CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE

State of the Sector report

SEFTON

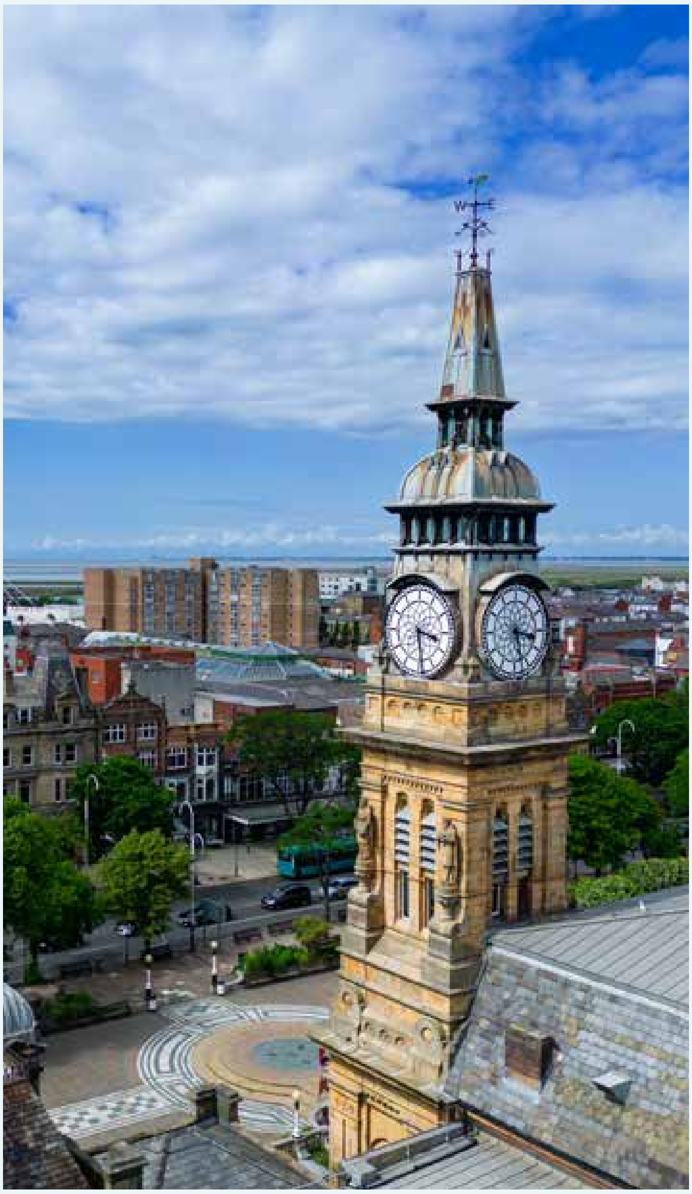
Summary Review 2023

Sefton CVS
Supporting Local Communities

Sefton

Context

Sefton has a population of approximately 279,692 people, and life expectancy for both men and women is in the region of 1 year 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 12 years, and 14 years for men.



Size and scope of the VCFSE sector in Sefton		
Number to registered charities	479	24%
Community Interest Companies (CICs)	135	7%
Companies Limited by Guarantee (CLGs)	327	16%
Registered Societies	18	1%
Community Sports Clubs	26	1%
Below the radar groups (BTR)	1,024	51%
Total	**2,009**	

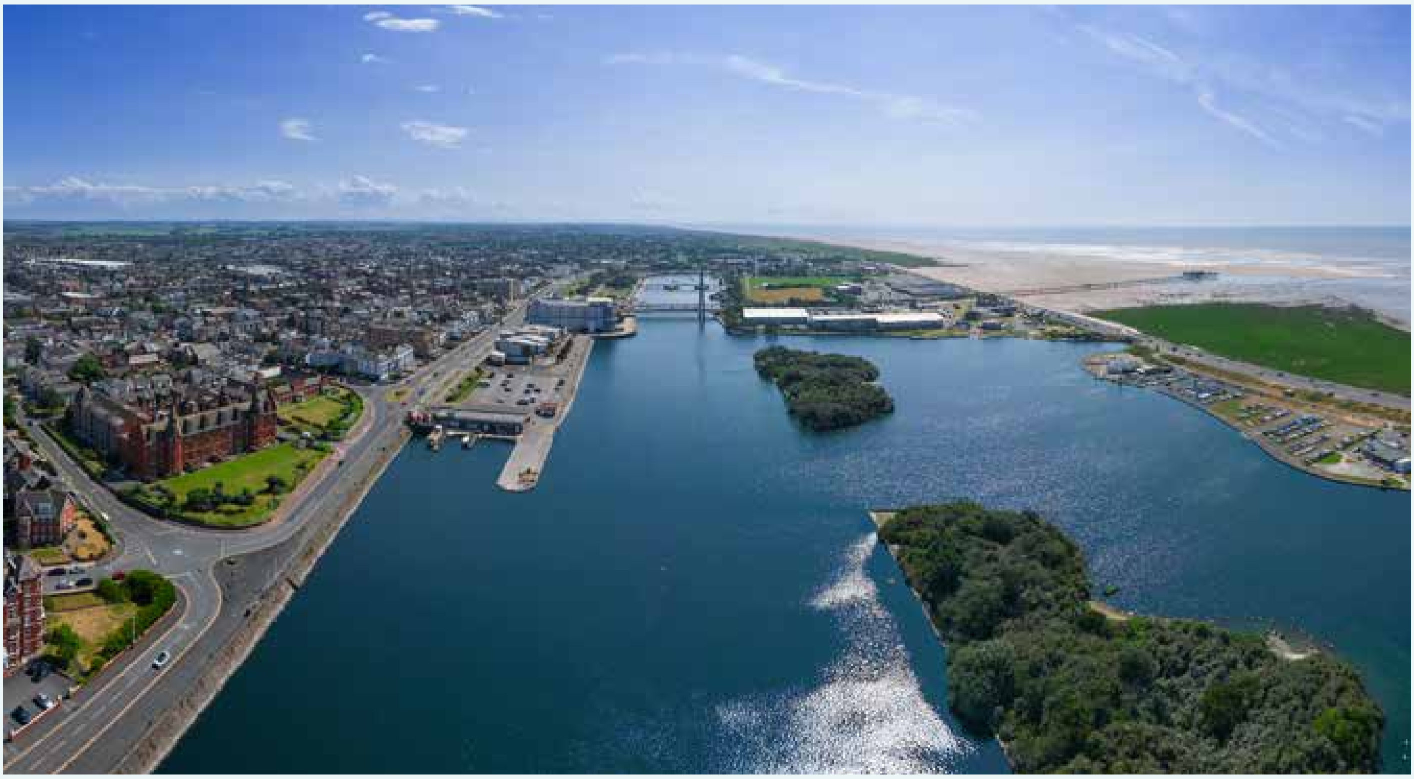
Size of workforce	
Number of paid staff	3,950
Number of volunteers (once a month minimum)	39,506
Number of regular volunteers	16,267
Volunteer hours per week	52,705

Value of workforce	
Value of paid staff	£94.3 million per year
Value of volunteering	£29.8 million per year
Total	**£124.2 million per year**

Economic contribution of the VCFSE sector in Sefton
£70.8 million GVA per year

Summary profile of the VCFSE sector in Sefton

- **47** Groups in Sefton responded to the survey (**12%** of all C&M boroughs).
- The majority of groups are registered charities (**60%**) with **12%** of groups reporting as unincorporated associations (below the radar).
- **87%** of groups in Sefton are over **10 years old**, with no groups reporting that their organisation was formed in the last 12 months.
- Groups are more likely to be working at either a local neighbourhood (**40%**) or local authority (**32%**) level.
- Many of the groups in Sefton are micro (**22%**) and small (**20%**) organisations.
- **27%** of groups main activities fall under wellbeing, health and social care as the most common area of work.
- **28%** of groups report supporting "everyone" followed by **13%** targeting older people, and children and young people (**11%**) specifically.
- The most common source of funding for organisations is through fundraising and donations (**33%**) followed by charging for goods and services (**16%**).
- There are approximately **727 full-time** and **566 part-time** staff employed by surveyed organisations. However, this is skewed by a small number of significantly large employers.
- **71%** of organisations in Sefton with paid staff pay the Real Living Wage or above.
- **95%** of organisations utilise volunteers, with a reported total of approximately **2,147 volunteers** and an average of **53 volunteers** per organisation. These volunteers provide approximately **3,500 hours** of volunteering per week.
- The most popular priority for Sefton groups over the next 12 months is sourcing funding opportunities (**16%**) followed by recruiting and retaining volunteers (**11%**). **59%** of groups reported feeling confident in being able to achieve these goals, with **39%** unsure.



Key Findings

Income and expenditure

The majority of groups in Sefton have seen their income and reserves fall or stay the same over the preceding 12 months, however their spending has increased (57%), which is attributed chiefly to the impact of the pandemic and subsequent cost of living crisis. However, despite this, 58% of groups plan to increase the scale of their activity over the next 12 months.

Workforce and volunteers

There are approximately 727 full-time and 566 part-time staff employed by surveyed organisations in Sefton. In comparison to the rest of C&M, Sefton organisations are typically likely to employ fewer numbers of people.

Sefton VCFSE staff and volunteers are not particularly diverse, with only 1% of staff reported to be from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background (lower than the regional trend of 9%). Similar to regional trends, the workforce is predominantly female (79%).

Only 23% of Sefton groups expect their staffing position to remain static - 40% expect staffing levels to increase, and 7% to decrease over the coming 12 months. Sefton organisations have a higher reliance on volunteers than C&M, with 95% of organisations reporting that volunteers are crucial to the running of their organisation and 66% expecting to increase their use of volunteers. Groups in Sefton are more likely to have higher numbers of volunteers than the region as a whole.

Community assets and skills

Four fifths (80%) of organisations report utilising a community asset, with the most common types being community centres (20%) and office space (18%). Where premises are rented, the most common landlord situation is for the premises to be actually owned by the organisation themselves (29%) or rented from a local authority (27%).

For groups that report barriers to having a community asset, this is usually related to having insufficient access to funding needed to purchase a building, and the ongoing costs of operating and maintaining a physical community 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 (41%) over funding for equipment (29%).

Surveyed organisations in Sefton are more likely to be measuring and evidencing the impact of their work in comparison to C&M, with 34% stating they measure their impact in full and a further 48% in part.

Priorities and partnership working

17% of groups reported having a positive working relationship with their local CVS infrastructure organisation, and 15% with their local authority. 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 7% with Primary Care Networks.

The most common priority area for Sefton groups over the next 12 months is sourcing funding opportunities (16%) followed by recruiting and retaining volunteers (11%). Sefton groups are more likely to be focused on developing funder relationships and working with other VCFSE groups to influence local decisions moving forward, however they are less likely to be focussing or able to ensure they have enough space to deliver their activities from. 58% of groups reported feeling confident in being able to achieve these goals, with 39% 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

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