

## SECTOR SURVEY 2022-2023

### REPORT PROFILE

---

Voluntary Action Swindon is commissioned by Swindon Borough Council to provide support to the voluntary and community sector of Swindon. For us to capture the most relevant data and ensure we are providing a quality service, we carry out a Sector Survey every two years. This survey is one year since the last due to the current economic challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### CONTACT DETAILS

[info@vas-swindon.org](mailto:info@vas-swindon.org)

1 John Street, Swindon SN1 1RT

Tel: 01793 538398

#### REPORT WRITTEN BY

Alana Fiorelli

Funding and Governance advice manager

[alana@vas-swindon.org](mailto:alana@vas-swindon.org)

### METHOD OF GATHERING DATA

---

This Sector Survey was compiled using Survey Monkey and sent out to the Voluntary and Community Organisations in Swindon via e-mail and our newsletter VAS id.

The survey opened on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and closed 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

### KEY FINDINGS

---

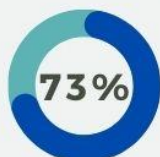
- Skills currently lacking:
  - 54% fundraising
  - 41% social media
  - 28% website
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) – 45 groups are interested in help from VAS to further develop this area.
- 41% of organisations reported a greater awareness of VAS compared to 3 years ago, with 44% stating their awareness was about the same.
- Awareness of the range of VAS services ranged between 32% and 71%.
- Satisfaction scores of VAS services are mainly either ‘very satisfied’ or ‘satisfied.’ Just one ‘not satisfied’ for Networking and collaboration.
- 65% of organisations support beneficiaries of all ages.
- Trustees are each providing, on average, a combined 406 volunteer hours per year.
- Most organisations use volunteers for support, with 41% organisations saying they have between 1 – 10 volunteers.
- 76% stated that ‘word of mouth’ was the best way to recruit volunteers.
- 30% declared an income of between £10,001 - £100,000, 30% have less than £10k.

# SECTOR SURVEY

## KEY FINDINGS 22-23

Overall, 115 responses were received from charities, not-for-profit organisations, and community groups throughout Swindon.

### INCREASED DEMAND



73% of organisations have seen an increase in demand for services over the last 12 months.

### RESTRICTED CAPACITY



23% of organisations have had to cut or reduce services in order to cope.

30% of organisations have an annual income of less than £10,000.

### INCOME DECLINE

36% of organisations have seen a decrease in their overall income in the last 12 months.



### VOLUNTEER NEED

43% of organisations do not have enough volunteers to meet demand.



### STAFF

70% of organisations have less than 10 paid members of staff.



### LIMITED RESERVES

26% of organisations have used their reserves to 'balance the books'.



### FUNDING

47% of organisations have had to look for additional funding at the same time as managing an increase in demand.



### TRAINING

55% of groups, who responded, do not have a training budget.



## RESPONSES

### Type of organisation

115 organisations answered this question, with the largest response coming from:

- Charitable companies (limited by guarantee) at 29% (33).
- Charitable incorporated organisations (CIO) at 26% (30).
- Unregistered / unincorporated associations at 12% (14).
- \*OTHER responses at 22% include: Church, Parish council, collaboration of individuals, community group, co-operative and amateur sports club.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)	26%	30
Charitable Company (limited by guarantee)	29%	33
Unincorporated Association (unregistered voluntary or community group)	12%	14
Trust	2%	2
Community Interest Company (CIC)	9%	10
Other (please specify)	Responses 23%	26
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>115</b>

## Are you registered with the Charity Commission?

115 responses were given to these questions, with 63% (72 organisations) saying they were registered with the Charity Commission.

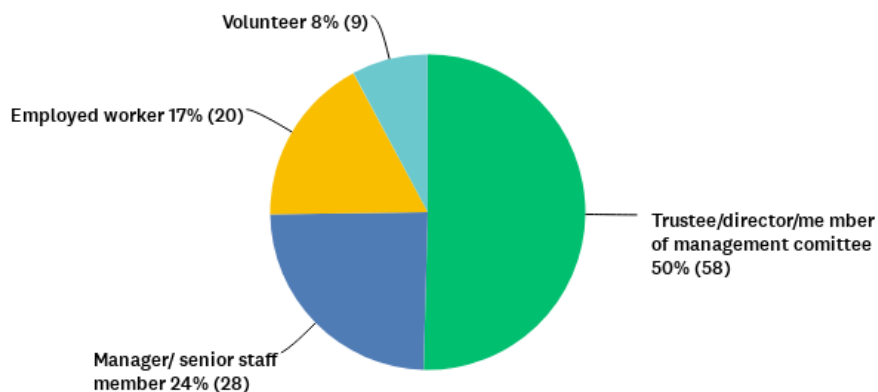
- 38% (43) said they weren't registered.
- \*Of the 38%, other variants of a 'non for profit' are taken into account. For example, a Community Interest Company which is regulated by Companies House.

## Who completed the survey?

115 responses were given to this question.

- Most of this survey has been completed by a Trustee/Director/Member of management committee, at 50% (58).
- Followed by either a manager or senior member of staff at 24% (28).
- Employed workers made up 17% (20).
- The remaining 8% (9) of responses were completed by a volunteer.

### Q3 Position within organisation



## STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

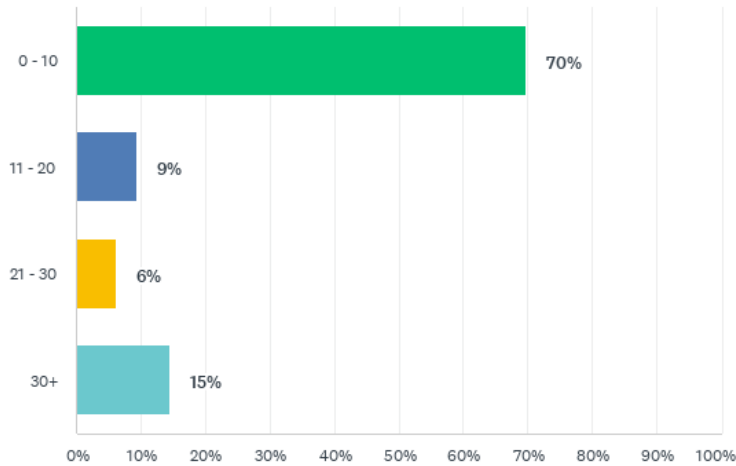
---

### Number of paid staff

When asking, 'How many paid staff each organisations has', (as a full time equivalent). The 96 respondents identified:

- 70% (67) of organisations have 10 or less paid members of staff.
- Followed by the next highest percentage of 15% (14) with 30+ paid staff.
- 9% (9) have between 11-20 full time staff members and the remaining have between 21-30 full time staff, at 6% (6 organisations).

### Q5 How many paid staff do you have? (full time equivalent)

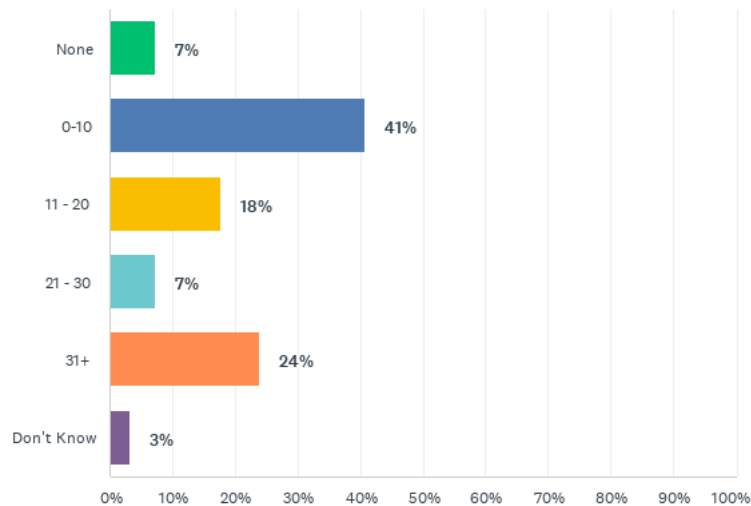


### Number of Volunteers

96 organisations answered this question, with 41% (31) of organisations have between 1 and 10 volunteers.

- 18% (17) of organisations have between 11-20 volunteers.
- 24% (23) have more than 30 volunteers.
- 3 organisations reported that they were unaware of how many they had.
- 7 groups reporting that they had no volunteers.

### Q6 How many regular volunteers (not including Trustees) support your organisation?



### Number of hours dedicated by volunteers.

A total of 93 organisation answered this question, showing 40 organisations (43% of responses) collectively receiving between 1 – 20 hours of volunteer time per month.

- A combination of 28 organisations received between 21 – 200 volunteer hours per month.
- 5% (5) receiving 500+ volunteer hours per month.

- In addition, 9 organisations (10%) with 200-500 hours given by volunteers.
- Whilst 7 organisations didn't know how many volunteer hours they were receiving.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 - 20 hours per month	43%	40
21 - 50 hours per month	18%	17
51-100 hours per month	9%	8
101 - 200 hours per month	5%	5
200-500 hours per month	10%	9
More than 500 hours per month	5%	5
Don't Know	8%	7
If you know the exact number of hours please specify	Responses	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>93</b>

## Recruiting volunteers

### Do you have any difficulties recruiting volunteers?

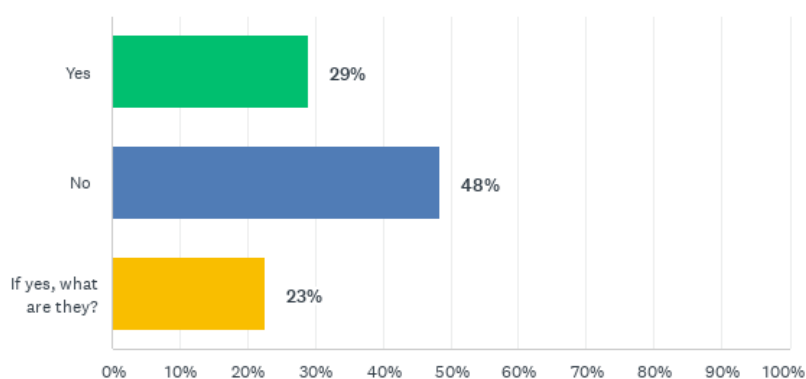
72 organisations answered this question, with 45 saying they had no issue recruiting volunteers. 27 said they did have issues recruiting.

Of the 27 saying they did have issues recruiting; the following types of reasons were given:

- "Sustainable and capable volunteers are difficult to come by".
- "Lack of interest from community to support us".
- "Training requirements are intensive, so put people off from volunteering".
- "Prior to COVID it was not difficult, now it's impossible".
- "Haven't heard of the organisation".
- "Less members in our organisation, therefore less time for volunteering"

One organisation said they were still recovering their volunteer position after COVID, and one said they had just started out so would be looking for volunteers.

### Q10 Do you have any difficulties recruiting volunteers?

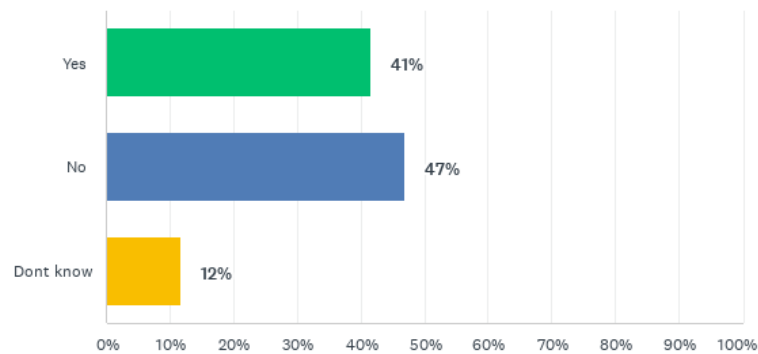


### Do you have enough volunteers to meet demand?

When asked if organisations had enough volunteers to meet demand, of the 93 responses given:

- 47% (44 organisation) stated that they do not have enough volunteers to meet demand.
- 41% (39), stated yes to meeting this demand and the remainder 12% (11) were unsure.

### Q11 Do you have enough volunteers to meet demand?

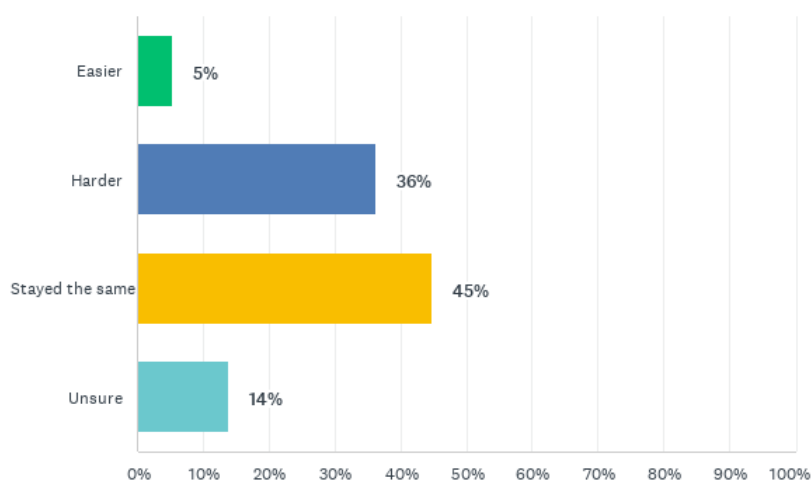


### Has the recruitment of volunteers been easier or harder in the last 12 months?

When asked if recruitment had become easier or harder in the last 12 months, a total of 93 responses were given for this question.

- 36% (34) of organisations said it was harder.
- 42 said volunteer recruitment had stayed the same.
- 13 organisations were unsure, with only 5 (5%) of organisations stating it was easier.

### Q12 Has volunteer recruitment been easier or harder in the past 12 months?



### How do you usually recruit volunteers?

We received 95 responses to this question.

- 76% (72 organisations) stating the best way of recruiting volunteers is by ‘word of mouth’.
- 63% (60) of respondents rely on social media and website promotion.
- 47% (45) relying on recruiting volunteers from service users.
- 20% (19) recruit volunteers at open days and fairs.
- 11% (10) rely on advertising through printed media to recruit volunteers.
- \*Other responses at 23% were a combination of recruitment through volunteering platforms such as reach, parents and carers, membership engagement and stakeholder groups.

ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES
Word of mouth		76% 72
From service users		47% 45
Through the Volunteer Centre Swindon		18% 17
Open days and fairs		20% 19
Through social media or website		63% 60
Advertising through printed media		11% 10
Other (please specify)	Responses	23% 22
Total Respondents: 95		

### How many volunteer Trustees does your organisation have?

92 responses were received for this question.

- 30% (28) of organisations reported having 5 or less trustees.
- 35% (39) have between 6 -10 and trustees.
- 5 organisations stated they have between 10 -15 trustees.
- One stating they had 30 trustees on their board.
- 14% (13) of respondents noted having zero trustees or N/A (as not applicable).
- Remaining responses from 7 organisations were either ‘unsure’ or ‘unknown’ at the time of taking this survey.

### When asked how many hours trustees volunteered collectively per year, those that provided precise answers ranged from 0 – 2500 hours.

For the 92 organisations that responded to this question, the average amount of hours collectively provided by trustees is 406 hours per year.

- Roughly 30 hours a month (between the average number of trustees), which is 8.
- \*Other responses stated that trustee hours were estimated and not necessarily accurate for the purpose of this survey.

## FINANCE

---

### What is your organisation’s overall income?

83 respondents answered this question.

- Majority of respondents, 32% (27 organisations) have an overall income between £100,000 to £1m.
- 25 organisations (30%) have an overall income between £10,000 up to £100,000.
- 30% (25 organisations) have an overall income of less than £10,000.

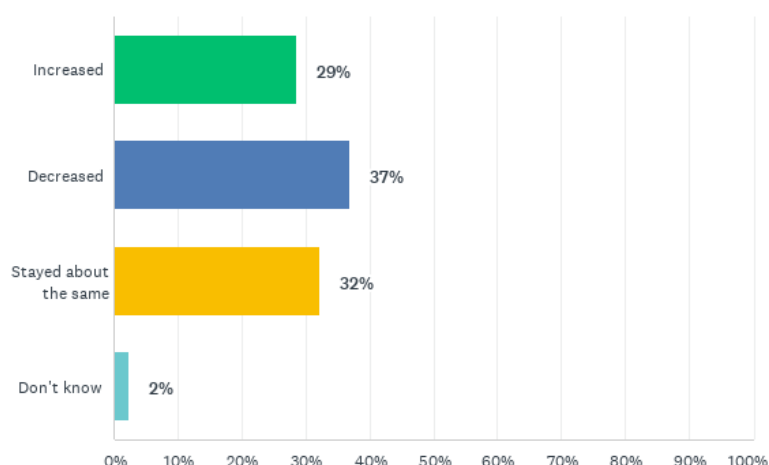
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Less than £10,000	30% 25
£10,001 - £100,000	30% 25
£100,001 - 1m	33% 27
£1m - 10m	5% 4
£10m - 100m	2% 2
More than 100m	0% 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>

### Have you seen a change to your income in the last 12 months?

This question was answered by 84 organisations.

- 37% (31) of which have seen a decrease in income over the last 12 months.
- 32% (27) noted their income has stayed the same.
- 29% (24) have had an increase in overall income.
- With the remaining 2 organisations, unsure if their income has changed.

### Q15 Would you say your organisation's overall income in the last 12 months has...



### Do you hold reserves?

84 responses were given to this question.

- The majority of respondents stated they hold reserves - 79% (66 organisations).
- The remainder, 21% (18) organisations do not hold any reserves.

(\*The Charity Commission recommends having reserves of at least 3 – 6 months. Companies House recommends having at least 6 months of reserves).

### How long will these reserves allow you to carry on?

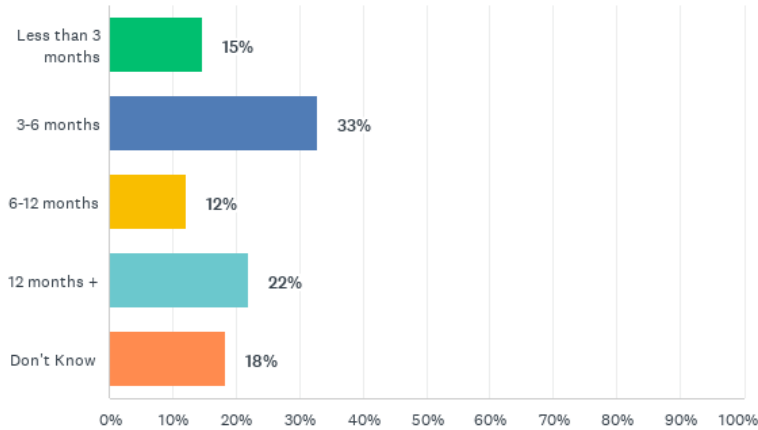
This questions was answered by 83 respondents.

- 27 (33%) have reserves to last 3 – 6 months, with 12 (15%) having less than 3 months and 15 (18%) are unsure of the amount they have.



- \*At the time of filling in this survey information was estimated and not necessarily accurate.

### Q17 If yes, how long will these reserves allow you to continue?



### Where has your organisation found funding from in the last 12 months?

84 responses were given overall.

- 55% (46) of those responses detail 'donations from individuals' as their main source of funding.
- Following this, 51% (43) of organisations had funding provided through local foundations and grants – such as Wiltshire Community Foundation.
- \*OTHER responses include: grants from Parish Council, Promoting professional hire of space and changes to service delivery.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ The National Lottery Fund	31% 26
▼ Grants from local charitable trust/ foundation (e.g Wiltshire Community Foundation or Zurich Community Trust)	51% 43
▼ Grants from National Trusts and Foundations	25% 21
▼ Contracts from the public sector (Local Authority/ CCG)	38% 32
▼ Donations from individuals	55% 46
▼ Sponsored events	24% 20
▼ Legacies	14% 12
▼ Fundraising events	48% 40
▼ Crowd Funding	8% 7
▼ Trading of goods and services	24% 20
▼ Membership charges	20% 17
▼ Charging beneficiaries	6% 5
▼ Sponsorship from Private Sector	12% 10
▼ Other (please specify)	<a href="#">Responses</a> 27% 23
<b>Total Respondents: 84</b>	

## Have you had to do any of the following to balance the books in the last 12 months?

77 respondents answered this question, with 47% (36) of organisations having to apply for additional funding in order to manage.

- In addition, a combination of 40 organisations (52%) had to review their spending requirements and use their reserves to balance the books over the last 12 months.
- **\*Other:** responses 10% (15 comments) include 'none of the above' or 'not applicable'.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Reduce hours of paid staff	10% 8
Make one or more staff redundant	4% 3
Limit service provision (fewer hours/ less beneficiaries)	13% 10
Increase or introduce charges for service	17% 13
Cut services	10% 8
Start new chargeable services	3% 2
Invest in fundraising, marketing, or business development	21% 16
Recruit more volunteers	26% 20
Review spending on small items eg. office supplies	26% 20
Apply for additional funding	47% 36
Use reserves	26% 20
Other (please specify)	<a href="#">Responses</a> 19% 15
<b>Total Respondents: 77</b>	

## Over the last 12 months, has there been any successful bid outcomes as a result of interaction from Voluntary Action Swindon?

81 respondents answered this question, with 19% (15) having had successful bid outcomes as a result of interaction or support from VAS. Comments provided detail the following outcomes:

- £23,000 ICA funding.
- £6,000 awarded from New Philanthropy Capital.
- £4,500 with National Benevolent Fund.
- £5,000 from Wiltshire Community Foundation.

Additional awarded amounts include:

- £50,000, £30,000, £21,150 and £1,650.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

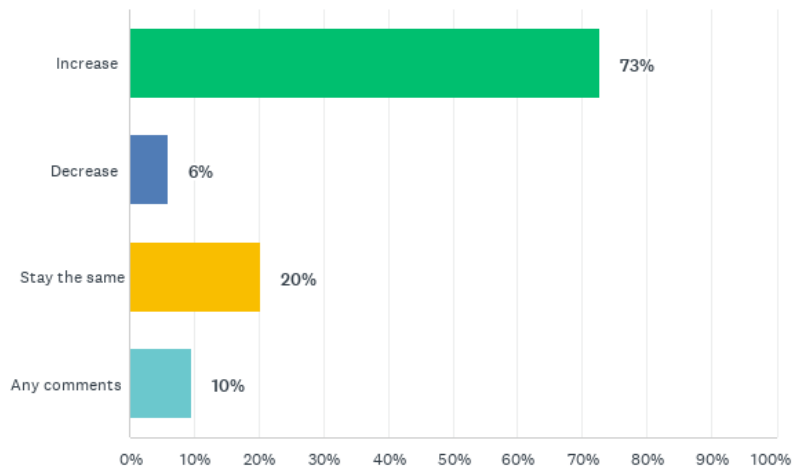
### Have you seen demand for service increase or decrease in the last 12 months?

The majority have seen an increase in demand for services. 73% (61) of the 84 respondents noted this has increased. The remainder of responses gave feedback such as:

- "Increased Social interactivity, need for affordable clothes and household goods"

- “We support people with sight loss. The NHS waiting list for treatments is long and the statutory support from local councils via the Hearing and Vision team is heavily used.”
- “People's mental wellbeing is less resilient now after covid and cost of living impacts.”

### Q19 In the last 12 months, have you seen a demand for your services



### How would you describe your main activities?

84 organisations answered this question, some ticking more than one area. 61% (51) of organisation provide support services as their main activity.

- Followed by organisations that provide Advocacy, advice and information at 37% (31)
- **\*OTHER:** responses included activities such as, Education and skills courses, Art based support, practical and creative skills, IT & Digital support, Sports, Leisure, recreation, and food provision services.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Provide support services	61%	51
▼ Provide buildings/facilities/open space	18%	15
▼ Make grants to organisations	10%	8
▼ Provide advocacy/advice/information	37%	31
▼ Make grants to individuals	10%	8
▼ Other charitable activities	24%	20
▼ Act as an umbrella or resource body	14%	12
▼ Sponsor or undertake research	6%	5
▼ Provide employment opportunities	12%	10
▼ Provide training	35%	29
▼ Provide equipment	10%	8
▼ Provide transport services	4%	3
▼ Other (please specify)	<a href="#">Responses</a> 40%	34
<b>Total Respondents: 84</b>		

## Who are your primary beneficiaries or what does your organisation support?

84 organisations answered this question, some have ticked more than one area.

- Majority of respondents 51% (43 organisations) support people with poor mental health.
- Followed by support for the general public, at 50% (42) and support for people with learning disabilities at 46% (39).
- **\*OTHER:** responses include support for Asylum seekers and refugees, older people and specialist age related services.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Other charity or voluntary bodies	21%	18
The general public	50%	42
People with physical disabilities	42%	35
People with specific health conditions	42%	35
People with learning disabilities	46%	39
People with poor mental health	51%	43
People with a caring responsibility	30%	25
People with a long term or chronic illness	39%	33
People with experience of drug and alcohol issues	24%	20
People who are from a particular ethnic group or racial origin	23%	19
People who have experienced or are experiencing poverty	38%	32
Young people who are NEET ( not in employment, education or training)	24%	20
People with low skill and educational attainment	24%	20
People who are unemployed	27%	23
People who are experiencing domestic violence	26%	22
People who are homeless	21%	18
People who are from the LGBTQ+ community	24%	20
Veterans	15%	13
Animals	5%	4
Offenders/ ex offenders	14%	12
Environment	8%	7
Culture and heritage	12%	10
Other (please specify)	<a href="#">Responses</a>	21% 18
<b>Total Respondents: 84</b>		

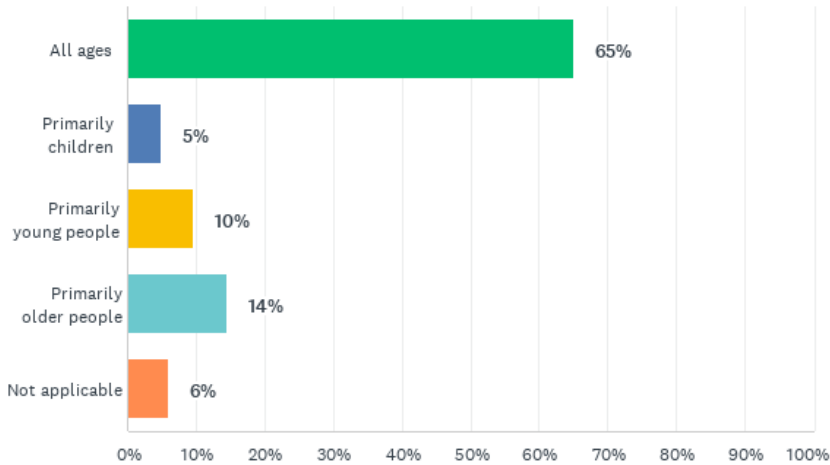
## What ages are your beneficiaries?

83 respondents answered this questions.

- 65% (54 organisations) deal with beneficiaries of all ages.
- 14% (12) support primarily older people. 10% deal with primarily young people, and 5% primarily children age.

- 6% (5 organisations) where the beneficiary age group is not applicable.

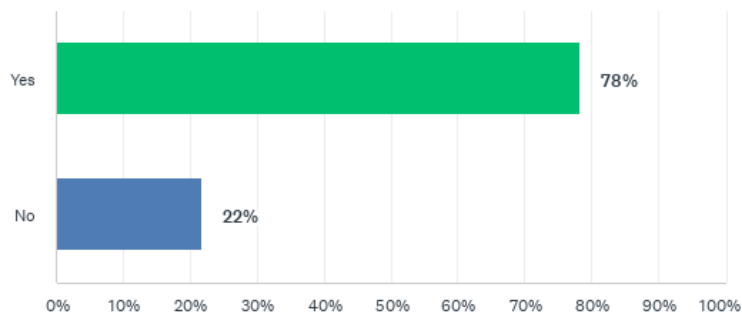
### Q22 What ages are your beneficiaries?



### Does your organisation mainly provide direct services to individuals?

83 organisations answered this question. 78% (65) of which directly provide services to individuals. The remaining 22% (18) do not provide direct services to individuals.

### Q25 Does your organisation mainly provide direct services to individuals?



### Approximately, how many beneficiaries do you help annually?

84 organisations answered this question.

- A combined 37% of organisations (31) help an estimated number of between 51 – 500 beneficiaries annually.
- 14% (12) help 2000+ per annum.
- 11% (9) help an estimated number of between 501-2000 beneficiaries annually.
- 13% (11) organisations said they either 'didn't know' at the time of taking this survey, with 4% (3 groups) that this is not applicable to.

- **\*Other:** 12 responses gave exact beneficiary numbers such as, 1100, 2549 1200, 226 and 1500.
- 2 of which noted they support more that 20,000 beneficiaries as part of local government (Parish Council)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ 0 - 50	7%	6
▼ 51 - 100	11%	9
▼ 101 - 200	13%	11
▼ 201 - 500	13%	11
▼ 501 - 2000	11%	9
▼ 2000+	14%	12
▼ Don't know	13%	11
▼ Not applicable	4%	3
▼ If you know the exact number please specify	<a href="#">Responses</a> 14%	12
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>84</b>

## SKILLS & TRAINING NEEDS

---

### Which skills and experience would you say your organisation needs but lacks the most?

There were 79 responses overall, majority highlighting the following needs:

- Fundraising 54% (43)
- Writing funding bids 32% (25)
- Social media 41% (32)

The top request from 43 organisations is that they would like help with fundraising, and 25 with bid writing. 32 organisations highlighted social media as being an issue. The next three highest needs by organisations are:

- Marketing 30% (24)
- Website support 28% (22)
- IT support 28% (22)

VAS will use this information to shape and develop our training services for the sector.

### Which of these descriptions best describe where your organisation currently is in respect of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)?

79 replies were received in answer to this question.

- 39% (31) responses selected - *"We provide training, support and leadership to make sure that our EDI policies and procedures are understood and implemented"*.
- 23% (25) responses selected - *"We want to become more inclusive and are actively developing policies and procedures to help us get there"*.
- 24% (19) selected - *"We are committed to promoting equality and diversity but lack the resources to make the progress we would like"*.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We provide training, support and leadership to make sure that our EDI policies and procedures are understood and implemented.</li> </ul>	39% 31
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We want to become more inclusive and are actively developing policies and procedures to help us get there.</li> </ul>	32% 25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are committed to promoting equality and diversity but lack the resources to make the progress we would like.</li> </ul>	24% 19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other (please specify) <a href="#">Responses</a></li> </ul>	15% 12
Total Respondents: 79	

**\*OTHER:** 12 responses (15%) gave comments, such as:

- “We’re inclusive and have a diverse board”.
- “We support over 100 adults with LD. Three elected service users sit on our management committee with support from staff and volunteers”.
- “We attempt to promote EDI through the partner organisations we work with”.

**When asked if organisations would like to hear from VAS about how we can support your organisations EDI journey:**

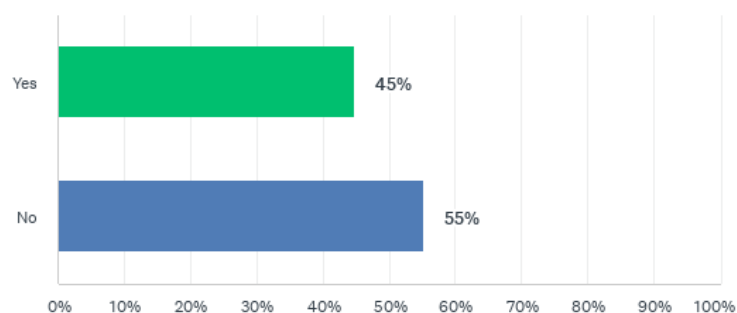
- 45 respondents ticked this box. VAS will contact each organisation requesting support in due course.

**Does your organisation have a training budget?**

We received 68 responses to this question.

- 45% (35 organisations) said they did have a training budget.
- 55% (43) said they do not have a training budget.

**Q30 Does your organisation have a training budget?**



**Does your organisation offer training?**

- 27 answered ‘no’ they do not offer training.
- 17 organisations answered ‘yes’ but did not state what training they offer.

35 organisations said they provide the following training, although it is not clear if the training provided is for staff only, or available externally.

- Safeguarding
- Media training
- Research
- Employability skills
- Business support / Administration
- Charity trusteeship
- Autism awareness
- Refugee /Asylum awareness and support
- Minibus driver training
- Performing Arts
- Counselling skills
- Mental health
- IT skills / cyber awareness
- First aid
- Trauma / Addiction / mentoring
- Disability awareness and inclusion
- Health and social care
- Volunteer management
- Cookery/Horticulture/Practical skills.

## QUALITY CHECK

---

**VAS wanted to find out how we add value to the sector. Organisations were asked which services they are aware of.**

77 organisations provided an answer to this question, some selecting more than one option.

- 71% of organisations were aware of the funding and governance service. Followed by 60% aware of networking and collaboration.
- Printing and copying services are the least known at 32% of responses. Followed by both the Swindon Trustee Network at 43% awareness, and Shopmobility service also at 43%.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Funding and governance advice	71%	55
▼ Swindon Equality Coalition/ Supporting Swindon Equality	48%	37
▼ Networking and collaboration e.g. VCSE Alliance, VAS live, Swindon Wellbeing	60%	46
▼ Swindon Trustee Network	43%	33
▼ Printing and copying services	32%	25
▼ Training	47%	36
▼ Room hire	48%	37
▼ DBS checks	52%	40
▼ VAS ID weekly newsletter	53%	41
▼ VAS website as a source of useful information	51%	39
▼ Swindon Shopmobility	43%	33
<b>Total Respondents: 77</b>		

### Which VAS services have you used?

A total of 77 organisations answered this question, with the following responses:

- VAS ID newsletter is the most widely used service with 48% (37) of respondents stating 'yes'.



- Followed by Networking & Collaboration at 43% (33), and Funding & Governance at 37% (28). In comparison, the least used service being Printing & copying services at 7%.

	YES	NO	NOT SURE	TOTAL
▼ Funding and governance advice	37% 28	56% 42	7% 5	75
▼ Swindon Equality Coalition/ supporting Swindon Equality	15% 11	72% 54	13% 10	75
▼ Networking and collaboration e.g. Swindon VCSE Alliance, VAS Live sessions, Swindon Wellbeing etc.	43% 33	52% 40	5% 4	77
▼ Swindon Trustee Network	11% 8	79% 59	11% 8	75
▼ Printing and copying services	7% 5	88% 64	5% 4	73
▼ Training	11% 8	82% 61	7% 5	74
▼ Room hire	10% 7	86% 63	4% 3	73
▼ DBS Checks	20% 15	72% 53	8% 6	74
▼ VAS ID weekly newsletter	48% 37	47% 36	5% 4	77
▼ VAS website as a source of useful information	37% 28	55% 41	8% 6	75

**From those organisations that had used VAS's services the following feedback was given:**

- The majority of organisations using our services are either **'very satisfied'** or **'satisfied'**.
- One organisation said they **were 'not satisfied'** with Networking and Collaboration, which will be followed up by the VAS team.

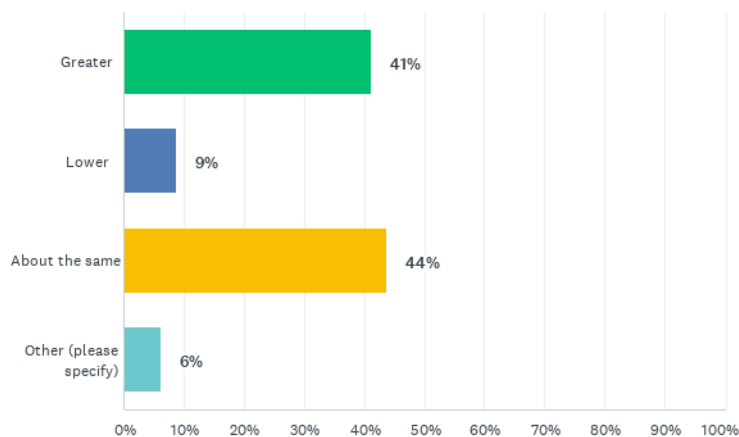
	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NOT SATISFIED	TOTAL
▼ Funding and governance advice	60% 21	40% 14	0% 0	35
▼ Swindon Equality Coalition/ supporting Swindon equality	44% 7	56% 9	0% 0	16
▼ .Networking and collaboration e.g. Swindon VCE Alliance, VAS Live sessions, Swindon Wellbeing etc	44% 16	53% 19	3% 1	36
▼ Swindon Trustee Network	36% 5	64% 9	0% 0	14
▼ Printing and copying services	11% 1	89% 8	0% 0	9
▼ Training	42% 5	58% 7	0% 0	12
▼ Room hire	50% 6	50% 6	0% 0	12
▼ DBS checks	56% 10	44% 8	0% 0	18
▼ VAS ID weekly newsletter	67% 26	33% 13	0% 0	39
▼ VAS website as a source of useful information	40% 12	60% 18	0% 0	30

- “VAS are excellent - highly skilled, collaborative and experts in the services they provide”.
- “Identifying funding sources, training, working groups, support, partnership. The team at VAS make you feel as if you belong to a wider group which is incredibly helpful for very small organisations”.

**How would you describe your current level of awareness of Voluntary Action Swindon (VAS) compared to 3 years ago?**

Over the last 3 years, 41% of organisations have a greater awareness of Voluntary Action Swindon (VAS). 44% have noted their level of awareness as about the same.

**Q35 How would you describe your current level of awareness of VAS compared to 3 years ago?**



In terms of services provided:

- 78% stated there were no other services they would like VAS to provide.

However, the following comment was provided and will be taken into consideration for future planning:

- “Is there a way that VAS could broker freelance providers in areas such as database development, bookkeeping, marketing, social media etc could work across several organisations? Particularly useful for small organisations where they may not have the resources for a viable employed post”.

**VETERAN SUPPORT**

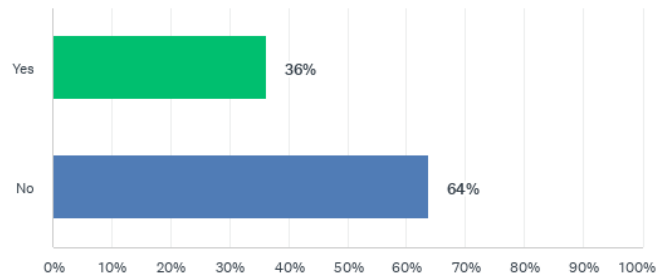
---

VAS is committed to supporting the Armed Forces Covenant.

**Does your organisation work with or support veterans or their families?**

- 29 organisations (36%) say they work with veterans or their families.

Q37 VAS is committed to supporting the Armed Forces Covenant, does your organisation work with or support veterans or their families?



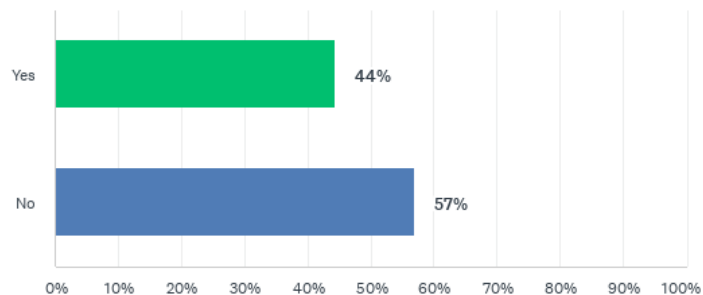
## TRUSTEE NETWORK

---

VAS supports Trustees through a Swindon Trustee Network. Are you aware of the Trustee Network?

- 79 organisations answered this question, with 44% (35) having heard of the network.

Q38 VAS supports Trustees through a Swindon Trustee Network. Are you aware of the Trustee Network?



- 45 organisations had not heard of the Trustee network, a further question was asked:

**Would you like your organisation to be added to the Trustee Network for information on dates and topics?**

31 organisations responded to this question, with 7 providing answers like 'not at this time'.

- 17 provided an e-mail address which will be added to the Trustee Network.

When asked if there were any topics that they would like covered at the Trustee Network, the following topics were suggested:

- Finance and accounts
- Business planning
- Fundraising

- Skills Audits
- New volunteer training
- Risk assessment
- Induction for new trustees

Additional comments given:

- “Succession planning talent retention, management & opportunities (staff) across Swindon voluntary sector”.
- “Separating the organisational aspect from the operational Line management skills Handling Conflict and/or Difficult Conversations”.

These suggestions will be taken forward by VAS for the Trustee Network.

## SECTOR SURVEY PRIZE DRAW RESULT

---

Organisations were asked to add their details to the survey for the chance to win a £250 unrestricted grant from VAS. Those that did were added to the selection process and the winner was selected at random by Voluntary Action Staff.

**And the winner is ....**

### **YOU ARE NOT ALONE! CIC**

#### **Suicide prevention and awareness support group for adults in Swindon**

Established in May 2023 by Vicky Bellingier in honour of her brother Lee, YOU ARE NOT ALONE want to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health and create a judgement free, confidential space where men and women can open up about the storms affecting their lives in a safe and non clinical environment.



With the help of Chris and Michelle the aim is of the club is to provide adults with a safe space where they feel comfortable to talk by hosting weekly FREE peer-to-peer support groups in and around Swindon, for men and women aged 18 and over.

Meetings take place on Tuesday evenings between 7pm-9pm (women’s group) and Wednesday evenings between 7pm-9pm (men’s group) at the Bakers café, 16 Emlyn Square, Swindon SN1 5BN

You can find more about YOU ARE NOT ALONE! CIC here <https://youarenotalonecic.co.uk/>

**A big thank you to all those organisations that took the time to respond to the survey!**