



DATE OF REPORT
May 2025

SECTOR SURVEY 2024-25

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.

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METHOD OF GATHERING DATA

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

The survey opened on March 3rd and closed 23rd April 2025.

INSIGHTS

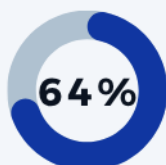
- **Sector Skills currently lacking:**
 - 41% writing funding bids
 - 24% social media
 - 22% Marketing
- **Equality, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EEDI)** – 27 organisations are interested in help from VAS to further develop this area.
- **46% of organisations** reported a greater awareness of VAS compared to 2 years ago, with 51% stating their awareness was about the same.
- **26% of organisations** have found their volunteer recruitment to be harder, compared to 12 months ago.
- Majority of satisfaction scores of VAS services are mainly **‘very satisfied’ or ‘satisfied.’**
- **52% of organisations** support beneficiaries of all ages.
- Trustees are each providing, on average, a combined **527 volunteer hours per year.**
- Most organisations use volunteers for support, with **48% organisations** saying they have between 1 – 10 volunteers.
- **95% stated that ‘word of mouth’** was the best way to recruit volunteers.
- 41% declared an income of between £100,001 - £1m, **26% have less than £10k.**
- **49% of organisations** have had to apply for additional funding to balance their books.
- **19% of respondents** have been successful with bid outcomes as a result of VAS support.
- **72% of organisations provide direct support** services to individuals in the community.

SECTOR SURVEY

KEY FINDINGS 24-25

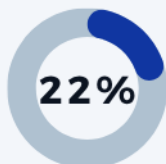
Overall, 67 responses were received from charities, not-for-profit organisations, and community groups throughout Swindon.

INCREASED DEMAND



64% of organisations have seen an increase in demand for services over the last 12 months.

RESTRICTED CAPACITY



22% of organisations have had to introduce charges for their services in order to cope.

26% of organisations have an annual income of less than £10,000.

INCOME DECLINE

25% of organisations have seen a decrease in their overall income in the last 12 months.



VOLUNTEER NEED

37% of organisations do not have enough volunteers to meet demand.



STAFF

79% of organisations have less than 10 paid members of staff to run their services.



LIMITED RESERVES

23% of organisations do not hold reserves to financially sustain their organisation.



FUNDING

49% of organisations have had to look for additional funding at the same time as managing an increase in demand.



TRAINING

53% of groups, who responded, do not have a training budget for their organisation.



SURVEY RESPONSES

Type of organisation

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

- Charitable incorporated organisations (CIO) at 31%.
- Charitable companies (limited by guarantee) at 28%.
- Unregistered / unincorporated associations at 15%.
- Community Interest Companies (CIC) at 7%.
- *OTHER responses at 15% include: Parish councils, Volunteer led collaborations, and Community Benefit Society.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)	31%
▼ Charitable Company (limited by guarantee)	28%
▼ Unincorporated Association (unregistered voluntary or community group)	15%
▼ Trust	3%
▼ Community Interest Company (CIC)	7%
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 15%

Who completed the survey?

67 responses were given to this question.

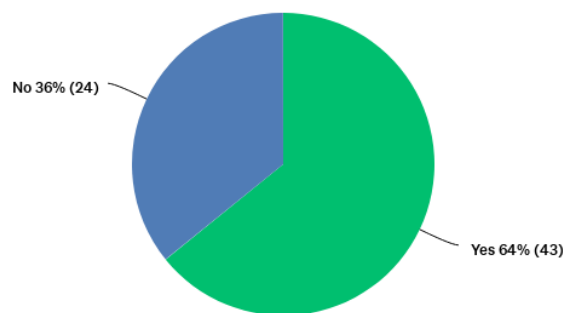
- Most of this survey has been completed by a Trustee/Director/Member of management committee, at 57%.
- Followed by either a manager or senior member of staff at 28%
- Employed workers made up 7%.
- The remaining 7% of responses were completed by a volunteer.

Are you registered with the Charity Commission?

67 responses were given to these questions, with 64% of organisations saying they were registered with the Charity Commission.

- 38% 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.

Q4 Are you registered with the Charity Commission?



STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Number of paid staff

When asking, 'How many paid staff each organisations has', (as a full time equivalent). The 62 respondents identified:

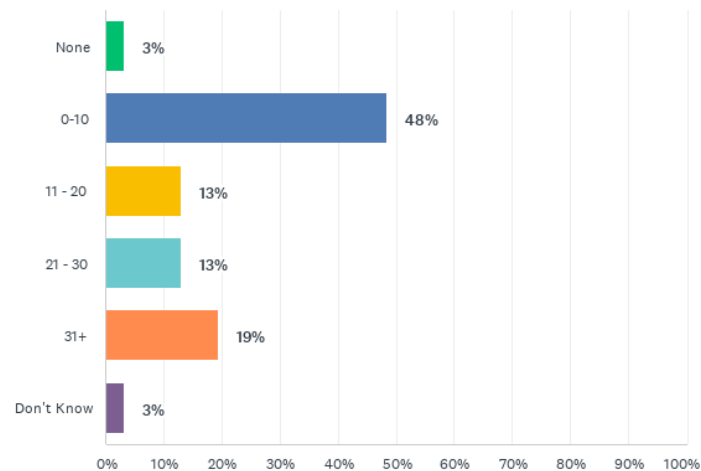
- 79% of organisations have 10 or less paid members of staff.
- Followed by the next highest percentage of 15% with 11-20 paid staff.
- 3% have between 21-30 full time staff members.
- The remaining have between 30+ full time staff, at 3%.

Number of Volunteers

62 organisations answered this question, with 48% of organisations have between 1 and 10 volunteers.

- 19% have more than 30 volunteers.
- 13% of organisations reported that have between 11-20 volunteers.
- 13% have between 21-30 volunteers.
- 3% 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 62 organisations answered this question, showing 40% of responses collectively receiving between 1 – 20 hours of volunteer time per month.

- A combination of 32% receive between 21 – 200 volunteer hours per month.
- 11% receiving 500+ volunteer hours per month.
- 6% of organisation with 200-500 hours given by volunteers.
- 5% of responses gave exact numbers of 774 hours and 930 hours. Whilst the remaining 3% unsure of how many volunteer hours they are receiving.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ 1 - 20 hours per month	40%
▼ 21 - 50 hours per month	18%
▼ 51-100 hours per month	6%
▼ 101 - 200 hours per month	10%
▼ 200-500 hours per month	6%
▼ More than 500 hours per month	11%
▼ Don't Know	3%
▼ If you know the exact number of hours please specify	Responses 5%

How many volunteer Trustees does your organisation have?

61 responses were received for this question.

- 51% of organisations reported having 6-10 trustees.
- 38% of organisations stated they have between 0 -5 trustees.
- 2% of organisations stating they have between 20-21 trustees on their board.
- 2% of organisations answered with 'unsure'.
- Remaining responses, 7% of organisations have between 11-19 trustees.

When asked how many hours trustees volunteered collectively per year, those that provided precise answers ranged from 0 – 2205 hours.

For the 57 organisations that responded to this question:

- **The average amount** of hours collectively provided by trustees is **527 hours per year**.
- Roughly 44 hours a month (between the average number of trustees), which is 6 trustees.
- ***Other** responses stated that trustee hours were estimated and difficult to quantify.

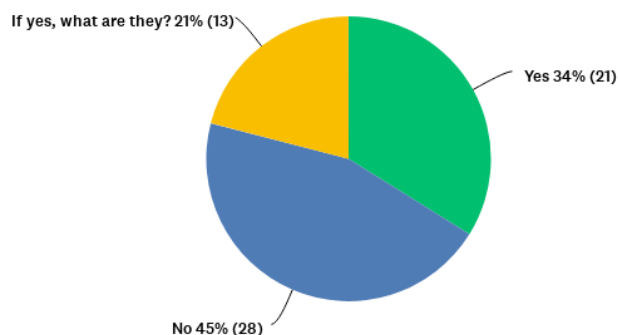
Do you have any difficulties recruiting volunteers?

62 organisations answered this question, with 34% stating they did have issues recruiting. 45% saying they had no issue recruiting volunteers.

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

- “Women only support required to support other women”.
- “Not enough people willing to give their time”.
- “Finding trustees to take on the responsibility and /or to manage compliance roles”.
- “Physical ability and geographical area”.
- “Difficulty encouraging people to come forward and give their time”
- “Simply finding people with the time and enjoy the role enough to stay”

Q10 Do you have any difficulties recruiting volunteers?

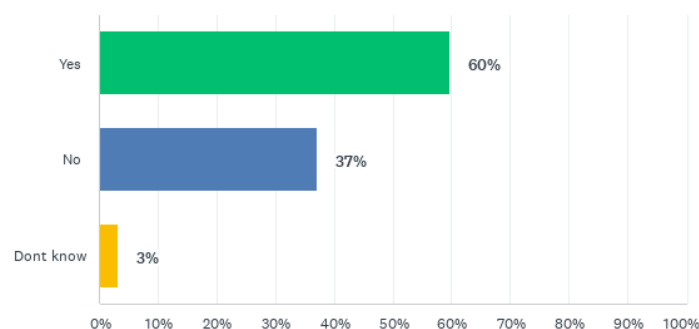


Do you have enough volunteers to meet demand?

When asked if organisations had enough volunteers to meet demand, of the 62 responses given:

- 60% of organisations stated yes to meeting this demand.
- 37% stated they do not have enough volunteers to meet this demand and the remainder 3% were unsure.

Q11 Do you have enough volunteers to meet demand?

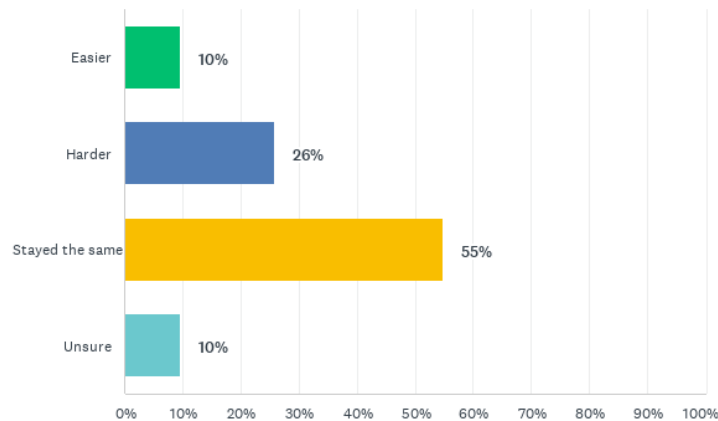


Has the recruitment of volunteers been easier or harder in the last 12 months?

When asked if recruitment had become easier or harder in the last 12 months, a total of 62 responses were given for this question.

- 55% organisations said volunteer recruitment had stayed the same.
- 26% of organisations said it was harder.
- 10% of organisations were unsure, with the remaining 10% stating it was easier to recruit volunteers.

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

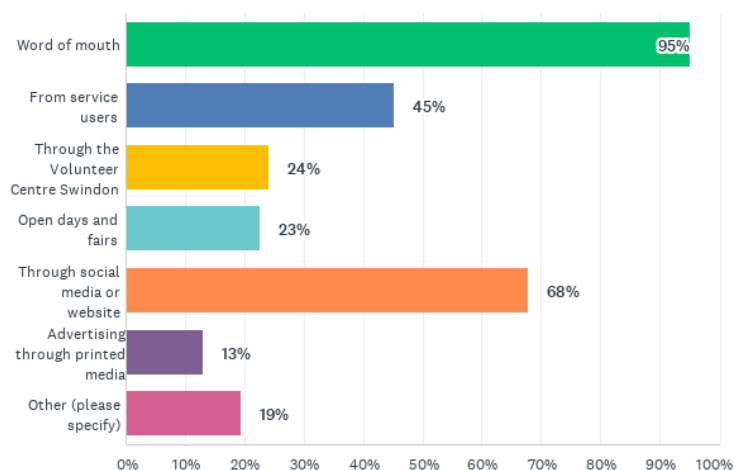


How do you usually recruit volunteers?

We received 62 responses to this question.

- 95% of organisation stated the best way of recruiting volunteers was by 'word of mouth'.
- 68% of respondents rely on social media and website promotion.
- 45% relying on recruiting volunteers from service users.
- 24% through the Volunteer centre (Volunteering Swindon)
- 23% recruit volunteers at open days and fairs.
- 13% rely on advertising though printed media to recruit volunteers.
- ***Other responses** at 19% included recruitment methods such as using members, friends and family, and asking support from partner organisations.

Q13 How do you recruit new volunteers? (tick all that apply)

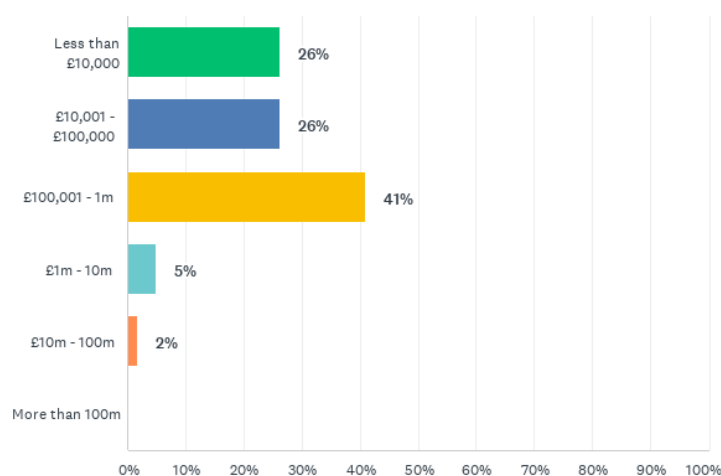


What is your organisation's overall income?

61 respondents answered this question.

- Majority of respondents, 41% have an overall income between £100,000 to £1m.
- 26% have an overall income between £10,000 up to £100,000.
- 26% have an overall income of less than £10,000.
- 5% of organisation have an overall income of £1m-£10m, whilst the remaining 2% have income between £10m-£100m.

Q14 What is your organisation's overall income?

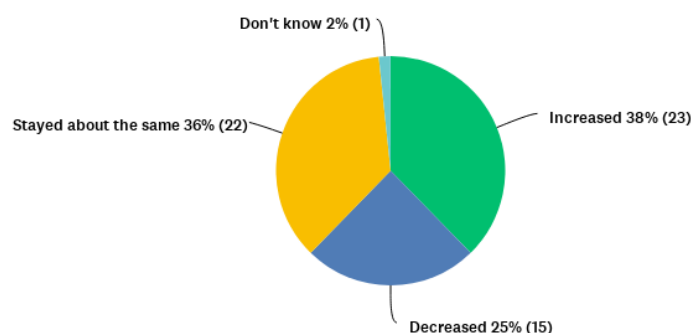


Have you seen a change to your income in the last 12 months?

This question was answered by 61 organisations.

- 25% of which have seen a decrease in income over the last 12 months.
- 36% noted their income has stayed the same.
- 38% have had an increase in overall income.
- With the remaining 2%, unsure if their income has changed.

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



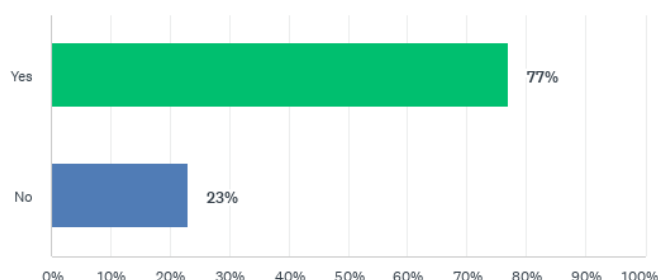
Do you hold reserves?

61 responses were given to this question.

- The majority of respondents stated they hold reserves, with 77% .
- The remainder, 23% of 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).*

Q16 Do you hold reserves?



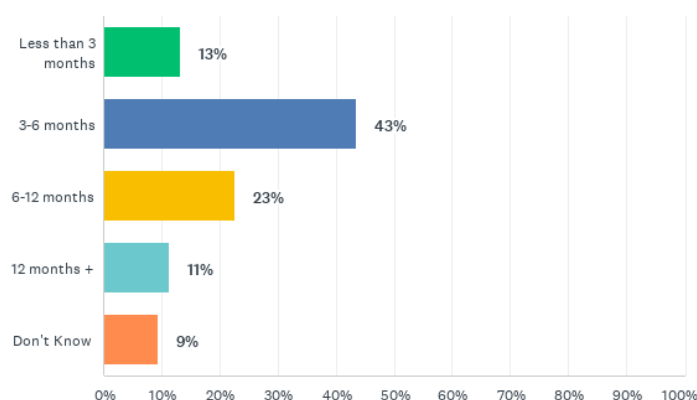
How long will these reserves allow you to carry on?

This questions was answered by 53 respondents.

- 43% of organisations have reserves to last 3 – 6 months, with 13% having less than 3 months.
- 23% with between 6-12 months reserves.
- The remaining 9% unsure of the amount of reserves they have.

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

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



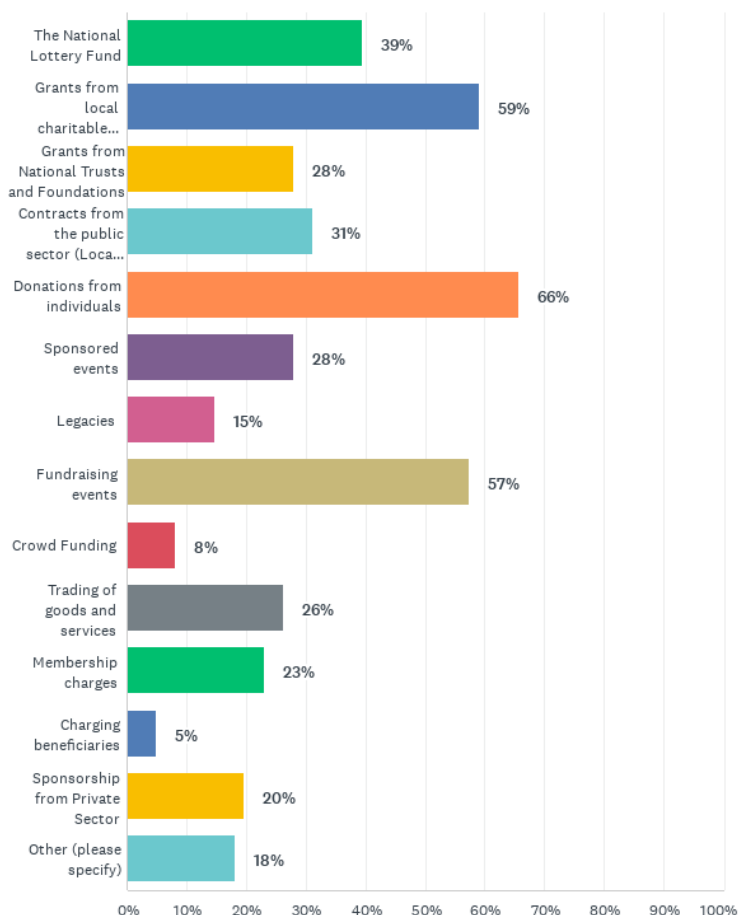
Where has your organisation found funding from in the last 12 months?

61 responses were given overall.

- 66% of those responses detail 'donations from individuals' as their main source of funding.
- Following this, 59% of organisations had funding provided through local foundations and grants – such as Wiltshire Community Foundation.
- 57% organisation obtaining funding through fundraising events.

- 31% of organisation securing funding through the local authority contracts / commissioned services.
- ***OTHER** responses include: grants from the Parish Council, The NHS, and sector specific grants.

Q18 Where has your organisation received funding from in the the last 12 months? Please tick all that apply



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

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

- £15,000 from Wiltshire Community Foundation
- £22,500 from Youth Music Fund
- £10,000 from The Forester Family Trust
- £20,000 from the National Benevolent Charity

Additional awarded amounts listed include:

- £1,000, £400, £6,500 and £9,000.
- **Swindon Bats (June 2024)** - Successfully awarded £15,000 over the next 3 years from the Wiltshire Community Foundation.

- **WBCT** - Awarded £18,000 for 3 years with Wiltshire Community Foundation.
- **Nepalese Association of Wiltshire (NAW)** – Awarded £6,250 from the National Lottery Awards for All programme, to hold their Nepali Cultural Day for 2024 at GWR park August 2024.
- **Swindon Seniors Forum** – awarded £6,000 from the National Lottery to support their continued work in the community.
- **Out of the Can** – were awarded a 3-year grant by Wiltshire Community Foundation to support with their running costs. £5k per year (£15k total).

Positive comments given:

- *“Thank you for sending through these funds. As a direct result we have been awarded £12k from the GWR Community Fund for display cabinets at the Health Hydro – Friends of Swindon Health Hydro.*

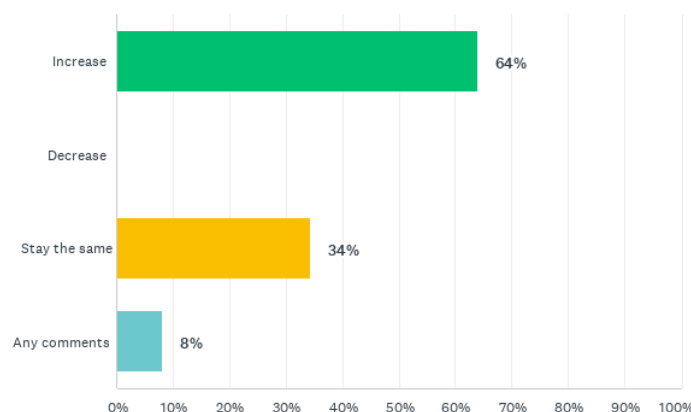
SERVICE DELIVERY

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

The majority have seen an increase in demand for services. 64% of respondents noted this has increased. The remainder of responses gave feedback such as:

- “It has got very competitive within the sector”.
- “We can't cope with the number of young people wishing to join and need more volunteers to setup and run new sections”.
- “Poverty is on the rise.”
- “Exceptional increase due to lack of alternatives”.

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



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

49 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	18%
▼ Make one or more staff redundant	12%
▼ Limit service provision (fewer hours/ less beneficiaries)	14%
▼ Increase or introduce charges for service	22%
▼ Cut services	10%
▼ Start new chargeable services	8%
▼ Invest in fundraising, marketing, or business development	27%
▼ Recruit more volunteers	31%
▼ Review spending on small items eg. office supplies	33%
▼ Apply for additional funding	49%
▼ Use reserves	18%
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 20%

How would you describe your main activities?

60 organisations answered this question, some ticking more than one area. 47% of organisations provide support services as their main activity.

- Followed by organisations that provide Advocacy, advice and information at 25%
- ***OTHER:** responses included activities such as, Education and skills courses, Art based support, older people & seniors support, IT & Digital support, Sports, Leisure, recreation, and food provision services.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Provide support services	47%
▼ Provide buildings/facilities/open space	20%
▼ Make grants to organisations	3%
▼ Provide advocacy/advice/information	25%
▼ Make grants to individuals	3%
▼ Other charitable activities	20%
▼ Act as an umbrella or resource body	5%
▼ Sponsor or undertake research	2%
▼ Provide employment opportunities	7%
▼ Provide training	23%
▼ Provide equipment	2%
▼ Provide transport services	5%
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 43%

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

60 organisations answered this question; some have ticked more than one area.

- Majority of respondents 53% of organisations support the general public.
- Followed by support for people with poor mental health, at 42%
- Support for people with physical disabilities at 33%, and support for people who have and are experiencing poverty at 32%.
- ***OTHER:** responses include support for specialist age related services – older people - children & young people, Bereavement support services and the blind & visually impaired.

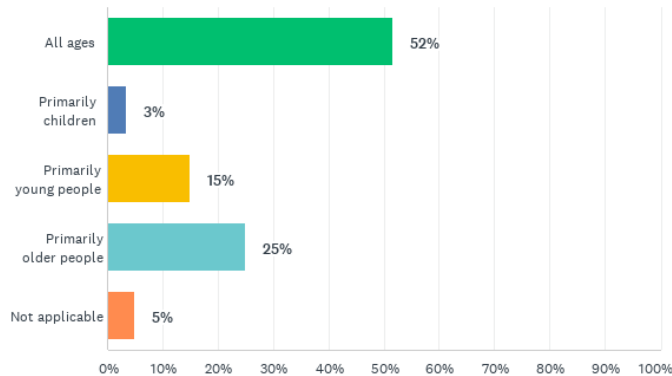
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Other charity or voluntary bodies	22%
▼ The general public	53%
▼ People with physical disabilities	33%
▼ People with specific health conditions	30%
▼ People with learning disabilities	28%
▼ People with poor mental health	42%
▼ People with a caring responsibility	23%
▼ People with a long term or chronic illness	28%
▼ People with experience of drug and alcohol issues	20%
▼ People who are from a particular ethnic group or racial origin	15%
▼ People who have experienced or are experiencing poverty	32%
▼ Young people who are NEET (not in employment, education or training)	15%
▼ People with low skill and educational attainment	17%
▼ People who are unemployed	18%
▼ People who are experiencing domestic violence	22%
▼ People who are homeless	15%
▼ People who are from the LGBTQ+ community	17%
▼ Veterans	10%
▼ Animals	3%
▼ Offenders/ ex offenders	12%
▼ Environment	7%
▼ Culture and heritage	12%
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 22%

What ages are your beneficiaries?

60 respondents answered this questions.

- 52% (31 organisations) deal with beneficiaries of all ages.
- 25% (15 groups) support primarily older people. 15% deal with primarily young people, and 3% primarily children age.
- 5% (3 organisations) where the beneficiary age group is not applicable to their services.

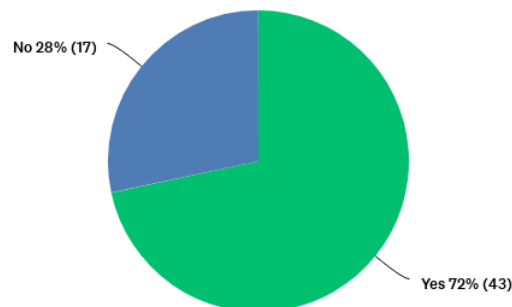
Q22 What ages are your beneficiaries?



Does your organisation mainly provide direct services to individuals?

60 organisations answered this question. 72% of which directly provide services to individuals. The remaining 28% do not provide direct services to individuals.

Q25 Does your organisation mainly provide direct services to individuals?



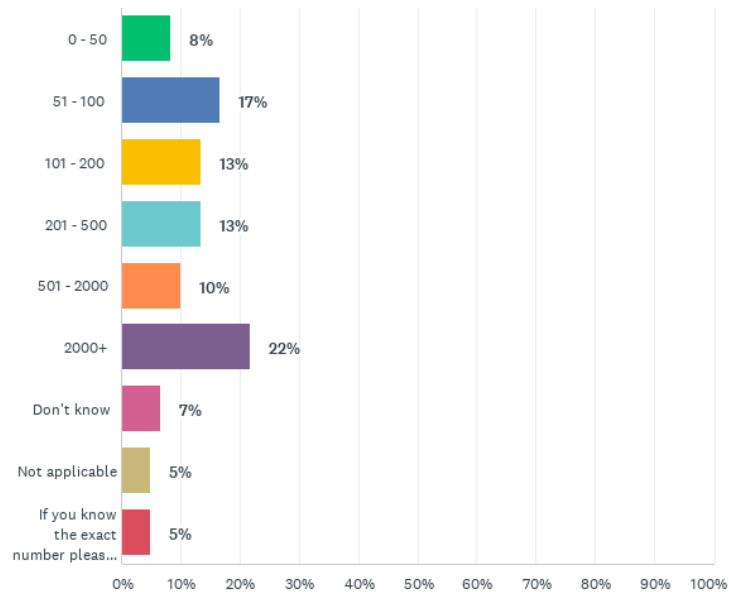
Approximately, how many beneficiaries do you help annually?

60 organisations answered this question.

- A combined 45% of organisations help an estimated number of between 51 – 500 beneficiaries annually.
- 22% help 2000+ per annum.
- 10% help an estimated number of between 501-2000 beneficiaries annually.
- 7% organisations said they either 'didn't know' at the time of taking this survey, with 5% (3 groups) that this is not applicable to.

***Other:** Some responses gave exact beneficiary numbers consisting of been 52, 261 and 23987 beneficiaries supported in a 12 month period.

Q26 Approximately, how many beneficiaries do you help annually?



SKILLS & TRAINING NEEDS

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

There were 54 responses overall, majority highlighting the following skills need for the sector. The largest percentage of need is listed as follows:

- Fundraising 50%.
- Writing funding 41%.
- IT Support 28%.

The top request shows training is needed with fundraising and bid writing and 28% of organisations highlighting IT Support as being an issue, which has risen from the previous sector survey. The next three highest needs noted by organisations are:

- Social media 24%
- Marketing 22%
- Mental Health First Aid 22%

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

Refer to chart on the next page for additional skills areas indicated.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Fundraising	50%
▼ Writing funding bids	41%
▼ Governance	15%
▼ Trustee board effectiveness	20%
▼ Diversity and inclusion	20%
▼ Safeguarding	17%
▼ Marketing	22%
▼ Social media	24%
▼ First aid	15%
▼ Mental health first aid	22%
▼ Health and safety	11%
▼ Food safety	4%
▼ Fire safety	7%
▼ Risk management	15%
▼ Cyber security	9%
▼ Personal effectiveness	6%
▼ HR support	20%
▼ Leadership skills	9%
▼ Website support	20%
▼ IT support	28%
▼ Volunteer management	20%
▼ AI and Digital tools	20%
▼ Other (please specify) Responses	4%

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

58 replies were received in answer to this question.

- 33% of responses selected –
“We provide training, support and leadership to make sure that our EDI policies and procedures are understood and implemented”.
- 23% responses selected –
“We want to become more inclusive and are actively developing policies and procedures to help us get there”.
- 24% selected –
“We are committed to promoting equality and diversity but lack the resources to make the progress we would like”.

***OTHER:** comments provided were:

- **“We have an effective EDI policy in place”.**

- “By our nature we are an inclusive organisation that primarily supports a specific minority group (LGBTQ+), but we also have many SEND service users, as well as NEET, those with physical disabilities, we support mental wellbeing and are welcoming of all religions and ethnicities”.
- “We are committed to promoting equity, equality, diversity and inclusion. Due to our makeup and capacity, we are less formal in its implementation than other organisations.”.

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

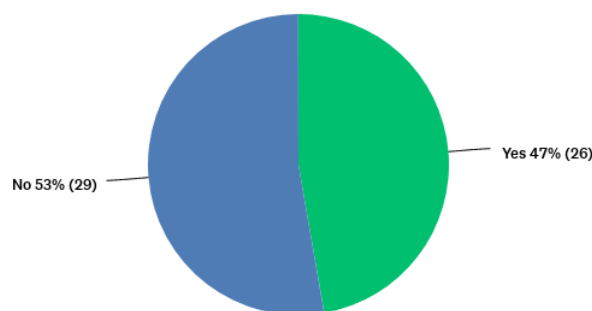
- 27 respondents ticked this box. VAS will contact each organisation requesting support in due course.

Does your organisation have a training budget?

We received 55 responses to this question.

- 47% said they did have a training budget.
- 53% said they do not have a training budget.

Q30 Does your organisation have a training budget?



Does your organisation offer training?

There 59 responses to this question:

- 34% answered ‘no’ they do not offer training.
- 32% of organisations answered ‘yes’ but to offering training.

Out of the 19 organisations noted, they provide the following training, **although it is not clear if the training provided is for staff only, or available externally.**

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Safeguarding | • Croquet sport skills |
| • Trauma Informed Practice | • Computing – Tech support |
| • Food hygiene level 2 | • Manual Handling |
| • Employability skills | • GDPR |
| • Bereavement Counselling | • Trauma / Addiction / mentoring |
| • DHR Chair Training | • Horticulture |
| • Minibus driving | |

QUALITY CHECK

VAS wanted to find out how we add value to the sector.

Organisations were asked which services they are aware of.

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

- 84% of responses are aware of the funding and governance service.
- Followed by 65% of Volunteering Swindon and Networking & collaboration, such as Faith Groups and VSCE Alliance.
- Swindon Youth Voice is the least known service at 32% of responses.
- Followed by Veterans Support Swindon with 33% awareness, and Printing and Copying at 35%.

ANSWER CHOICES ▼	RESPONSES ▼	
▼ Funding and governance advice	84%	48
▼ Supporting Swindon Equality	49%	28
▼ Networking and collaboration e.g. VCSE Alliance, Swindon Wellbeing, Inclusion Network, Faith Groups working together	63%	36
▼ Swindon Trustee Network	46%	26
▼ Printing and copying services	35%	20
▼ Training	56%	32
▼ Room hire	46%	26
▼ DBS checks	40%	23
▼ VAS ID weekly newsletter	56%	32
▼ VAS Directory & website as a source of useful information	44%	25
▼ Swindon Shopmobility	42%	24
▼ Volunteering	65%	37
▼ Swindon Youth Voice	32%	18
▼ Veterans Support Swindon	33%	19
Total Respondents: 57		

Which VAS services have you used?

A total of 57 organisations answered this question, with the following responses:

- VAS ID newsletter is the most widely used service with 64% of respondents stating 'yes'.
- Followed by Networking & Collaboration at 56%, VAS Website & Directory at 53% and Funding and Governance at 51%.
- In comparison, the least used service being Veterans Support at 2% and Printing and copying at 9%.

Refer to chart on the next page for VAS services used.

	YES	NO	NOT SURE
▼ Funding and governance advice	51% 28	44% 24	5% 3
▼ Networking and collaboration e.g. Swindon VCSE Alliance, Swindon Wellbeing, Swindon Inclusion Network, Faith Groups working together	56% 30	37% 20	7% 4
▼ Swindon Trustee Network	22% 12	74% 40	4% 2
▼ Printing and copying services	9% 5	87% 46	4% 2
▼ Training	23% 12	71% 37	6% 3
▼ Room hire	12% 6	84% 42	4% 2
▼ DBS Checks	21% 11	79% 41	0% 0
▼ VAS ID weekly newsletter	64% 34	36% 19	0% 0
▼ VAS Directory & website as a source of useful information	53% 28	45% 24	2% 1
▼ Veterans Support Swindon	2% 1	90% 46	8% 4
▼ Volunteering Swindon	23% 12	66% 35	11% 6
▼ Swindon Youth Voice	18% 9	80% 40	2% 1

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'**.
- The highest being, Swindon Inclusion network at 73% 'satisfied, followed by Funding and Governance advice at 67% 'very satisfied'. Two organisations stated they were **'not satisfied'** with *'Room hire - booking system' and *'Online Directory'. These will be followed up by the VAS team.
- *Both are newly implemented (Lemon Booking system for Room hire and VAS Online Directory) and we are working to improve both services, including moving to a new designed website from 20th May 2025.

Additional feedback given on our services:

- *"I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for the sessions I've attended and the continuous support you provide – it's all incredibly valuable. I truly appreciate the opportunities VAS makes available. It's rare to find such relevant, informative workshops and peer sessions at no cost, so thank you to everyone involved for making these resources available to charities like ours". MACS (2025)*
- *"Thanks for all that you do for the Swindon Voluntary Sector. Hard but amazing work – and far more appreciated by so many than I suspect you realise" – Neuro Wellbeing Centre (2024)*

Refer to chart on the next page for satisfaction results.

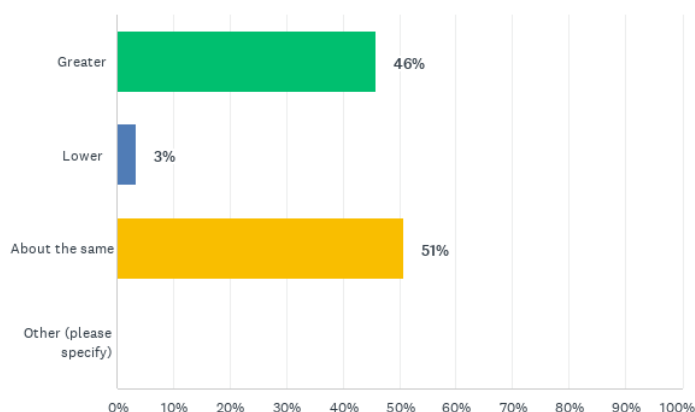
	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NOT SATISFIED
▼ Funding and governance advice	67% 24	33% 12	0% 0
▼ Swindon Inclusion Network	27% 4	73% 11	0% 0
▼ Networking and collaboration e.g. VCSE Alliance, Swindon Wellbeing, Inclusion Network, Faith Groups working together	48% 14	52% 15	0% 0
▼ Swindon Trustee Network	40% 6	60% 9	0% 0
▼ Printing and copying services	44% 4	56% 5	0% 0
▼ Training	50% 6	50% 6	0% 0
▼ Room hire	27% 3	64% 7	9% 1
▼ DBS checks	54% 7	46% 6	0% 0
▼ VAS ID weekly newsletter	59% 20	41% 14	0% 0
▼ VAS Directory & website as a source of useful information	48% 13	48% 13	4% 1
▼ Veterans Support Swindon	0% 0	100% 5	0% 0
▼ Volunteering Swindon	50% 8	50% 8	0% 0
▼ Swindon Youth Voice	58% 7	42% 5	0% 0

How would you describe your current level of awareness of Voluntary Action Swindon (VAS) compared to 2 years ago?

We had 59 responses to this question.

- Over the last 2 years, 46% of organisations have a greater awareness of Voluntary Action Swindon (VAS).
- 51% have noted their level of awareness as about the same. Whilst 3% of organisations stated their awareness was lower.

Q35 How would you describe your current level of awareness of VAS compared to 2 years ago?

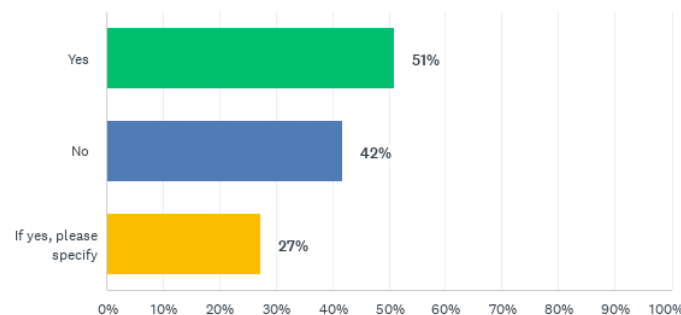


Other than the VAS services we already offer at a an affordable fee, we asked organisations whether they would be prepared to pay for some of VAS's services at charity rates in future?

A total of 55 organisations answered this question, with:

- 51% of organisations stating 'yes' they would pay for some of VAS services.
- 42% of organisations stating 'no' to paying for services.

Q36 Would you be prepared to pay for some of VAS's services at charity rates?



The following comments were given in response to the above question:

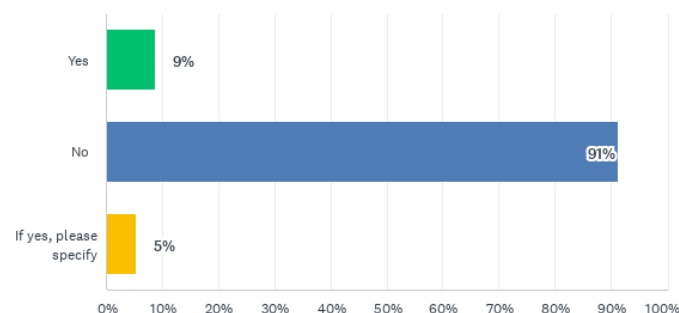
- "Yes, we would pay for training courses".
- "Yes, but most organisations have very little spare funds".
- "Yes, If we could access comprehensive, relevant training in key areas".
- "Yes, but it would depend on the need of the business and cost involved".
- "Yes, possibly in the future if we had more available funding to support this".

Other feedback given: "Training and information seems to have become profit making rather than a service across the charity landscape".

In terms of additional services, we could provide:

- 57 organisations answered this questions, with 91% of respondents stated there were no other services they would like VAS to provide.

Q37 Are there any other services that you would like VAS to offer?



From the 5% who commented, The following feedback was provided. This will be taken into account for future consideration:

- “Provide a community Mini bus”.
- “Become a way of making efficiencies by promoting sharing services across the Swindon area. i.e. spare kit; room bookings; sharing expertise; joint boards across key areas.”
- “Access to freelance people with key skills such as HR, finance, marketing, specific training etc. Ensure that these people are credible and organisations could do a more detailed recruitment process and employ people on a self employed contracted basis.
Many small organisations have insufficient funding to employ a person as there isn't enough weekly hours to make this a viable post.
Smaller organisations would have the opportunity to access this in an affordable way that makes a big difference. At the moment relying on volunteers for social media and marketing can't work to our timescales or needs, which inevitably holds the organisation back”.

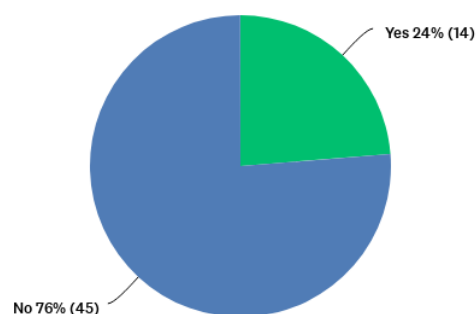
VETERAN SUPPORT

VAS is committed to supporting the Armed Forces Covenant. In October last year, we awarded with a ‘Silver’ Employer Recognition Scheme for our support to forces employment.

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

- 24% of organisations say they work with veterans or their families.

Q38 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?

59 organisations answered this question, with 53% of organisations having heard of the network.

- 47% of organisations had not heard of the Trustee network.
- We asked an additional question - if organisations would like to be added to the network. 24% of organisations have added their details to the mailing list.

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

- Recruitment support
- Legal structures
- Volunteering
- Legal Responsibilities & compliance
- Managing salary bands and annual pay increases

Additional comments given:

- “Co-sharing resources and capacities between one another”.

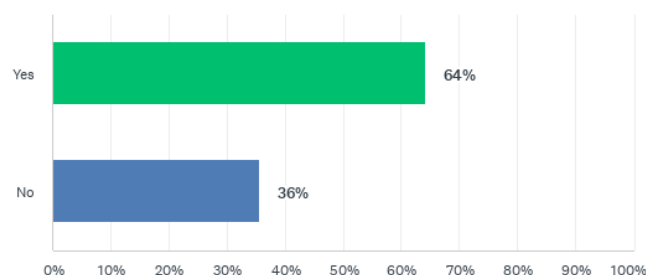
These suggestions will be taken forward by VAS for the Trustee Network.

VOLUNTEERING SWINDON – VOLUNTEERING NETWORK

VAS would like to know if there is interest to support organisations through a Volunteering Network. Would you be interested in joining if this was available?

- 56 organisations answered this question, with 64% of groups wanting to join the Volunteering Network. They provided contact details to be updated in future.
- 36% of organisations declined to be added.

Q42 VAS would like to know if there is interest to support organisations through a Volunteering Network. Would you be interested in joining if this was available?



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

HEADWAY SWINDON

Headway Swindon - supporting local people affected by brain injury

Since 1989 Headway Swindon has been supporting adults with traumatic and acquired brain injury, their families and carers. Our centre in Dorcan is a relaxed, safe and non-judgemental environment for adults with a brain injury.

Our aim is to enable brain injury survivors to regain and relearn skills that have become impaired as a result of a brain injury, and provide them with support and advice. Our activities promote cognitive and social rehabilitation, and each person has an individual plan to enable them to meet their goals and achieve their potential.

We also offer support and advice to carers and loved ones to enable them to cope with and manage the impact of a brain injury on the family

Through Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy and social rehabilitation we help our clients attain the highest possible quality of life and assist them to independent living.

For more information visit their webpage <https://headwayswindon.org.uk/>



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