

An  
independent,  
expert report

The structure,  
dynamics and impact  
of the voluntary,  
community and social  
enterprise sector

A study of West Yorkshire Combined Authority  
West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care  
Partnership, and Humber, Coast and Vale Health  
and Care Partnership areas

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Based on most credible, available data

# Data drawn from Third Sector Trends Survey

Establishing a definitive evidence base for the sector

<https://www.communityfoundation.org.uk/knowledge-and-leadership/third-sector-trends-research/>

Commissioning partnership for this analysis



West Yorkshire and Harrogate  
Health and Care Partnership



Community First  
Yorkshire



# Overview of the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership

## Impact in 4 key areas



It's probably bigger than you think

Approx 14,900 organisations

7,600 unregistered 5,900 registered



The mutual aid groups that did so much during the Covid-19 pandemic are examples of unregistered groups.

This estimate is based on the most detailed study to date.

### It's larger than finance/insurance

VCSE sector organisations make up about 3.4% of all businesses. About the same size as the information and communication industries.

### Most organisations are financially stable

Data collected in 2019 showed 19% of organisations had rising income, 68% were stable and 13% were reducing.

The bulk of the sector (the smaller organisations) keep going on relatively low levels of income. Much of their energy comes from volunteers.



### Not evenly distributed

in terms of place or communities of interest or practice.



More deprived areas are less well served.

### It's organic rather than a designed, unified system

The sector addresses a wide range of issues, many of which are unrecognised or ignored.

Proudly independent from the state, it focuses on creating social, cultural or environmental value rather than profit.

Often working in complementary ways, the sector uses its skills, experience, ideas, beliefs, resources and ambitions to create a **valuable energy**.

This is an overview of the independent report: **The structure, dynamics and impact of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector** by Tony Chapman, Professor of Policy and Practice at Durham University

See the VCSE section at [www.humbercoastandvale.org.uk](http://www.humbercoastandvale.org.uk)

## Volunteers are vital

127,700 volunteers giving at least 9.2 million hours is worth up to **£125 million**

Adds between 6.7 and 10.5 per cent to sector income



## Valuing it as a whole...

A new way of looking at the sector's value

### Economic value

Directly measurable: **£ 1.08 billion**  
Added value of up to: **£ 2.00 billion**

### Social value

Wider benefits to society: **£ 1.10 billion**

### Total estimated value of the sector:

**£ 4.2 billion**



# What is the value of the VCSE sector in Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership



## When the Covid-19 pandemic arrived

The VCSE sector stepped up and delivered



This happens day in, day out (on a smaller scale).



### This approach recognises that the sector is:

- varied
- autonomous
- ambitious
- cooperative and complementary

### And that value accumulates

(more comes out than goes in)

#### Added value includes

1. Public sector savings
2. Economic multipliers (the ripple effect)
3. Benefits of using the sector's services (personal recovery, employment, independence etc).

#### Social value includes

1. Stronger communities
2. Better quality of life
3. Latent capacity (eg sector's response to Covid-19).

### Social and economic impact



### Economic value

Directly measurable

**£ 1.08 billion**

Added value of up to

**£ 2.00 billion**

### Social value

Wider benefits to society

**£ 1.10 billion**

**Total estimated value of the sector is**

**£ 4.2 billion**

# A new way of calculating value



**The sector**  
protects  
invests  
challenges  
relieves

## Examples of conventional measures

- GDP** Covers prostitution and drug-dealing but not volunteering.
- Funding streams** Hard to disaggregate and follow to impact - boundaries are fuzzy and permeable.
- Evaluation data** Takes resource so mainly only done by larger organisations at a single point in time.

**Many of the benefits produced by the VCSE are statistically invisible**

## A whole sector approach

Valuing what the sector does as it is rather than forcing sector activity into a systematic model

- Step 1 Measure the energy** The sector's resources are measurable using financial and proxy replacement values.
- Step 2 Define types of value for sector impact**
- 1. Economic value
  - 2. Fiscal value
  - 3. Use value
  - 4. Social value
  - 5. Community value
  - 6. Existence value
- } Easier to monetise and measure
- } Less easy to monetise
- Step 3 Estimates for financial impact of the sector on local economy** Economic multipliers (the ripple effect). Take a conservative approach.
- Step 4 Estimate the social contribution of the sector** Not easily defined, need to make informed judgements.



## Volunteering and employment in the VCSE sector in Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership

**23,200** employees delivering **38 million** working hours a year

4.1% of all employees



Wages use 61% of sector income  
£

## Volunteers are essential

Nearly 80% of sector could not survive without them

Smaller organisations need volunteers most (often have none/few staff). But reliance still high amongst largest organisations.

The sector generally wants people who can

volunteer regularly

bring skills and knowledge

work independently



# PEOPLE POWER



**127,700** volunteers\* giving at least **9.2 million hours** a year is worth up to **£125 million**

(adds between 6.7 and 10.5 per cent to sector income)

- \*This figure does not include volunteers who:
- give time directly to NHS or council services
  - act as school governors or classroom help
  - are special constables or magistrates
  - take part in national appeals such as Comic Relief and Children in Need



## Data on diversity is sparse

Relatively few CEOs and chairs are people with registered disabilities and/or Black, Asian or from minority ethnic populations.

**"We need to work together to eliminate the diversity problem at the source."**

**ACEVO - sector leadership organisation**

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# PEOPLE POWER



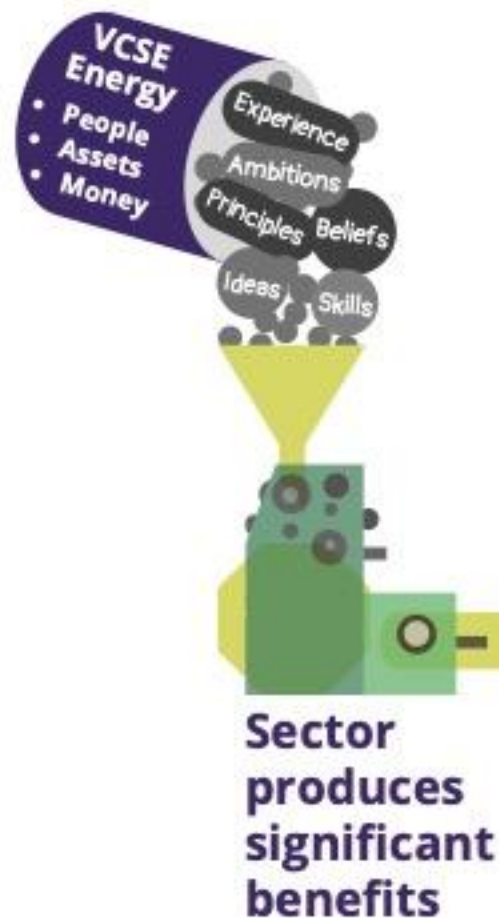
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**That's worth up to £125 million**



# Valuing the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector (VCSE)

The sector is **healthy** and **resilient**

person-centred  
agile trusted able  
meets needs



**Most VCSE organisations are**



Essential for community-centred, strength-based health and wellbeing



## Working well together:



**Creating a clear vision**



**Investing in the sector's strengths**



**Trusting organisations as partners**