

## Headline Data re: UKSPF Voluntary & Community Sector Delivery in Northern Ireland.

This data has been collated by NICVA to illustrate the impact of UKSPF VCS led delivery.

All information is for the period April 2023 to end March 2025.

The information as presented is from two sources:

- 1) Data provided by Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government for the period 2023-24 and 2024 –25 at request of NICVA (this includes data on total no's of beneficiaries and no's supported into employment.)
- 2) Additional Data from 12 of the 15 VCS projects, collated by NICVA, on numbers of beneficiaries supported into further education or training and total no's of staff employed via UKSPF.

- **Approximately £57 million over 2 years was committed to Northern Ireland via UKSPF** to address economic inactivity.
- **18 Projects were funded under the UKSPF** from 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2025
- **15 of the 18 projects are led by or have voluntary and community sector (VCS) partner organisations.**
- **These are made up of 12 Consortiums and 3 individual Projects** with a Total of **64 VCS organisations involved in delivery** across the 15 Projects.
- The **total number of beneficiaries** across all 15 UKSPF VCS projects for **Year 1 (2023 – 2024) and Year 2 was 23,942**
- The **largest group of beneficiaries** across these projects are **those with a disability and/or health condition. Projects are also supporting women, young people**, including care experienced and homeless young people, **those with convictions/involvement in criminal justice system, minority ethnic groups, carers and those aged 50 yrs +. Typically projects are supporting people across a number of target areas** such as young person with mental health difficulties.
- Across Year 1 and 2 of delivery **a total of 6636 people were supported into employment (28%).**
- Of these **3445 were sustaining employment for 6 months +.**
- **Unique Features of these projects** – Highly skilled and experienced staff; Supporting those typically hardest to reach/engage; Community Based; Address Practical Barriers to Participation; Individually tailored support; Wrap around services; Person centred; Life Skills provision (eg: budgeting); Mental Health & Well Being Support; Well established Signposting and Referral Routes to other services; Pre employment Support and Training and Follow Up Support and Guidance.
- The **range and types of Qualifications, Training and Experiences offered by these projects is extensive** and across a diverse range of areas/interest and at a variety of levels. **Level** – Accredited and non-accredited qualifications include OCN NI, NVQs, BCS, City and Guilds and Industry specific Licenses/Accreditation

### Geographical Information

- Programme delivery is across all 11 Council areas, in both urban and rural communities – 6 projects covering all 11 council areas with 11 projects covering the Belfast Council Area and 7 projects covering Derry City and Strabane Council and Fermanagh and Omagh Council areas only.
- **A full breakdown of delivery by Council area is detailed in Annex 1.**

**The following additional data<sup>1</sup> has been provided by 12 of the 15<sup>2</sup> VCS projects<sup>3</sup> currently funded via UKSPF, via request from NICVA.**

**The data provided by these projects relates to Year 1 and Year 2 of Project Delivery (the period April 2023 to end March 2025). NB – some projects reported a late start for Year 1 delivery due to late confirmation/administration of funding from MHCLG.**

- **Staffing** – Across these projects **650 VCS staff (403 full time staff and 247 part time staff)** are currently funded via UKSPF (until March 2026). This figure does not take into account staffing across other key areas including financial management etc, that are not funded via UKSPF.
- **The total number of beneficiaries across all 12 of these UKSPF VCS projects for Year 1 (2023 – 2024) and Year 2 was 20,780**
- A total of **8875** of these were **supported into Further Education and/or next stage Training (43 % of beneficiaries).**

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<sup>1</sup> This information was collated by NICVA via an information request to all VCS consortiums or projects currently in receipt of UKSPF funding across NI. The information was gathered throughout June – August 2025. Its purpose was to provide some headline data with regard to current UKSPF funded delivery, highlight additional outcomes of delivery to date, staffing figs and the potential for impact should funding not be maintained beyond March 2026.

<sup>2</sup> The remaining projects did not provide information.

<sup>3</sup> These 12 projects are: Belfast Connect, Empower, GROW PARTNERSHIP, Maximise Employment, Moving Forward Moving On, Prosper, SkillSET, SkillSET (NIACRO), TRIAX Success NW, Women Breaking Barriers NI, YouthStart (Youth Action), Building Futures.

## ANNEX 1

UKSPF Projects – VCS Led or Partners - Years 1 & 2 (1/04/2023 to 31/03/2025) – Delivery By Council Area				
Project/ Consortium Name	Lead Partner	Consortium Partners	Council areas covered	
1. Belfast Connect	Upper Springfield Development Trust	East Belfast Mission GEMS NI Impact Training Ashton Community Trust	Belfast Antrim & Newtownabbey Lisburn & Castlereagh Ards & North Down Mid & East Antrim	
2. Empower	Ulster Supported Employment Limited (USEL)	Disability Action NI Specialisterne NI	Northern Ireland Wide	
3. Moving Forward Moving On	Extern NI	Business in the Community Northern Ireland	Belfast Antrim & Newtownabbey	
4. GROW PARTNERSHIP	Network Personnel	21 Training Workspace Enterprises Ltd	Mid Ulster Mid & East Antrim Antrim & Newtownabbey Fermanagh & Omagh Causeway Coast & Glens Derry City & Strabane	
5. Maximise Employment	Bryson Energy	N/A	Northern Ireland Wide	
6. Niacro SkillSET	Niacro	N/A	Northern Ireland Wide	
7. Prosper Consortium	Triangle	Access Employment Ltd Appleby Trust Compass Advocacy Network Stepping Stones NI	Antrim & Newtownabbey Belfast Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Causeway Coast & Glens Lisburn & Castlereagh Mid & East Antrim Mid Ulster Newry, Mourne & Down Ards & North Down	
8. SkillSET (AMH)	Action Mental Health	Cedar Foundation Orchardville NOW Group Royal National Institute of Blind People Mencap Adapt NI	Northern Ireland Wide	
9. TRIAX Success NW	TRIAx	Community partners: Greater Shantallow, Dove House, Churchtown, Creggan, Glen Development, Lettershandoney, Waterside, Claudy, Strabane	Derry City & Strabane	
10. Women Breaking Barriers NI	WRDA	Northern Ireland Rural Womens Network Women's Support Network Atlas Womens Centre Ballybeen Womens Centre Falls Womens Centre Footprints Womens Centre Greenway Womens Centre Shankill Womens Centre Windsor Womens Centre	Northern Ireland Wide	
11. YouthStart (Youth Action)	Youth Action	Bytes Project Princes Trust NI Start360 Springboard Opportunities Ltd Include Youth NI Youth Forum	Northern Ireland Wide	
12. Youth Start (Springvale)	Springvale Training Ltd	N/A	Belfast	
13. Employ Me	Southern College (Southern Regional College, Clarye Group)	Clarye Group Community Advice Newry, Mourne and Down Womens Aid	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Newry, Mourne & Down	
14. Building Futures programme	WOMEN'S TEC (Training, Enterprise and Childcare)	Bolster Community Women in Business	Belfast Newry, Mourne & Down	
15. Regional Economic Accelerator Programme	South West College	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (FODC), <b>First Step Women's Centre (FSWC) and</b>	Fermanagh/Omagh and Mid Ulster	

		<b>South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (STEP)</b>	
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