have at least 10 volunteers (NSCSE 2010) and in 2008 BCVS estimated that they used 8,500 volunteers delivering about 1.5 million hours per year. Assuming these figures (like those at national level) have remained about the same and if we value this at the median hourly rate in 2012 of £13.70/hour it equates to an economic benefit of £20.5M per year.



State of the Sector Survey, Bournemouth CVS 2008

Voluntary and community groups will be run by unpaid committee members giving of their time to make a difference to their community. On average there will be about 9 members and they will attend 5 to 7 meetings a year, will carry out tasks between meetings, and in the majority of groups (because they are small) will be active volunteers as well. A significant number of people in the borough will be on the committees of more than one group at a time.



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