

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday 6 November 2013

Time: 2.00pm (Councillors are reminded there is a pre-meeting at 1.30 pm in LB11)

Place: LB11 on the 1st Floor at Loxley House, Station Street

Councillors are requested to attend the above meeting on the date and at the time and place stated to transact the following business.



Deputy Chief Executive/Corporate Director for Resources

Overview and Scrutiny Review Co-ordinator: Jane Garrard Direct dial - 64315

A G E N D A

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
- 3 MINUTES** Attached
Meeting held on 2 October 2013
- 4 THE STATE OF THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR AND STREAMLINING INVESTMENT TO THE VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY SECTOR**
 - (a) REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES** Attached
 - (b) NOTTINGHAM COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY SECTOR BRIEFING PAPER** Attached
 - (c) THE REALITY CHEQUE - WILL IT CASH OR BOUNCE** Attached
 - (d) STREAMLINING INVESTMENT TO THE VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY SECTOR – PROGRESS SO FAR** Attached
Presentation by Karla Kerr, Market Development Officer, Quality and Commissioning, Nottingham City Council

- (e) **DRAFT VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANT FUNDING - PROGRESS SO FAR** Attached
- 5 **PROGRAMME FOR SCRUTINY** Attached
Report of Head of Democratic Services

IF YOU NEED ANY ADVICE ON DECLARING AN INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA, PLEASE CONTACT THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OFFICER SHOWN ABOVE, IF POSSIBLE BEFORE THE DAY OF THE MEETING

CITIZENS ATTENDING MEETINGS ARE ASKED TO ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE START OF THE MEETING TO BE ISSUED WITH VISITOR BADGES.

COUNCILLORS ARE REMINDED THAT THERE WILL BE A PRE-MEETING AT 1.30 PM IN LB11.

Agenda, reports and minutes for all public meetings can be viewed online at:-
<http://open.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/comm/default.asp>

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held at Loxley House on 2 October 2013 from 2.00 pm to 3.55 pm.

- ✓ Councillor Brian Parbutt (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Azad Choudhry
- Councillor Georgina Culley
- ✓ Councillor Mohammed Ibrahim
- ✓ Councillor Glyn Jenkins (Vice Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Ginny Klein
- ✓ Councillor Gul Khan
- ✓ Councillor Sally Longford
- ✓ Councillor Thulani Molife (minute items 30-31)
- Councillor Toby Neal
- ✓ Councillor Mohammed Saghir
- Councillor Roger Steel
- Councillor Marcia Watson

Beverley Denby (Third Sector Advocate)

✓ indicates present at meeting

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

- Councillor Nick McDonald - Portfolio Holder for Jobs and Growth
- Kathy McArdle - Chief Operations Officer, Creative Quarter Company
- Chris Henning - Director of Economic Development
- Angelika Kaufhold - Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator
- Carol Jackson - Constitutional Services Officer

26 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CHANGE

RESOLVED to note the appointment of Councillor Georgina Culley in place of Councillor Tim Spencer.

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Councillor Georgina Culley - other Council business
- Councillor Toby Neal - other Council business
- Councillor Roger Steel - other Council business
- Beverley Denby – 3rd Sector Advocate

29 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2013 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

30 NOTTINGHAM GROWTH PLAN

Councillor Nick McDonald, Portfolio Holder for Jobs and Growth, presented the report, highlighting the progress made in the delivery of the Nottingham Growth Plan and its 'flagship' project, the Creative Quarter and setting out the key challenges for the next twelve months.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) the Nottingham Growth Plan is one year old and the annual review is currently being finalised. A monitoring framework that will measure the Growth Plan's impact is being developed;
- (b) the Nottingham Growth Plan sets out clearly what the ambitions are for Nottingham and how they can be achieved. It sets out a series of measures to drive growth and create jobs by:
 - (i) fostering enterprise by supporting small businesses and encouraging entrepreneurship;
 - (ii) developing a skilled workforce and ensuring local jobs for local people; and
 - (iii) building a 21st century infrastructure to make it easier for the City to develop, including high speed internet access and wireless connectivity in key areas, major transport improvements and the expansion of green energy;
- (c) there are twelve program areas with a total of 40 individual projects with varying timescales for delivery. It is anticipated that the whole program will be delivered in ten years. Responsibility for program management sits with the Council but responsibility for delivery is split between partners, including the private sector;
- (d) enterprise is being fostered by providing finance and support for businesses both to start and to grow, by City Centre regeneration, the development of the Creative Quarter and by seeking out inward investment and international trade. Rising labour costs in some foreign markets may lend itself to opportunities to claw back some manufacturing industry to Nottingham, rebuilding the City's international reputation for design and manufacture;
- (e) business finance is being made available for small businesses in the form of the N'Tech Grant Fund which was launched in April 2013. To date, it has made 15 grants totaling £1.2 million, created 292 new jobs and ensured that 23 existing jobs are safeguarded. Finance is also available for small businesses from the Nottingham Investment Fund which was launched on 19 November. This fund had £37.5m at first close and is expected to leverage over £100m additional investment in Nottingham businesses. The Creative Quarter has a £1m loan fund and has already made 6 awards;

- (f) business support is available through such initiatives as Growth 100 which was launched in April and has 25 businesses on the first programme with 25 more starting in November. Further support is available from the Gen Y programme, Get Ready for Business, MediCity and Antenna Access;
- (g) specific initiatives for fostering enterprise in the City Centre include;
 - (i) the Retail Strategy which was published in September 2013. This has action plans to strengthen the retail and leisure offer, improve the visitor experience and develop the physical environment and infrastructure;
 - (ii) the Vacant Shops Plan was rolled out in April. It aims to tackle vacancy hotspots, unit by unit and establish a business support programme for independent retailers. In addition, there is the Vacant shops grants scheme and the *Inspiring Retail* competition in one year. Pop-up shops are being encouraged. Nottingham has seen a significant drop in vacancies from over 30% to under 20%. A lot of work is taking place with private Landlords, encouraging them to offer initiatives to fill empty units. The commercial rental market appears to be adjusting accordingly;
 - (iii) the Nottingham City Event Experience Notts' conference and events bidding unit was launched in June;
- (h) the Growth Board will consider proposals for a new Inward Investment/place marketing agency at its next meeting in October;
- (i) with regard to developing a skilled workforce, the Employment and Skills Team supported 1489 people into jobs in 2012/13. This was done through the Employer Hub (486 jobs), community grants (270 jobs); Job Fairs (462 jobs), Nottingham Jobs Fund (191 jobs) the Nottingham Futures Innovation Fund. Also, 957 people received training (pre-employment training, work trials, literacy/numeracy, NVQs, etc) and there were 140 Apprenticeship Hub starts. The target for 2013/14 is 2,700. There are plans to reshape the unemployment team so that it is more community based, and integrates with other public sector support e.g. Department of Work and Pensions;
- (j) there are other initiatives in place to get jobs and improve skills including the Employer Hub which was integrated with JCP (April), expanding beyond construction sector, the implementation of a neighbourhood focused approach across employment and skills and ward employment plans. The Apprenticeship Hub was launched in November 2012 and the Nottingham Apprenticeship Grant was launched in April. All 400 Nottingham Job Fund placements have been filled, ahead of schedule. Nottingham University Academy of Science & Technology is due to open September 2014. An Internships programme is being developed for summer 2014;
- (k) the various initiatives in place to ensure that Nottingham has 21st Century infrastructure include:
 - (i) super-connected Nottingham- the delivery of Ultraband in the Creative Quarter. The Council is working with BT on super-fast broadband in the Creative Quarter. A tender is being put out for city centre wireless and developing business case

for fibre in ducting Challenges remain in getting central government to invest in usable digital infrastructure. The ongoing tram and roadworks are being used to lay ducting for Broadband wherever possible;

- (ii) Enterprise Zones – work is due to start on the Boots site early 2014. The Medipark plan was approved by Hospital Trust Board in August;
 - (iii) Sector growth hubs – BioCity an expansion site has been identified. Antenna – finalising funding arrangements for expansion. Nottingham Energy Park – funding and land deal secured. Southglade Food Park – funding secured for expansion;
 - (iv) the Tram extension is on schedule, with work set to ramp up over next 3 months;
 - (v) the new Station Hub, A453 improvements and the ring road works are all on schedule.
- (l) The aim for the Creative Quarter is to create a supportive environment where enterprise can flourish and innovative creative businesses start up and grow. Key progress in the last year includes the establishment of business finance and support programmes (N'Tech, Nottingham Investment Fund, Gen Y, etc) focusing on lifesciences, digital content, cleantech sectors;
- (m) Highlights of the last year include:
- (i) the Creative Quarter Company and Board were established March 2013;
 - (ii) the Creative Quarter Loan Scheme was launched in March 2013 – 6 awards (£128k) have been made to businesses so far with more in the pipeline;
 - (iii) the Chief Operations Officer has been in post from May 2013;
 - (iv) an Office in the Creative Quarter was set up in June 2013;
 - (v) support is being provided to a variety of small businesses in the Creative Quarter by the Creative Quarter Company;
 - (vi) support is being provided to new property projects (eg Cobden Chambers);
 - (vii) joint working is taking place on a variety of projects with partners such as NTU, NCN, Broadway, Antenna and BioCity;
 - (viii) four N-Tech awards have been made to CQ-based businesses (total £158k – £935k leverage, 30 jobs created);
 - (ix) 45 businesses have been signposted to business support schemes;
 - (x) phase 1 of public realm improvements have been completed, improving pedestrian links into Creative Quarter;

- (xi) the Creative Quarter New Business Rates Relief Scheme was announced late September 2013 with two businesses have received it so far.
- (n) The key challenges and aims for Creative Quarter for the next year include:
 - (i) digital connectivity – the contract for the upgrade of street cabinets is being finalised, and funding approval pending for digital voucher scheme;
 - (ii) the rolling out of public wi-fi in this area of the City;
 - (iii) bringing vacant properties back into use through implementation of the Property Action Plan from November 2013;
 - (iv) developing a support programme to cultivate social businesses and micro-enterprises.
- (o) Key milestones for the next six months for the Creative Quarter include Game City Limits Business Expo and Pixel Pyros event (October 2013), the CQ website being launched (October 2013), an action plan being delivered to promote and secure apprenticeships across the CQ Creative Quarter Markets & Street Music (starts November 2013), Start-Up Weekend – 22-24 November and Christmas in The Quarter promoted (November 2013).
- (p) one of the key challenges will be to fill the 'Jobs Gap'. To return to the pre-recession employment rate, Nottingham needs 12,000 additional jobs. To meet the Nottingham Plan target (75% employment rate by 2020) it needs nearly 30,000. It is vitally important to attract new employers to the City;
- (q) a Growth Sector and Jobs Strategy is being developed to identify sectors with high job growth potential and to connect demand to sites, jobs, skills and business support;
- (r) development in the City Centre needs to be kick started. The Council is a major land and property owner and has clear interest in seeing development kick-started with developers and investors looking for best investment opportunities.

The Committee discussed the following issues:

- (s) In response to concerns about how funding to small businesses through various schemes is being monitored Councillor McDonald assured Councillors that each scheme has a different method of monitoring to ensure that there is no misuse of funds and that jobs are being protected. A clear pathway through the financial support on offer is being created and a raft of different business support is now in place.
- (t) Councillors were concerned that all the focus is on revitalising the City Centre and that the district centres such as Bulwell and Sherwood were being overlooked. Councillor McDonald informed the Committee that that all the financial incentives, save for the Creative Quarter Loan are also available to small businesses outside the City Centre.
- (u) The issue of derelict buildings in the Creative Quarter is being looked at through the Property Action Plan which is looking at the potential of these buildings. The Creative

Quarter Company is working with Nottingham Regeneration on a strategy to address this and the key priority is to fill street level retail units.

- (v) It is agreed that Nottingham needs to retain its talent as it has a large volume of students attending its two internationally renowned universities and more needs to be done to encourage them to stay in Nottingham once they have graduated. This can be achieved through alumni networks, internship programmes, more work experience opportunities, business support and access to finance for business start up etc.
- (w) Work experience and enterprise education in schools is, at best, patchy and tackling this is a challenge, especially as schools are becoming increasingly detached from local authority control. Measures to address this include Nottinghamshire Futures developing options for business-focused curricula that can be offered to schools. More graduate training schemes need to be encouraged and put in place, working in partnership with Universities to maximise the benefits of the Universities for the City as a whole.

In conclusion, the Chair summarised that the key priorities for the coming year should include:

- (x) ensuring that there is sufficient targeted communication and information available relating to the financial and other support for business start up etc for minority ethnic groups which is on offer;
- (y) the lack of progress both nationally and locally on the development of a digital infrastructure;
- (z) the importance of district centres such as Bulwell need to be remembered and addressed as part of the whole package of regeneration of the City as a whole.

The Committee thanked Councillor Nick McDonald, Chris Henning and Kathy McArdle for attending the meeting and answering the questions put to them.

31 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Democratic Services about the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for 2013/14. Angelika Kaufhold summarised the report and highlighted the actions needed from the Committee.

RESOLVED

- (1) to note the allocation of items scheduled for forthcoming meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**
- (2) to note the changes in the scrutiny review programme and put forward names to sit on panels.**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 NOVEMBER 2013
TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM NCVS RELATING TO THE STATE OF THE SECTOR SURVEY AND HOW THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR IS ADAPTING AND COPING WITH THE CHANGING ECONOMIC CLIMATE AND HOW PARTNERSHIP WORKING IS PROGRESSING
REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. Purpose

This Committee is asked to consider the results of the NCVS State of the Sector Survey: The Reality Cheque: Will it cash or bounce? published in July 2013 and how progress is being made by the Council and the voluntary sector in adapting to changes in grant funding and commissioning of services.

2. Action required

Councillors are asked to consider and comment on the results of the survey and key issues raised alongside the information presented on the 'Draft: Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding – Progress so far...' and presentation Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary Community Sector.

3. Background

3.1 NCVS has been awarded an infrastructure contract by the Council to support and help develop the voluntary and community sector by providing services such as running regular training programmes, one-off workshops, networking events, briefings and conferences on topics such as:

- Applying for small grants;
- Finding funding through funding central;
- Volunteer management;
- Using the statistical data on Nottingham Insight to explain the need for your project/work;

3.2 Other activities provided by NCVS to support groups include:

- How to set up a group;
- Legal structures and enterprise;
- Sample policies and documents etc.

3.3 This is the second State of the Sector Survey which has had a 6% response rate (59 out of a potential 1013 responses). A snapshot of the concerns and the views of the sector have been included in the report 'The Reality Cheque: Will it cash, or bounce?' which can be viewed at <http://www.nottinghamcvs.co.uk/NCVSRRealityCheque>

3.4 A briefing note has been produced by Fergus Slade, Policy, Communications and Resources Manager Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service (NCVS) which provides a summary of the key findings and recommendations including (taken directly from the briefing paper):

- (a) With such a range of material, the report gives us plenty of policy direction for the future. We are trying to promote our services more widely to try and prevent the closure of services and groups, but sadly we know that Disabled People's Advocacy closed in September.
- (b) We are engaging with the City Council at pre-budget meetings as we have for the last two years to bring together sector concerns and promote those raised in this report.
- (c) We are keen to stress that groups are working city wide, and not just in areas. While the Council's approach of streamlining funding into "areas" of work, such as through Area Based Grants and that currently being processed through Communities of Identity, is suitable for some types of service provision, NCVS would be extremely concerned about this method becoming a 'catch all' for voluntary sector funding.
- (d) We want to step up our work with the City Council on their campaigning against the negative impact of welfare reform as it is clearly concerning the city's voluntary sector. We think this can be a great additional campaigning tool for the city and have been working with Liz Jones to reinforce our support for the City Council's campaigning.
- (e) A more open and consistent relationship with funders, including the City Council, is essential. NCVS has had support from Councillors to challenge on funding and commissioning, but intelligence from the sector indicates that this is not always reflected in the practice at officer level.
- (f) Finally – the voluntary sector is a significant social and economic contributor to Nottingham – but only if it's open for business. Funding needs to be maintained and access to external funding such as European Funds need to be optimized.

Copies of the briefing note and report are attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to this report.

3.5 A presentation will be made by Karla Kerr, Market Development Officer, Quality and Commissioning, Nottingham City Council on the progress of the implementation of the new streamlined model for Area Based Grant Funding with the Voluntary and Community Sector at an Area and City-wide level. Miss Kerr will provide background information on the Phase 1 changes to how grant funding is allocated with the Council moving to Area Based Grant funding totaling £1.1 million per annum. Phase two includes the following:

- Review of needs and funding for 'Communities of Identity';

- Voluntary Sector Property and Lease Review;
 - Widening the scope of Voluntary and Community Sector Streamlining to include City-wide and partner organisation budgets;
 - Fair funding Formula.
- 3.6 A copy of the 'Draft: Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding – Progress so far...' document is attached at appendix 3 and can also be viewed at <http://www.nottinghamcvs.co.uk/news/article/city-council-publish-grant-funding-progress-so-far-document>.
- 3.7 Nottingham City Council regards the Voluntary and Community Sector as a key partner in delivering its vision for Nottingham and has awarded the infrastructure contract to NCVS and its partners to build and support capacity within this sector.
- 3.8 The Council is committed to supporting this sector as highlighted in the Nottingham Plan and the Corporate Commissioning Framework. In practical terms, the Council has invested approximately £31.3 million in 2012/13 in this sector through directly commissioning city-wide services from the Voluntary and Community Sector as well as, £1.1 million through Area Based Grants. The Council's commitment to an allocation of £1.1 million for Area Based Grants has been confirmed for the next two years.
- 3.9 To ensure a more streamlined approach to investments in the different areas of Nottingham, Lead Organisations have been established to manage and deliver outcomes for areas. Voluntary sector organisations were asked to work in partnership to deliver outcomes and to identify a 'Lead Organisation' which would be responsible for ensuring that all outcomes in an Area are delivered. The Council will look at all aspects of the business and support the Lead Organisation with business planning and development.

The Lead Organisations for Nottingham are:

Lead Organisation	Partners	Area of the City
Right Track Social Enterprise Ltd	Bulwell Community Toy Library Limited Snapewood Community Association Rise Park Community Association The Healthy Living Centre (Vision of Health) Crabtree Farm Community Association	1 Bulwell and Bulwell Forest
Right Track Social Enterprise Ltd	Nott's County FC Heathfiled Community Associations Bestwood Estates Community Association Bestwood Park Community Association Leen Valley Community Association	2 Basford and Bestwood
Groundwork Greater Nottingham	A Place To Be Me, Asian Women's Group, Aspley and Bells Lane Partnership, Aspley Community and Training Centre, Beechdale Community Centre, Bells	3 Aspley, Bilborough and Leen Valley

	Lane Community Centre, BEST, Birchover Community Centre, Hope Church Nottingham, Nottingham University Samworth Academy, Sheila Russell Centre, Take 1 Studios, The Vale Community Centre, Zone Youth Project, YMCA 53rd St Margaret's Scouts	
Castle Cavendish Foundation	Groundwork, Hyson Green Youth Centre, The Lenton Centre	4 Arboretum, Dunkirk and Lenton, Radford and Park
NG7 Training Employment and Advice	Asian Women's Project, KK Boxing, Nott's County Football in the Community, Young Potential Sherwood Community Centre, New Basford Community Centre, Edwards Lane Community Centre	5 Berridge and Sherwood
The Renewal Trust	City College Nottingham, Stonebridge City Farm The YMCA, Community Recording, ACAF, Muslim Community, Wheelbase, Blue Bell Hill Community Centre, BANCA, Tracs, Greenway, Wells Rd Community Centre, Sneinton Hermitage Community Centre, Mapperley Community Centre, Sneinton Old School Hall	6 St Anns, Dales and Mapperley
Meadows Partnership Trust	Queens Walk Community Centre, Silverdale Community Centre, Clifton Community Centre, Park Gate Community Centre, High bank Community Centre, KK boxing, YMCA, Meadows and Clifton Community Gardens, Go- digit, Hope Church, Enthusiasm Trust, Groundwork, Play Works	8 Clifton North, Clifton South and Bridge

At this point in time Area 7, Wollaton and Lenton Abbey does not have a Lead Organisation appointed.

3.10 Miss Kerr will provide the background reasons and progress for the Communities of Identity Review which identifies groups of people who share particular needs and priorities for public services. In prioritising and resourcing communities of identity the focus will be for those communities experiencing disadvantage or inequalities.

3.11 Phase two will be moving to a Fair Funding Formula between the different areas and will include decisions to:

- Agree key factors and bring together current funding formulas;
- Design and agree a safe timescale for moving to the formula, allowing for a gradual move;
- Communicate with key stakeholders to agree changes.

4. **List of attached information**

Appendix 1 – briefing note by Ferg Slade, NCVS

Appendix 2 – report – ‘The Reality Cheque: Will it cash, or bounce?’

Appendix 3 – Draft: Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding – Progress so far

Appendix 4 – Presentation by Karla Kerr

5. **Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

None

6. **Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

Report and presentation submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13 January 2013

Minutes of meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 January 2013.

7. **Wards affected**

City-wide

8. **Contact information**

Angelika Kaufhold

Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

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Email: angelika.kaufhold@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Overview and Scrutiny briefing note – 6 November 2013

Topic:	To receive feedback from NCVS relating to the State of the Sector Survey and how the voluntary sector is adapting and coping with the changing economic climate and how partnership working has been affected
Requested by:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Submitted by:	Fergus Slade, NCVS
Date submitted:	3 October 2013

Why we do the survey

As the support organisation for the voluntary sector, NCVS picks up information about the troubles facing sector groups and organisations across the city. We do our best to help these struggling groups and communities through our services, but previously we had not coherently analysed the issues organisations faced: we would provide support, but weren't campaigning for them.

Sector intelligence became especially important as the coalition government squeezed budgets nationwide, and especially council budgets. So, in 2012 we created our first State of the Sector survey to evidence the difficulties groups were experiencing or anticipating, and conducted our second survey in 2013 to monitor these issues and see if any new ones were present.

Who answered it

59 voluntary sector organisations from across the local voluntary sector answered the survey, covering all services provided, client groups and geography. This number gives us a significant amount of data, and stories which we know are echoed across the city because of our case work intelligence.

What its results were

Past 12 months:

- Increase in demand for services (and worst yet to come)
- Decrease in staff
- Decrease in funding (and smaller pool)
- Increase in volunteers

Potential closures:

- 54% may have to close a service (decrease from 74% last year)
- 11% may have to close altogether (consistent with last year)

The Money:

- Reliance on local money to provide services city wide – 76% of respondents provide services across the city, not at a ward level
- Funding not covering costs
- Reserves being used, or will be used in the future
- Funders don't understand full cost of delivery
- Sector is scared to challenge funders

Welfare Reform

- 52% say welfare reform will have high impact on service users



- 24% say welfare reform will affect their organisation
- Welfare reform will inevitably increase demand on stretched services
- 54% pessimistic about clients future prospects due to government agendas

Our recommendations

With such a range of material, the report gives us plenty of policy direction for the future. We are trying to promote our services more widely to try and prevent the closure of services and groups, but sadly we know that Disabled People's Advocacy closed in September.

We are engaging with the City Council at pre-budget meetings as we have for the last two years to bring together sector concerns and promote those raised in this report.

We are keen to stress that groups are working city wide, and not just in areas. While the Council's approach of streamlining funding into "areas" of work, such as through Area Based Grants and that currently being processed through Communities of Identity, is suitable for some types of service provision, NCVS would be extremely concerned about this method becoming a 'catch all' for voluntary sector funding.

We want to step up our work with the City Council on their campaigning against the negative impact of welfare reform as it is clearly concerning the city's voluntary sector. We think this can be a great additional campaigning tool for the city and have been working with Liz Jones to reinforce our support for the City Council's campaigning.

A more open and consistent relationship with funders, including the City Council, is essential. NCVS has had support from Councillors to challenge on funding and commissioning, but intelligence from the sector indicates that this is not always reflected in the practice at officer level.

Finally – the voluntary sector is a significant social and economic contributor to Nottingham – but only if it's open for business. Funding needs to be maintained and access to external funding such as European Funds need to be optimized.

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The Reality Cheque:

Will it cash, or bounce?

Author: Ferg Slade, Policy and Campaigns
Officer, Nottingham CVS

Research Assistant: Adarsh Bhogal

Nottingham
Community
and Voluntary
Service

Letter from the Chief Executive



A year ago, Nottingham CVS highlighted in our first ever State of the Sector report that local organisations were hard pressed. They had greater demand for services, fewer staff, less funding and poor prospects.

Sadly, the same is still true this year, worsened by welfare reform and strained by fewer funding options for a stretched sector.

We're finding that the term "more with less" is becoming an unofficial mantra for Nottingham's voluntary sector, and one the sector is none too happy about. Frustratingly, as the sector's capacity diminishes due to reduced resources, areas in which the sector has previously thrived and succeeded are being opened up to the private sector on Payment by Results contracts or contracts that are too big for the sector to bid for.

Probation services, helping people back into work, helping disabled people and much more is falling into the hands of the private sector for them to profit from, costing millions, while a sector which has always strived for value for money is told to work smarter and turn a profit.

The Government is hiding behind companies and martyrs when things go wrong, blaming companies for their ill-thought out plans and waste, and not looking inward at the systems the government forced into place, much against the sector's advice.

These circumstances are tough locally too. We acknowledge that these changes make life increasingly difficult for the City Council, who are one of the messengers put out to be shot.

The voluntary sector sees bodies we've worked with cooperatively before suddenly becoming fall guys despite supposed new broad ranging power and responsibilities, which actually strip power away from them and paint them as targets.

We are more than aware of the difficulties local authorities face, but it would be dangerous to absolve the council of responsibility at a time when they're most needed. It's unlikely this reality check will be much read and celebrated in Westminster, but it's not written so much for them.

Local MPs, Councillors, Chief Executive Groups, council officers and other decision makers should pay great attention to our report as it outlines the sector's struggles, laying the foundations for a year's worth of work to build a stronger sector and, by implication, a stronger city for our needy.

With foodbanks opening at a rate of three a week nationally, charities closing services down due to a lack of capacity and more vulnerable people set to be worse off due to the government's devastating welfare reforms, it's time the city and the sector worked together to go against the grain of the nation and make this city stronger for its weakest.

If this "reality cheque" bounces, the city will be poorer in so many ways.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Cree', written in a cursive style.

Helen Kearsley-Cree
Chief Executive, Nottingham CVS
July 2013

Headlines

80% of groups surveyed report an **increase** in demand for services.

Groups are largely working with **less** funding than 12 months ago.

37% are working with **fewer** staff.

A further **37%** have the **same** staffing levels as last year.

89% of groups report that **welfare reform** will impact on their **client group** in some way.

54% may have to **close** a service they provide.

11% of groups may have to **close** altogether.

59% of groups say **welfare reform** will affect their **organisation** – including even more increases in demand for services.

More applications for funding are expected in the next 12 months, with **70%** reported to be seeking **local grants** – a source that is **disappearing**.

76% of organisations provide services **across the city**, not just in local areas.

Groups predominantly look to **local grants** and **contracts** for money, but there are **more applications** for national funds than 12 months ago.

55% say funders **don't** understand the full costs of delivery.

70% of groups are concerned that by **challenging** a funder, they **risk** their chances of being funded in the future.

54% are **pessimistic** for their client groups' future prospects.

53% are supporting **more volunteers** this year.

62% report that the funding they have is **not** covering costs.

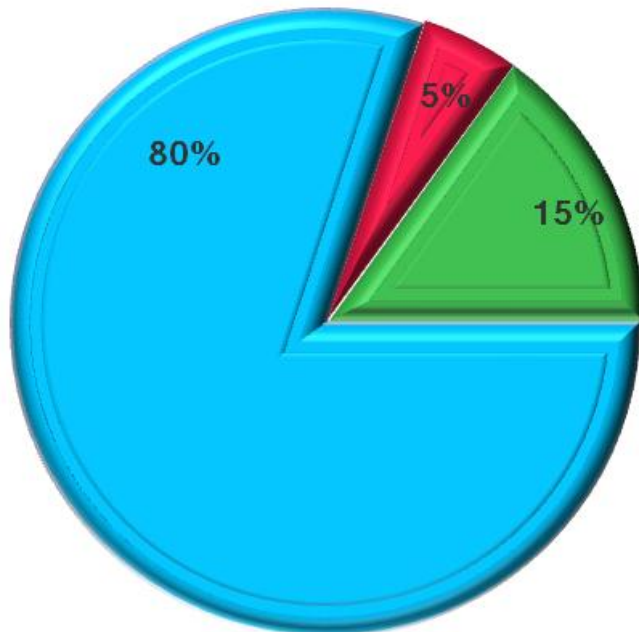
Reserves are either being used, or are likely to be used, to fund **services**.

Part 1

The Past 12 Months

Question 1: Have you seen a change in demand for services over the last 12 months?

■ Increase ■ Decrease ■ No Change



In an era where growth is limited, it is a shame that we see growth of demand for services as a concern. However, as the city's voluntary sector works mainly to support people, it is a real worry that four out of five groups in the city are reporting an increase in demand for services.

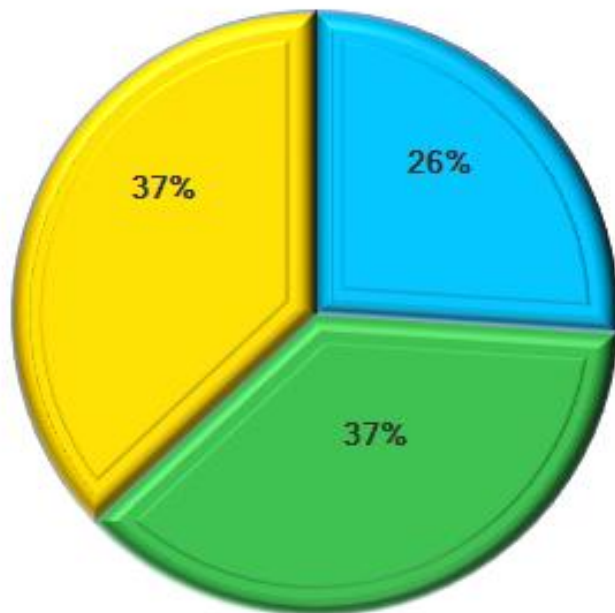
This figure is an increase on last year's survey, where 64% of respondents reported an increase in demand. That figure was high and cause for alarm, but this year's figure of 80% is a serious concern, especially as this survey suggests that demand will continue to increase.

What is important to note is that this increase in demand for services has come prior to further government welfare reforms. Universal Credit, the Benefit Cap, Legal Aid reform, Personal Independence Payments, long term implications of the 'Bedroom Tax' and Council Tax changes and much more are due in the next 12 months, which may see this figure increase even more.

It is imperative that local and national government invest in the voluntary sector to maintain support for those people affected by these changes. This isn't a call to protect the future of voluntary organisations and their employees: it's a call for protection of the country's most vulnerable people.

Question 2: Have you seen a change in staff numbers in the last 12 months?

■ Increase ■ Decrease ■ No Change



We are pleased to report that more organisations are retaining staff compared to last year, where 52% reported a decrease in staff numbers. Taken on their own, these numbers are relatively positive.

However, over a third of organisations have still had to reduce staff numbers, and an identical number have maintained staff levels despite an increase in demand. This places more strain on staff time and organisational resources, including reserves, which affect the future of organisations.

If organisations are stretching their resources to meet demand, then this can only go on for so long. There will come a point where staff may leave, services get scrapped to preserve an organisation, or service users are turned away.

So, while statistically this is better news than last year, there are strong currents under still waters.

Question 3: Have you seen a change in volunteer numbers in the last 12 months?

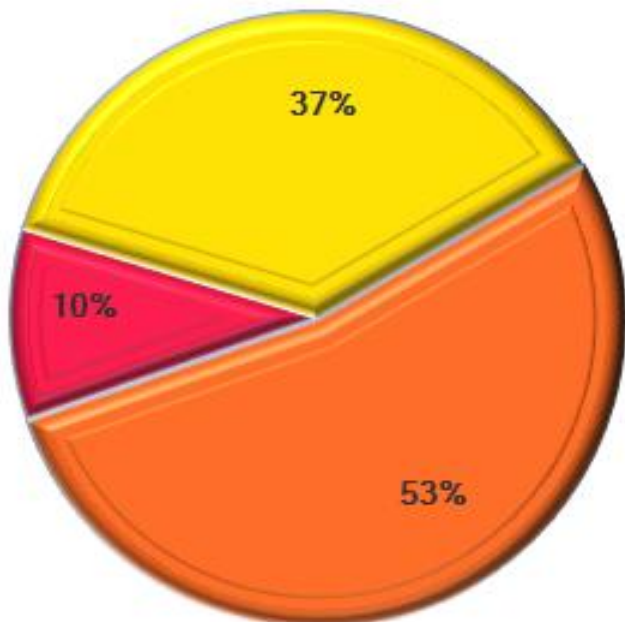
Once again, we are pleased to see so many organisations working with volunteers to deliver their services. Volunteers are the lifeblood of this sector, and the option of volunteering is an essential one in a time of high unemployment, fewer training opportunities and low confidence among job seekers. It provides an opportunity for voluntary organisations to do more, and to give people more skills and confidence to aid their development.

We have also seen fewer organisations decreasing the number of volunteers they work with compared to last year's figures (from 28% to 10%). This could be tied to meeting the increase in demand for services, greater recognition of the value of volunteers or an increased demand for voluntary roles in that organisation's particular field.

All of this comes with a warning though. Last year, NCVS speculated that volunteer numbers could be increasing in order to meet demand for services. This year, we have seen a further increase in organisations working with volunteers (from 36% to 53%) and an increase in demand for services.

It is looking more and more likely that volunteers are helping organisations meet demands for services, potentially due to having fewer staff. Volunteers are invaluable but cannot replicate the work that staff do in terms of workload, responsibilities and permanency.

■ Increase ■ Decrease ■ No Change



Question 4: Why do you think this is?

Increase in volunteers here because people are increasingly entering volunteering as a stop gap during periods of unemployment

Due to the drastic cuts made to smaller organisations. The increase in volunteers is due to the pressure of individuals being pushed to find work even though they are not ready due to health issues or not having the right skills/qualifications

A lot of people who are unemployed are being told to volunteer by either the job centre or work programmes

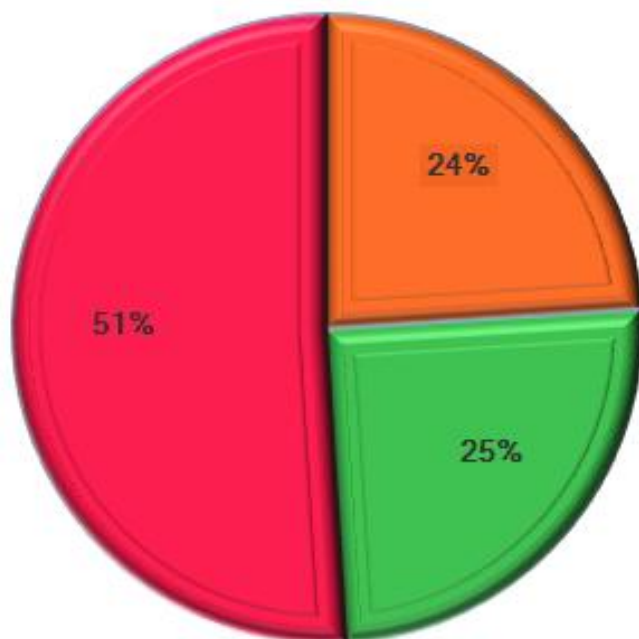
Fewer services due to reduced funding means higher demand on remaining services.

Volunteer numbers are still increasing, and not always for altruistic purposes. While the examples we highlight here aren't the entire picture, they're elements of it. Volunteering can help people's employment prospects, especially young people, but it's being used more and more as a tool for people than a long term commitment.

Stories of people being mandated to volunteer, even if they're not ready, are becoming increasingly common and this is concerning. Volunteering should be a choice for people to get the most out of it, and while instances of mandated volunteering are rare, they're becoming more common and must be addressed.

Question 5: Have you had to change the level of support you can offer volunteers in the last 12 months?

■ Increase ■ Decrease ■ No Change



Organisations are offering more or less identical levels of support to volunteers compared to last year, which could mean that the cuts made to time for managing volunteers simply couldn't be cut any more. There are a small number of groups increasing the support they can offer volunteers (up 4% from last year), which doesn't quite match the increase in volunteer numbers shown in Question 3.

This raises the question of how long this support can be offered to so many volunteers? Organisations could be faced with a choice of recruiting more staff to manage volunteers, which seems unlikely with more spending cuts due; or, reduced volunteer recruitment, which could stifle the capacity of the sector to meet demand, which we believe will increase again with further welfare changes.

There are slightly fewer organisations offering less support to volunteers, but this is still around as many as are increasing their support. It's interesting that there is such an even split, and leads us to wonder what some groups are doing differently? It might be an opportunity to start sharing good practice in volunteer management.

Question 6: Why do you think this is?

We've had more volunteers.

We have more people volunteering who are further from the labour market and wanting to get into employment, means they also need more support in the role to help their progression.

A lot more duties for the volunteers to undertake in their role.

Volunteers tend to go to help with first line services which we don't provide

A simple question yields a simple answer: volunteers have to be supported more if they're helping to deliver services. Volunteers can be a real asset to an organisation if their skills are used properly, but this must be balanced against a role with the right amount of responsibility.

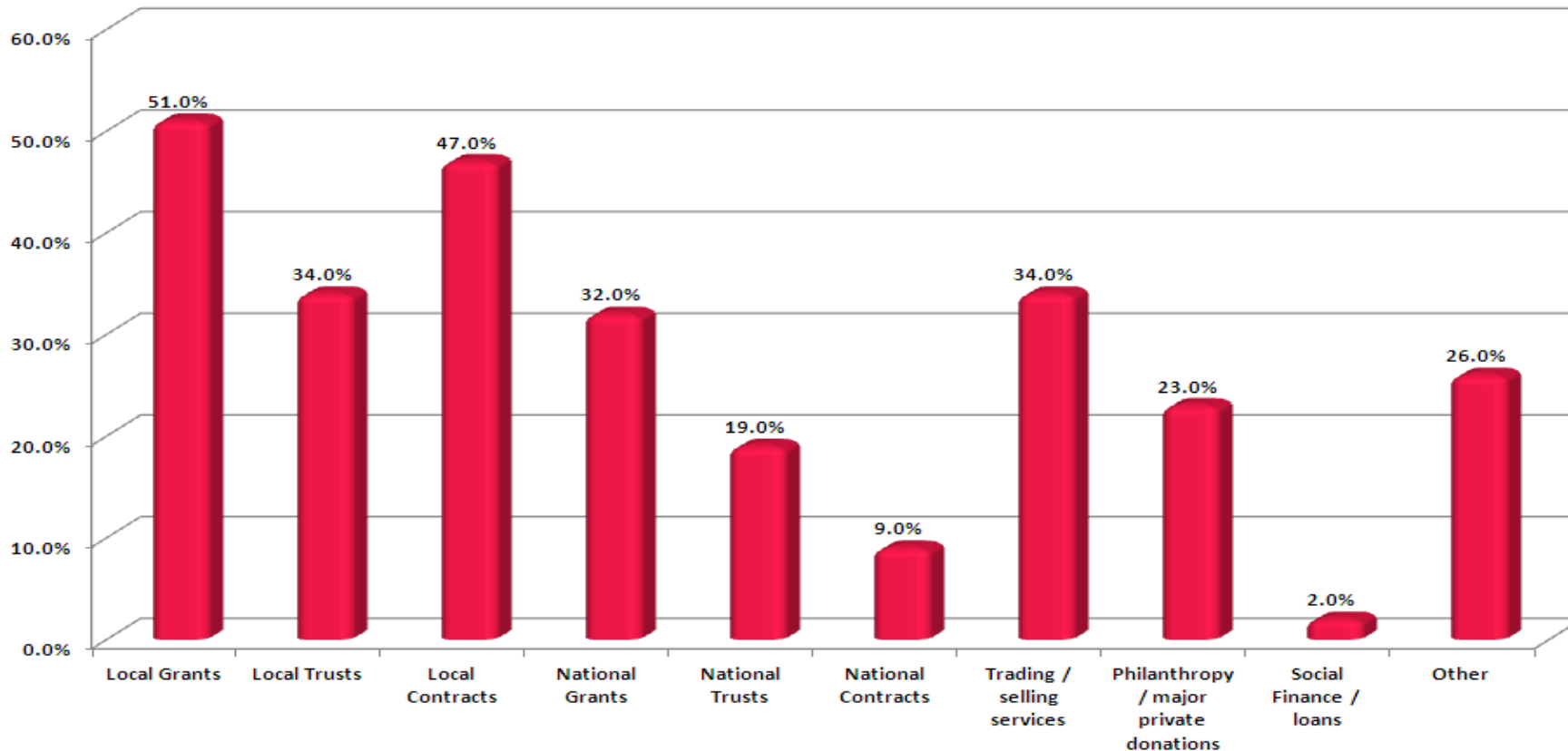
With more people volunteering and demand for services increasing, it makes sense to give a willing volunteer force more responsibility, especially with higher unemployment and more skills available.

But it's important that volunteers aren't seen as the solution to an increase in demand for services: there still needs to be a level of responsibility that should only be given to paid staff, given certain client groups in the sector whose needs shouldn't be passed on to people giving their time for free.



Part 2
Funding

**Question 7: What has been the nature of the funding streams you've received in the last year?
(Tick as many as apply)**



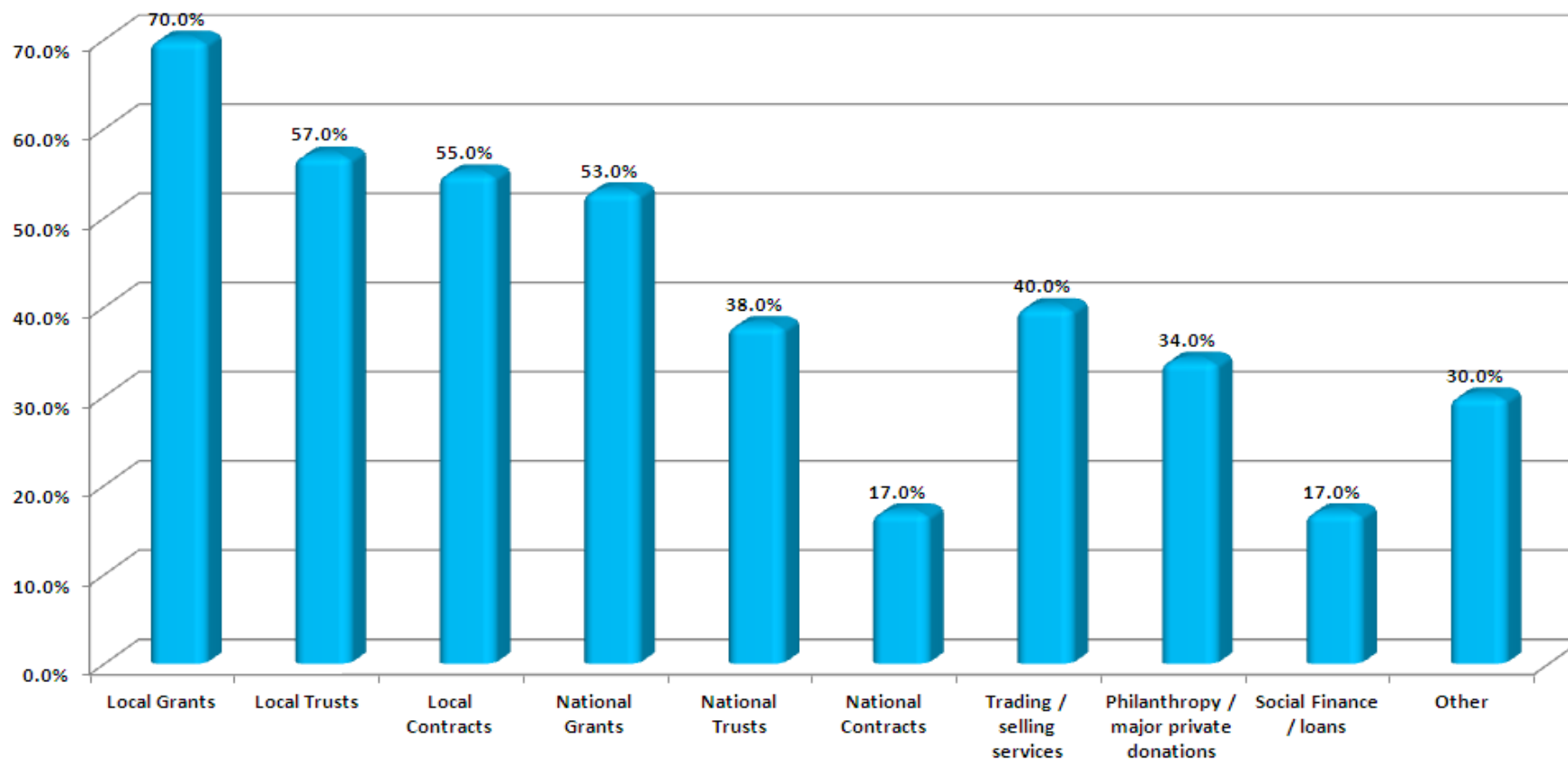
These results are consistent with last year, except for a slight drop across most categories. This could be that organisations have received less funding, or have all “swapped” what type of funding they all apply for.

Despite a shift in the way Nottingham funds the sector, there is still a large reliance on local money compared to national money. It is good to see that the local authority values the work of its local sector, and has broadly awarded contracts as such.

Trading remains a steady source of income, but social finance has barely been picked up by groups despite government focus.

What’s concerning is the government’s encouragement of philanthropy and partnership working with the private sector to win contracts or fund services. There is a danger that philanthropy could become tapped, and alternatives are unclear. Moreover, whereas statutory funding is citizen focussed, private donations come with private motivations and outcomes. We are unsure of any protections in place for such funding to protect the independence of the sector and its work.

Question 8: What is the nature of the funding streams you could potentially apply for over the next year? (Tick as many as apply)



These results are startling. There is still a huge appetite for grants, despite Nottingham City Council moving with the national trend away from grants. This may end up isolating groups, who have indicated they work across the whole city and not in specific areas. Moreover, if groups are working in consortia to access grants, surely this will mean groups will receive less money, despite increasing demand?

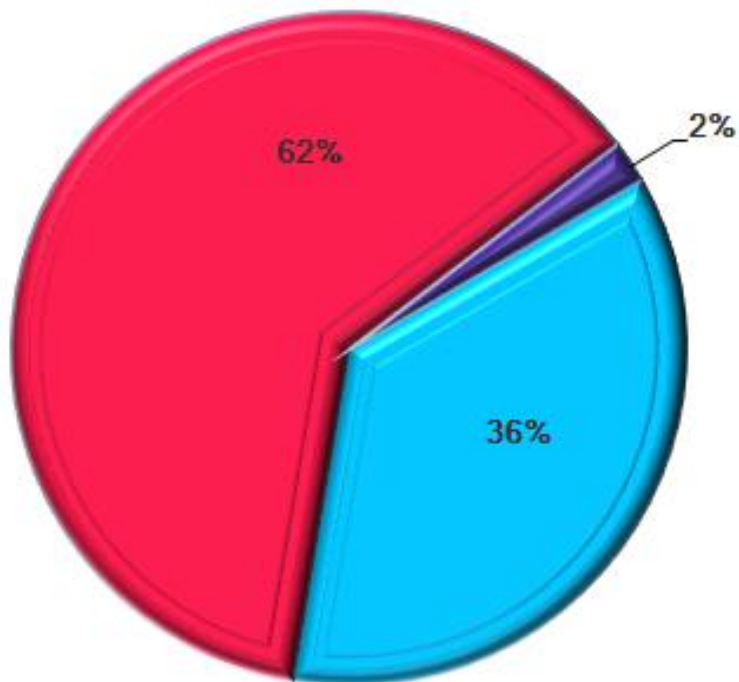
Additionally, more organisations seem to be bidding for contracts at a local and national level. This could also mean groups missing out.

As more groups look to trading, the sector risks competing against private sector competition who can afford to reduce their prices.

This shows a market which is getting more competitive, when the sector's strength is in collaboration. This has been translated into competitive consortia arrangements, which is actually leading to less cooperation as groups become protective of their work. Competition may be healthy, but not at the expense of cooperation.

Question 9: Does the funding you have now cover all of your costs?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Prefer Not To Say



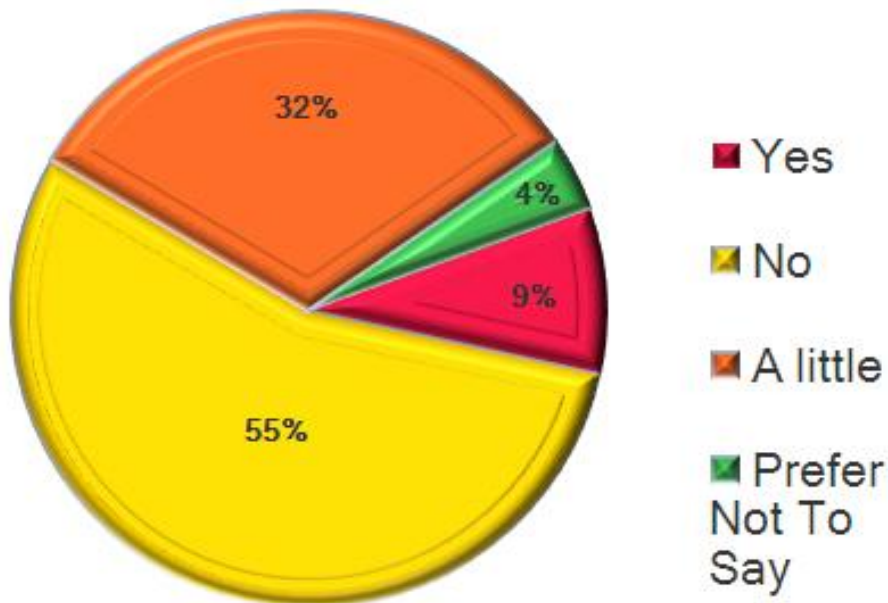
Given how competitive funding is becoming in the sector, and the diversity of income sources listed above, it is alarming that the funding groups have broadly does not cover their costs.

This means that groups are running at a loss, or using reserves to prop up services. This is not a long term strategy, and could lead to groups taking on roles which do not fit their traditional purposes. Worse still, if and when the money runs out, groups could fold.

In the broadest possible terms, this is bad news for those that charities and voluntary organisations help. Don't look at these figures as organisations that could disappear, but as services that can't be sustained.

Funders need to recognise this most urgently – cutting costs is something everyone needs to do, and voluntary organisations are not blind to this, but reducing funding to save costs could damage the city long term. Whether this is reducing management costs or funds for services, it is not sustainable.

Question 10: Do you think those providing funding appreciate the full costs of delivery? E.g. staff, resources, travel, overheads etc.



This figure simply isn't good enough. This is akin to having money for rent, but not for bills and food.

It can't go on like this.

This response indicates a new relationship between funders and voluntary organisations is needed, where cost of delivery is comprehensively understood by funders, and organisations feel comfortable challenging on this issue.

NCVS asked the City Council about building in management and administration costs into the Area Based Grant system at a One Nottingham event in January 2013, and were told that the savings in time from only filling in one lot of monitoring would result in monetary savings.

Responses here, where 87% haven't been able to confidently say that funders understand the costs of delivery, should be a warning to assumptions like those above, especially when held with 62% reporting that their income doesn't cover their costs.

Question 11: How much has your funding changed by in the last 12 months? As a percentage or as a monetary figure. (Both would be very helpful)

**Income reduced by 53% - £108,591.
Expenditure reduced only by £34,000**

About the same, although different sources.

Only just covered costs last year. Have not secured this year's funding yet

The answers to this question were pretty clear: groups are still working with significantly less funding than they were a year ago. Some groups have lost over half their funding, with some losing up to 75%.

Groups are also cutting expenditure as income disappears, which could mean staff and / or services. Long term, these are skills and or services which could be permanently leaving the city.

While some groups are looking for different sources of funding to carry their work on, our concern is the sustainability of new funding: is it likely to be pulled like other sources of funding have been?

Finally, some groups are using reserves to prop up their work, but this can't carry on forever. We are concerned that as funding dries up, reserves will become too common a lifeline while services still need to be delivered.

Question 12: How has the type of funding you receive changed in the last 12 months? E.g. have you moved from grants to selling and trading, or from contracts to philanthropy / major private donations?

Moving more towards trading

We've also recruited a new member of staff to bring in donations from corporate organisations and trusts, which is proving successful.

We have also increased the charge to citizens, though we keep charitable status through subsidising those on a low income or not on a personal budget.

Grants to selling and trading

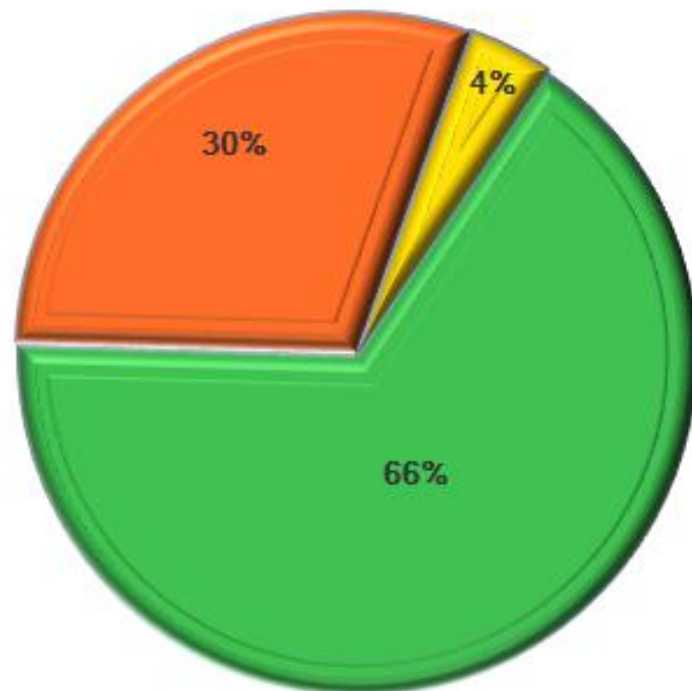
With grants drying up, despite the thirst for them remaining high, groups are trying to find new ways to fund their work. Trading, philanthropy and trusts have become new sources of income, showing that the sector can adapt to new circumstances.

We are pleased to see this, although we are concerned that there is still a thirst for grants as detailed in Question 8. These still need to remain as part of a broad funding spectrum for the sector, despite its adaptability.

Other groups have also changed staff roles to give them more of a fundraising focus. This appears a prudent move; however with demand for services increasing we are curious to know if this is being met with staff time being diverted.

Question 13: Does your charity have reserves?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Prefer not to say

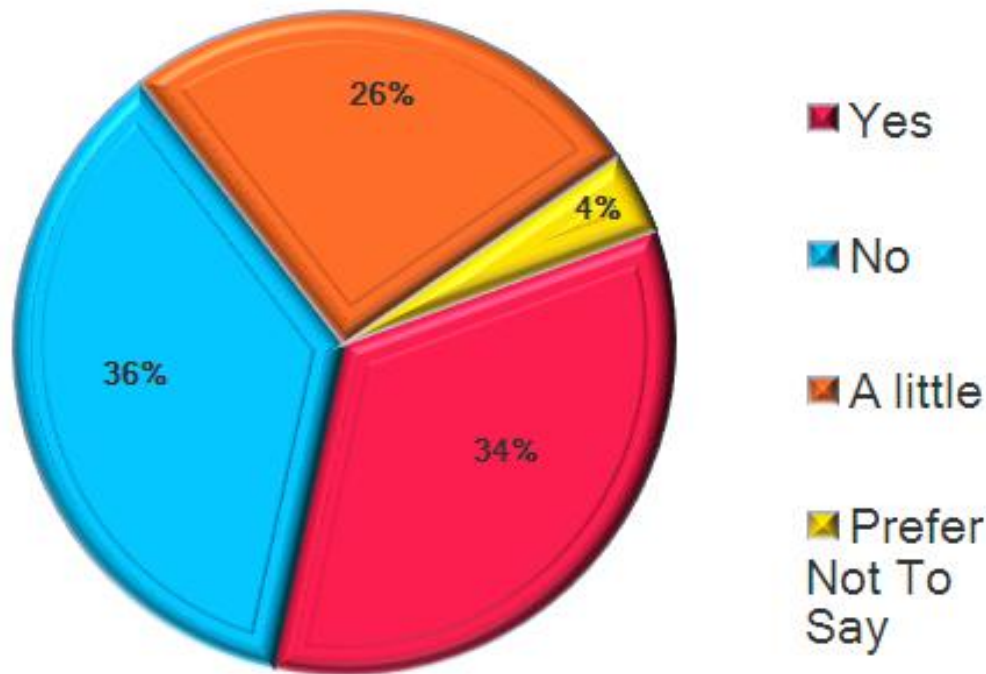


Reserves are essentially savings or rainy day money for charities, and it has been a rainy few years. So to see a slight increase in organisations with reserves than last year is good news. More organisations are complying with Charity Commission rules, but nearly a third not complying is still a cause for concern, especially with the increase in demand for services and costs broadly not being covered by funding.

There is a danger that voluntary organisations are living hand to mouth and from grant to grant, which has its own problems as grants are decreasing. This is dangerous, as it will ultimately be service users who suffer.

When asked a supplementary question about those who had reserves were using them to fund services or not, 68% of those who responded said they were. We wonder how long this can go on for before drastic changes are made to services, before staff have to be cut, and before organisations have to close.

Question 14: Are you worried about losing out on future funding if you campaign against / speak up against a funder or its processes? This can be any funder, e.g. government, funding body, donor etc.



This is a story NCVS has been hearing for some time, but has only just been able to quantify. With such a scarcity of funding available, groups are reluctant to do anything which might harm their chances of obtaining funding or adversely affect their operational status. This includes speaking up against unfair deadlines for tenders, unfair requirements or a lack of realism, either before or during the project.

Over a third of those surveyed indicated discomfort about speaking up, something the sector has been very good at over the years, and over a quarter would have reservations. It is a difficult relationship to balance for local government especially, as it could be seen as organisations biting the hand that feeds them.

But local government and charities have the same common purpose: to make life better for citizens. If voluntary organisations can't feed this back, how can things get better? How can citizens be properly cared for, especially vulnerable citizens that voluntary organisations work with?

Question 15: If Yes, can you explain more?

No point in complaining as others will take the funding

With limited funding available speaking out would possibly go against the organisation and future funding may not be forthcoming

This would be unwise for a small charity in our position

Demand for funding is so high and competition is so tight that I wouldn't like to do anything to scupper my chances of being considered for funding, something which reporting a funder might well do.

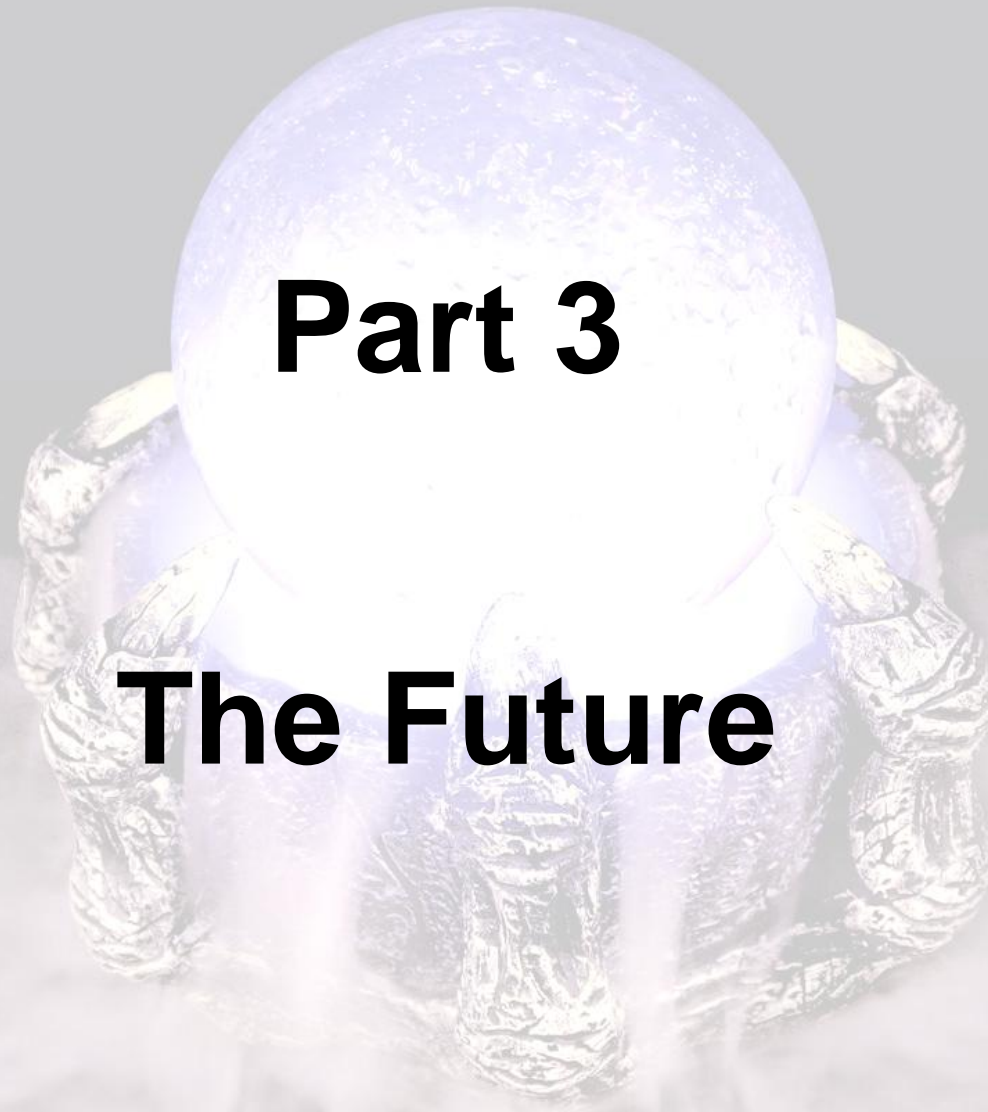
This is a concern that NCVS has had for some time. Organisations have been telling us they are concerned about speaking up against funders due to the increased competition and the idea of being perceived as trouble makers.

Whilst we have had assurances, we are still hearing of groups being warned of the consequences of speaking "out of turn."

This is a national concern too. According to the Guardian, charities "feel increasingly unable to challenge policy or speak out...because they feared losing contracts or influence. Many were self-censoring because they feared retribution from funders." (Guardian, 22 January 2013: "Charities afraid to challenge public policy amid retribution fears.")

The answers given here demonstrate that this is reflected locally too. Groups see that the funding environment is brutal, and they feel they may have to compromise on their campaigning voice to win it.

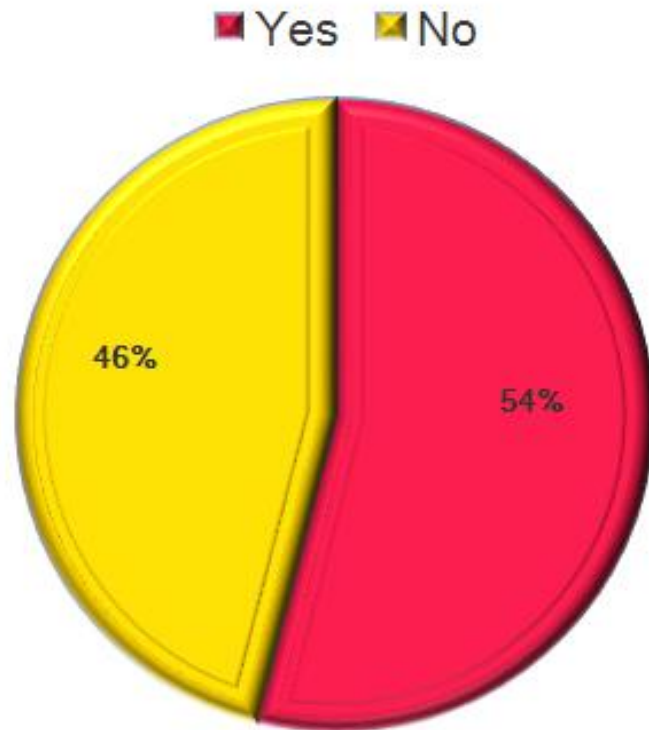
This is unacceptable, and not in keeping with the voluntary sector's responsibility to speak up for those who need it.



Part 3

The Future

Question 16: Is there a possibility of your organisation having to close a service it provides?



While this is a sizeable decrease on the 76% of those who answered 'yes' last year, the possibility of half of services having to close is a serious concern.

When asked which services, there are consistencies with last year. Some services which deal with specific communities or cultures may fall away, leaving only generic support with less focus or understanding. Several respondents replied that they are funding services from reserves, or will do if they have to.

Worryingly, some respondents replied that their advice services had closed, or will close. This could have a huge impact on vulnerable people in the city, especially with further welfare changes coming. If these communities can't get their advice from these specific services, this will increase demand on generic services, who will also find themselves dealing with new client groups in an already demanding environment.

Specific services are often seen as duplicating work: this is simplistic and could damage communities.

We have moved premises and we don't receive any running costs hence once the reserves have run out, we will not be able to continue to run the service

We have money for general health and wellbeing but nothing for our main client group, which is our key concern

Question 17: Why do you think this is?

We are using our reserves to cover the deficit but also completing funding applications for new projects

Funding moving to larger contracts we are not eligible for

We are a very small organisation and do not have further funding to sustain the organisation. We have tried to apply for national funding and have not been successful due to the heavy competition

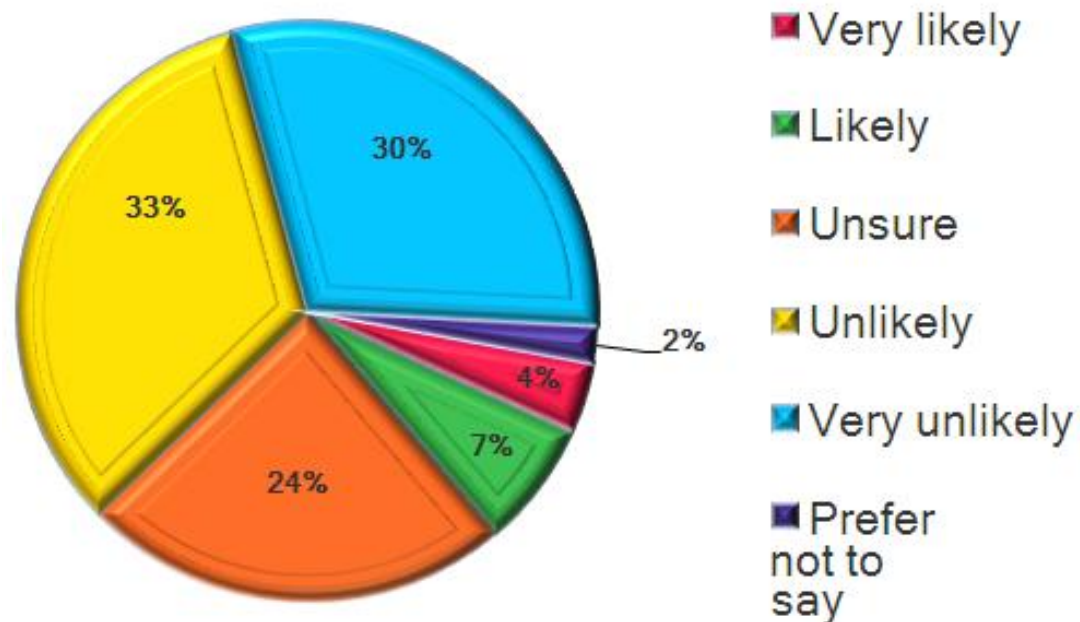
Funders target large numbers and only consider priorities

Responses detailed a lack of funding for specific projects, escalating costs of running services and contracts being too large to bid for.

While large, unwinnable contracts are certainly problematic, a lack of funding options overall is increasingly becoming a problem. Small organisations are unlikely to have bid for large, national contracts before but with less funding available, they have to bid for what's available.

This risks the voluntary sector becoming a generic fire fighting service, unable to help smaller communities of people or causes who need the most help. A lack of preventative work or not addressing minority issues not only risks harming the voluntary sector, but the city and its citizens long term.

Question 18: What is the possibility of your organisation having to close altogether?



Finally, some relatively good news. Broadly, organisations are unlikely to close, however their services might despite the increased need for them.

Compared with last year's statistics, there is a perception of greater security, as fewer organisations are suggesting it is unlikely they will close. However, there is still a large proportion of the sector which is unsure of its future. Insecurity is a poor motivator for employees, and leaves vulnerable service users feeling insecure – especially at the 11% of organisations who feel they may close, as had been warned by NCVS and Wheelbase on East Midlands Today in April 2013.

11% sounds like a small amount, but consider the work voluntary organisations do and it's a lot of people who won't be cared for, represented or helped. Behind every organisation is its clients.

Question 19: If you can't provide your services, who will end up picking up your work? What problems will they face?

No one will pick up our work which falls between social and health. Our clients will just suffer in silence

If we can't provide services, people will face greater poverty and isolation, and may not be able to access similar services elsewhere.

Generic advocacy and information services but they will not meet the needs of our client group. Reduction in service results in people being less able to manage their condition

It has taken years to build up our contacts and trust amongst local people.

As far as we are aware no one else offers this service because other organisations/services sell equipment and therefore cannot be impartial.

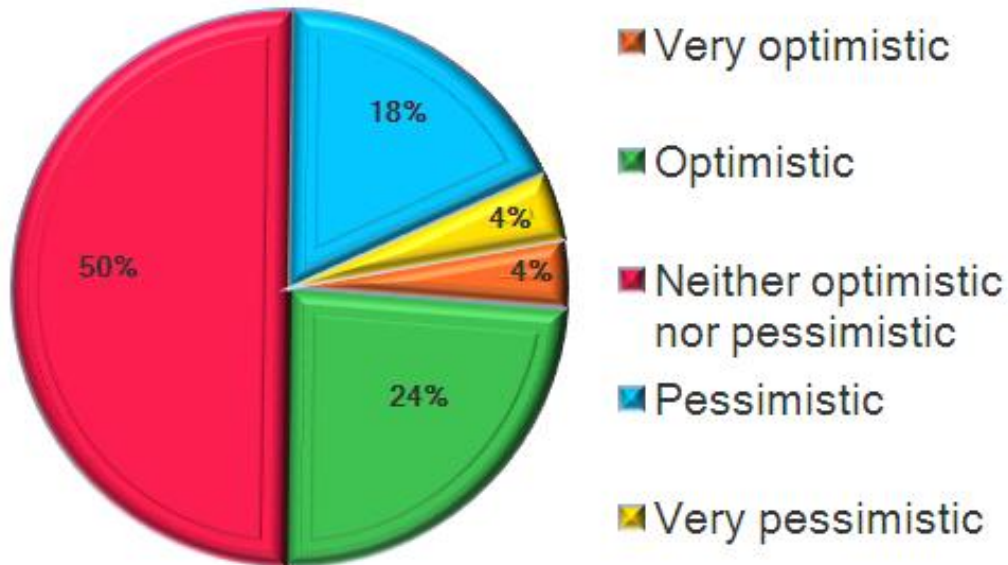
Street homelessness will and is increasing again along with their other problems of offending alcohol drug problems and mental health issues

Half of those who answered this question said no-one. This is a similar response to last year, where 55% answered no-one.

This clearly shows that the sector is a last resort for a lot of people who need help, and pulling such funding away would be colossally damaging to the people of Nottingham. Testimony from the sector shows the impact losing its services could have.

While there is vocal appreciation of the voluntary sector and the work that it does, we are concerned that this is translating into financial support less and less. These services can't run on nothing, or on reserves. If vulnerable people need services, they need providing by those with the skills to help them.

Question 20: How optimistic are you about your organisation's future prospects given local and national political agendas?

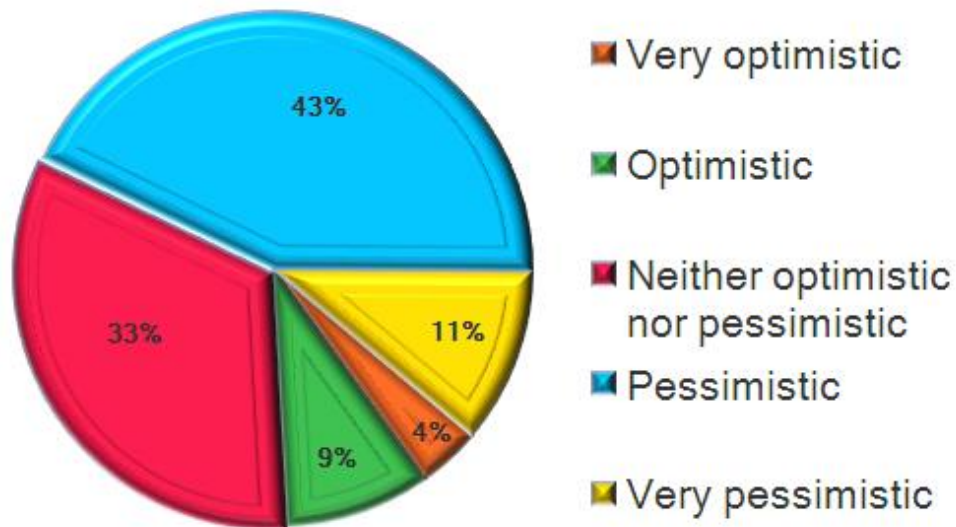


This graph paints a picture of uncertainty. This shows a sector waiting for something to happen, and a sector that doesn't want to jump to conclusions.

The voluntary sector has rightly been praised for its flexibility and its ability to respond to change for the benefit of its service users. This is reflected here – organisations will adapt and change their work to meet the needs of their users. They will have to, with impending changes to welfare, health and social care and legal aid.

Uncertainty breeds insecurity though, and the more insecure a workforce feels, the more likely they are to move on. With reducing funding and increasing demand and numbers of volunteers, there is a possibility that these skills won't be properly replaced. It would be a shame to see uncertainty weaken such an asset to the city.

Question 21: How optimistic are you about your client group's future prospects given local and national political agendas?



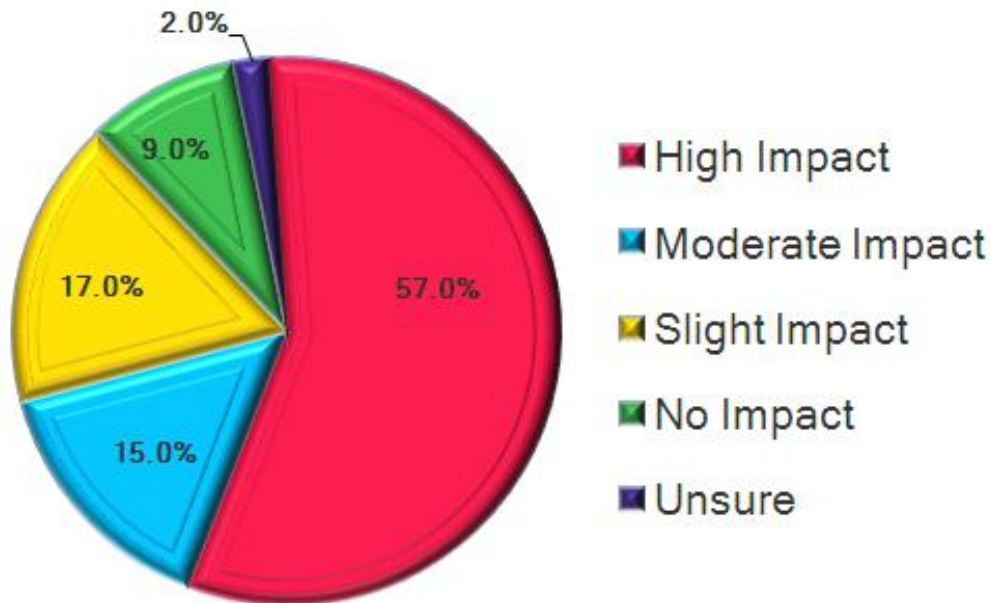
This is a very different picture to the uncertainty displayed by organisations. Over half of organisations are pessimistic where the future of their clients is concerned, which you would expect from a sector which cares about its clients.

This is to be expected with so much going on, and with vulnerable people bearing so much of the brunt of government reforms – which are nowhere near finished. With Personal Independence Payments coming soon, and the consequences of Bedroom Tax nowhere near felt yet, along with drastic changes to other welfare protections and a lack of efficacy of employment programmes for vulnerable people, it's no surprise there is widespread pessimism.

Add these government reforms to what we see in this survey – an increase in demand for services, more competition for funding (and less money) and fewer staff, and there could be serious consequences for vulnerable people in the city.

No wonder there's a lack of optimism. It's scary.

Question 22: What impact do you think recent and coming welfare changes will have on your service users?



The current welfare reforms are the biggest since the establishment of the NHS in 1948, yet whereas the NHS heralded universal healthcare, the current reforms seem to be having an inverse impact.

Only 9% of those surveyed could say that the reforms will have no impact on their service users. Which means an absolute majority of the sector feels that the forthcoming welfare reforms will affect their clients.

This is a loud and clear message to the government that these reforms will affect the country's most vulnerable. 91% of those surveyed saw welfare reforms affecting their clients. Whether this effect is good or bad remains to be seen, evidence from Question 23 seems to imply it will be for the worse.

Welfare Reform is a game changer for the voluntary sector, and support to mitigate any negative consequences of these reforms from government must be forthcoming.

Question 23: If any impact at all, what? And due to which reforms?

Welfare reform - greater poverty and evictions due to inability to manage money and higher drug/alcohol use - higher crime levels and anti-social behaviour

Universal Credit being paid monthly – people struggle to budget now when paid fortnightly

The welfare changes are going to have a high impact on individuals who have a mental health issue. They will end up in debt, health deteriorating and no culturally specific service to support them.

Changes to welfare benefits and lack of job opportunities for young people will also lead to greater pressure on families

Any new system is bound to have teething problems, but the fears around welfare reform could be better described as serious tooth decay.

Claims of making the welfare system fairer fly in the face of testimonies we have from voluntary sector organisations which show how the new systems will penalise the most vulnerable.

Every component of welfare reform was reported as having a negative impact on service users. There are serious questions about people's capacity to manage money under Universal Credit and the effect the Personal Independence Payment will have on disabled people. The worst is yet to come, and we need to come together as a sector to challenge the consequences of welfare reform.

Groups who work with the most vulnerable are needed more than ever, despite specific services being replaced with generic ones. If these voices are drowned out, no one will be left to speak for those who need most support.

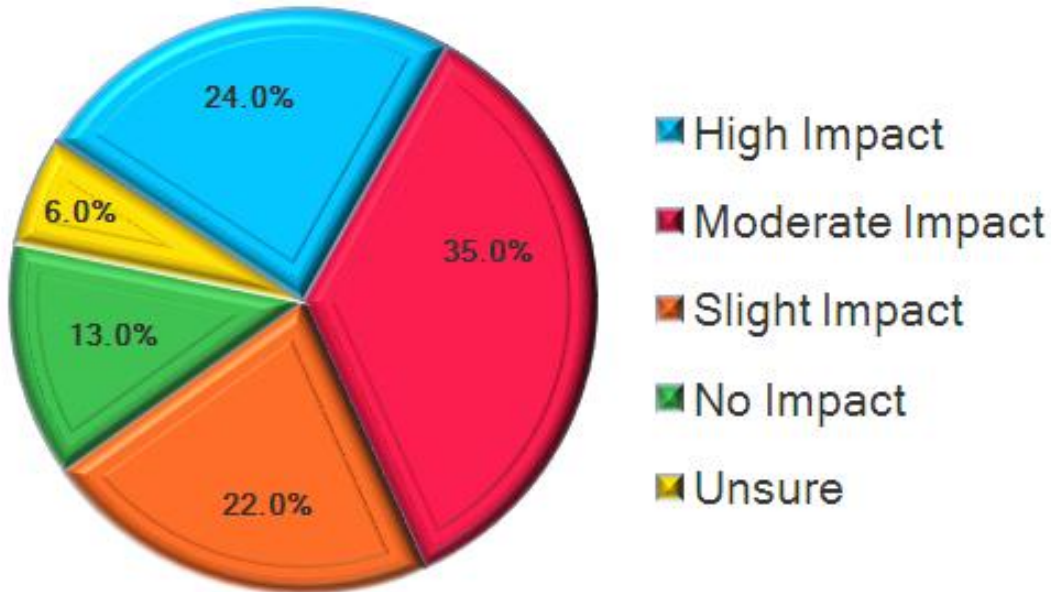
Question 24: What impact do you think recent and coming welfare changes will have on your organisation?

While 81% have reported some impact on their organisations, there is less concern about the severity of impact on the organisation compared to the effect on clients. This is a sector which is more concerned for its clients, who can't react as flexibly as organisations can to adjust their priorities and work according to circumstances.

Organisations will flex and adapt to ensure that their work continues, and that clients' needs will be met, but as the rest of this survey shows, that can only go on for so long before breaking point.

Welfare reform is already affecting the sector as demand is increasing: we expect to see a further increase in demand for services next year, given the sector's projections in this survey.

Only two things could change this – increased funding and capacity to meet demand, or a scaling back of reforms that are likely to hurt vulnerable people and the organisations that work with them. We don't anticipate that either are likely.



Question 25: If any impact at all, what? And due to which reforms?

Increased demand for our services due to increased personal debt and greater levels of homelessness

More demand for services as a result of less income for individual service users

We encourage service users to volunteer to run our organisation. Many are now saying they are too scared to do so because they are on ESA and may be regarded as 'fit for work' if they volunteer.

Different image of what constitutes volunteering (social action giving vs. unpaid work experience)

The key messages here have been that demand is set to increase further, after two years of demand for services already increasing. Welfare reform is pushing ahead, but we haven't yet seen any national investment in the voluntary sector as a result of the reforms to help those who will suddenly need it most.

There is evidence that volunteers may also be affected. The news that sanctions could stop people volunteering is disturbing, and not something we'd accounted for. While we have previously seen volunteers being mandated to volunteer, now we see volunteering going in the opposite direction. We are seriously concerned about volunteering becoming misunderstood and misused.

Finally, it is becoming increasingly apparent that demand is going to increase further, along with competition for funding. This kind of competition is bad for the sector, bad for the city and bad for its citizens.

Question 26: What additional support has your organisation received in the last year?

One Nottingham grant, BBC Children in Need grant, People's Health Lotteries grant

Business mentoring, won a couple of awards which has lead to raised profile, more publicity etc, social network

Heritage Lottery Fund (encouragement to apply), Nottingham City Council (vocal support for future project idea), NCVS (general funding advice)

None, just empty promises.

This is a mixed picture from the sector, with increasing support from the private sector and philanthropic donations on the one hand, and desperation on the other.

It's clear that the sector still needs grants, and the reduction in volume of these will only do damage to the city as groups' sustainability and ability to help others diminishes.

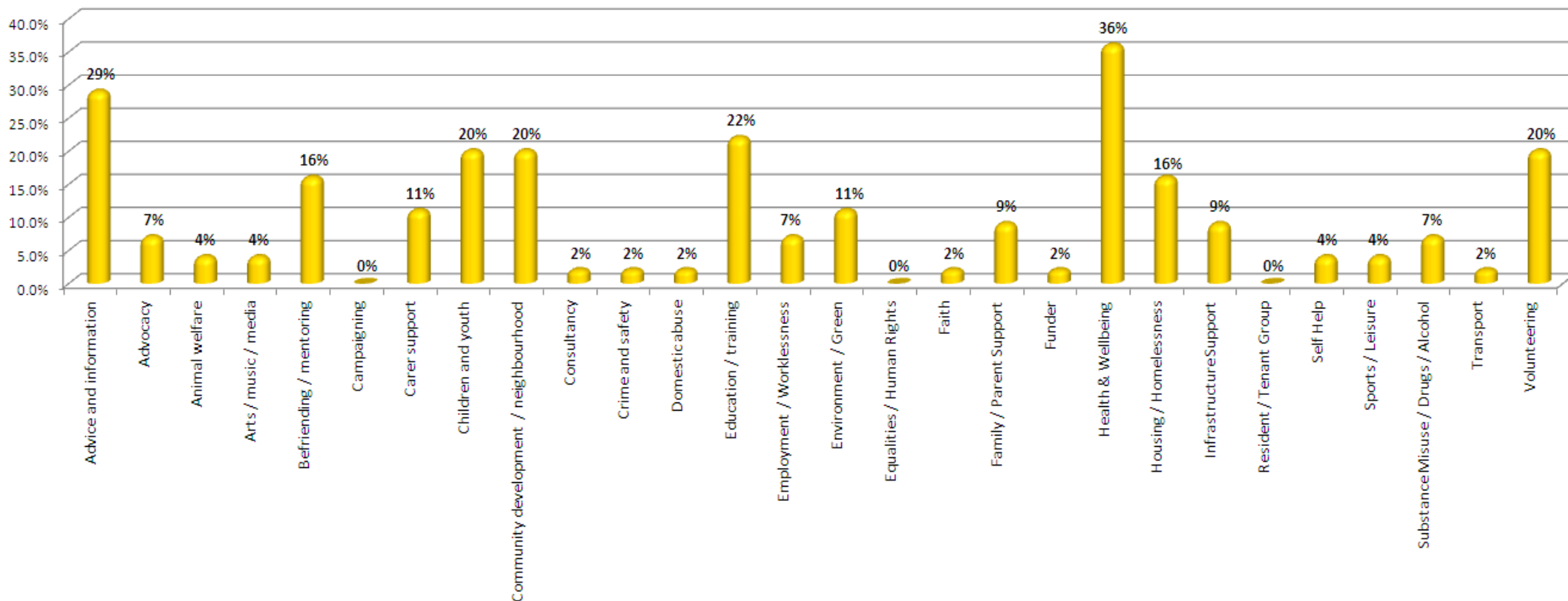
While organisations are diversifying where they apply to, we are concerned that increasing competition is going to mean more miss out, especially where bigger contracts are involved. NCVS will continue to support the sector as we have in the past, and hope that extra support for the sector will be forthcoming.

A person in a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie is holding a red book. The book cover has the text "THIS IS YOUR LIFE" printed on it. The background is a solid light blue color.

Part 4

About Your Organisation

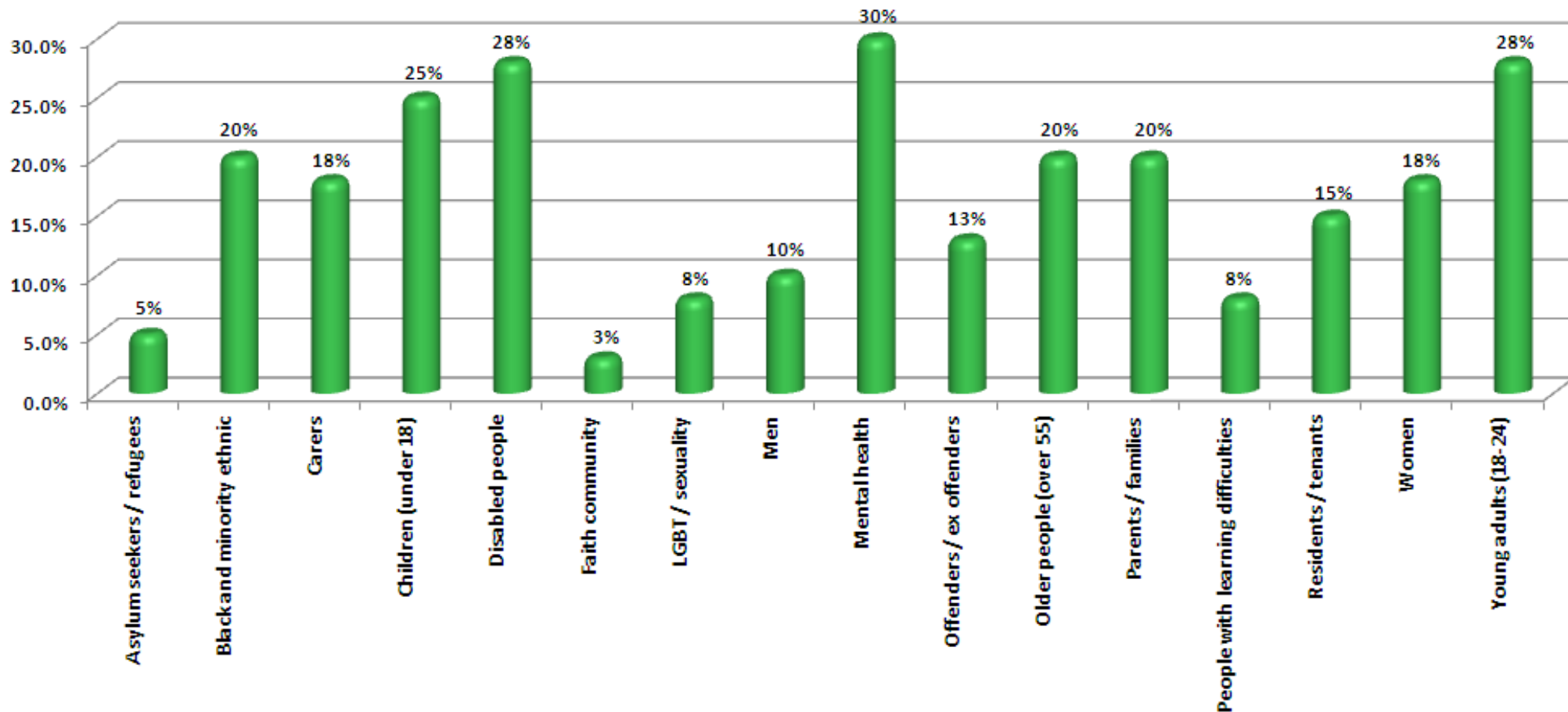
Question 27: Please tell us about the services your organisation provides (please tick a maximum of THREE).



This shows the breadth of services provided by respondents to our survey, and therefore the services likely to be affected by the issues raised throughout this survey.

Perhaps most poignant are the higher numbers of health and wellbeing and advice and information respondents – organisations keen to have their say given the effect forthcoming reforms are likely to have.

Question 28: Who are your organisation's main client groups? (Please tick a maximum of THREE).

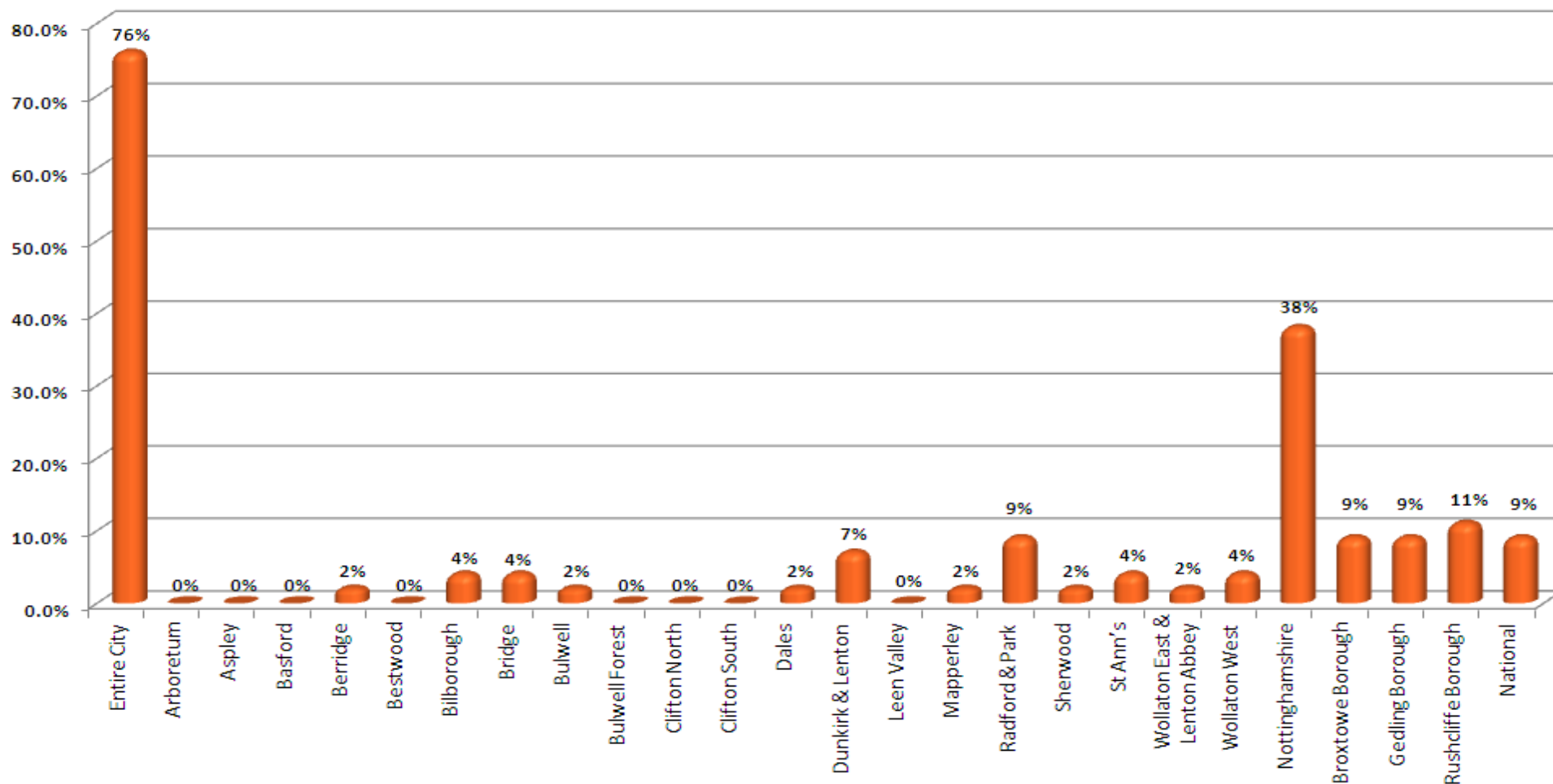


This broad spectrum of service users shows the people likely to be adversely affected by the forthcoming changes, and those likely to be affected by any further policy shifts.

Voluntary organisations traditionally work with the most vulnerable in society – those whose lives have already been

adversely affected necessitating the help of charities – and the above shows the people in the city who could suffer if services close, or if reforms aren't properly considered.

Question 29: Which areas does your organisation work in? (Please tick as many as apply)



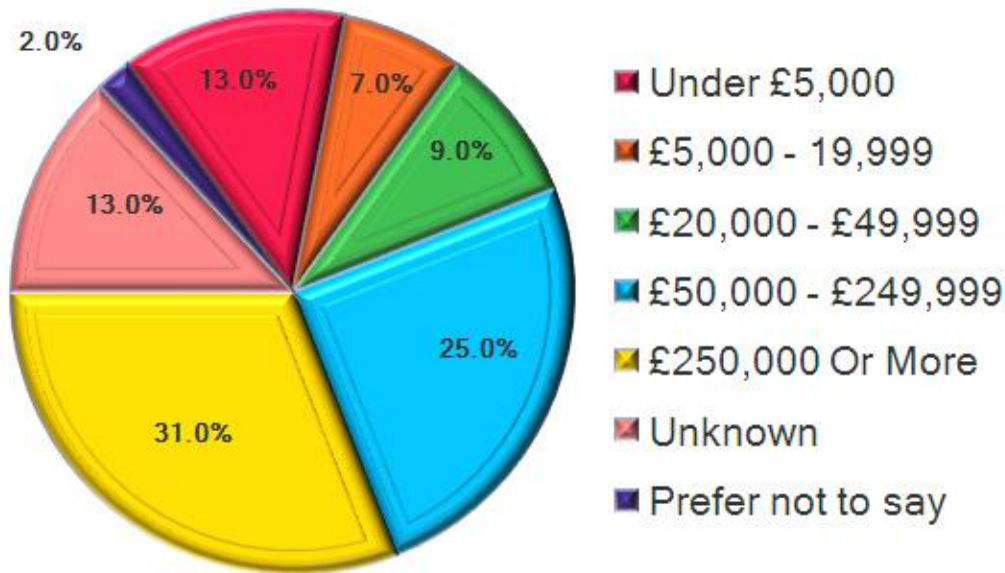
There are three major conclusions to draw from these results. Firstly, as contracts get bigger, smaller organisations are less able to bid for them, or unable to rely on a slice of money from a consortium, and as a result either close or take on more work than they can handle.

Secondly, as a result, services are being provided city wide in order to fill the gap left by the smaller services that close, losing local intelligence and relationships.

Thirdly, the City Council's Area Based Grants programme doesn't broadly fit with the services being provided across the city. 76% of organisations don't just work in one area, yet Area Based Grants bring local groups together to address local issues and needs. This is only a component of what the sector is doing, though.

While Area Based Grants have a place in the funding picture, this graph shows that they are needed alongside other funding arrangements.

Question 30: What is your organisation's annual income?



We are pleased to see that this is a better spectrum of groups than last year, but changes across all income amounts is concerning.

It could be that new groups are answering from last year, or that organisations are losing income. We are inclined to believe it is the latter, and are concerned that with demand increasing that funding could reduce further.

Conclusion: The Reality Cheque

Last year, we resisted calling our findings the ‘Perfect Storm’ like some of our national colleagues because we felt the worst was yet to come for the voluntary sector.

Once again, we couldn’t rightfully present these as a worst case scenario because of the sector’s projections for the future.

In a year in which we have seen the same staff, or fewer, continue to deliver services that are in higher demand than ever with less funding, we could have easily hit the panic button. But the people in the know - the sector who answered our survey - said that the worst is yet to come with the spectre of Welfare Reform looming large for Nottingham’s vulnerable people.

Add this to a competitive funding pool, which only promises bigger fish fighting for smaller feed in shallower waters, and actually, the worst really is yet to come.

This is the **reality cheque**. Things are bad, but they could get worse. If we let it bounce, then it really will be as bad as this survey projects: services closing, no-one picking up those who need help, welfare reform hurting those the welfare system exists to protect and groups having no relationship with funders.

If it cashes though, and we work together, we can make a difference to the vulnerable people of Nottingham and the charitable groups who protect them.

NCVS has always taken the position that our State of the Sector surveys are not tools to bash local and national government

with, but a starting point for cooperative working. As an organisation, we can honestly and openly survey a cross-section of the sector and use it to help make the city better together.

That’s not to say we won’t be honest, sometimes brutally, about what’s going on. However, given the reluctance of groups to speak up to funders on occasion, it’s our role to put ourselves in the firing line. That role is more important than ever given these results.

This survey paints a picture of a sector working less with their core client groups in order to provide generic services, as funding to help smaller communities has receded. Also in the picture are groups vying for local funding to provide cross-city projects, with sector projections showing that it’s going to become even more competitive.

Our picture also paints a difficult relationship with funders - despite doing “more with less,” something our Chief Executive warned about, it’s not sustainable. Funding isn’t covering costs, reserves – a traditional last line of defence – are being used to sustain groups and services, and while groups believe funders don’t understand the full costs of delivery, they’re reluctant to challenge for fear of a quieter competitor stealing in.

This is fuelling broad pessimism for clients alongside welfare reform, which is likely to increase demand for services even further. But if the funding simply isn’t there, services could close, and some of the city’s most vulnerable will have nowhere to turn - some with specific needs not met anywhere else.

able to cover costs, and then not being able to report this, is risking the closure of services.

The sector is a great place to turn for a lot of vulnerable people, but it simply won't be able to help them if groups or services don't exist due to closure. Like everyone else in the country, the sector is under pressure which is only going to increase. Unlike most though, the sector is likely to be pulled from all sides by lack of funding, demand increasing even further, government reforms, greater competition labelled as consortia and a lack of understanding of sector priorities.

A final word of warning. The sector has always been seen as flexible to the city's needs, but we would suggest a better word to describe it is "stretchy."

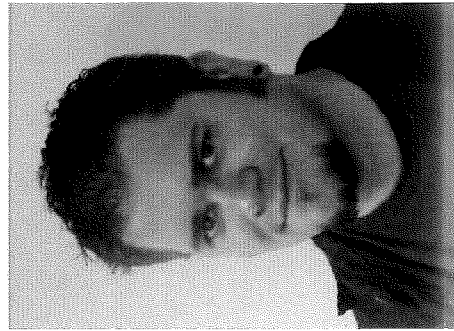
The sector has stretched to help more people, made money go further, strained to meet demand and asked evermore from its staff and volunteers.

The thing is - if you stretch more than you should, you can stretch something out of shape that isn't fit to help anyone. And if you stretch it too far, it snaps.

The force of that snap would be felt by many people for a long time.

The **Reality Cheque** is in the mail. Don't be tempted to return it to sender.

Ferg Slade
Policy and Campaigns Officer,
Nottingham CVS



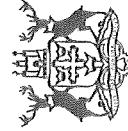
Making recommendations is made complicated by even more Local Authority budget cuts from the government, hitting big cities like Nottingham hard while some areas in the country are barely touched. It's an unfair environment - and even less fair if you happen to need help from charities.

With this in mind, NCVS recommends:

1. That while Area Based Grants have a place in a broader funding landscape, our results indicate that citywide services need to have an important place in that landscape too. Area Based Working has a place in resolving some local issues, but also risks fragmenting citywide work the sector does to deliver to its entire client group.
2. That funding must be spread across the sector to mitigate the impact of Welfare Reform, as our report shows that its impact is likely to send shockwaves across the sector, and not just impact advice services. The sector works with those most closely affected by Welfare Reform on a regular basis and are best placed to mitigate its impact, and communicate what's needed most.
3. That the sector and the City Council work even more closely together to campaign to change Welfare Reform, which is clearly a danger to Nottingham's vulnerable people. Welfare Reform is clearly here to stay, but its reforms are hurting people the government clearly cannot have intended to hurt. This needs to be demonstrated as clearly as possible at the highest possible levels.
4. There needs to be a new relationship with funders - and quickly. There needs to be clear and firm messages that the sector can approach funders with questions and concerns without jeopardising their futures; reporting mechanisms established in the event that groups' funding is held over them or out of their reach; and action to be taken as a result of reporting such concerns. Not being



LOTTERY FUNDED



Nottingham
City Council

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Chief Executive Helen Kearsley-Cree. NCVS is a Registered Charity No. 1070790 and Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 35056634 VAT No. 694787852

Streamlining Investment to the VCS

Progress So Far...

Overview and Scrutiny
6 November 2013



Agenda

- Introduction
- Terminology
- Streamlining Investment to the VCS
 - Phase One
 - Phase Two



Introduction

NCC regards the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) as a key partner to delivering a safe, clean, ambitious and proud City

The formal partnership agreement between NCC and the VCS is called the Nottingham Compact Plus Framework



Terminology

- **Commissioning:** Assesses the needs of Citizens, defines the outcomes needed, and designs services to meet those needs
- **Procurement:** is the process by which services are purchased and is governed by EU regulations



Terminology continued...

- **Tender:** is the competitive process by which **all** providers can apply to deliver a service and is governed by EU regulations
- **Grant:** is the competitive process by which VCS providers can apply to deliver a service and is not governed by EU regulations

Why have NCC streamlined funding to the VCS?

- To provide a clear, transparent and streamlined process for funding
- To support a thriving VCS
- To achieve better outcomes for our citizens

Supporting a Thriving VCS

- £31m_(approx) was spent with the VCS in 2012/13
- £29m_(approx) of this was won by the VCS winning tenders
- £1.7m_(approx) of this was grant funding to the VCS



Area Based Grants

- First phase of streamlining investment to the VCS
- Funding spent at an Area level was identified
- Four grant funding streams were brought together
- A service specification was written and advertised
- The VCS were asked to form partnerships and identify a lead organisation to apply for the grant funding
- 7 Lead Organisations were successful
- Contracts began 1 July 2013 for 33 months

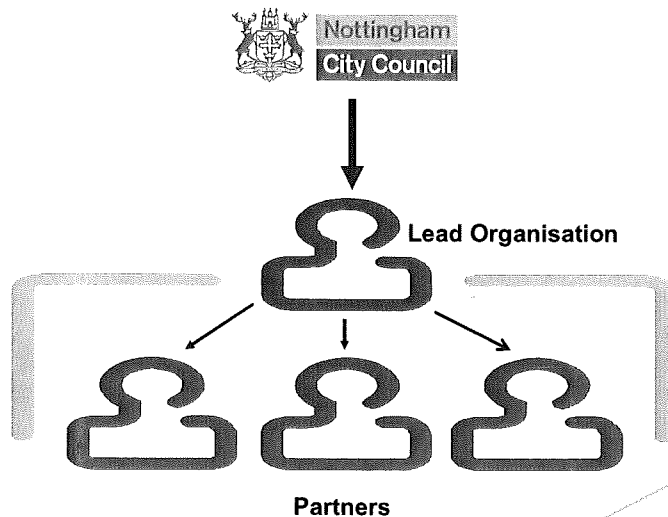


Lead Organisations

Area	Lead	£
1	Right Track Social Enterprise	95,376
2	Right Track Social Enterprise	90,380
3	Groundwork's Nottingham	167,677
4	Castle Cavendish	93,314
5	NG7 Training and Education	103,931
6	The Renewal Trust	432,031
7	No Lead Organisation	7,773
8	Meadows Partnership Trust	122,676



The Model



Phase 2: Communities of Identity

- The work began April 2013
- Consultation April – June 2013
- 27 July Service Specification advertised
- 22 October closing date for applications
- December awarding of contracts
- 1 April 2014 contracts begin for 24 months



What is a Community of Identity

Communities can be defined by the place they live whether that be a small neighbourhood or a large city. However many people feel part of communities around shared issues or circumstances, such as ethnic minority, sexual orientation, disability or age and may want to come together and organise city-wide.

Communities of identity are likely to have particular needs and priorities for public services, barriers need to be removed to enable these communities to have power and influence in relation to these. In some cases groups may want to directly deliver services.

In prioritising and resourcing communities of identity, we should focus on those communities experiencing disadvantage or inequalities, for example in relation to race, disability, and those most in need of greater capacity.



The Equality Act (2010)

- **Equalities Act: Protected Characteristics**

- age
- being or becoming a transsexual person
- being married or in a civil partnership
- being pregnant or having a child
- disability
- race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
- religion, belief or lack of religion/belief
- sex
- sexual orientation



What was in or out of scope?

In Scope	Out of Scope
Sexual Orientation	Age
Refugee & Asylum Seekers	Disability
BME Communities	Communities of Interest
New & Emerging Communities	Geographical Communities



Funding Criteria

- Identified three priority groups
 - Refugee & Asylum Seekers and New & Emerging Communities
 - Established Communities
 - Gender and Sexual Orientation



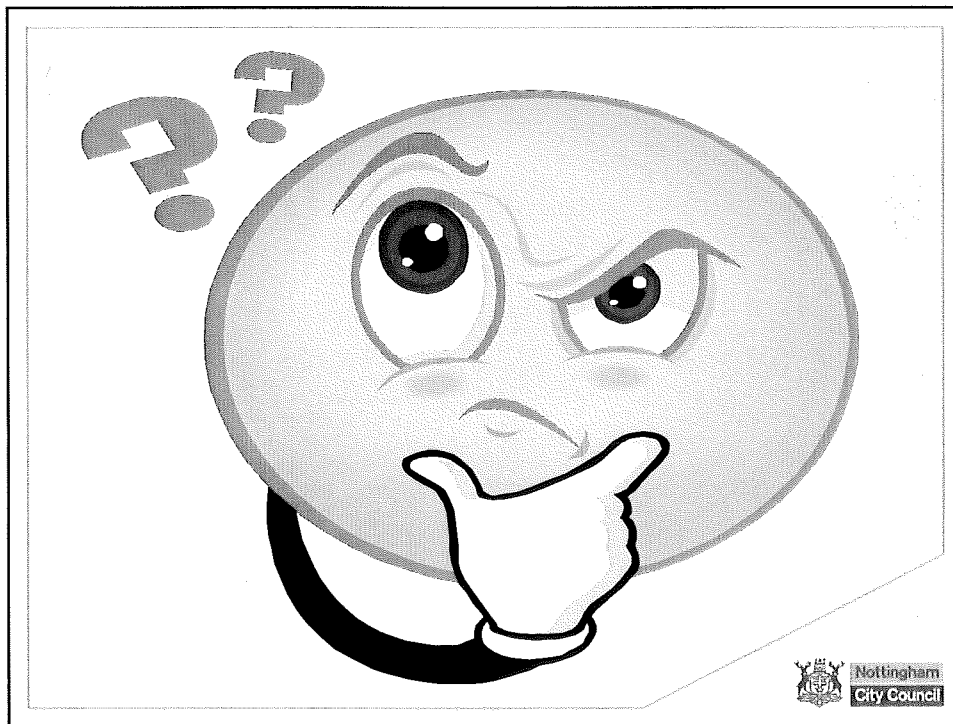
Funding Criteria continued...

- Three priority outcomes
 - Information, Advice and Guidance
 - Building Skills and Confidence
 - Physical and Virtual Space



Other Phase Two Work

- Voluntary Sector Property and Lease Review
 - One standard contract/agreement
- Fair Funding Formula
 - Agree key factors and priorities
 - Agree a safe timescale





DRAFT: Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding – Progress so far...

Introduction

Nottingham City Council regards the Voluntary and Community Sector as a key partner in delivering its vision for a safe, clean, ambitious and proud City. Significant measures have been put in place by the Council to support the Voluntary and Community Sector with Nottingham Compact Plus Framework, which is the formal partnership agreement between the Nottingham City Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector, and the awarding of the infrastructure contract to Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service and partners which is to build and support capacity within the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Therefore, this Strategy sets out to formally record the new streamlined model for Area Based Grant Funding with the Voluntary and Community Sector at an Area and City-wide level.

Section One: National Changes and Community Focus

A great many changes have occurred nationally and regionally since the Nottingham's Compact Plus Framework was written in 2008. These include a coalition Government with its concept of the Big Society, a refreshed national Compact, Equality Act (2010) the Localism Act (2011) and the Localism Act (2013) and the drive to make efficiencies to balance the need for savings and an increasing demand for services. In addition the Nottingham Plan outlines the long term vision for Nottingham City to 2030. In view of these developments a corporate Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding Strategy for the Council is needed to build on the steps already undertaken with the Area Based Grant Funding. This Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding Strategy sets out the Council's corporate approach to investing in the Voluntary and Community Sector in a way that is consistent, fair and transparent and the new model for Grant Funding with the VCS at an Area and City-wide level.

The Nottingham Plan is a route-map for everyone in Nottingham City, local people, communities, organisations and businesses to help Nottingham City Council achieve this vision. To ensure Nottingham City Council achieves Nottingham's long term vision Nottingham City Council will:

1. Support Nottingham City's most vulnerable people
2. Prioritise local jobs for local people
3. Intervene early to prevent difficulties and problems arising later
4. Provide visible services in our Neighbourhoods
5. Ensure local people are able to enjoy themselves in our City

The overall vision of Nottingham's Compact Plus Framework states: "*Compact Plus should recognise the valuable contribution that both our sectors make to reducing inequalities in our society and to improving cohesion between our different communities and neighbourhoods*".

"By implementing this Compact, we seek to improve our cross-sector working arrangements and the impact we make on building a fairer and more prosperous city." This

overall vision aligns with the overall priorities from the Nottingham Plan as outlined above. One of the other key aims of the Compact is to make a positive impact on the relationship between Nottingham City Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector and their joint commitment to establishing effective partnership working where appropriate. The Compact constitutes a set of principles about working in partnership which underpin the approach taken in delivering this funding strategy and all of the Council's joint working with the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Nottingham City Council is committed to supporting a thriving local Voluntary and Community Sector, as indicated through the Nottingham Plan and the Corporate Commissioning Framework. Approximately £31.1m has been invested in the Sector in 2012/13 - most of this is through commissioned City-wide arrangements, and £1.1m is through Area-based funding.

Section Two: Historical Grant Funding Arrangements

Historically, a number of different grant programmes to the Voluntary and Community Sector were administered across various parts of Nottingham City Council. These grant programmes were often complex and confusing for the Sector.

Since 2011 work has commenced to streamline this approach in order to make investment simpler, more transparent, and easier for the Sector itself to understand and access.

Section Three: New Grant Funding Model

Nottingham City Council undertook a review of the activities and funding of support services ('infrastructure') to the Voluntary and Community Sector, which were funded under the 'Voluntary Sector Investment Programme' that was due to end in March 2012. A new contract was awarded to a consortium led by NCVS and came into effect on 1 April 2012.

In 2012 Nottingham City Council's Executive Board Commissioning Sub-Committee agreed the move to a more streamlined approach to allocating funding, bringing together and replace existing grant programmes and the associated processes, documentation and contracts. As part of this process, Voluntary and Community Sector organisations were asked to work in partnership to deliver these outcomes and identify a 'Lead Organisation' for each partnership.

The Lead Organisation is the provider that has the relationship with Nottingham City Council and the Area Committee, and is responsible for ensuring that all outcomes in an Area are delivered. Smaller organisations report directly to the Lead Organisation eliminating the need for organisations to have several reporting lines in to Nottingham City Council - thus creating a streamlined approach to investment.

It is important for Nottingham City Council to have a strong and transparent relationship with the Lead Organisation, therefore Nottingham City Council has committed to supporting and developing the Lead Organisation and partners. Nottingham City Council will look at all aspects of the business and support the Lead Organisation with business planning and development. The aim of this support is that when other funding becomes available, to be invested at an Area level, Lead Organisations will be ideally placed to manage this process.

Section Four: To Enhance this Work; Phase Two Work Streams

Building on the success of Phase One which introduced Area Based Grant Funding, Nottingham City Council is now in the process of implementing Phase Two that contains the following strands of work:

- Review of needs and funding of "Communities of Identity"
- Voluntary Sector Property and Lease Review
- Widening the scope of Voluntary and Community Sector Streamlining to include City-wide and partner organisation budgets
- Fair Funding Formula

This was approved by the Executive Board Commissioning Sub Committee in November 2012. The following sections give more detail on each these strands of activity.

Communities of Identity Review

Communities of identity have been defined, for the purpose of this review, by people who come together and feel part of a community around shared issues or circumstances. Communities of identity are likely to have particular needs and priorities for public services, barriers need to be removed to enable these communities to have power and influence in relation to these. In prioritising and resourcing communities of identity the focus is for those communities experiencing disadvantage or inequalities. The Communities of Identity review will take place during 2013/14.

Voluntary Sector Property and Lease Review

The Voluntary Sector Sustainability Team is working with Property Services and Legal Services to conduct a review of the fifty two voluntary sector properties with the intention of implementing new occupancy agreements that make clear the rights and responsibilities for the occupants and Nottingham City Council. Until this review is complete current Service Level Agreements will remain the same.

Widening the Scope of Voluntary and Community Sector Streamlining to include City-Wide Budgets and Partner Organisation Budgets

Nottingham City Council has begun to explore City-wide funding and also funding from partner organisations which potentially could be invested through the Area Based Grants Process.

Fair Funding Formula

Phase One of Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary and Community Sector has brought together a range of grant programmes and identified the funding Nottingham City Council is investing in each Area.

The opportunity now exists as part of Phase Two, to move to a Fair Funding Formula between Areas. Over the next year the following steps will be taken:

- Agree key factors and bring together current funding formulas
- Design and agree a safe timescale for moving to the formula, allowing for a gradual move
- Communicate with key stakeholders to agree changes

Section Five: Contact Details

If you have any comments on this draft document, require copies in alternative formats or further information, please contact:

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 NOVEMBER 2013
PROGRAMME FOR SCRUTINY
REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. Purpose

To set the overall programme and timetable for scrutiny activity for the forthcoming year.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to:

- a) **note the items scheduled for forthcoming meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**
- b) **to appoint the review panel for the review exploring the implications of the changing educational landscape;**
- c) **to put forward your names to sit on panels;**
- d) **identify any topics to be put forward as ideas for potential policy briefing sessions.**

3. Background information

3.1 One of the main roles of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is setting, managing and co-ordinating the overall programme of scrutiny work. This includes:

- mapping out an initial programme for scrutiny at the start of the municipal year
- monitoring progress against the programme throughout the year, and making amendments as required
- evaluating the impact of scrutiny activity and using lessons learnt to inform future decisions about scrutiny activity.

3.2 At this meeting, the Committee will have the opportunity to discuss topics for scrutiny review; making sure they have a clear focus; and set the programme of scrutiny activity accordingly.

3.3 In setting the programme for scrutiny activity, the Committee should aim for an outcome-focused work programme that has clear priorities and is matched against the resources available to deliver the programme. It is intended to hold reviews in single session meetings with topics that lend themselves to this style of review.

Commissioning scrutiny reviews

3.4 Delivery of the programme will primarily be through the commissioning of time-limited review panels to carry out reviews into specific, focused

topics. All reviews must have the potential to make a positive impact on improving the wellbeing of local communities and people who live and/or work in Nottingham; and to ensure resources are used to their full potential, reviews must have a clear and tight focus and be set a realistic but challenging timetable for their completion.

- 3.5 In setting the programme of scrutiny reviews, it is important that the programme has flexibility to incorporate unplanned scrutiny work requested in-year. However, the Committee will only be able to schedule unplanned work after it has reassessed priorities across the scrutiny programme and considered the impact on existing reviews of the diversion of resources. When the Committee monitors the overall programme for scrutiny at each meeting there will be opportunity to do this.
- 3.6 The Committee has already agreed the review items and memberships need to be agreed for these.
- 3.7 When establishing a review panel, the Committee needs to decide on:
- a clear and tight remit for the review
 - a timescale within which the review should be carried out
 - size of review panel, including whether any co-opted members should be involved
 - chair of the review panel (to be appointed from the pool of five scrutiny chairs)

and should have regard to the need over the year to engage as many councillors as possible in the scrutiny process.

Schedule of 'overview' items

- 3.8 The Committee also needs to agree a schedule of 'overview' items to come to future Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings which is shown at Appendix 1. At each meeting, the Committee will look in-depth at one key strategic issue. In addition to providing an opportunity for scrutiny of strategic issues, this approach will support Committee members in having an overview of key current issues affecting Nottingham to inform work programming decisions.

Policy briefings

- 3.9 Through the process of developing the programme for scrutiny, the Committee may identify issues which call for a policy briefing. The purpose of these briefings is to inform councillors about a current key issue or to prepare councillors for review work that has been commissioned. These informal briefings will not be occasions for scrutiny to be carried out, although they may result in a suggestion for a new scrutiny topic, which would need to be considered by this Committee against the current programme for scrutiny and available resource. Policy briefings will not form part of the Overview and Scrutiny

Committee's agenda but will be held separately and be open to all councillors to attend.

Monitoring programme for scrutiny

3.10 On an ongoing basis the Committee will be responsible for managing and co-ordinating the programme for scrutiny and assessing the impact of scrutiny activity. At all future meetings the Committee will monitor the progress of the programme, making amendments as appropriate.

3.11 The Health Scrutiny Panel will be setting its programme of work, focused around the statutory health scrutiny role and scrutiny of social care issues (a change to its terms of reference) and agreed its work programme at its first meeting held on 29 May 2013. When monitoring the programme for scrutiny, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will need to take the work of the Health Scrutiny Panel into consideration to avoid duplication and make sure work is carried out in the most effective way.

4. **List of attached information**

The following information can be found in the appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda

Appendix 2 - Policy Briefing sessions

5. **Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

None

6. **Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

None

7. **Wards affected**

Citywide

8. **Contact information**

Contact Colleagues

Angelika Kaufhold Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator angelika.kaufhold@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 8764296	Jane Garrard Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 8764315
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The feasibility criteria includes:

<p>Decision making and being a critical friend</p>	<p>Is it a topic/key decision which requires consultation with Overview and Scrutiny <u>prior to the decision being taken.</u> Yes – include. No – apply other criteria and consider removing</p>	
<p>Public Interest and relevance</p>	<p>Is the topic still relevant in terms of it still being an issue for citizens, partners or the council in terms of performance, delivery or cancellation of services? Yes – apply other criteria and consider inclusion No – apply other criteria and consider removing</p>	
<p>Ability to change or influence</p>	<p>Can the Committee actively influence the council or its partners to accept recommendations and ensure positive outcomes for citizens and therefore be able to demonstrate the value and impact that scrutiny can have? Yes – apply other criteria and consider inclusion No – apply other criteria and consider removing</p>	
<p>Range and scope of impact</p>	<p>Is this a large topic area impacting on significant areas of the population and the council's partners <u>or significant impact on minority groups.</u></p> <p>Is there interest from partners and colleagues to undertake and support this review and will it be beneficial? Yes – apply other criteria and consider inclusion No – apply other criteria and consider removing</p>	
<p>Avoidance of duplication of effort</p>	<p>Is this topic area very similar to one already being scrutinised in another arena or has it already been investigated in the recent past? Yes – consider involvement in the existing activity or consider removing No – apply other criteria and consider inclusion.</p>	

Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda - List of potential topics for 'overview' items

Below is a list of 'overview' items (based on background research and intended to encompass the broad remit of Overview and Scrutiny) to be included on the agendas for meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2013/14. It is intended that the Committee will consider one strategic overview item at each of its meetings. Agreed items will be scheduled depending upon timeliness for the item and availability of contributors – a schedule will be brought to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

Date of meeting	Possible item and focus
6 November 2013	<p>Nottingham Community Voluntary Sector To receive feedback from NCVS relating to the State of the Sector Survey and how the voluntary sector is adapting and coping with the changing economic climate and how partnership working has been affected.</p>
4 December 2013	<p>Child Sexual Exploitation To discuss the work of the Council and its partners on the activities, partnership working and legal framework to combat child sexual exploitation</p>
8 January 2014	<p>Equality and Fairness Commission This item has been proposed to consider the work of the Equality and Fairness Commission and development of a protocol between the EFC and the Overview and Scrutiny.</p>
5 February 2014	<p>Provision of advice to citizens (tbc) To review the impact of current economic climate on welfare advice provided by the Council and Citizens Advice etc and what has changed in terms of the advice sought, how it is provided and where</p>
5 March 2014	
9 April 2014	

List of potential policy briefings

Below is a list of potential topics for policy briefings that have been put forward by councillors to date. The Committee will need to identify any topics to be put forward as ideas for potential policy briefing sessions at this stage – this process can be ongoing throughout the year.

Date	Topic	Comments

Scrutiny Review Panels 2013/14

Date and Time	Topic	Chair /Membership	Lead Officer
Monday 30 September 2013 completed	Personal budgets – Are there tensions between choice and autonomy for the individual and the Council's ability to provide the level and range of services that enable choice – response to recommendations	Brian Parbutt Georgina Culley	Angelika Kaufhold Tony Vardy Alex Norris
Ongoing and merged Exploring the implications of the changing educational landscape	How is the changing relationship between schools and the Council being managed and who will be responsible for educational performance outcomes for children? What action is the Council taking to address the shortage of school places for primary and secondary stage – current and planned activity and how will this address parental choice?	Glyn Jenkins Azad Choudhry Sally Longford Thulani Molife Eileen Morley	Jane Garrard Jane Garrard Jonny Kirk – Project Manger School Org Team (Nick Lee – Head of School Access and Improvement)
<i>Ongoing</i>	How effective is drug education in schools in reducing drug use amongst young people, and how are those young people who do not attend school reached?	Glyn Jenkins	Angelika Kaufhold
<i>March – to be confirmed</i>	How well are partners working together on effective resettlement and rehabilitation and resettlement within Nottingham's communities of adult male and female prisoners following release from prison?	<i>Not needed</i>	<i>To be confirmed</i>

Date and Time	Topic	Chair /Membership	Lead Officer
23 September 2013 – completed	Tackling anti-social behaviour caused by irresponsible dog owners report of the Anti-social behaviour of irresponsible dog owners - Review Panel	Mohammed Ibrahim (Chair) Glyn Jenkins Gul Khan	Status: review report in progress Feedback by Chair at next OSC meeting
Friday 25 October 2013 At 3.00 pm	Ash die back – to review the council's response to the prevalence of ash die back and what methods of monitoring and action are taking place.	Glyn Jenkins (Chair) Gul Khan Mohammed Ibrahim Roger Steel	Angelika Kaufhold Eddie Curry Eirion Lewis – Tree Services Manager
25 October Monday 11 November 2013 at 2.00 pm	What is the Council doing to monitor and if applicable tackle parking congestion around educational establishments?	Brian Parbutt (chair) Glyn Jenkins Roger Steel	Angelika Kaufhold Chris Keane Highways Services Manager Jason Gooding Parking Manager (A Vaughan)
Mon 11 Nov Thursday 28 November 2013 2.00 pm	How effective is the action being taken by the Council to communicate and enforce its policies relating to wheelie bins on pavements?	Azad Choudhury (Chair)	Angelika Kaufhold Daniel Ayrton – Waste and Recycling Manager (A Vaughan)
Friday 13 December 2013 at 3.00 pm	Gully Cleaning – since the implementation of the 3 Cities Good Practice Guide for gully cleansing in 2012/13, how effective is this proving and how are customer's expectations being managed?	Glyn Jenkins (chair)	Angelika Kaufhold Chris Capewell – Team Leader Bridges/Drains Paul Daniels - Senior Drainage Engineer (A Vaughan)
Wednesday 22 January 2014 at 2.00 pm	Is the funding available for tree management and maintenance being used in the most efficient and effective way possible? How is the Council managing the problems caused by tree roots, in particular damage to pavements/ roads?	Brian Parbutt (Chair) Roger Steel	Angelika Kaufhold Eddie Curry – Head of Parks and Open Spaces - communities (John Kelly)

Monday 3 February 2014 at 2.00 pm	How are the Council and its partners managing responsibilities for the management and upkeep of local public waterways?	Azad Choudhry (chair) Sally Longford	Angelika Kaufhold – John Lee – Snr Rights of way officer – Development (David Bishop)
Tuesday 25 February 2014 at 2.00 pm	Topic to be confirmed	Glyn Jenkins (chair)	Jane Garrard
Friday 28 March 2014 at 3.00 pm	Topic to be confirmed	Brian Parbutt (chair)	Angelika Kaufhold
Wednesday 23 April 2014 at 2.00 pm	Topic to be confirmed	Mohammed Ibrahim (chair)	Angelika Kaufhold

