

Voluntary and Community Sector in East Sussex Questionnaire Survey: the effects of the economic recession

The purpose of this survey is to explore the capacity of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and to support people in East Sussex during the economic downturn. Initial feedback shows that many voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) in East Sussex are experiencing greater client demand or receiving less revenue. Some report increased redundancy in the older age-groups whilst volunteering presents a more complicated picture. This survey will enable us to understand the complexities of the challenges facing the sector and to share and develop effective strategies.

VCOs will benefit from:

- A true reflection of the local picture.
- A robust document that highlights the value of the sector and can be used to support funding bids.
- A chance to ensure VCOs' experiences, needs and value to the public are recognised and reflected at local, district and regional levels.

Survey Aims:

- To identify the effects of the recession and to communicate sector needs, priorities and possible solutions at county level in East Sussex.
- To facilitate a common network of communication, to strengthen cohesion and share good practice in the sector.
- To raise the profile and highlight the value and capabilities of the VCS in East Sussex, and at regional and national levels.

*Please complete as much as you can (use extra pages if necessary) and return it to: l.cecil@brighton.ac.uk or post to: SpeakUp Survey c/o South Downs CVS, 66 High Street, Lewes, BN7 1XG **by 31st October 2009**. If you would like to discuss it with us please phone Miriam Miklaszewska on 01273 483 832.*

You may wish to complete this alone or with colleagues or your clients / the people you work with / members of the public. The responses you give will be treated as confidential; people's names will NOT appear in the report or dissemination.

Name/s:¹ *(please list all contributors or indicate number of people involved)*

Date:

Your role/s or position/s:

¹ *(optional – leave blank if you wish to remain anonymous)*

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Tell us about your organisation/s.
Name:

Type of organisation *(please tick all that apply)*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unincorporated charity | <input type="checkbox"/> Company limited by Guarantee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registered charity | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

Organisation's main function/s *(who do you work with and what services do you provide?):*

Where does the organisation work?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National / regional/ other
<i>(specify)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastbourne |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Countywide (East Sussex) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hastings & St Leonards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wealden district | <input type="checkbox"/> Lewes district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rother district | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural / other <i>(please specify)</i> |

What size is the organisation?

- | Annual turnover 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small (below £15,000) | <input type="checkbox"/> Small (below £15,000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medium (£15 - £100K) | <input type="checkbox"/> Medium (£15 - £100K) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large (over £100,000) | <input type="checkbox"/> Large (over £100,000) |

Further comments *(if you would like to):*

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Staff

- Small (2 or less)
- Medium (2-10)
- Large (10+) specify:

Volunteers

- Small (2 or less)
- Medium (2-10)
- Large (10+) specify:

Further comments:

1. What do you feel are the effects of the current economic climate on your clients / the people you work with? *(please tick as many as relevant)*

- More people in debt
- More older people made redundant
- More younger people out of work
- More anxiety about finances
- Increased travel costs
- Other, specify:
- Other, specify:
- Other, specify:

Further comments:

2A. What main **challenges** face your organisation **now**?

- Capacity to meet changed service demands
- Fewer volunteers
- Fewer staff
- Other, specify
- Other, specify

Further comments:

2B. What main **challenges** face your organisation in the **future**?

- Groups in the community left vulnerable
- Funding

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Staff turnover

Other, specify

Other, specify

Further comments:

3A. What have you **done differently** in your organisation over the past 12 months?

3B. Identify any **achievements or effective strategies** being used or developed by your organisation.

4. Priorities: in planning for the future identify the most important issues:

5. List any **opportunities** you can identify for your organisation.
(e.g. to develop improved relationships for mutual support; to collaborate with other third sector organisations, public sector or private sector; to generate income; to develop joint initiatives such as social enterprise development.)

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6. Other comments / thoughts:

If necessary, may we contact you to discuss your responses?

7. **No / Yes** delete Telephone:

email:

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey. The results will be made available on the Ask CaSPer - Community Support Portal <http://www.askcasper.org.uk/> in December and at the "Big Event" Conference on 20th January 2010.



University of Brighton

Community
University
Partnership
Programme



CVS Partnership
in East Sussex
(EAVS, HVA, RVA & SDCVS)