CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE

State of the Sector report

LIVERPOOL

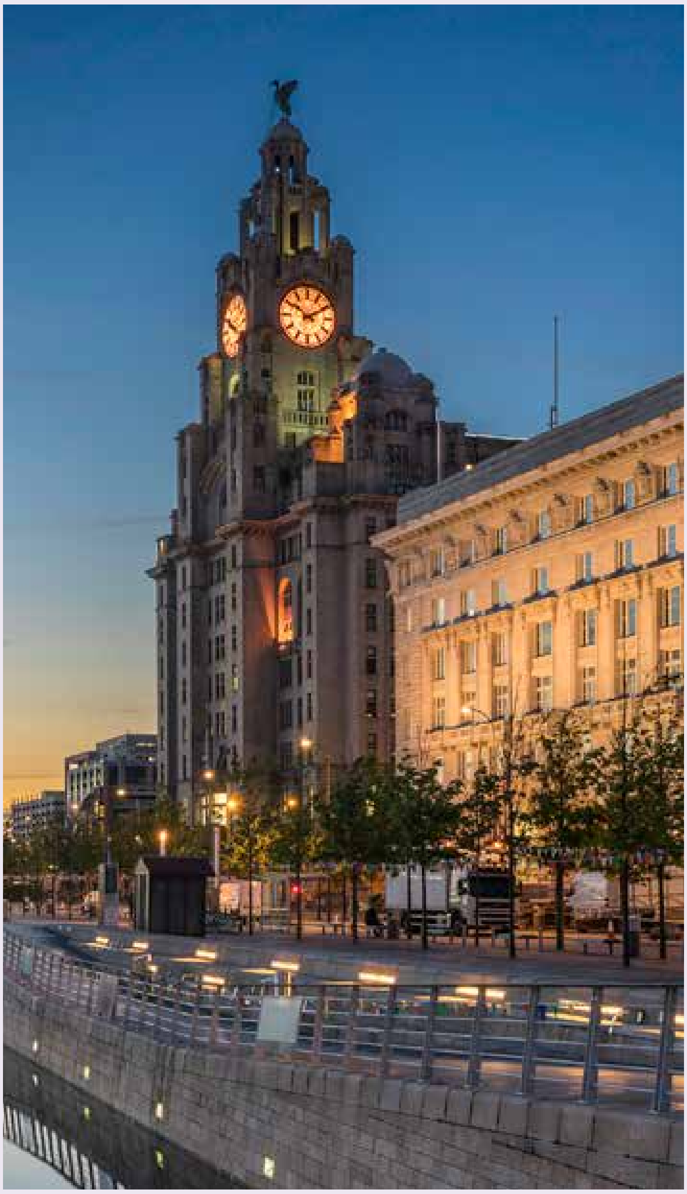
Summary Review 2023

LCVS

Liverpool

Context

Liverpool has a population of approximately 484,488 people, and life expectancy for both men and women is in the region of 3 years less than the England average. Further, there are significant inequalities between local communities: between the most and least deprived areas there is a variance in life expectancy for women of 9 years, and 11 years for men.



Size and scope of the VCFSE sector in Liverpool

Number to registered charities	1,177	27%
Community Interest Companies (CICs)	443	10%
Companies Limited by Guarantee (CLGs)	822	19%
Registered Societies	101	2%
Community Sports Clubs	15	1%
Below the radar groups (BTR)	1,773	41%
Total	**4,331**	

Size of workforce

Number of paid staff	6,749
Number of volunteers (once a month minimum)	68,514
Number of regular volunteers	28,212
Volunteer hours per week	91,407

Value of workforce

Value of paid staff	£161.2 million per year
Value of volunteering	£51.8 million per year
Total	**£213 million per year**

Economic contribution of the VCFSE sector in Liverpool

£180.3 million GVA per year

Summary profile of the VCFSE sector in Liverpool

- **62** Groups in Liverpool responded to the survey (**16%** of all C&M boroughs).
- The majority of groups are registered charities (**55%**) with only **1%** of groups reporting as unincorporated associations (below the radar).
- **68%** of groups in Liverpool are over **10 years old**, with only **3%** of groups reporting that their organisation was formed in the last 12 months.
- Groups are more likely to be working at the City Region (**34%**), or across more than one local authority area (**16%**) level.
- A high proportion of surveyed groups in Liverpool are micro (**14%**) and small (**43%**) organisations.
- **26%** of groups main activities fall under wellbeing, health and social care as the most common area of work.
- **21%** of groups report supporting "everyone" followed by **13%** targeting people with mental health needs, and children and young people (**12%**).
- The most common source of funding for organisations is from fundraising and donations (**20%**) and charging for goods and services and charitable trusts and foundations (**11%** each).
- There are approximately **879 full-time** and **320 part-time** staff employed by surveyed organisations. However, this figure is skewed by the survey including responses from a significantly larger employer than most other groups.
- **86%** of organisations in Liverpool with paid staff pay the Real Living Wage or above.
- **98%** of organisations utilise volunteers, with a reported total of approximately **2,824 volunteers** and an average of **66 volunteers** per organisation (however this is skewed by a small number of groups, as the most common number of volunteers per group is **7**). These volunteers provide approximately **6,090 hours** of volunteering per week.
- The most popular priority for Liverpool groups over the next 12 months is sourcing funding opportunities (**17%**) followed by maintaining sufficient financial reserves (**12%**). **68%** of groups reported feeling confident in being able to achieve these goals, with **25%** unsure.

Key Findings

Income and expenditure

The majority of groups in Liverpool have seen their income and reserves fall or stay the same over the preceding 12 months, however their spending has increased (55%), which is attributed chiefly to the impact of the pandemic and subsequent cost of living crisis. However, despite this, 60% of groups plan to increase the scale of their activity over the next 12 months.

Workforce and volunteers

There are approximately 879 full-time and 320 part-time staff employed by surveyed organisations in Liverpool. However, this figure is dominated by a single large employer - in comparison to the rest of C&M, Liverpool organisations are likely to be employing slightly lower numbers of staff on full or part time bases.

Liverpool VCFSE staff and volunteers are particularly diverse, with 23% of staff reported to be from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background (notably higher than the regional trend of 9%). Similar to regional trends, the workforce is predominantly female (63%).

Many Liverpool groups expect their staffing position to increase (47%), although 6% expect staffing numbers to decrease. Liverpool organisations have a higher reliance on volunteers than C&M, with 98% of organisations reporting that volunteers are crucial to the running of their organisation and 60% expecting to increase their use of volunteers.

Community assets and skills

Four fifths (81%) of organisations report utilising a community asset, with the most common types being offices (23%) and community centres (15%). Where premises are rented, the most common landlord situation is for the premises to be rented privately (34%), or outright owned by the group itself (26%).

For groups that report barriers to having a community asset, this is usually related to lacking access to the funding needed to purchase a building.

In terms of education and skills, the majority of groups report being digitally enabled organisations however there is a high demand from those who require digital support for staff training and development (52%) over funding for equipment (35%).

Surveyed organisations in Liverpool are more likely to be measuring and evidencing the impact of their work in comparison to C&M (42% vs 31%).

Priorities and partnership working

16% of groups reported having a positive working relationship with their local CVS infrastructure organisation and the local authority (15%). Percentages were low for relationships with NHS organisations, with 8% having a positive relationship with their local NHS place-based partnership, 7% with their NHS trusts and 6% with Primary Care Networks.

The most common priority area for Liverpool groups over the next 12 months is sourcing funding opportunities (17%) followed by maintaining sufficient financial reserves (12%).

Liverpool groups are more likely to be focused on recruiting and retaining staff and developing funder relationships moving forward, however are less likely or able to be focussing on developing skills and accessing training, and ensuring they have enough space to operate from. 68% of groups reported feeling confident in being able to achieve these goals, with 25% unsure.

This executive summary report should be read in tandem with the wider Cheshire and Merseyside State of the Sector report to help the reader relate findings to wider regional and national trends where it may be of interest to do so. Additionally, important data caveats are contained within the regional report to be aware of when interpreting these findings.

CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE STATE OF THE SECTOR

2023 Review

For more information about the VCFSE sector in the North West visit

www.vsnw.org.uk

Contact

info@vsnw.org.uk