

CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE

State of the Sector report

WIRRAL

Summary Review 2023



Wirral

Context

Wirral has a population of approximately 320,600 people, and life expectancy for both men and women is in the region of 2 years less than the England average. Further, there are significant inequalities between local communities: between the most and least deprived areas there is a variance in life expectancy for women of 11 years, and 14 years for men.



Size and scope of the VCFSE sector in Wirral

Number to registered charities	638	25%
Community Interest Companies (CICs)	211	8%
Companies Limited by Guarantee (CLGs)	463	18%
Registered Societies	35	2%
Community Sports Clubs	19	1%
Below the radar groups (BTR)	1,173	46%
Total	2,539	

Size of workforce

Number of paid staff	4,411
Number of regular volunteers	18,348
Volunteer hours per week	59,448

Value of workforce

Value of paid staff	£105.3 million per year
Value of volunteering	£33.6 million per year
Total	£139 million per year

Economic contribution of the VCFSE sector in Wirral

£84.2 million GVA per year

Summary profile of the VCFSE sector in Wirral

- **45** Groups in Wirral responded to the survey (**11%** of all C&M boroughs).
- The majority of groups are registered charities (**53%**) with no groups reporting as unincorporated associations (below the radar).
- **58%** of groups in Wirral are over **10 years old**, with only **2%** of groups reporting that their organisation was formed in the last 12 months.
- Groups are more likely to be working at either a local authority (**47%**) or a local neighbourhood (**20%**) level.
- Many of the groups in Wirral are micro (**10%**) and small (**36%**) organisations.
- **30%** of groups main activities fall under wellbeing, health and social care as the most common area of work.
- **24%** of groups report supporting “everyone” followed by children and young people, families, and people with mental health needs (**12%** each) specifically.
- The most common source of funding for organisations through fundraising and donations (**26%**) followed by charitable trusts and foundations (**17%**).
- There are approximately **487 full-time** and **384 part-time** staff employed by surveyed organisations.
- **84%** of organisations in Wirral with paid staff pay the Real Living Wage or above.
- **87%** of organisations utilise volunteers, with a reported total of approximately **1,424 volunteers** and an average of **42 volunteers** per organisation. These volunteers provide approximately **3,189 hours** of volunteering per week.
- The most popular priority for Wirral groups over the next 12 months is sourcing funding opportunities (**17%**) followed by working with other VCFSE groups to deliver local services and evidencing impact (**11%** each). **78%** of groups reported feeling confident in being able to achieve these goals, with **19%** unsure.



Key Findings

Income and expenditure

Although half of groups in Wirral have seen their income increase over the preceding 12 months, and most reporting their reserves either falling or staying the same over the same period, the majority have increased their spending (71%), which is attributed chiefly to the impact of the pandemic and subsequent cost of living crisis. However, despite this, 64% of groups plan to increase the scale of their activity over the next 12 months.

Workforce and volunteers

There are approximately 487 full-time and 384 part-time staff employed by surveyed organisations in Wirral. In comparison to the rest of C&M, Wirral organisations are more likely to be employing paid staff, although at lower numbers compared to the region as a whole.

Wirral VCFSE staff and volunteers are typically diverse, with 10% of staff reported to be from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background (comparable to the regional trend of 9%). Similar to regional trends, the workforce is predominantly female (77%).

Only 28% of Wirral groups expect their staffing position to remain static - 53% expect staffing levels to increase, and 5% to decrease over the coming 12 months. 87% of organisations report that volunteers are crucial to the running of their organisation and 59% expecting to increase their use of volunteers.

Community assets and skills

Three quarters (77%) of organisations report utilising a community asset, with the most common types being community centres (22%) and office space (17%). Where premises are rented, the most common landlord situation is for the premises to be actually owned by the organisation themselves (29%) or rented from another VCFSE group or a private landlord (24% each).

For groups that report barriers to having a community asset, this is usually related to having insufficient access to funding needed to purchase a building, and a lack of support needed from their local authority.

In terms of education and skills, the majority of groups report being digitally enabled organisations however there is a high demand from those who require digital support for staff training and development (38%) over funding for equipment (31%)

Surveyed organisations in Wirral are less likely to be measuring and evidencing the impact of their work in comparison to C&M, with only 26% stating they measure their impact in comparison to the regional trend of 31%.

Priorities and partnership working

15% of groups reported having a positive working relationship with other VCFSE groups, and 14% with both their local authority and their local CVS infrastructure organisation. Percentages were low for relationships with NHS organisations, with 9% having a positive relationship with their local NHS place-based partnership, 6% with their NHS trusts and 6% with Primary Care Networks.

The most common priority area for Wirral groups over the next 12 months is sourcing funding opportunities (17%) followed by working with other VCFSE groups to deliver local services and evidencing impact (11% each). Wirral groups are more likely to be focused on developing funder relationships and evidencing their impact moving forward, however are less likely or able to be focussing on working with other VCFSE groups to deliver local services. 78% of groups reported feeling confident in being able to achieve these goals, with 19% unsure.

This executive summary report should be read in tandem with the wider Cheshire and Merseyside State of the Sector report to help the reader relate findings to wider regional and national trends where it may be of interest to do so. Additionally, important data caveats are contained within the regional report to be aware of when interpreting these findings.

CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE STATE OF THE SECTOR

2023 Review

For more information about the VCFSE
sector in the North West visit

www.vsnw.org.uk

For more information about the VCFSE
sector in the Liverpool City Region visit

www.vs6partnership.org.uk

For more information about the VCFSE
sector in Cheshire and Merseyside visit

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