



The older people's sector sustains 700 jobs in NI. Find out more about its staff, funding and role.

### OVERVIEW

There are **250 organisations** in the voluntary and community sector which have older people as their primary beneficiary group. Total income for 2003/04 is estimated to be **£15.45 million**.

A total of 90.9% of these organisations have an income of less than £100,000 per annum. Just over one quarter have an income less than £1,000 per annum.

There are approximately **700 paid employees** in this sector, with a further **4,768 volunteers** who are directly involved (management committees etc).

### ROLE

Older people's organisations provide a wide range of activities - social programmes, educational opportunities and lifelong learning - and make a significant contribution to the health, wellbeing and social inclusion of older people in Northern Ireland.

Organisations in the older people's sector also make a positive impact on the development of good relations. For example, they challenge ageism and the social exclusion of older people, engage in programmes that link communities together and intergenerational programmes, and are involved in a range of the structures of civic life.

### FUNDING

The **public are the largest supporters** of organisations in the older people sector with 53.2% (£8.22 million) of the sector's income emanating from either direct donations or the sale of goods and services.

The **government spends £4.42 million** on the activities of the older people sector. On closer examination, the figures reveal that central government departments spent £1.76 million (39.8% of all government funding in this sector) in 2003/04. Statutory agencies and non departmental public bodies spent £2.54 million on the activities of older people's organisations, with district councils contributing a further £0.13 million.

Almost a quarter of organisations which receive donations from the general public are dependent on 75% or more of their income from this source.

Funding from government sources accounted for less than 25% of total income for eight out of ten organisations.

## PEOPLE

The older people's sector has **702 paid employees**. This represents **2.4% of the total sector's workforce**.

Almost a quarter of all employees in the older people's sector are part time, which is much lower than the sector as whole where part time employees make up 36% of the workforce.

There are **4,768 volunteers** involved in the older people's sector, which makes up approximately 6% of the total number of volunteers operating in the sector.