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Mapping the contribution of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Yorkshire and the Humber

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Mapping the contribution of the voluntary and community sector in Yorkshire and the Humber

Executive summary

This report provides an outline of studies that measure the economic contribution of the voluntary and community sector, and the data these studies generate when extrapolated to regional level. The research reviewed here was commissioned by a range of bodies, using different methodologies. Extrapolating data always involves assumptions. Nonetheless, the data provides a valuable picture of the sector's contribution to regional economic activity.

The principal framework for ensuring economic prosperity and social inclusion in the region is the Regional Economic Strategy (RES), which aims to develop a world-class, prosperous, sustainable economy in Yorkshire and Humber. Voluntary and community organisations already play an important role in delivering the RES and promoting social inclusion. However, in order for the contribution and future role of the sector to be both properly recognised and fully realised at the regional level, a clearer understanding is required of the size and current contribution of the sector. At present data on the sector is piecemeal. The Regional Forum research programme is designed to help remedy this situation, by providing reliable estimates on the sector's value to the regional economy, as well as more detailed data on the sector.

It is important to recognise that the sector's contribution cannot be measured in crude economic terms alone. Voluntary activity generally has a positive impact on the individuals involved and on society as a whole. Providing services for particular groups is often directly relevant to economic activity levels. Similarly, community organisations that initially appear removed from the local economy may provide learning and skills enhancement opportunities for individuals who would otherwise remain socially excluded and economically inactive. Any mapping exercise is therefore but a first step towards a deeper and more comprehensive analysis of the sector's overall contribution.

The principal findings of the report are:

- The number of voluntary organisations and community groups in the region is at least 20,000 and possibly as high as 48,500. These figures may still underestimate the actual number - other studies suggest an estimated 80,000 organisations in the region.
- The estimated total number of paid employees in the sector in Yorkshire and Humber is at least 45,000 and may be as high as 92,000 - these estimates, based on studies in the region, are broadly supported by data from other regions.
- Estimates of the number of people engaged in volunteering, and the time spent on such activity, vary enormously. However, at least 300,000 people regularly engage in voluntary activity in the region. National estimates suggest a far higher figure - more than 40% of the population, which translates to around 2.2 million in Yorkshire and Humber.

- The economic contribution of volunteering to the regional economy is huge – at least £48 million, based on the low hourly rate of £5. Applying a more realistic rate, such as the average regional non-manual hourly rate, boosts this amount considerably. One study suggests the contribution could be as high as £1.9 billion.
- The economic contribution of the sector in GDP terms is from 0.95% to 2.5% of regional GDP. In money terms, the sector contributes between £0.5 billion to £1.3 billion - greater than other sectors such as agriculture, and considerably higher than is usually assumed.
- Voluntary and community sector national gross current expenditure of £13.4 billion equates to £1.02 billion for Yorkshire and the Humber, based on a regional share of national GDP of 7.6%
- Much of the underlying methodology in this area is problematic and further relatively small-scale research in the region would underpin the robustness of existing results.

Mapping the contribution of the voluntary and community sector in Yorkshire and the Humber

Part A: Introduction

1. Background

A number of studies have shown that the voluntary and community sector makes a significant contribution to the economy.¹ This contribution takes a variety of forms: direct and indirect job creation, training and skills development, volunteering opportunities, neighbourhood renewal, social care provision, crime reduction initiatives, support for children and young people, and many other activities. The sector's activities are also often directed at the most vulnerable groups and deprived communities in society, making it an important stakeholder in government efforts to counter social exclusion.

The principal framework for ensuring economic prosperity and social inclusion in the region is the Regional Economic Strategy (RES), which aims to develop a world-class, prosperous, sustainable economy in Yorkshire and Humber based on six objectives: growing the region's businesses, improving the business birth rate, attracting more investment, radically improving education, learning and skills, implementing targeted regeneration programmes, and getting the best out of the region's physical and environmental assets.² Voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) already play an important role in most, if not all, of these areas, and the sector is committed to playing its part in delivering the RES and promoting social inclusion.

However, in order for the contribution and future role of the sector to be both properly recognised and fully realised at the regional level, a clearer understanding is required of the size and current economic contribution of the sector. At present, data on the sector's contribution is piecemeal. Questions have also been raised as to the credibility and comparability of existing studies, and the extent to which these can be extrapolated to provide accurate data at the regional level. The Regional Forum research programme is designed to rectify this situation, by providing reliable estimates on the sector's value to the regional economy, as well as more detailed data on the sector.

But it is important to recognise that the sector's contribution cannot be measured in crude economic terms alone. Voluntary activity generally has a positive impact on the individuals involved and on society as a whole. More specifically, organisations providing services for particular groups are often directly relevant to economic activity levels: work with young children or vulnerable pensioners, for example, may enable a parent or carer to enter the job market. Similarly, community organisations that initially appear removed from local economic activity, such as sports and leisure, and arts groups, may provide learning and skills enhancement opportunities for individuals who would otherwise remain socially excluded and economically inactive.³ Any mapping exercise is therefore but a first step towards a deeper and more comprehensive analysis of the sector's overall contribution.

Regional Forum research programme

The Regional Forum research programme consists of three parts: a mapping exercise to generate basic data on the number and distribution of voluntary and community sector organisations in the region, the economic contribution to the regional economy, income, and staffing information etc., of which this report forms a part. Secondly, qualitative research to develop a broader picture of the sector's contribution through, for example, case-studies. In the medium term, it is hoped to include a third component, which will be

an analysis of ICT provision and strategy, and the sectors' contribution to the region's Information Society Initiative.⁴

Following discussions with Yorkshire Forward, the regional development agency agreed to provide technical assistance and to consider proposals for funding additional research where this would generate more complete 'baseline information' on the sector's contribution to the regional economy. This report provides extrapolated data for the region based on existing studies, and surveys other research, both national and regional, to determine if conclusions can also be drawn from this work. Data from the studies is also presented in table form in Part E, including comparisons of estimated regional GDP figures based on the studies. The report provides the information required to make decisions on future research, based on where we are now and what additional work is required in order to improve our knowledge of the sector's contribution to the region.

Methodological issues: measuring the voluntary and community sector

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken in recent years on the size, scope and contribution of the sector at local, regional and national levels. However, measuring the sector's contribution is a complex task and fraught with methodological problems, not least because of the difficulties encountered in defining the sector – a subject that has been particularly contentious. As has been noted elsewhere, in reality the sector is a collection of disparate organisations with widely differing traditions, goals, ways of working, types of beneficiary and size.⁵ In practice, various methodologies and definitions have been adopted, according to research objectives and the resources available. Not surprisingly, the outcome has been significant variation in the estimated size and contribution of the sector, depending on the assumptions made.

For example, the NCVO Almanac 2000 identifies at least five possible definitions of the sector: general charities, narrow and broad definitions of the sector, non-profit sector; social economy; and civil society. The NCVO work described below adopts the first of these definitions, whilst other studies have used broader definitions of the sector, to include smaller voluntary and community groups. Whilst one definition will not satisfy all purposes and interests, it is important to note that the definition chosen will have a major impact on research outcomes. Also, volunteering is not included in national accounting procedures and GDP (Gross Domestic Product), yet this activity forms a significant part of the sector's economic contribution, and most studies attempt to measure it when valuing the sector. The following sections examine the methodological approach and research findings of three types of study: national studies; other regional studies; and local and sub-regional studies conducted in Yorkshire and the Humber, using various methodologies.

Part B: National studies

The principal national picture of the voluntary sector is provided by research by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).⁶ Other studies include a 1995 University of Sussex study for Joseph Rowntree Foundation⁷ (and additional work cited in a 1997 report from Birmingham University),⁸ and the Home Office LOVAS (Local Voluntary Activity Surveys) project.⁹ Additional information on the specific contribution of volunteers is provided by the National Institute for Volunteering, CSV (Community Service Volunteers), and the annual British Crime Survey.¹⁰

1. NCVO - The UK Voluntary Sector Almanac 2000 study

The methodology adopted by NCVO is based on ONS (Office of National Statistics) accounting practice, and focuses on what are termed general charities – those organisations registered with the Charities Commission, excluding certain categories such

as government quangos, political organisations, certain financial organisations registered as charities, and registration exempt organisations, such as housing associations, universities and colleges, and voluntary aided schools and places of worship.¹¹

Key to the NCVO methodology is the fact that, although there are many, many more organisations than the 136,000 general charities identified by NCVO, the economic weight of the sector is concentrated in the relatively small number of large organisations, which are registered charities.

According to NCVO, almost 90% of gross income is accounted for by fewer than 10% of organisations.¹² Therefore, in economic accounting terms, the many tens of thousands of smaller groups can be largely discounted. This does not mean that their contribution to the social and economic well-being of communities can or should be ignored, merely that they constitute a small and relatively insignificant part of the overall economic contribution of the sector. This approach is criticised by some commentators precisely because it excludes large sections of voluntary and community activity. The result has been the development of a two-tier definition, with narrow and wide definitions of the sector, which can be viewed as a pragmatic response to the inherent difficulties involved in defining the sector, and developing comparative measures across national borders.¹³ However, as noted above, voluntary and community sector outcomes overall are substantially broader than suggested by financial accounting.

NCVO research findings

Income and expenditure: According to NCVO research, the overall current expenditure of the UK voluntary sector, as defined by general charities, is £13.4b, while gross current income is around £14.2b.¹⁴

GDP figures: What NCVO describes as ‘initial estimates’ of the sector’s contribution to GDP is £4.8 billion; this rises to £5.2 billion using an alternative measure called ‘added value’. Neither of these figures reflect the contribution of volunteers. If this is added in, the estimated overall contribution rises to £12.8 billion (estimated national volunteer contribution: £7.9 billion).

Employment and volunteers: General charities employ some 485,000 paid workers, some 2.2% of all employees; and benefit from the efforts of over 3 million volunteers. NCVO research suggests the sector contributes the equivalent of more than 350,000 full time workers, and highlights the significant contribution of part-time and casual workers (194,000 and 44,000 respectively).¹⁵

Despite the criticisms levelled at this research (that the methodology used undervalues the overall contribution of the sector, in particular that of community groups and non-registered charities), these figures remain the only national data on the sector.

Using national data from NCVO to generate data for Yorkshire and Humberside is problematic. Because NCVO methodology focuses on large charities (predominately located in London), ‘disaggregating’ national income and expenditure figures or employment levels to regional level is not the preferred method for obtaining regional data. Also, extrapolating from the national picture to particular local contexts is generally inappropriate because of the significance of local political, social, economic and demographic factors. Past studies point to considerable differences between the sectors in different settings.¹⁶ However, if we do extrapolate national figures:

Voluntary and community sector national gross current expenditure of £13.4 billion

equates to £1.02 billion for Yorkshire and the Humber, based on a regional share of national GDP of 7.6%.¹⁷

This figure is more than twice the economic contribution of the sector calculated previously by the Regional Forum.¹⁸

2. JRF/University of Sussex study 1995

Using a broader definition than NCVO, a Joseph Rowntree Foundation study in 1995 found that:

The voluntary sector accounts for one in 25 full time paid jobs in the UK [i.e. 4% of full time employment] and one in 10 service jobs, while the total contribution of volunteers to the economy is estimated at £25b per annum.¹⁹

Using a narrower definition of the sector, closer to the 'taken for granted' understanding of the term, the study found that:

The voluntary sector provides more than one in 60 of all paid jobs, or 1.66% of the workforce. This translates to an estimated 36,500 paid jobs in Yorkshire and the Humber region – considerably more than previous Regional Forum estimates suggested.

A Birmingham University report estimated that, in 1991, some seven million people served on voluntary organisation management committees and just over a million served as charity trustees.²⁰ Furthermore:

Research suggests that every pound in outside funding can release an equivalent amount in other funding; there is a return of between £2 and £8 for each £1 invested by a voluntary organisation in their volunteers'.²¹

3. LOVAS (Home Office Local Voluntary Activity Surveys)

The LOVAS project, commissioned by the Voluntary and Community Unit of the Home Office (now ACU) and directed by the Research and Statistics Directorate of the Home Office, is intended to lay a foundation for assessing the vitality and resources of voluntary action at the local level, in distinction to national studies.

LOVAS describe the voluntary organisations in a defined area in terms of their activities, use of volunteers, resources, and the problems they face, and compares voluntary service organisations with community (or self-help) groups. Further sections deal with volunteering for religious groups and voluntary activity based in churches, volunteering on behalf of schools and statutory agencies, and community activities based in public houses.

LOVAS use a broad concept of the voluntary sector, not just formal service-providing charities, but also community groups, leisure associations, church-based voluntary services, and volunteers for statutory agencies. After identifying all voluntary organisations and all volunteer-using agencies in an area, a questionnaire is sent to each to obtain information on funding levels, staffing, volunteer use, and activities.²²

LOVAS highlight the difficulty of collating data on the number of organisations, and hence the problematic nature of such information. Also, the fact that differences between areas may partly reflect different response patterns for the different types of organisation in each area. Differences between areas may also reflect different degrees of thoroughness amongst field workers. The impact of such an effect cannot be known with any certainty.

LOVAS findings

To date, two studies have focused on areas in Yorkshire and the Humber: central Huddersfield (1994), and central Rotherham (1996).²³ These provide detailed information on a host of variables. The 1994 Huddersfield study found a total of 1,167 independent voluntary groups, representing 9.7 groups per thousand population, excluding religious organisations, schools and statutory projects.²⁴ This figure would be considered high by some researchers, but is broadly comparable to that found by the Humber study (see below).

437 organisations participated in the Rotherham study, although no comparable figures for the total number of organisations in Rotherham are presented. However, as the authors remark, the number of groups per thousand is fairly meaningless. What counts is what groups do, and the economic impact their activities have. Overall, the LOVAS studies do not in themselves provide a basis for estimating the regional economic contribution of the sector. However, the methodology developed by the project does provide a basis for measuring the sector's contribution regionally (see VONNE study below).

4. Voluntary & community activities: findings from 2000 British Crime Survey

The British Crime Survey (BCS)²⁵ is a large national representative survey of people aged 16 and over in England and Wales. It asks people about crimes they have experienced in the previous year and various other crime-related topics. However, it also covers other topics and some of those interviewed in the 2000 BCS were asked about their voluntary and community activities, providing interesting information on national levels of volunteering.

According to the BCS, 56% of people participated about once a month or more frequently in at least one of the six different types of voluntary and community activities explored in the 2000 BCS. If the activity of helping people directly is omitted, 42% did so.

Of all respondents 31% participated about once a month or more frequently in helping people directly; 36% in attending groups; 13% in helping groups or organisations; 2%, in serving in a public capacity, attending public meetings/participating in consultations, and working with other people to tackle local issues, respectively.

These figures are considerably higher than those claimed previously by Regional Forum research.²⁶ Again, we must recognize the potential definitional problems here. Nonetheless, in regional terms:

The BCS suggests the actual number participating in volunteering activity in Yorkshire and the Humber may be as high as 2.2 million, rather than the figure of 0.5 million claimed previously.²⁷

The BCS also generates various other results: on participation rates of women compared to men; and ethnic minority and rural people's participation in volunteering.²⁸

5. Other national data

A submission to a report on developing a strategic framework for South Yorkshire argues that the contribution of the “not for profit” sector in the UK ‘now accounts for 4.8% of GDP: in employment terms the sector accounted for 6.3%, rising to 12.3% taking into account volunteers who appear largely outside the GDP based categories of employed or unemployed.’²⁹

Extrapolating these figures to Yorkshire and the Humber suggests the 'not for profit' sector (rather than VCOs alone) contributes as much as £3.2 billion to regional GDP, and almost twice this amount if we include volunteer activity.³⁰

Data from the National Centre for Volunteering show that:

22 million adults are involved [nationally] in formal volunteering each year; which translates to some 2.2 million in Yorkshire and the Humber; and 90 million hours of formal voluntary work takes place each week; which translates to approx. 9 million hours each week across the region.³¹

Part C: Regional studies

There are several recent studies, which seek to provide regional information, including studies of the North West, North East, East Midlands, and South East regions.³² These studies have been funded by their respective regional development agency or, in the case of the NW study, the National Lottery Charities Board (now known as the Community Fund), in association with the Regional Voluntary Sector Network (RVSN). Each is briefly examined in turn.

1. NCVO NW region study (North West Almanac, 2000)

The methodology used by NCVO for the national UK Almanac (see above) has been applied to two regions to date, the North West and London. Here we examine NCVO research in the NW only.³³

NW region study findings

1.1. Economic contribution (GDP figures):

General charities contribute an estimated £318m to the NW economy, equivalent to 0.4% of regional GDP (or 6.7% of UK voluntary sector's total GDP contribution). An alternative measure ('added value') gives a higher estimate of £475m, 0.6% of North West region GDP.³⁴

As the study makes clear, neither of these measures reflects the overall contribution of the sector, specifically failing to recognise the significant economic contribution of volunteers. As with national data from NCVO, the NW study focuses on measuring a relatively narrow range of organisations defined as 'general charities'.³⁵ The methodology therefore excludes smaller non-registered charities and community groups, and ignores the economic and social contribution such groups make.

1.2 Income and expenditure:

The study also found that the sector in the NW region had an income of £987m (equivalent to approx. 6% of total income for general charities in the UK in 1998-9).

1.3 Employment: Sector employment totalled almost 30,000, equivalent to 1% of the North West workforce.

1.4 Other findings: The study estimates there are over 10,000 active general charities in the NW region, though the sector is 'heavily skewed towards a small number of large organisations ...with more than 60% of the sector's income accounted for by just over 1% of organisations.'³⁶

1.5 Methodological issues: There are a number of methodological issues which require highlighting. As noted already, the most contentious is how to define the sector, and whether findings are based on fieldwork which attempts to measure the number, and hence contribution, of groups on the ground. The 'general charities' methodology adopted by the NW study distinguishes it from other studies, such as the VONNE research on the NE region, described below. The latter utilises a broader definition of the sector. Not surprisingly, these methodological differences are reflected in the results obtained: the sector's income as a percentage of regional GDP and economic contribution are considerably higher in studies which use a broader definition of the sector, and which include volunteer time.

2. VONNE study (NE region)

The VONNE (Voluntary Organisations Network North East) study was funded by ONE North East, the regional development agency, following recognition of the significant role played by the sector in the implementation of the region's RES, and carried out by consultants, under the direction of VONNE and an advisory panel.³⁷

Interest in this study arises because it is one of the few studies to date, which has attempted to extrapolate local survey data to regional level, and uses a methodology which casts the net wider than the 'general charities' definition adopted by NCVO studies. It therefore attempts to include the contribution of smaller groups.³⁸ However, resource constraints generally prevent a complete regional survey of the sector, and this type of approach depends crucially on choosing "ideal type" examples of areas that typify the region, and "grossing up" data from these areas to produce a regional picture.

Two basic options are available for this type of work: identify a sampling frame at regional level which is sufficiently detailed to provide a satisfactory estimate of overall size and sample by organisation type; or, alternatively, conduct a census within a specified area and extrapolate the results to regional level. The VONNE study adopted the latter approach.³⁹

The VONNE study used a modified Home Office LOVAS classification system to determine data collection areas, and a postal survey methodology, with various checks to remove bias.⁴⁰ The mapping exercise involved identification of as many organisations as possible from a range of sources: network sources, databases, telephone directories, local authority contacts and other ad-hoc resources. These lists were cleaned as best as possible within the time available, and various other design considerations taken into account.⁴¹

North East region study findings

2.1 No. of organisations: The study found some 40,000 organisations, which is around 15 per thousand population, a figure much higher than normally assumed.

Applied to Yorkshire and the Humber, this suggests the number of VCOs in the region may be as high as 80,000.

2.2 Employment: The importance of the sector as a source of employment is

demonstrated by the finding that the sector employs an estimated 23,300 FTEs, amounting to 4.4% of the region's workforce. Again, this is considerably more than the national estimate of 2.2% from NCVO, and in fact more than other studies which use a wider definition of the sector.

Extrapolating to Yorkshire and the Humber, this data suggests that the sector provides over 90,000 jobs, based on an estimated regional workforce of 2.3 million.⁴²

Interestingly, the study also found that whilst employment is concentrated in large organisations (over £1m annual income), smaller organisations (less than £50,000 total annual income) are significant employers, with 19% of total sector employees.

2.3 Volunteering: At least 144,000 volunteers are active in the NE region, contributing around 29 million hours, or the equivalent of 15,000 full time posts. If paid the average non-manual wage rate, this contribution would cost an estimated £307 million.

As noted previously, estimating volunteer time is a contentious issue.⁴³ Economists use two measures: the market price of the service supplied by the volunteer; and the opportunity cost of volunteering. In this study, attributing an economic value to volunteer time was accomplished by multiplying the reported hours by two salary rates: the minimum wage, and the non-manual average hourly rate for the North East. The fact that volunteers are unlikely to contribute the same hours over 52 weeks in the year was discounted by generating a second estimate, based on 70% of the original figure. This latter figure provides the basis of reported values.⁴⁴

2.4 Economic contribution (GDP figures): The VONNE study estimates the economic contribution of the sector in the North East to be 3.8% of GDP. This is considerably higher than the NCVO national estimate of 0.67% GDP (1.89% "GDP" including volunteering component), based on the 'general charities' definition.⁴⁵

Extrapolating these findings to the Yorkshire and Humber region, suggests the sector contributes around £1.96 billion annually to the regional economy.

3. East Midlands study (EMDA/Lincolnshire & Humberside/Hull universities)

The East Midlands study was commissioned by EMDA (East Midlands Development Agency) to contribute to its developing programme of social and economic planning, and carried out by the Policy Studies Research Centre, Lincolnshire and Humberside University, in conjunction with the University of Hull. The methodology involved a postal survey to VCOs, categorised according to self-definition, and compilation of a report on type of organisations, type of work, details of paid and volunteer staff, funding etc.

East Midlands study findings

3.1 No. of organisations: The study identified 5,735 organisations – a significant underestimate due to the difficulty of contacting small community organisations, especially those representing socially excluded groups such as BME organisations. The authors estimate the real number to be much higher, possibly as high as 30,000. The report argues that a more time consuming "bottom-up" approach is required to reach such organisations. For methodological reasons, the authors decided against extrapolating the data collected from the almost 6000 contacted organisations.⁴⁶

3.2 Employment: Comparable data is not available in the study.

3.3 Economic contribution (GDP figures): The EMDA study estimates an total annual turnover for the sector of approximately £500-£700m, which equates to 1.2-1.5% of the region's GDP of £44b (1997 figures).⁴⁷

Applying similar figures to Yorkshire and the Humber suggests the sector has an approximate total annual turnover of between £600m and £770m.

4. The RAISE voluntary sector baseline research study (SE region)

The RAISE study sought to determine a baseline figure for the number of VCOs in the South East region, and did not seek to value the sector's economic contribution.⁴⁸ The research found at least 28,000 (compared to 25,000 registered charities and 32,000 using the "rule of thumb" of four VCOs per 1000 population). Because it did not examine the economic contribution of the sector, the study is not examined further here, apart from findings of methodological relevance.

What does the RAISE research tell us?

The RAISE research demonstrates that CVSs, LAs, and VBx rarely know all the VCOs in an area. This conclusion is cited anecdotally by many in the field, and supports the view that much research to date underestimates the number of VCOs and hence the economic and social contribution of the sector. Secondly, voluntary sector umbrella organisations are likely to have better information on the sector than local authorities, despite the fact that LDAs are likely to underestimate the true number of VCOs and hence the size and contribution of the sector.⁴⁹

Part D: Sub-regional and local studies in Yorkshire and the Humber Introduction

Existing sub-regional and local studies in the Yorkshire and the Humber region can be extrapolated to provide a regional picture of the sector's contribution. In addition, they demonstrate the extent to which data on the sector is available, and hence are useful for identifying the need, if any, for additional work. This section analyses the three published studies in the region, focusing on basic economic information, such as income and employment, and the number of organisations: the Humberside TEC study, 1999; research commissioned by NYFVO (N Yorkshire and City of York), 2000; and the Calderdale study, 2000. No existing or proposed studies have been identified in the South Yorkshire sub-region.⁵⁰

Other mapping studies in the region (including 'communities of interest')

In addition to this work, a study of Leeds organisations is underway, using similar methodology to the N Yorks/York research.⁵¹ Geographical studies can be complemented by other 'sectoral' studies (i.e. "communities of interest"). For example, there is a valuable study on health and social care organisations in Leeds.⁵² Other such studies, however, are believed to be few.⁵³ The scarcity of information on organisations and regional/sub-regional networks representing 'communities of interest' suggests further work to map such organisations and networks would be useful, as a precursor to possible further studies in this area. Such studies could be valuable in their own right in terms of targeting resources. It is also possible that such communities are not fully included in existing studies on the sector's contribution. For example, faith communities in particular claim that their contribution is underestimated because often they are not members of local networks, such as CVS. Data on environmental organisations is also sparse.

1. Humberside TEC (1999) – Valuing the voluntary sector in Humberside

Commissioned by Humberside TEC, the study evaluates the economic value of the voluntary sector in the Humber sub-region, and seeks to identify how the sector can best contribute to economic regeneration and social inclusion.⁵⁴

Methodology

The Humber sub-region is very different from other parts of the region, consisting of a single major city, Kingston upon Hull, two other major urban areas, several smaller towns, and many large and small villages and relatively isolated rural communities.⁵⁵ The research sought to reflect this diversity by collecting data in locations reflecting each of these area types. Data was also collected from funding bodies and bodies that enter into service contracts with the sector, such as local authorities and a variety of other bodies. The study rejected a crude “number-crunching” exercise, based on a small sample size, as of little value. While some numbers were collected, the focus of the project was on identifying key characteristics of the sector, to inform future strategy and tactics.⁵⁶

Definition of voluntary sector

The Humberside TEC study adopted a broad definition of the sector, similar to that used by the VONNE study, rather than the 'general charities' classification (see above).⁵⁷

Humber study findings

1.1 Number of organisations: The study identified over 1700 VSOs in the sub-region - ‘varying enormously in size, form and function’, with this number being ‘a substantial underestimate’ of the total. The report suggests ‘a sensible estimate’ is 10 groups per thousand population in rural areas and 5 groups per thousand in urban areas. Some commentators have suggested these figures are too high, because they conflict with the ‘rule of thumb’ of 3-5 organisations per thousand population. However, the Humber estimate was generated by field research, including some in isolated rural settlements on the Wolds. Whilst doubts about its validity remain, the study may simply demonstrate that the number of community groups tends to be higher in rural areas, compared to urban communities or commuter villages.

Extrapolating the Humber figures to the regional level gives a figure of between 50,000 (based on 5 per thousand population) and 100,000 VCOs (based on 10 per thousand population).

1.2 Employment and volunteering: The Humber study found that the sector has 7,500 FT/PT employees, and nearly 20,000 volunteers, donating around 160,000 hours per month.

1.3 Income: Total income is estimated to be £86m per annum.

1.4 Economic contribution (%GDP): Income figures above provide an extrapolated regional GDP of approx. 1% (based on 1996 sub-regional GDP).

The Humber GDP figure gives an extrapolated regional amount for the sector’s contribution of around £0.5 billion annually.⁵⁸

Review: The strength of the Humber study is that it involved research ‘on the ground’ in a variety of different types of community: urban, semi-rural, and relatively isolated settlements. However, a weakness is that the sample size was limited, which means that extrapolating results to sub-regional level must be treated with caution, as must further extrapolation to regional level.⁵⁹ Despite doubts about the methodology, the study provides

useful information on the sector. Most importantly, the GDP figure of around 1% is comparable with some other studies (though lower than others). Indeed, when compared to other studies, the % GDP figure produced by the study is on the low side, and may therefore underestimate sub-regional GDP. The study may also underestimate the number and contribution of volunteers. Data from the Humberside TEC Household survey suggests even more people volunteer than the research suggests.⁶⁰

2. Valuing the voluntary and community sector in N. Yorkshire and York

The research, commissioned by North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations (NYFVO) and carried out by the Policy Research Institute, Leeds Metropolitan University, examines the sector's size and nature in N. Yorkshire and York; assesses its value to the local economy; and identifies development needs and growth potential.

North Yorkshire study findings

2.1 No. of organisations: The estimated number of VCOs in N Yorkshire and York is 3000, or approx. 4 per thousand (comparable with "rule of thumb" predictions, and may in fact be an underestimate due to the predominantly rural nature of the study area).⁶¹

Extrapolating data on the number of organisations in N Yorkshire and York to the region as a whole gives an estimated 20,000 VCOs in the region.

2.2 Employment: Nearly 12,000 people are employed in the sector: a third of these are full-time (around twice the number employed in agriculture).

Based on these figures, total regional paid employment in the sector is estimated to be around 45,000.

2.3 Volunteers: The study identified some 50,000 individuals engaged in voluntary activity for VCOs in the sub-region, which equates to around 330,000 at the regional level.

2.4 Income: Total revenue income is more than £109m (1999/2000), and turnover is at least £132m. The total annual salary bill is in excess of £55m.

2.5 Economic contribution (% GDP): Contribution to sub-regional GDP is between 1.0% and 2.5%. Study responses (50% response rate) produced a figure of 0.5%, which was doubled to 1% (to give the lower figure), plus an additional 1.5% added for other factors, such as volunteer time and a "multiplier effect" to account for the purchase of goods locally.

Extrapolated to the regional level, the estimated economic contribution of the sector, based on N. Yorkshire and York data is between £500 million and £1.25 billion – considerably more than previous Regional Forum research suggests.

2.6 Inward investment: The study highlights the fact that for every £1 that local authorities invest in the sector, a further £7 is brought in from elsewhere.

'Inward investment' data from N Yorkshire and York suggests that statutory support for the sector generates large amounts of additional investment in the regional economy.

Review: This study has been well received and is viewed as a credible piece of research. The work generates a range of estimated GDP figures, which in turn generates a range for regional GDP (£500m - £1,250m) when "grossed up". Questions raised by the research include: how transferable is mapping data from rural areas to more urban areas, such as S. Yorkshire? Can we assume that there are a similar number of voluntary and community organisations in rural areas, per head of population, compared to urban areas, across the region? Such assumptions may be unsafe. The Humberside research, for example, suggests the number of organisations in rural areas may be considerably higher than in urban areas.

3. The Economic Value of Community and Voluntary Sectors in Calderdale

The Calderdale study⁶² is based largely on a 1998 study by Calderdale Community Foundation (CCF), including information provided by Calderdale Voluntary Action and Calderdale and Kirklees TEC. A small amount of new data was collected, and together with existing data, analysed to generate information on the sector's economic and social contribution to the local economy.

Calderdale study findings

3.1 Number of organisations: The 1998 CCF data provides a figure of 1000 for the number of organisations, which probably considerably underestimates the actual number.

3.2 Employment: The sector is a significant employer, with an estimated 3,000 staff (4% of the Calderdale workforce - full time and part time staff are not differentiated).

This data, if extrapolated to the region as a whole, suggests the number in paid employment in the sector in Yorkshire and the Humber may be over 90,000.

3.3 Volunteers: Volunteers provide around 1m hours/year, with an estimated economic value of over £6m, using an average hourly rate of £6 (between the minimum wage and average earnings). According to the study, this amount is equivalent to a further 420 full-time jobs.

3.4 Income: The sector in Calderdale has an annual income of £37 million.

3.5 Economic contribution (% GDP): It is not possible to generate a regional %GDP figure from the Calderdale data in the same way as other studies because 'total local GDP' data is not available.⁶³

Review: The main strength of the Calderdale study is that it is based on local fieldwork, and defines the sector to include smaller voluntary organisations and community groups.

Part E: Key statistics

Table 1: Estimated number of VCOs, by extrapolation from existing data

Study	No. of VCOs identified	Est. VCOs /1000 popn	Extrapolated to YH region	Comments
NCVO UK Almanac 2000	136,000		13,600	based on 'general charities' definition; YH region population approx. 5 million.
NW region NCVO NW Almanac 2000	Over 10,000		Over 7,500	NW region population 6.89m (1997).
NE region (VONNE) 2000	40,000		80,000 (1)	NE region popn. 2.6m (1) extrapolation based on popn.
SE region (RAISE) 2000	28,000 (1)		20,000	(1) compared to 25,000 registered charities, and 32,000 using "rule of thumb" of four per 1000 population.
Humber 1999	1700	2 approx.	10,000	'serious underestimate'
		5 10	25,000 50,000	based on Humberside study urban/rural areas estimates.
		7.5	37,500	based on median Humberside study estimates.
N Yorks/ York 2000	3000	4	20,000	'substantial underestimate'
LOVAS Huddersfield 1997		9.7	48,500	'excluding religious organisations, schools and statutory projects'
Calderdale 2000	1000	5	25,000	

Estimating the number of voluntary and community organisations

Based on data from Yorkshire and the Humber region studies, the estimated number of voluntary organisations in the region is at least 20,000 and possibly as high as 48,500. These figures may still underestimate the actual number, according to figures generated by the NE regional study, which suggest an estimated 80,000 organisations, when extrapolated to Yorkshire and the Humber.

Table 2: Number of persons in paid employment in VCOs in the region, by extrapolation from existing data

Study	Total no. of staff	No. of FT staff	No. of PT staff	Extra-polated to YH region	Comments
NCVO UK Almanac 2000	485,000 (1)			48,500 (2)	(1) 'general charities' definition (skewed upwards by 'London effect?'); (2) extrapolation based on population.
Birmingham Uni. 1997/JRF 1995	455,000 (2)	390,000 fte (2)		66,800 (1) 38,000 (2)	(1) 4% 'full time paid jobs' (regional FT employment, 1.67m, RIF, Table 4.10) ⁶⁴ (2) '1 in 60 all paid jobs' using narrow definition of sector.
NW region NCVO NW Almanac 2000	30,000	10,000 (1)	20,000 (1)		(1) no FT/PT figs. available; uses same FT/PT proportion as N Yorks. figs. Extrapolation based on population.
NE region VONNE 2000	23,200 (1)			92,000 (2)	(1) FTEs; '4% workforce involved' (2) based on 4% regional workforce
Humber 1999	Over 7500			46,000	No FTE figs available; extrapolation as % sub-regional workforce (2%; 400k, 1997 figures)
N Yorks/ York 2000	12,000	4,000	8,000	45,000	No FTE figures available; extrapolated figure based on PT staff working 'half-time', i.e. equiv. to 4000 FTE
Calderdale 2000	3000 (1)	1000 (2,000 fte) (2)	2,000	92,000 (3)	(1) 'almost 4% of workforce' [1.34%-5.9%]; total jobs 79,500 (1998); (2) based on PT=50%FT; (3) based on 4% of region's workforce

UK total employment, 27.3m (15.1 male, 12.2 female); YH total employment, 2.28m (1.27m male, 1.01 female) (1998-99, Labour Force Survey Local Area Database, ONS)

Employment in the Voluntary and Community Sector

From the studies to date, the estimated total number of paid employees in the voluntary and community sector in Yorkshire and Humber is at least 45,000 and may be as high as 92,000, excluding voluntary activity. Estimates based on YH studies are broadly supported by data from other regions.

Table 3: Volunteering activity and its economic contribution to the region

Study	No. volunteers /year	Total hours/ year	Total hours/ month	'Value'	Extra-polated to YH region	Comments
NCVO UK Almanac 2000	3 million				300,000 people	Based on 'general charities' definition.
Sussex University /JRF 1995					£1.9b contribution to economy	Est. £25b to national economy; approx. 8m serve on management committees or as trustees.
BCS	22 million				2.2 million people	
NW region NCVO NW Almanac 2000	n/a					
NE region VONNE 2000	143,000		29m (1)	£307m (2)		(1) Estimated equiv. to 15,000 FTEs; (2) based on regional ave. non-manual wage.
Humber 1999	20,000 (1)		160,000	£9.6m (2)	approx. 100,000 people; £48m (2)	(1) figure is lower than RF "bullet point" data; (2) Contribution based on £5/hr.
N Yorks/ York 2000	50,000 (1)	1.2m (2)	100,000		330,000 people	Equiv. to approx. 1/15 of population.
Calderdale 2000	n/a (1)	1m	83,000	Over £6m	over 1m people	(1) assuming hours distributed over same % of popn. as other areas, equiv. to ca2 X RF data (i.e. 900k).

The economic contribution of volunteering

Voluntary activity takes many forms, and the contribution it makes to social and economic life is extremely difficult to quantify. Whilst voluntary activity is not included in standard GDP calculations because it is provided free, the part that volunteering plays in achieving social and economic goals is an important factor in the overall contribution of the sector. However, estimates of the number of people engaged in volunteering, and the time expended on such activity, vary enormously. National surveys suggest a range of between 22 million (British Crime Survey), more than 40% of the population (excluding direct, person to person activity), and 3 million individuals (NCVO). The upper estimate translates to around 2.2 million volunteers in Yorkshire and Humber, whilst the lower figure suggests that some 300,000 engage in voluntary activity in the region. Earlier Regional Forum data estimated that approximately 450,000 volunteers contributed to the sector's activities.

It is particularly difficult to calculate the economic contribution of such activity because it takes many different forms and utilises different skills, depending on the task undertaken.

Economists advise one of two methods for attaching a price to volunteering: opportunity cost (the income forgone from engaging in the activity), or market price (the cost of purchasing the service). Few, if any, studies have attempted to use either of these methods. Some studies have, however, attempted to measure the contribution of volunteers by using the average regional non-manual wage rate (e.g. the VONNE study). Others have chosen to use an arbitrary rate, such as £5 per hour. Using this (low) hourly rate of £5 suggests the economic contribution of volunteering to the regional economy is between £48 million (Humberside data) and £1.9 billion (BCS data).

Table 4: Economic contribution of sector to regional economy

Study	Income/ expenditure (£m)	%GDP	Value in £m	Extra- polated to YH (£)	Comments
NCVO UK Almanac 2000	14,200 (1) 13,400 (5)	0.67 (2) 0.72 (3) 1.89 (4)	4,500 (2) 5,200 (3) 12,800 (4)	1,01b (5)	(1) income; (2) excludes vol. time; (3) based on 'added value' and excludes vol. time; (4) incl. £7.9m vol. time; (5) based on expenditure.
NW region NCVO NW Almanac 2000	987 (1)	0.4 (2) 0.6 (3)			(1) Approx. 6% national sector income; (2) '£318m to regional economy'; no volunteer time; (3) 'added value', £475m to regional economy; no vol. time.
NE region VONNE 2000		3.8		1.96 billion	
Humber 1999	86 (1)	0.95 (2)		490,000	(1) 'total income'; (2) based on income; (3) % of regional GDP
N Yorks/ York 2000	109 (1)	1 - 2.5		515,000 (2) 1.29m (3)	(1) 'revenue income' (2) 1% GDP (3) 2.5% GDP
Calderdale 2000		n/a (1)			Local data is based on NUTS, not LAs. (Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield)

The economic contribution of the sector to regional economy

Extrapolating the available data suggests that the economic contribution of the sector to the regional economy is from 0.95% to 2.5% regional GDP. This translates in money terms to a sector contribution of from just under £0.5 million to around £1.3 billion. These figures show that the sector's contribution is likely to be greater than certain other sectors such as agriculture, and is considerably higher than is usually assumed.

Part F: Conclusion

This report provides an outline of studies that measure the economic contribution of the voluntary and community sector, and the data these studies generate when extrapolated to regional level. The research reviewed here was commissioned by a range of bodies, using different methodologies, about which there is considerable debate. Extrapolation of small-scale data to the regional level will always involve a series of assumptions. Nonetheless, extrapolation of existing data provides a useful picture of the sector's economic contribution to regional economic activity.

Relative lack of data on the sector's contribution

The review also demonstrates the relative scarcity of accurate data on the contribution of the sector to the regional economy. Whilst it is generally recognised that the sector's contribution is both considerable and increasing, hard information on the value of the sector is not readily available.

Number of VCOs contributing to economic activity in the region

The number of voluntary and community organisations in the region is at least 25,000 and probably more than 30,000 (see Table 1).

Number of staff employed by VCOs in the region

The available data suggests that the sector employs between 42,000 and 96,000 people in either full time or part time paid positions (see Table 2).

The contribution of volunteering

Volunteering makes a considerable economic contribution to the region, with between 0.5 million and more than 2 million individuals engaged in voluntary activity, depending on the definition used (see Table 3).

Sector's economic contribution higher than previous estimates

Extrapolation of existing data to the regional level suggests that the sector's economic contribution, expressed as a percentage of regional GDP, ranges from at least 1% (a certain underestimate) to a more likely 2.5% (N Yorkshire data), and possibly as much as 3.8% (NE regional data). The 1% GDP figure is supported by the Humberside work (0.95% regional GDP). The actual sector regional GDP provided by the three existing sub-regional and local studies is at least twice the figure previously published by the Regional Forum, and could be as much as 3.5 times as large⁶⁵ (see Table 4)

Methodological problems

Finally, as noted throughout the report, it is important to remember that measuring the sector's contribution is beset by methodological problems, particularly around the issues of sector definition, and the extent to which national accounting categories accurately portray the sector's real contribution to the economy and to broader social goals.

Notes and references

¹ For example, NCVO, The UK Voluntary Sector Almanac, 2000; Home Office LOVAS, 1998, 1999, and many local and regional studies. ARVAC (Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector) maintain a record of such studies.

² Yorkshire Forward, Advancing Together Towards a World Class Economy: the Regional Economic Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber 2000-2001.

³ This point is made in: Humberside TEC, Valuing the voluntary sector in Humberside, 1997, p 5.

⁴ For further details on the Regional Forum research programme, contact: Graham Lewis, research and information officer, Yorkshire and Humber Regional Forum, Tel: 0113 243 8188, email: office@yhregforum.org.uk

⁵ EMDA, Mapping the Voluntary and Community Sector in the East Midlands, 2001, p5.

⁶ NCVO, The UK Voluntary Sector Almanac 2000. NCVO have collected national data for several years, and have also began to undertake regional and sub-regional studies.

⁷ J Kendall and M Knapp, The UK voluntary sector in the 1990s: its human and financial resources - a study, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, findings, Social Policy, No. 82, September 1995.

⁸ How to Build Effective Partnerships, Ken Spencer, School of Public Policy, Birmingham, 1997.

⁹ T F Marshall, Local Voluntary Activity Surveys (LOVAS) Research Manual, Home Office, Research & Statistics Directorate. September 1997.

¹⁰ A Krishnamurthy, D Prime and M Zimmeck, Voluntary and community activities: findings from the 2000 British Crime Survey, Findings 142, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Home Office, London. For National Institute for Volunteering data, go to: www.ivr.org.uk For CSV figures go to: www.csv.org.uk

¹¹ For an overview, see NCVO, The UK Voluntary Sector Almanac 2000, p 29 – 37.

¹² NCVO UK Voluntary Sector Almanac 2000, p 4.

¹³ The NCVO approach to defining the sector, also known as the Narrow Voluntary Sector (NVS), is increasingly used for international comparisons.

¹⁴ Figures in this section are taken from NCVO, UK Voluntary Sector Almanac 2000.

¹⁵ All figures from NCVO, The UK Voluntary Sector Almanac, 2000. (Note: there appears to be a discrepancy between the number of paid workers cited and the total from disaggregated survey figures.)

¹⁶ For example, a study in Devon and Cornwall, a predominantly rural area like the Humber and N Yorkshire sub-regions, suggested that approx. 33,000 people worked in the sector, within about 5,400 organisations, with over 115,000 volunteers actively engaged within it. Sector turnover was estimated to be around £550M, or slightly less than 5% of the total GDP of Devon and Cornwall as a whole. Source: Prosper, Valuing the Voluntary Sector in Devon and Cornwall, 1998.

¹⁷ Regional GDP figures (1997) from: Yorkshire and the Humber: Dynamic Regional Economy, Yorkshire Forward briefing paper, 2000. Region in Figures: Yorkshire and the Humber, ONS, Winter 2000.

¹⁸ Previous estimate was £500m based on data from Regional Forum member organisations collected in 2000.

¹⁹ J Kendall and M Knapp, The UK voluntary sector in the 1990s: its human and financial resources, JRF findings, Social Policy Research 82, 1995. [Note: the 'broad' definition includes trades unions, sports clubs and universities; 'narrow' definition excludes these bodies.]

²⁰ Cited in: K Spencer, How to Build Effective Partnerships, School of Public Policy, Birmingham, 1997.

²¹ K Gaskin and B Dobson, The economic equation of volunteering, JRF findings, Social Policy Research 110, Feb. 1997. (Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University).

²² T F Marshall & C Hagggett, Local Voluntary Activity Surveys (LOVAS), Huddersfield, W Yorkshire, Area Report 9, Home Office Research & Statistics Directorate. September 1997, p3. Fourteen areas of England at a time, each of a different socio-economic type, are being studied in a series of sweeps in different years.

²³ J Nicholls, Local Voluntary Activity Surveys (LOVAS), Central Rotherham, Area Type 2: poor industrial towns, Home Office, Research and Development & Statistics Directorate, June 1999.

²⁴ T F Marshall & C Hagggett, LOVAS, Huddersfield, 1997, p 7.

²⁵ A Krishnamurthy, D Prime and M Zimmeck, Voluntary and community activities: findings from the 2000 British Crime Survey. Findings 142, Home Office, London.

²⁶ Previous Regional Forum research argued that one in ten of the region's residents engage in voluntary activity, based on data supplied by Regional Forum member organisations.

²⁷ The calculation omits direct one-to-one help. Based on a regional population of 5 million (1997)

²⁸ People in rural areas were more involved in helping people directly, attending groups, and helping groups or organisations about once a month or more frequently, than people living in inner city and mining/industrial areas. This finding may partly explain the higher than expected figure for the number of organisations identified in the rural areas of the Humber sub-region.

²⁹ 'Priority Group: Restructuring the Economy: A View from the Third Sector. Submission by H Rolo, (Development Trusts Association) and C Burnell (Heeley Development Trust), to Price Waterhouse study: 'Vision and Strategic Framework for South Yorkshire', 1999. Note: While the term 'not-for-profit' raises definitional problems and is not synonymous with the voluntary and community sector, the figure of 4.8% GDP is approx. seven times that produced by NCVO's research on general charities only. Comparing this figure with regional GDP produces a 'not-for-profit GDP' in cash terms of £2.47 billion.

³⁰ Based on regional GDP of £51.5 billion. Source: Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Facts, Yorkshire Forward briefing paper, 2000. See also: Regions in Figures: Yorkshire and Humber, No. 2, Winter 2000, Office of National Statistics.

³¹ National Centre for Volunteering/Institute for Volunteering Research, 1997 National Survey of Volunteering. For a summary, go to: www.ivr.org.uk See also: CSV, Hidden volunteers: evaluating the extent and impact of unrecognised volunteering in the UK, Jan. 2000, which highlights the extent to which society relies on 'hidden' volunteers to perform many civic and care functions.

³² NCVO, North West Voluntary Sector Almanac, 2000; RAISE, 'How many? The RAISE voluntary sector baseline research', Nov. 2000; VONNE, The Contribution of the Voluntary and Community Sector to the Economic Life of the North East Region, Nov. 2000; and EMDA, Mapping the Voluntary and Community Sector in the East Midlands, 2001.

³³ NCVO, The North West Voluntary Sector Almanac 2000.

³⁴ Ibid., p 3.

³⁵ General charities include registered charities with the exception of groups allocated to other sectors for accounting purposes, e.g. schools, universities, housing associations and churches.

³⁶ NCVO, North West Almanac, 2000 p4. The study provides an array of other statistical information (funding sources, income trends, and other financial information), based on the 'narrow' sector definition.

³⁷ The VONNE study was conducted by Research Solutions, Stockton-on-Tees.

³⁸ The study adopts a definition based on organisations characteristics (independent; volunteer controlled, and exist for the benefit to their community. Under this latter criteria, self help and religious groups are included where they fulfil the other criteria (VONNE: The Contribution of the Voluntary and Community Sector to the Economic Life of the North East Region. Working Paper: Approaches and Methods Used, Nov. 2000)

³⁹ The study adopted the latter model for two reasons. An insufficiently robust sampling frame at regional level precluded option one. Secondly, a subsidiary aim of the study was to pilot a model at sub-regional level for further use, and option two supported this goal. (VONNE, Working paper etc... p 2)

⁴⁰ LOVAS classifies districts according to 13 types, according to socio-economic characteristics. Districts in the NE fell within categories: rural poor, poor industrial town, very poor urban, poor urban and average rural. Three districts were selected to represent each of these classifications, to include Gateshead (Very poor urban), Redcar and Cleveland (Poor industrial) and Wear Valley (Rural). On LOVAS classification, see: T F Marshall, Lovas: Research Manual. Lovas Paper 1. London: Home Office, 1997.

⁴¹ A postal survey in three areas was carried out, requesting information on staffing, volunteers, financial information, and future plans. Steps were taken to remove any skewing of results and various other checks were carried out. The authors note that improvements at the mapping stage would enable a more accurate database to be compiled, which could then support stratified sampling. This would enable face-to face collection techniques or postal implementation followed by telephone follow-up. The authors make several claims as regards the merits of their methodology. See: VONNE, The Contribution of the Voluntary and Community Sector to Economic Life of the North East Region, Working Paper: Approaches and Methods Used, Nov. 2000.

⁴² Yorkshire Forward, Yorkshire and the Humber: regional facts, 2000, p2.

⁴³ Organisations were asked to report the contribution of volunteers by allocating them to response bands (e.g. no. contributing 2 - 5 hours per week etc.) and generating a total volunteer contribution in hours for the organisation. These figures are then extrapolated to the region.

⁴⁴ Although not directly related to economic contribution, other statistics in the study provide a deeper picture of the sector's overall contribution to the NE economy. The report also highlights the sector's role in key areas of public policy, such as developing an adaptable and highly skilled workforce through breaking down barriers to training and education experienced by socially and economically excluded groups in the region.

⁴⁵ Income based GDP is calculated by expressing the sum of extrapolated 'total income' and expressing it as a % of regional GDP. Overall contribution adds in the economic value of volunteer time to the total income figure prior to the % calculation.

⁴⁶ Ibid., 2001, p1.

⁴⁷ EMDA, Mapping the Voluntary and Community Sector in the East Midlands, 2001, p44.

⁴⁸ The RAISE study surveyed 218 local authorities and voluntary sector network bodies, asking them how many VCOs operate in their area, aggregating the responses to the whole regional population. It also sought to determine the number of VCOs engaged in activity for or by BME groups; the number directed at social exclusion; and the number involved in regeneration activities.

⁴⁹ Such research is weakened however by the fact that there is often no clear definition of what constitutes a VCO. In the RAISE study, definition was left up to the respondent. Note also, however, that voluntary and community activity does not have to take place within a VCO. Also, some reported VCOs may well be inactive, leading to an overestimate.

⁵⁰ Contact was made with the four CVS in S. Yorkshire: Sheffield, Doncaster, Barnsley, and Rotherham, and the Objective 1 programme; also with CRESR (Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research), Sheffield Hallam University, and with John Trinnaman, MTL Consultants, Barnsley.

⁵¹ Commissioned by Leeds VOICE, at this time the scale and likely outputs of the study are unclear. However, the fieldwork is complete and the results are expected soon.

⁵² Steven Webster, Valuing the voluntary sector: health and social care in Leeds, Voluntary Action Leeds, 2000.

⁵³ For example, CEMVO (Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations) is believed to be mapping the BME sector, but no details are available. The Churches Regional Commission is measuring the contribution of the Christian churches to regeneration in the region by surveying a sample of church-based projects. (D Price, CRC, personal communication). No information on other faith-based studies is available. Age Concern is believed to be conducting research on older people, though no details are available.

⁵⁴ Humberside TEC (1997), Valuing the voluntary sector in Humberside, September. The study was undertaken in collaboration with the voluntary sector, including all CVSs in the Humber sub-region plus Humber and the Wolds Rural Community Council, and Hull – Developing Our Communities (Hull DOC). The study acknowledges that this group of umbrella bodies does not, however, represent the entirety of the voluntary sector and every community group in the sub-region.

⁵⁵ These differences are reflected in DETR index of deprivation figures for the sub-region. Index of deprivation figures (1998) for the sub-region are: E. Riding of Yorkshire: 275; N Lincs, 111; NE Lincs, 73; Hull, 26 (where 1 is the most deprived UK area).

⁵⁶ Humberside TEC, Valuing the voluntary sector in Humberside, 1999, pp 4-5

⁵⁷ Voluntary organisations and local based community groups which may include companies limited by guarantee, unincorporated associations or registered charities. They may have paid staff or be run by volunteers or have a mixture of both. They have unpaid, voluntary management committees; are independent bodies which determine their own constitutions, aims and objectives; do not depend on statute for their existence or purpose, although may be subject to legislation; they have as their purpose a common benefit of a social or economic nature; and aim to reinvest any surpluses and not to distribute them. Definition derived from: The Council and the Voluntary Sector in Glasgow: Working Together for the Good of the City. Glasgow City Council, 1999.

⁵⁸ Based on 1997 regional GDP of £51.5b (Yorkshire and the Humber: regional facts, Yorkshire Forward briefing paper, 2000).

⁵⁹ Anecdotal reports also raise concerns about the level of knowledge of the local voluntary and community sector, and the sample frame used for extrapolation.

⁶⁰ Doubts about the study's robustness as regards levels of volunteering connect with current concerns about the decline in volunteering. Hull CVS has commissioned research to identify the reasons for a decline locally, and connections, if any, with social class.

⁶¹ N Yorkshire population estimate: 733,600 (556,200 N Yorkshire CC, mid 1995; 177,400 City of York, mid 1998, ONS)

⁶² Charities Information Bureau, The Economic Value of the Community and Voluntary Sectors in Calderdale, July 2000.

⁶³ No estimate of Calderdale GDP is available. Local GDP statistics are based on NUTS (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics), and Calderdale figures are included with Kirklees and Wakefield. Like other studies, the Calderdale study shows the sector provides a range of opportunities for people to access training, gain new skills and valuable experience, which in turn enhances their employability; and provides services (e.g.: childcare provision/support for carers) which enable people to seek and take up employment opportunities.

⁶⁴ Region In Figures: Yorkshire and Humber, No 2, Winter, 2000, Office for National Statistics. Also at: www.statistics.gov.uk

⁶⁵ Regional Forum data claimed the sector contribution to regional economic activity to be £500 million, equivalent to 0.5% regional GDP, excluding the contribution of volunteers.

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