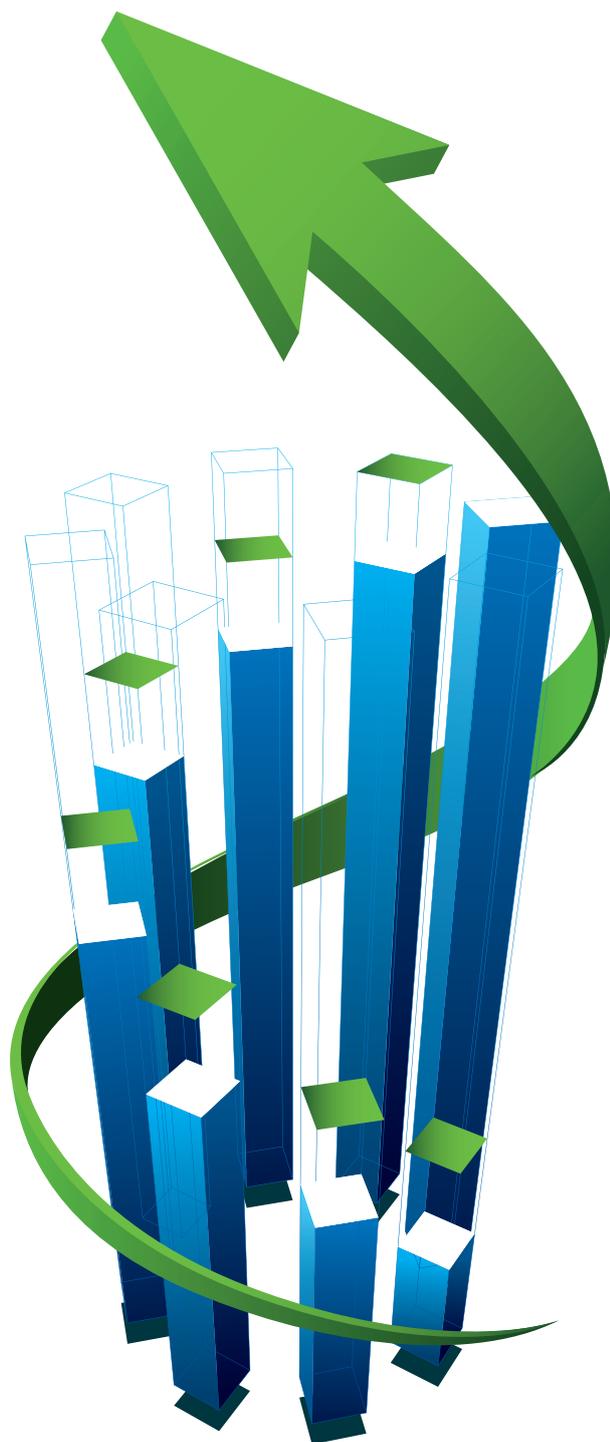


State of the Sector VI

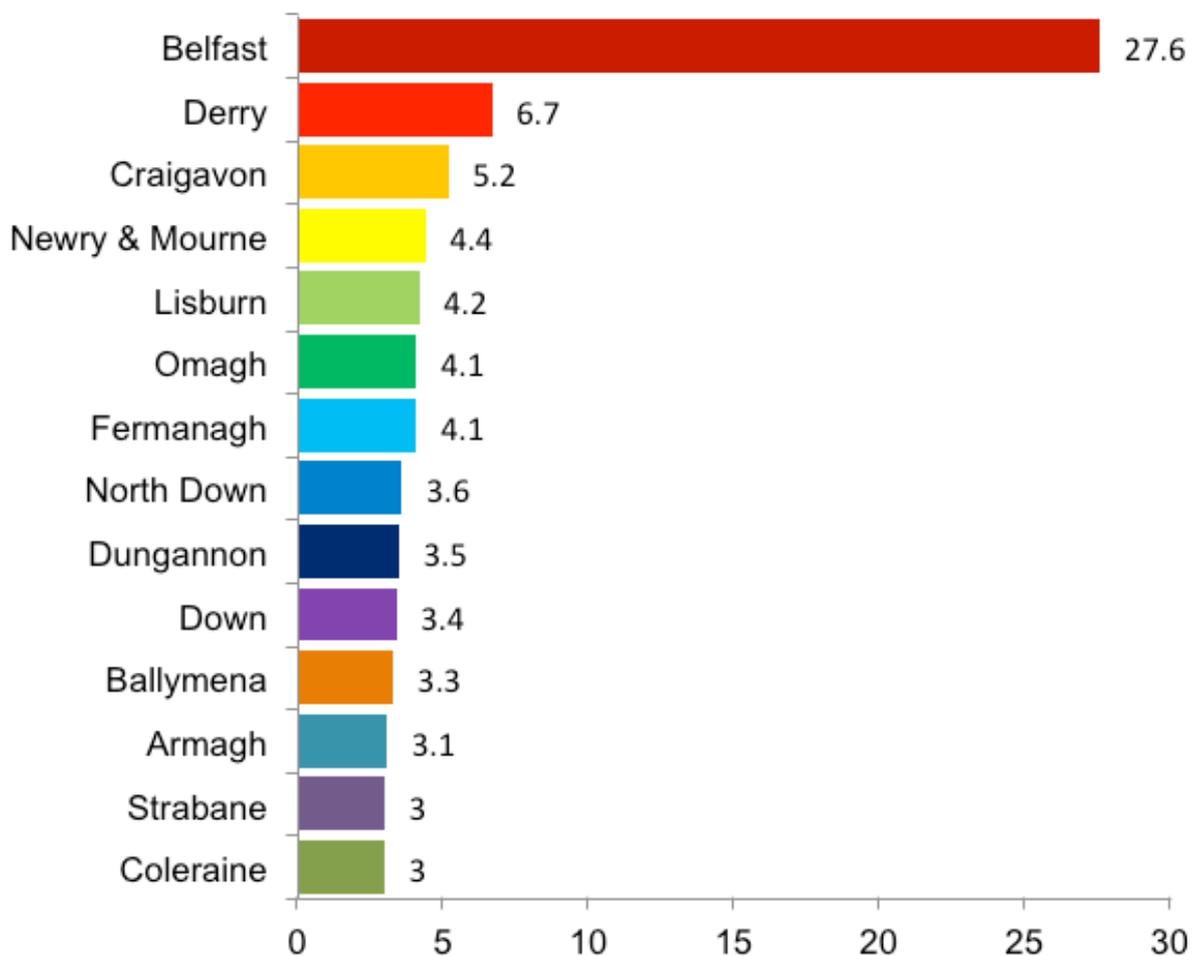
Profile



4. Profile

The data presented in this chapter are made up of figures from 1,191 returns from the *State of the Sector VI* survey, as well as from data held on the NICVA database. Measuring the voluntary and community sector with any accuracy is difficult due to the lack of a centrally maintained register of organisations and the absence of any robust mechanism to record the closure of organisations. Nevertheless, the information presented in this chapter gives an overview of the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland.

Figure 4.1 Geographic spread of respondents⁹ (%)

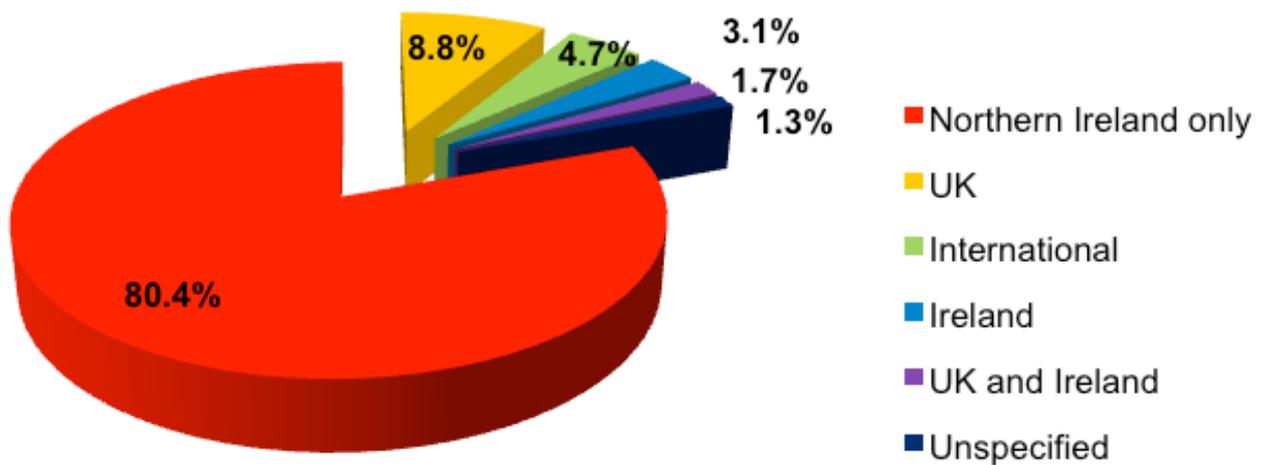


Source: NICVA Database (See Appendix for full analysis)

⁹ This table is limited to the main geographical areas for respondents ie 3% and above. See Appendix for full breakdown.

In terms of where respondent organisations are located, over one quarter (27.6%) are to be found in the Belfast City Council area, a figure which is identical to that returned in *State of the Sector V*. This is followed by the Derry City Council area (7%), again broadly similar to the previous report, as is the general geographic spread of organisations across Northern Ireland.

Figure 4.2 Geographic remit of respondent organisations



Source: *State of the Sector VI Survey*

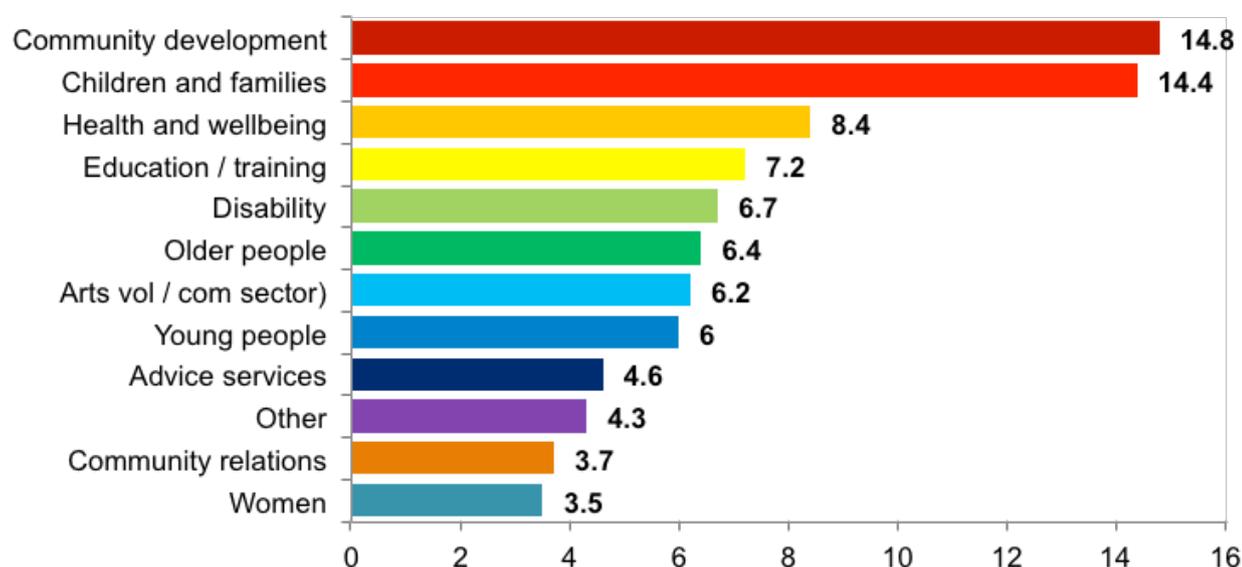
As can be seen in Figure 4.2 above, the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland is self-contained in terms of organisational links and structures that extend outside Northern Ireland. Most voluntary and community organisations (80.4%) are based only in Northern Ireland, a figure very much in line with that reported in *State of the Sector V* (83.3%).

Activities

The voluntary and community sector cannot be treated as a single homogenous entity but as a sector of great diversity and difference that is nevertheless connected by some fundamental similarities. Figure 4.3 examines the size of some of the major sub-sectors that form the overall voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland.

Figure 4.3 Primary sub-sectors of organisations¹⁰ (%)

It should be noted that in this State of the Sector survey respondents were asked to indicate the sub-sector which best described the work of their organisation and then asked to highlight who / what their organisation attempts to address. This is a slightly different approach to the previous report and as a consequence direct comparisons are not always possible.

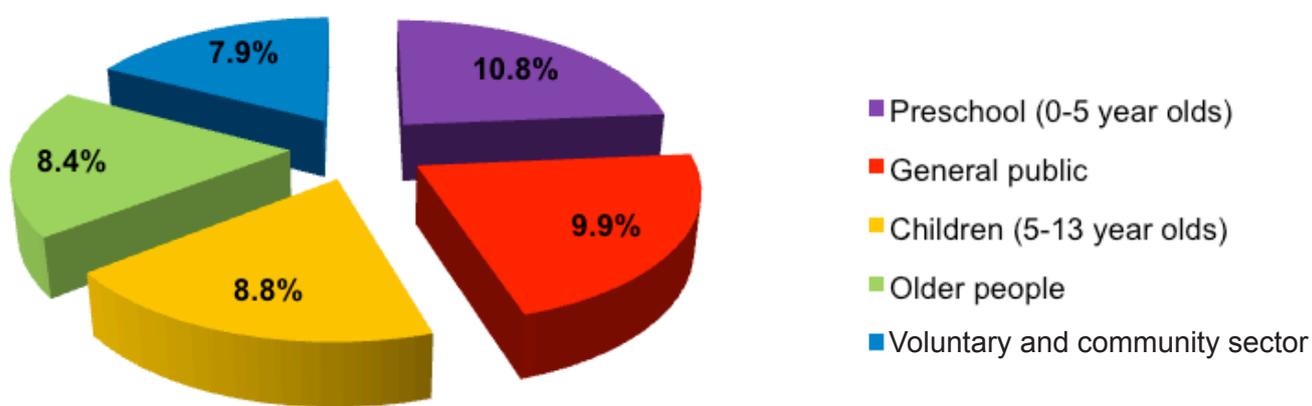


Source: *State of the Sector VI Survey*

As can be seen from Figure 4.3 'community development' (14.8%) and 'children and families' (14.4%) are very much to the fore in terms of the sub-sectors that organisations are working in. This general trend is consistent with previous reports. These are followed by projects operating within health and wellbeing (8.4%) and education / training (7.2%).

¹⁰ This table is limited to the main geographical areas for respondents ie 3% and above. See Appendix for full analysis.

Figure 4.4 Five main beneficiary groups for voluntary and community organisations in Northern Ireland



Source: *State of the Sector VI* Survey: See Appendix for full analysis

In terms of the main beneficiary of organisations’ activities, the patterns established in *State of the Sector V* are again very much in evidence, with generally only minor variations. Preschool (0-5 year olds) was the most popular primary beneficiary group (10.8%). As mentioned above, many organisations do not work solely and specifically with any particular social group, so as in previous years ‘general public’ continues to feature highly in survey responses.¹¹

Table 4.1 Skills councils with which organisations identify

Skills Council	%	Skills Council	%
Skills for Care and Development	36.6	Go Skills	3.1
Skills for Health	33.8	Asset Skills	2.1
Lifelong Learning UK	33.2	LANTRA	1.3
Creative and Cultural Skills	26.7	Skillset	1.3
Skills for Justice	10.7	Skillsmart Retail	1.3
Skills Active	8.9		

(Source: State of the Sector Survey: Multiple response)

A new question in this State of the Sector survey focused on the Skills Councils with which organisations identify. Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) are independent, employer-led, UK

¹¹ This category is not as common as in previous years due to changes in survey classification

wide organisations. The SSCs and the UK Commission work in partnership across the UK to create the conditions for increased employer investment in skills in order to drive enterprise and create jobs and sustainable economic growth. This survey asked organisations to identify those Sector Skills Councils with which they are associated. Table 4.1 above clearly indicates that organisations in the survey predominantly affiliate with four of the Skills Councils, with around a third of organisations citing Skills for Care and Development, Skills for Health or Lifelong Learning UK and over one quarter identifying with Creative and Cultural Skills. Overall 32% of organisations identified with one or more of the Councils.

State of the Sector VI is the latest edition in the *State of the Sector* research programme. The previous *State of the Sector* reports have developed the only comprehensive picture of the scale and scope of the economic activities of the Northern Ireland voluntary and community sector. The publication of each *State of the Sector* report represents another step in the evolution of this type of statistical analysis and as such adds to the already broad and in depth knowledge of the sector, by examining many of the key issues currently affecting and shaping it.

State of the Sector VI provides high level statistics on the various types of resources available to the sector and the relationship between voluntary and community organisations, government, funders and the general public. *State of the Sector VI* is invaluable to all those who need an up-to-date and reliable source of statistics and commentary on the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland. People working in the sector – academics, decision-makers, social science students and journalists – will all find this publication useful.

Published April 2012 by:
Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action

Tel: (028) 9087 7777

Fax: (028) 9087 7799

Minicom: (028) 9087 7776

International code: +44

info@nicva.org

www.nicva.org

www.communityni.org

ISBN 978-0-903087-57-5

Charity registered with Inland Revenue No XN 47024

Company limited by guarantee (No1792)