

Report to Yorkshire Forward on RES Progress

RES Lead Role:

The Regional Forum (RF) is responding to this survey but does not have a **direct** lead role in relation to other voluntary/community organisations. It is a regional membership organisation which has a policy and intelligence role in relation to the VC sector. The sector itself is not an organisation so is in a different position to other RES quoted organisations like the NHS

Objective 4B) iv)

1. The vcs in organisations like Citizens Advice, the WRVS in hospitals offer formal volunteering opportunities. These are useful in themselves as a way of doing activities/services in communities and in institutions.

Smaller community organisations may be largely run by volunteers. In addition, people volunteer as trustees or activists to represent the needs of their community or interest.

Estimates of volunteering in Y&H are difficult to make but the numbers are between 350,000 -500,000.

Amongst the many projects which use volunteers there is evidence of how this work creates pathways to employment through-confidence building, creating social links, opening doors to training and skill development and so on.

The RF has surveyed the sector about this work. The results are a snap shot of activity. The survey asked for examples of vcs projects that provide routes into employment and how they did this. The survey shows:

Total responses	82	
Provides volunteering opportunities	57	70%
Provides training opportunities	59	72%
Gives advice	50	61%
Provides job brokering	14	17%

Sub-regional breakdown		
Yorkshire & Humber	3	4%
North Yorkshire	15	18%
West Yorkshire	35	43%
South Yorkshire	24	29%
Humber	5	6%

2. Barriers

One of the most difficult barriers to volunteering is the under funding and uncertainty of funding for volunteer centres which act as brokers between individuals wishing to volunteer and organisations that need volunteers.

In addition, target driven funding may limit the capacity of organisations to do the development work to create volunteering opportunities. It may also mean that achieving targets quickly makes using volunteers –who may take time to develop skills or need a lot of support- is less possible.

The refusal of “Train to gain” (now reversed) to recognise volunteering as having legitimate training needs has been a barrier.

3. There will have been many evaluations by individual organisations which we do not have the capacity to collect or analyse *but this would be a very valuable exercise for the region if resources were available.*

One example is the Reading Matters which works across the region recruiting volunteers as reading mentors to support 11-16 year olds on a one-to-one basis. Another is a report of a volunteering project in Wakefield District. Nationally Citizens Advice have much evidence of the impact of volunteering in terms of achieving employment.

An appendix illustrates some of this work.

Objective 4D) i

1. The Regional Forum, SEYH, sub regional vcs consortia and many others are working to develop capacity to deliver mainstream services.

Examples include:

The RF and SESC’s conference on mental health commissioning; the RF and the National Council for voluntary child care organisations (NCVCCO) in the region ran a briefing about children service commissioning. SEYH and other organisations work on the health procurement agenda.

The RF’s survey asked about projects that help the vcs deliver mainstream services and how this was done. The survey shows:

Total responses	62	
Provides information	35	56%
Runs training courses	35	56%
Links vcs to mainstream providers	32	52%
Develop consortia	21	34%

Sub-regional breakdown		
Yorkshire & Humber	3	4%
North Yorkshire	11	18%
West Yorkshire	24	39%
South Yorkshire	21	35%
Humber	3	4%

2. Barriers

The commissioning and procurement agenda is complicated and unclear. There is *some* evidence that Local Authorities are not putting many services out to tender, that they are bringing services in-house especially for children. In addition, the large contracts that are tendered are difficult for small organisations to deliver and large national charitable agencies are bidding for these and then sub contracting locally, having stripped out value.

Whilst consortia are ways forward in this situation they require resource to set up and support and the risk of running contracts and the transaction costs are being moved from the contractors to the providers who are often unable to carry them.

3. Again, there have been a number of reports on this area.
An appendix illustrates a few examples of this work.

<p>Appendix: Objective 4B) iv) Other Responses – Projects & Employment</p>
<p>Provides paid part time and full time employment in our commercial activities as a low-risk introduction to the workplace culture as a key component in establishing an independent and sustainable lifestyle</p>
<p>Aimed at YP with Learning Difficulties</p>
<p>This annual week-long project is held prior to the successful Beached Festival in Scarborough. The Academy gives young people an insight into the music industry, offering specialist workshops in both performance and behind the scenes work, culminating in a showcase event and performances at the main Festival.</p>
<p>Promotes skills in ICTs, technology, communication, creativity, narrative; employability skills such as teamwork, punctuality, reliability, confidence, self-esteem, self-belief; community cohesion - shows how many diverse people live in Beeston all with similar concerns about the area - breaks down divisions; community capacity building; ongoing resource</p>
<p>Puts local people in charge of decision-making over economic resources</p>
<p>Provides information and advice about local services / facilities. Hosts community drop-in sessions (i.e. Police, local nurse, Councillors). Is a base for residents to access ICT / Internet / office services.</p>
<p>Offers workshops relating to Essential Skills for Work</p>
<p>WE ASSIST OLDER PEOPLE TO LIVE SAFE, HAPPY AND FULFILLING LIVES IN THEIR OWN HOMES FOR AS LONG AS THEY WISH TO DO SO</p>
<p>Provides training that leads to volunteering opportunities</p>
<p>One to one tailored support to individuals, including business start up advice and support where appropriate.</p>
<p>1. HACVS manages six projects that deliver direct services with the help of volunteers. Regular training programmes are organised for volunteers and volunteers will also be signposted to training elsewhere that will enhance their personal development. We will also place and support people who are between jobs as in voluntary work within our own organisation. The Women's Counselling Service (one of the above-mentioned 6 projects) provides opportunities for trainee counsellors to enhance their skills while completing their counselling Diploma. In addition HACVS manages a (time-limited) Practice Learning Development Project which develops and supports placement opportunities for first year social work students in the voluntary and community sector in Harrogate District.</p>
<p>Members meet to mutually support existing and potential social enterprises and hence providing employment of people with additional needs.</p>
<p>Assists disabled people to manage their Direct Payments from the local council. Direct Payments are an hourly sum of money given to disabled people to pay for their own assessed care needs as against receiving services from the council. Direct Payments can be used by disabled people to employ their own personal assistants to meet their assessed needs and they can also choose to pay private Care Agencies. ILS (York) gives support and advice in the employment of PA's including an administrative and payroll service. We can also provide an admin service for the receipt of DP's and the payment of Care Agency Invoices.</p>
<p>This is a basic 15 week course that gives OCN accreditation for up to 15 students</p>
<p>Creates paid employment</p>
<p>Promotes employability skills: punctuality, reliability, teamwork, communication, initiative and above all confidence in participants, a channel for communication within the community and from public sector to the community and vice versa, creative expression, cultural exchange, capacity building, diversionary activities for young people at risk</p>
<p>Provides a range of training to all transport providers. Also supports smaller voluntary sector providers and improves their sustainability, improves skill base and capacity.</p>
<p>Provides childcare services to enable residents to take advantage of employment and/or training opportunities</p>
<p>Recruits and trains volunteer reading mentors to support 11-16 year olds on a one-to-one basis</p>

Runs support groups for refugee teachers and engineers
provides employment
Local healthy eating project set up and run by volunteers. Project includes a community allotment, development of a website, their own recipe book and community transport initiatives.
Provides housing support advice training to young people
Creates paid employment
Extended School Activity
Many of the people who accessed the service were our client group made up of those who are hardest to engage with through Drug, Alcohol and other substance misuse problems and with many associated issues.
Innovative Personal development programme which gives participants confidence to move themselves forward, often leading to further training or employment.
Provides and volunteering brokering service. HACVS Volunteer Centre works with individuals, groups and businesses. The Centre supports volunteer involving organisations in their recruitment and management of volunteers through training and networking opportunities.
Promotes employability skills of punctuality, reliability, teamwork, communication, initiative and confidence; gives a practical dynamic framework to the teaching of English; promotes cultural exchange
Promotes technical knowledge, creativity, employability skills of teamwork, initiative, communication, confidence and punctuality; cultural exchange; capacity building in community; record of events and activities; exploration of community
Provides support for the VCS representation on the LSP. Provides organisational development support to the VCS.
Training for those interested in volunteering in their local school, leading to volunteering opportunities, and then employment in school.
Provide transport to people seeking training and employment - a Wheels 2 Work moped loan scheme.
SOHAS provides a city wide service for people with workplace ill health problems. People are given advice and support about their job that will enable them to return to work

Appendix: Objective 4D) i
Other Responses - Projects & Mainstream services
Provides support, information, training and groups for parents of children with ADHD in Sheffield. Coordinates workers across health, education and social care to better support these families.
Social enterprise offers domestic support and cleaning services - employs 30+. Promoted by Keeping House above.
Support local VCS to recruit and support volunteers, including help with volunteering policies and procedures.
Offers progression, promotes community cohesion and confidence, demonstrates diversity of local people and their skills and talents thereby increasing local feelings of self-worth and countering negative media stereotypes of area
(About to start) providing training and information for groups seeking to develop contract9ing as part of their sustainability
Social. 2+ employed so far. Promoted by Keeping House above.
ASSIST OLDER PEOPLE TO LOIVE IN THEIR OWN HOMES PROVIDING ADVICE ON FORM FILLING, FINDING TRADESMEN, GARDENERS, CLEANERS ETC AND SOCIAL
SLA with Family Support Service to deliver support to families in the south of Sheffield alongside their service

Provides support for groups looking for and applying for funding. Provides group development advice and support, including constitutional advice.
For example, working with community car schemes to develop a more efficient, accessible scheme across the districts.
Provides generic advocacy to all vulnerable people in this large rural area.
HACVS represents the local VCS on the District's Area Learning Partnership Exec and Adult Strategy Task Group.
Creates new ways to develop and sustain local organisations to provide domestic services in Leeds, to help older and disabled people maintain their independence for as long as possible. central idea is that services are run as social enterprises, charging for work done but putting any profit back into the business for community benefit. Approx 40 jobs created in Leeds domestic services sector since 2005.
Helps engage participants with mainstream, promotes community cohesion and capacity building and communication between sub-communities
provides core transport services to statutory agencies and the wider community Provides, support, advice, information, access to funding to the voluntary sector transport providers and funders
Support networking of VCS e.g. organise the Hambleton Forum for Voluntary Organisations and the Hambleton and Richmondshire Mental Health Forum. Provide newsletters. Representation on local strategic partnership and support representatives from the VCS.
Would provide a base for a range of voluntary organisations to be co-located in the centre of Northallerton well connected to public transport. Would provide a full range of modern facilities in order to better enable the sector to deliver services to the public (meeting and interview rooms, training facilities etc.). Would provide supported employment opportunities.
provides environmental reuse and recycling
Similar to above except in very early stages
Parenting support/groups/tracking visits to families in the Broomhall area served by the Children's Centre
The group, which is made up VCF, PCT, LA and NHS organisations works together to integrate service provision. We are particularly active around the areas of vocational rehabilitation, job retention and rehabilitation with the aim of ensuring that people who suffer from workplace ill health return to work and to support people who are out of work through ill health to return to the workplace.
This initiative is in its early stages, but through the support of VAS, we (a group of vol/com providers in the health and well being field) hope to be contract ready by Mar 08
Provides a centre where people with neurological conditioned can access alternative therapies and meet others in a social setting.
social enterprise providing gardening, decorating and shopping services, mail order for independent living aids, and consultancy to other enterprises. Employs 5. Promoted by Keeping House above.
Promotes community cohesion, capacity building, confidence
Offers progression, promotes positive view of local community, promotes community cohesion and confidence
Provides outreach support, training and information to groups seeking to develop contracting as part of their package of funding