

State of the Voluntary Sector Survey 2008

Introduction

BCVS is in the third year 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 2008 to December 2008.

We received 118 responses to the survey (117 were received the previous year). Of these, 62 organisations contributed in each of the three years. The significant number of organisations responding in all three surveys has enabled us to illustrate some changes over time.

We do not plan to conduct the survey in 2010 however with the support of all of those helping us with the project we hope to be able to repeat it every second year in order to identify trends.

Unless stated otherwise figures and diagrams in Section 1 relate to all of the groups that responded. The aim here is to draw conclusions about the sector as a whole. Section 2 looks only at those organisations which responded in all three years and seeks to comment on changes in the sector.

Methodology

A total of 208 voluntary and community sector organisations were targeted for the survey, the same number as in 2008. At the beginning of 2009 a questionnaire was sent out and this was followed over a six month period with a letter and subsequent telephone calls.

The survey was expanded last 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. The intention here is to examine the commonly held belief that there is a move away from grant funding towards contracts although this is likely to take several years to identify.

We had a response rate of 57%. 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

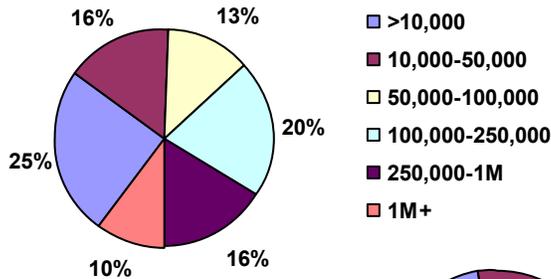
Key findings from responding organisations

Section 1: All organisations

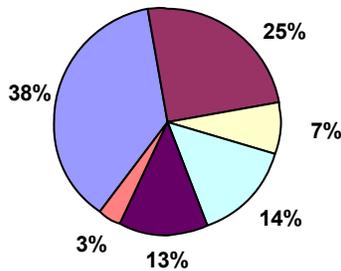
Gross income of organisations

2008 saw a return to the pattern in 2006 where a larger proportion of the smaller VCS organisations responded to the survey.

2007



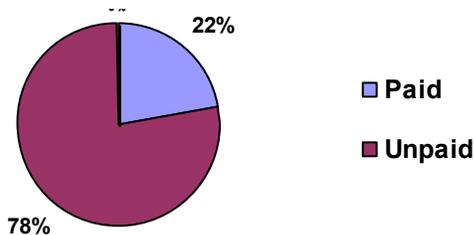
2008



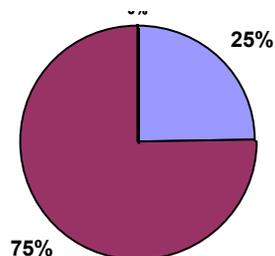
Proportion of unpaid & paid staff in VCS

824 paid staff were employed by the responding organisations supporting 2471 volunteers.

2007



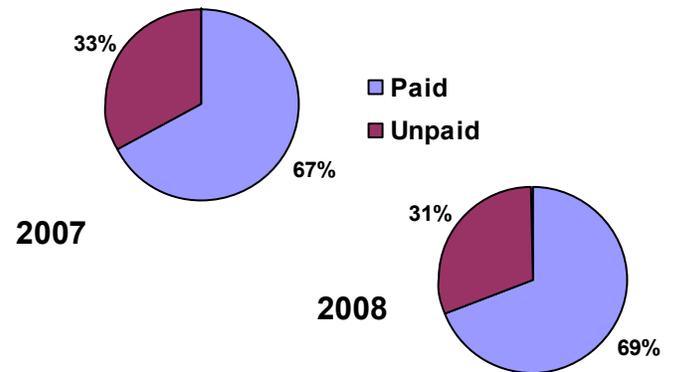
2008ⁱⁱⁱ



Number of hours worked by paid staff and volunteers

Paid staff worked a total of 21,916 hours per week. Volunteers worked a total of 8783 hours per week. After adjusting for annual leave, paid staff worked an estimated 1,008,136 hours per year while volunteers worked an estimated 456,716 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 118 voluntary and community organisations responding this year contributed £19.49 million directly to the economy of Bournemouth in 2008. 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

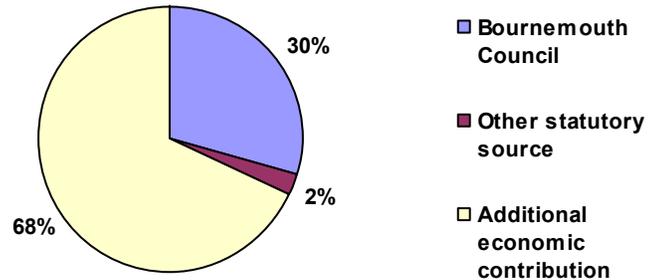
Volunteers contributed a total of 456,716 hours in 2008. Valuing this time at the national average wage rate equates to an indirect economic benefit of £6.35 million being contributed to the Bournemouth economy.

The impact of statutory funding

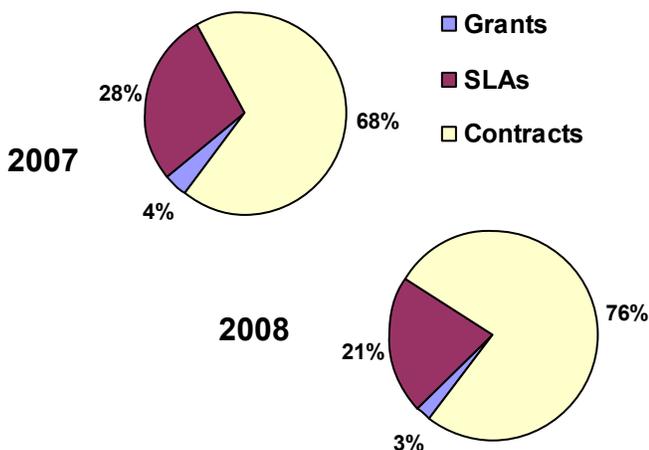
During 2008 the total income of the voluntary and community organisations responding was in the region of £19.49 million.

£7.64 million of this was contributed in some form by Bournemouth Borough Council and £0.60 million by other local or national statutory agencies. A further £11.25 million was generated from other sources such as fundraising events, grants from trusts and legacies and charging for services.

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



Bournemouth Borough Council funding by type



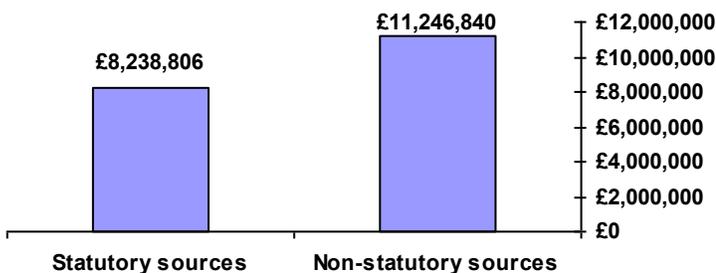
Number of Service Users

The population of Bournemouth is 163,444. The voluntary and community organisations which responded reported that 80,118 (74,319) people used their services in 2008.

In 2007 an average of 635 people used each service. In 2008 this figure was 678, an increase of 7% which comes on top of a 13% increase the previous year.

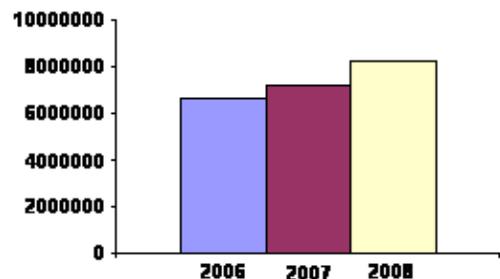
Section 2 - Comparisons over three years using figures submitted by 62 organisations responding each year

Amount of funding from Statutory vs. non - statutory



By adding the indirect economic benefit of £6.35 million provided by voluntary work to the £11.25 million generated from other sources, it can be seen that for every £1 contributed by the statutory sector an estimated additional £2.14 of economic benefit was generated.

Income (£)



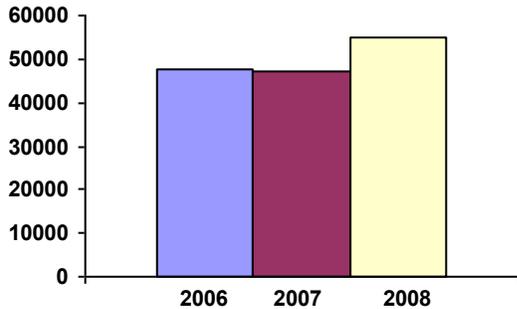
A 13.9% increase in total income was reported in 2008.

Employees and worked hours

The total number of employed staff increased by 13.5% from 2007 however there had been a reduction the previous year and the net increase over the two years was 9.7%. The total number of hours worked by these employees increased by 6.4% on the 2007 figure or 5.5% on 2006.

The number of hours worked per employee per week in these organisations remains in the region of 24-26.

Number of service users



Notes

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.

Mean hourly wage rate. Annual survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Analysis by all employees 2008. Whilst some voluntary roles may correlate to lower paid employment there are also may 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.

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 our directory or details of membership please contact:

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