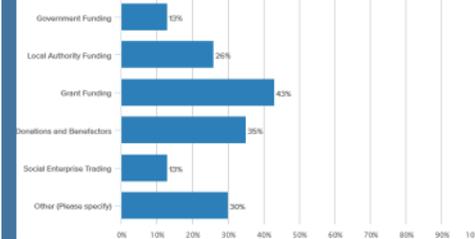


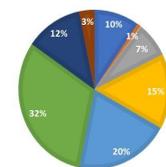


Third Sector Week Vision 2020
Aberdeenshire Third Sector Strategy Group



WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOUR THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATION (TSO)?

- A Large National Charity
- Regional – covers whole of Aberdeenshire
- Local Community Group
- Social Enterprise
- A Large National Organisation but not a Charity
- Covers a specific area of Aberdeenshire
- Local Charitable Organisation
- Other



Central Intelligence Aberdeenshire (C.I.A)

Brief Overview of Responses - Q1 2020

Aberdeenshire Third Sector Strategy Group



Working in Partnership!

Executive Summary

The TSSG have been embarking on a long-term piece of work to try and demonstrate the value of the Third Sector across Aberdeenshire. The first steps of this process was to launch the C.I.A. or Central Intelligence Aberdeenshire survey. This was intended to be a mapping exercise to try and gather some quantitative data – looking at “what” rather than the “who” we have across the Third Sector. It was hoped that the results would have given an indication of the economic value of the Third Sector and identify gaps but in addition, help the Third Sector recognise its own merits.

The survey was launched during the first quarter of 2020 and would have been live until the end of March 2020. However, unsurprisingly responses halted mid March as COVID19 events overtook such activities. As a result, we achieved fewer responses than anticipated which were not equally spread over the six areas of Aberdeenshire.

The responses do present an informative snapshot of the local Third Sector which will provide the basis for some comparative analysis as it is expected that this initiative will resume, albeit with an element of change, once the current situation has passed and we enter a phase of renewal.

There is still a body of work to undertaken to compile detailed analysis of the results. This document seeks to summarise and highlight some data of interest.

Introduction

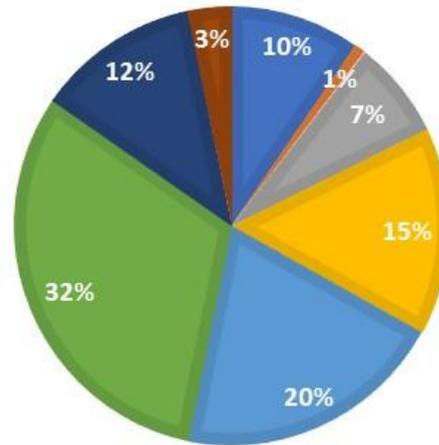
A short online survey was launched in January 2020 to gather some key quantitative data relating to Third Sector Organisations (TSOs) across Aberdeenshire. The initial roll out hit Kincardine and Mearns first, therefore the first 50 or so responses could be clearly attributed to this area, as not all respondents left details to identify which area they were operating. A total of 121 surveys were completed before the COVID19 crisis closed down efforts to replicate the response across all areas.

The survey comprised of 16 questions covering themes including the type of TSO they identified as; the services they delivered; number of staff and volunteers, turnover; sources of income; any grant awards received in the last 5 years; partnership working; sustainability and thoughts about the future. We accept that the picture may be very different going forward and as previously mentioned, these results will inform such change when we undertake some comparative analysis in the future.



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Type of Third Sector Organisations

Over 50% of the responses came from Local Community Groups and Local Charitable Organisations. This is encouraging as there was a concern that these groups may not identify as TSOs. As part of the communication which went out with the survey link was a description of what is meant by a TSO, so this level of participation demonstrates a level of success of this message getting through.

The number of respondents identifying as Social Enterprises returned 12% reflecting the remarkable growth in this operational model in the last decade. Grant dependent charities and non-governmental organisations are perhaps recognising a need to become more entrepreneurial.

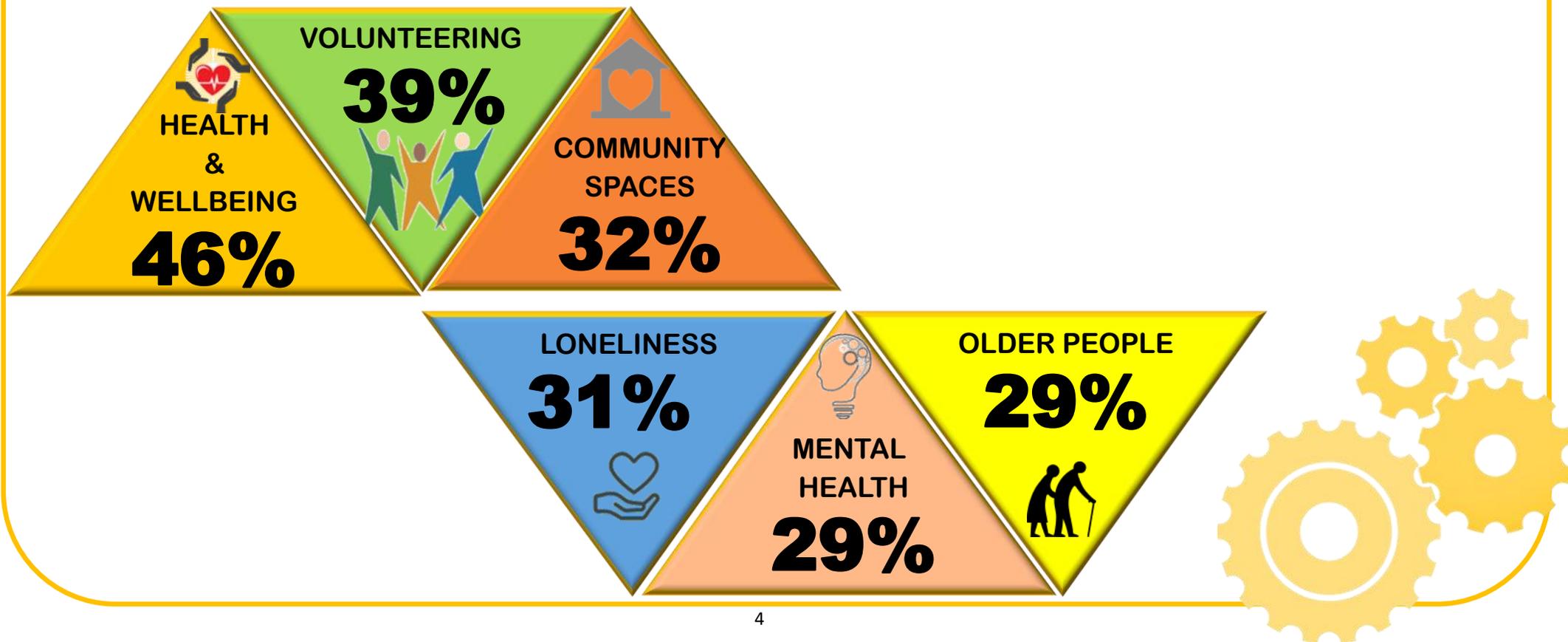


What do they do?

The survey offered a list of 30 different areas of interest and the option to include any not listed. The Top Five areas of interest and service delivery according to the responses were as follows;

1. Health and Wellbeing 46%
2. Volunteering 39%
3. Community Spaces 32%
4. Loneliness 31%
5. Mental Health 29% and Older People also 29%

Participants were invited to select all that applied, therefore percentages added will exceed 100 as many organisations provide a range of services.



Human Resources

Just over 50% of respondents told us that they employ paid staff. The results recorded a total of 758 people working in the TSOs that completed the survey. The positions included a mix of Full-Time, Part-Time and Seasonal work.

However, the results recorded that these TSOs worked with 2,497 Volunteers.

Just over 10% of respondents recorded no figure for Volunteers. It is possible that Volunteer Boards have not been included in some cases. This presents an opportunity for learning when we revisit the survey as some of the questions will perhaps need redesigned.

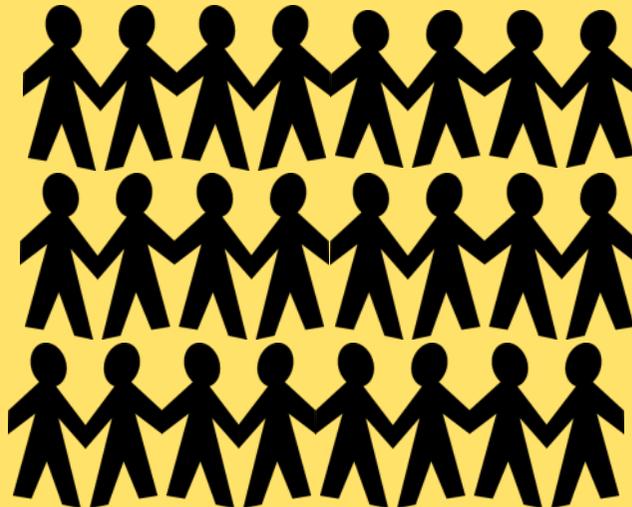
758

Employees



2,497

Volunteers



121

Third Sector Organisations

£6million

Funding



Funding

The data records that 75% of respondents received Grant Funding Awards within the last 5 years. A considerable number of these participants did not disclose the amount of funding they received, therefore we can expect that the actual figure will be somewhat greater than what we have been told. From the respondents who shared this information we were able to establish that £5,942,103 of has be awarded to these TSOs just short of £6 million.

Working Together

It is encouraging, in regard to the TSSG’s mission statement, that the survey recorded that 60% of those who participated are working in partnership with the Public Sector and 56% recorded that they work with a number of other TSOs.

Need for Services

When considering how the requirements for the services delivered by the TSOs has grown over the past five years, 70% of respondents felt there had been a greater or much greater demand for their work.

Looking Towards the Future

At the time the surveys were completed, the responses indicated some uncertainty but a reasonably positive outlook. Around a third of the TSO’s felt their service would grow but they would be able to cope. 35% of these TSOs felt confident of future funding with 43% feeling neither confident nor concerned and 22% responding as concerned.

Again, a third of the participants were planning for the next three years with half the responses only planning for two years or not beyond a year.



Conclusion

This document briefly summarises some of the highlights and data of interest from the survey. The collection of information from across Aberdeenshire is incomplete, although consideration will need to be made to how this piece of work can resume, in light of the impact the COVID19 crisis will have on communities and the Third Sector. It is helpful to have even this incomplete picture to measure some of the potential impacts when comparing responses from future surveys.

The COVID19 crisis has highlighted the vital role local groups and organisations take as part of the emergency response. The approach has had to be much more joined up and collaborative between all sectors. If the results from this survey were replicated more widely across Aberdeenshire, it would suggest, as we already had recognised, that there is some strong partnership working here where some real community resilience, solutions and innovations have emerged. Will this fairly strong foundation be the basis for more coproduction, dovetailing of service delivery and the recognition of the Third Sector as an equal partner?

