

# Insight

## State of the Sector III

The third edition of the State of the Sector research programme examines the size, scope and contribution of the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland.

### Background to the research

- The intention of *State of the Sector III* is to place into context what the voluntary and community sector believes its future trends and developments will be. In doing this we can increase our understanding of the nature and magnitude of changes happening now that will have a great impact on the sector's future.
- The report takes fiscal, human and social resources and interlinks them with voluntary and community organisations, government, funders and the general public.

### Research approach

- The report is split into fifteen Chapters including an introduction, defining the sector, methodology, profile of the sector, income profiles, individual giving, corporate giving, human resources, assets and liabilities, expenditure, networking, sustainability, governance, forecasting and developing the research programme.
- The sample was constructed from NICVA's database, SectorNet, which includes over 5,000 organisations. A representative sample of 3,400 organisations was selected and postal questionnaires were sent to each.
- The questionnaire was designed to gather information on activities, staff, geographical remit and future views on the sector. Respondents were also asked to provide annual accounts for 2000/01.
- There were 851 returns which equates to a 25% response rate of valid questionnaires. There were also 441 sets of valid annual accounts returned.

### Main findings

- There are between 4,500 and 5,000 voluntary organisations in Northern Ireland.
- 15.4% of organisations are controlled from outside Northern Ireland, showing a largely self-sustained voluntary and community sector.
- 55% of the sector's income is accounted for by 7% of organisations.
- The general public donated an estimated £146.9 million and the business community £12.41 million to the sector in the financial year 2000/01.
- The voluntary and community sector employed 29,168 people in 2001.
- Total assets of the sector totalled £750.28 million in 2000/01, with liabilities of £207.02 million.
- Other findings focus on expenditure, networking, sustainability and governance.

### How to get further information

The full report, *State of the Sector III*, can be obtained by contacting Lynn Anderson at:

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January 2003