

Facts and figures about volunteer organisations in NI.

OVERVIEW

There are 40 organisations in the voluntary and community sector which are involved in the volunteer development sector. Total income for 2003/04 is estimated to be £10.32 million.

The volunteer development sector is dominated by medium to large sized organisations. There are no organisations with an income of less than £1,000 per annum in this sector.

There are approximately **269 paid employees** working in this sector, with a further **3,584 volunteers** directly involved on a formal basis (management committees etc).

ROLE

Volunteering is a vibrant expression of active citizenship; a tool for empowering people and communities to fulfil their potential and contribute to social change. Volunteerism is one of the defining characteristics of the voluntary and community sector and is seen by many as the foundation on which the rest of the sector is built.

A number of organisations exist to promote volunteering and to provide help and advice, as well as publications on volunteering, volunteer management, child protection and voluntary management committees.

FUNDING

Government - in particular **central government departments** - is the most significant funder of this sector, spending a total of £7.51million (72.8%). The expenditure of central government departments is around £6.46 million in 2003/04.

Peace II (10.6%) is the next largest source of funding for the volunteer development sector, however, overall this represents only 1.8% of the total Peace II funding accessed by the voluntary and community sector.

The **public** and the **voluntary sector** have contributed roughly the same amount to the volunteer development sector. However these amounts are relatively modest accounting for 7.3% and 7.1% of total income respectively.

Over half of the organisations in this sector are reliant on government sources for over 75% of their total funding - a significant dependence.

PEOPLE

The volunteer development sector has **269 paid employees**, eight out of ten of which are female.

There are **3,584 volunteers** involved in the volunteer development sector.