

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee 25th October 2017

Voluntary Sector

Economic Value of Volunteering within the Vale of Glamorgan

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an annual report on the economic value of volunteering within the Vale of Glamorgan

Recommendations

1. The Vale Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee receives the report for information and acknowledges the seventy one fold return on their investment through voluntary activity alone.
2. This report should also be referred to the Cabinet and other members of the Council for information.

Reason for the Recommendations

To acknowledge the contribution that volunteers make to the Vale of Glamorgan and to provide an annual update on the Compact Action Plan.

Background

2. This audit of voluntary activity was firstly undertaken by the Vale Volunteer Bureau (VVB) in 2000 where the monetary value of volunteering was calculated to be £8,207,136. Since the merger of the VVB with Vale Centre for Voluntary Services to form Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) in 2015, this annual undertaking to provide a monetary value for the voluntary effort here in the Vale has continued.
3. Last year a figure of £37,085,568 was calculated as the average monetary value of voluntary activity in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Relevant Issues and Options

4. This exercise was repeated by the GVS at the beginning of 2017. Questionnaires were sent out to all volunteer recruiting organisations based in the Vale and

registered with GVS. The questionnaire asked for the number of volunteers involved in the organisation and the number of hours per week that they volunteered.

5. The information received from the returned questionnaires provided the average number of active volunteers per organisation, and the average number of hours worked by those volunteers each week. We then applied a figure of £12.92 which according to the 2016 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings is the average hourly rate (this is the same hourly rate that was used in last year's calculation). A calculation based on this hourly rate and the information we received from recruiting organisations was undertaken by the GVS ($7,275 \times 8 \times £12.92 + £751,944 \times 52 = £39,102,861$).
6. In comparison with the previous year the monetary value of volunteering has risen from £37,085,568 to £ £39,102,861. This is an increase of £2,017,293.
7. We have used the same hourly rate as our 2016 figure, we are therefore able to provide clear evidence that the number of volunteers and volunteering hours have increased over the past 12 months. In 2016 we recorded an average of 6,900 active volunteers, whilst our figures for 2017 show an increase of 375 to 7,275.
8. This growth can be attributed to the increase in the number of organisations recruiting volunteers. They have been assisted in this process by the increasingly varied way in which GVS assists them in attracting volunteers. For instance GVS has held local Volunteering Fayres throughout the Vale of Glamorgan and held a "BIG Volunteering Fayre" in Barry in January 2017 at which 50 local organisations offered volunteering opportunities and over 300 members of the public attended.
9. It should also be noted that the figure provided here is an average figure of "formal volunteering" (volunteering that is undertaken through the auspices of a formal arrangement with a voluntary organisation) and as such only provides a snap shot of the voluntary activity taking place in the Vale of Glamorgan. Informal volunteering is doing something unpaid as an individual for a neighbour or friend or member of your community, who is not a close family member.
10. Informal volunteering was undertaken by almost two thirds of adults in Wales in 2015, with an estimated 1,626,789 people providing some kind of help during the year. This represents a significant input by the people of Wales into the wellbeing of their neighbours, friends and communities. The activities delivered show that informal volunteering has an impact on the demand for services from the public and third sectors, particularly in terms of care for older people and vulnerable people. This is similar to surveys in England. (Statistics provided by WCVA from research undertaken in 2015 by Beaufort Research).

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

11. The Vale of Glamorgan Council provides approximately £500k, to the Voluntary Sector by way of grant assistance. It is evident that this small investment provides a staggering return in voluntary activity within the Vale of Glamorgan.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

- 12.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

13.

Crime and Disorder Implications

14. Increased volunteering leads to greater social inclusion; several volunteering opportunities assist in the promotion of community safety, diversionary activities for young people and crime reduction.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

15. GVS aim to provide volunteering opportunities to all sections of the community. The Council's position on equality of opportunity is put into daily practice through the funding of GVS' work with the voluntary community groups operating in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Corporate/Service Objectives

16.

Policy Framework and Budget

17.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

18.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

19. All Scrutiny Committees

Background Papers

Contact Officer

Rachel Connor, Chief Executive Officer, GVS

Officers Consulted

Responsible Officer:

Rachel Connor, Chief Executive Officer, GVS