

DSC consultation response

Civil Society Strategy

Summary report

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1. Executive Summary

What the new Civil Society Strategy needs to take on board

- 1.1 The UK's social cohesion, public services and financial economy rely heavily on the work of charities and voluntary groups. Charities and other less formalised voluntary or community groups are the heart of civil society – not a separate set of institutions. Thousands of primarily small and local organisations are set up and run by the public every year, with millions of people working and volunteering for them.
- 1.2 The diverse work of charities, community groups and voluntary organisations supports social trust and civic engagement. When trying to define civil society it is true that boundaries and definitions are increasingly getting blurred between what we define as public, private and non-profit sectors. Social outcomes are increasingly co-produced.
- 1.3 Despite this, there remains a fundamental distinction about organisations which are independent of the state and set up for the public benefit only. Their value is unique, and ought to be supported, recognised and protected. They often provide services for people in areas where for-profit businesses or even social enterprises cannot. This is because these interactions cannot be costed, beneficiaries will never be able to pay for them (and neither should they be made to) or simply because it is ethically right that society does not privatise and commercialise them.
- 1.4 It is not universally understood or recognised just how much the sector subsidises the state and therefore frees up resources for other priorities. Neither is the relation between civil society and the state merely transactional – despite several decades of public policy which has driven financial/service transaction almost as an end in itself. Government policy and political rhetoric does recognise the value of civil society in words, but does it in deeds? Charity, or voluntary action, or civil society – whatever you call it – does not merely exist to solve issues that government cannot or does not want to solve. It is bigger than that.
- 1.5 However, it appears currently that government policies, actions and messages towards the sector are overwhelmingly negative and disproportionate, and underestimate how critical this activity is to the health of our society and people. Charities should not be treated as if they are the enemy, or rogue entities that need to be controlled. Charities are interwoven with the public. Who else sets them up, donates to them, volunteers for them, and benefits from their work?
- 1.6 It is critical that the government understands that it cannot treat or speak about charities as if they are all the same. What might work for 4,000 large charities will probably not work for 30,000 small to medium or 110,000 micro charities. The government did not crack down on small and medium-sized business, or even

business overall, in response to the banking crisis; policy efforts were focused on the banking industry. The charitable sector requires a balanced, appropriate and proportionate approach both in rhetoric and regulation. That has not been happening.

2. Three themes

Bearing in mind this context, DSC has developed three key themes for government to consider when developing its new Civil Society Strategy:

2.1 Freedom to give

Give people the space they need and enable them to pursue their charitable objectives.

- a) **Government should encourage people to engage with charitable work.** Warning people unnecessarily that their giving is 'unsafe' or that they should not trust charities isn't helpful. Back people to solve local issues and encourage them to do so.
- b) **We have a commissioning regime for public services which suffocates charities.** They face inflexible contracts and unrealistic terms and conditions. Charities are subsidising poor contracts with public donations. Make more use of grants – they are a force for getting the best out of charities.

2.2 Support what works

Existing bodies and mechanisms can deliver.

- a) **Provide the Charity Commission with an adequate budget.** Trustees need sound guidance and advice to do their work. Charities should not pay for their own regulation – charities are fundamentally different from other regulated sectors because they depend on the free giving of time and money – a public good.
- b) **The Big Lottery Fund** is still waiting to be paid back £425m from the London Olympics. It is a vital support for civil society across Britain and an excellent vehicle for helping the most disadvantaged communities. Get them their refund – at no extra cost to the Exchequer.
- c) **Using dormant assets to endow Community Foundations** is a brilliant way to give communities local grant funding which they desperately need. This doesn't need too much or any government money, just policy commitment.

2.3 Open your ears

Listen to what charities have to say, even if it's uncomfortable. Don't make it harder for people to speak up.

- a) **The Lobbying Act needs reform.** We all think that political campaigning needs rules, but the current rules are a mess. There is broad agreement about how to do this – implement the recommendations of Lord Hodgson. It’s a win-win solution.
- b) **Ban ‘gagging clauses’ in public service delivery contracts.** Unless they are used to protect data for individual beneficiaries, they force people to stay silent when things are not working on the ground, and block the flow of potentially useful information.
- c) **Stop ‘nonsultation’.** Failing to genuinely consult civil society will lead to less informed, less effective government policy. Don’t ask people to spend time giving their opinion if the result has already been decided in advance or there’s no intention of changing policy as a result.

3. Background and context

- 3.1 Communities across Britain have enormous strengths, based upon millions of people who contribute their time, money, passion and energy to those communities. There are over 184,000 charities in England and Wales alone.ⁱ The Charity Commission reports, that these charities are led by over 954,000 trustees.ⁱⁱ Other research showed that the number of active charity trustees in England and Wales is around 700,000, which is still a huge number.ⁱⁱⁱ 11.9 million people formally volunteered at least once a month in 2016/17.^{iv} This is significantly down from 14.2 million people in 2015/16.^v 19.8 million formally volunteered at least once a year in 2016/17.^{vi} This is also down from 21.8 million people in 2015/16.^{vii}
- 3.1 Civil society organisations across the UK are major employers too, employing an estimated 2.3 million people (equivalent 7% of the UK workforce in 2014 numbers).^{viii} The charity sector had a total income of £75.51bn last year, (according to accounts and annual returns filed with the Charity Commission in the year to December 2017).^{ix} Yet many communities face significant challenges – some much more so than others. Austerity measures continue to impact communities across the country.
- 3.3 Local councils will see their central government funding further cut by £2.7 billion between 2018/19 and 2019/20, which equates to a 54% reduction.^x According to analysis by the Financial Times in 2015, local authority budgets have been cut by £18bn in real terms since 2010, on top of which another £9.5bn cuts were expected to be implemented by the end of this decade.^{xi} Most recently the Local Government Association stated that money for running local services is running out fast - local councils could face an overall £5.8 billion funding gap in 2020.^{xii} Recent research covering a third of England’s councils suggests that 80% of local authorities fear for their financial sustainability, and 10% are unsure if they will be even able to meet forthcoming statutory requirements.^{xiii}
- 3.4 This ‘raises questions over the ability of local government—as it is currently funded and organised—to participate as a fully-fledged and creative partner in the defence

and promotion of the public sphere^{xiv} – and therefore its ability to help building up local resilience against future economic shocks and changes to the policy landscape.

- 3.5 The Local Government spending settlement is in limbo and this is causing further uncertainty and chaos in the system. Changes to benefit and housing policy mean that more and more people are turning to charities like food banks for help. These factors affect charities and voluntary groups, not just or even primarily in financial terms. As state services come under more and more pressure, demand spills over onto charitable provision. Even charities that don't get government funding are under pressure as a result, facing difficult choices about how best to help people.
- 3.6 Poorer communities are more affected by austerity cuts to local services. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation looked at the impact of austerity cuts on local government and poorer communities in 2015 and came up with perplexing results. Social care spending had actually risen in real terms in the least deprived communities (by £28 per head or 8%) while it dropped significantly for deprived communities (by £65 per head or 14%).^{xv} JRF's recent UK Poverty 2017 report shows that 14 million people live in poverty in the UK – over one in five people.^{xvi} In England alone annual homelessness acceptances were at 58,000 in 2016 - 18,000 more cases across England in 2015/16 compared to 2009/10.^{xvii} 1.2m people received three-day emergency food supplies at Trussell Trust foodbanks in 2016/17, compared to 347,000 in 2012/13 (a threefold increase in 5 years).^{xviii}
- 3.7 There has been a rapid rise in mortality in the beginning of 2018 across England and Wales,^{xix} and by the end of 2017 the ONS has adjusted life expectancy for both women and men by almost a year compared to projections two years earlier.^{xx} Previous research has shown that 'welfare payments of elderly people and disability benefits have had statistically significant effects on the rise in mortality in recent years'.^{xxi}
- 3.8 The situation of many charity beneficiaries has greatly worsened over the last few years. At the same time demand on the services of charities is rising across the sector. LocalGiving found that 78% of charities experienced increased demand for their services in 2016 but only 18% felt sufficiently resourced to cope.^{xxii} The FSI Small Charity Index from May 2017 showed that 70% of small charities reported increase in service demand but only 9% reported increase in statutory income.^{xxiii} Simultaneously, service demand for small charities increased by over 100% since June 2013 but statutory funding from local authorities has fallen by 11%.^{xxiv} The Charities Aid Foundation found that 28% of UK charities with an annual income of less than £1m fear for the future of their organisation – that is over 1 in 4.^{xxv} Small and medium-sized charities make up the majority of the sector, accounting for approximately 85% of all charities in the UK.
- 3.9 The charity and voluntary sector is stepping up to fill gaps. But there are strong regional disparities in terms of capacity of the local charity infrastructure, as well as

levels of giving by corporates, individuals and grant-makers. For example, DSC's own research showed a North-South divide in grant-making, whereby areas of higher income deprivation in the North receive a disproportionately lower share of grant money than the wealthier areas in the South-East.^{xxvi}

- 3.10 It's worth noting in all this that important influences on Britain's communities are largely or substantially beyond people's direct control – for example shifts in the globalised economy (leading to deindustrialisation and chronic unemployment in many areas), the political-economy of government debt/spending (recent governments reducing public spending), central government policy towards local government (withdrawing huge financial support with piecemeal or superficial policy reform), demographic change (ageing society, tension over immigration policy).
- 3.11 These wider influences are complex and multifaceted; beyond the scope of this paper and arguably of the Civil Society Strategy. Therefore, given these trends and features, the question we want to ask, and which DSC wants any Civil Society Strategy to answer, is: How can we make communities across Britain more *resilient*? In other words: what policy tools could help communities to weather and find solutions to the shocks, changes and challenges they are experiencing? And specifically, how can better policy to support charities and community groups be at the heart of it?
- 3.12 DSC is a charity that exists to help other charities. We believe that policy which supports charitable endeavour can go a long way to helping our communities be more resilient. This is because at its heart, charity is about people taking ownership and responsibility for their community and the people within it, however that is defined. Charity is about giving – time, money, ideas, and passion in the service of a shared sense of community or civic responsibility. It is, or should be, about mobilising people to make things better for themselves.

4. Overview of policy recommendations

In responding to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's consultation, DSC has therefore framed our answer to the question above in terms of what will help charities, as well as smaller less formally organised community groups, to build community resilience.

In addition to our three behaviours or principles outlined above, we've categorised our policy discussion below into five key areas:

4.1 Commissioning and grant-making

4.2 Giving

4.3 Voice

4.4 Volunteering and trusteeship

4.5 Regulation

4.1 Commissioning and grant-making

Community resilience is not just about money. In fact, money can get in the way of really solving problems. Nevertheless, how much money is spent, where, on what, and how it is spent – has a huge bearing on what people do and how they do it. Money – or financial resources – is fundamentally how governments set and execute policy priorities (just watch any Budget announcement). There is huge scope for government at different levels to change not just policy, but systems and behaviours, in ways that would help not harm community resilience.

4.1.1 What is the issue?

DSC would argue there are interlinked but distinct sets of issues that have a profound impact on how charities can operate and achieve their missions:

- a) The system of commissioning needs reform.
- b) A massive decline of government grant making and rise of contracts.
- c) Systemic problems with government funding.
- d) The future of EU-funding remains unclear to date.
- e) Charities and voluntary organisations are still owed a Big Lottery Refund.

4.1.2 What government can do

Government can address these issues by engaging in meaningful and true reform that has a positive impact on charities and enables them to increase community resilience:

- a) **Engage in a meaningful reform of commissioning:** We need a full overview on what is happening on the ground. This includes a cross departmental audit of commissioning by the National Audit Office into commissioning and the routine publication of all contracts for 'public services'. Government recently announced that the largest government suppliers are required to report on charity subcontractor spend. Contract value thresholds are still very high – the reporting requirement applies only to contractors who hold government contracts worth over £5m per annum. But it will help to build a more accurate picture on how sub-contracting chains affect the charity sector. Real change would come with a review the practice of increasingly long and unaccountable sub-contracting chains, by radically devolving budgets to local areas.
- b) **Reverse the decline in government grant-making:** Government should recognise that the tectonic shift from grants to contracts is having a profound impact on how charities work. This also requires a massive reduction in the use of 'payment by results' contracts for charitable or not-for-profit providers and a shift towards an increased use of grants - their value and the principles of good grant-making^{xxvii} need increased recognition.
- c) **Address the systemic problems with government funding:** This could be done by developing a 'Fair Deal on Grants' for funding charities and voluntary groups – a set of principles, processes and commitments that would guide statutory grant funding to support charitable services.
- d) **Take concrete steps to mitigate the uncertainty around the future of EU funding:** The sector needs to know what level of funding that will be maintained throughout the Brexit process. This requires a credible commitment on how EU funding will be replaced in full after the UK's departure from the EU. A real and open consultation with the charity sector and the wider social sector in developing the potential UK Shared Prosperity Fund needs to take place as soon as possible.
- e) **Give charities their much needed Big Lottery Refund:** Immediately refund £425m to the Big Lottery Fund and renegotiate the 'London Settlement' to make the Treasury the 'creditor' for repayment of the same sum, realised from asset sales on the Olympic Park.^{xxviii}

4.2 Giving

When looking at voluntary income only, individual giving (donation and gifts) is the largest form of income when compared to any other form of income from government, grant-makers and corporate giving.^{xxix} Recent research by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) found that the total amount given to charity by individuals in the UK increased to £10.3

billion.^{xxx} But this increase was driven by fewer people giving more and included also a decrease of people who gave to charity either via donations or sponsoring someone. CAF found also that trust in charities remained stable with 50% agreeing that charities are trustworthy. According to NCVO Almanac 2018 voluntary organisations (or ‘general charities’^{xxxii}) the largest source of voluntary income was individual giving which accounted for almost half of the sector’s total income (£22.3bn out of £47.8bn).^{xxxiii}

4.2.1 What is the issue?

Looking at the whole range of giving behaviour from individuals, corporate and government, DSC would argue that the following issues are most pressing and persistent to date:

- a) Challenges to individual giving.
- b) Sustained disparities between regions and causes.
- c) Government not making strategic use of assets to support local grant-making.
- d) Comparatively low levels of corporate philanthropy.

4.2.2 What government can do

- a) **Open a renewed discourse on how challenges to individual giving can be addressed:** Government’s role should ultimately not be too directive here, since this giving is voluntary and not a source that can be relied upon when it comes to long-term financing of a vast set of services. But we need a renewed discussion about how the state can remove the barriers to individual giving: What can the state do to help and enable individuals to ‘give smarter’ without being too focussed on ‘nudging’ and being too directive in its approach?
- b) **Develop a clearer understanding of sustained disparities between regions and causes:** Looking beyond individual giving and across sectors (philanthropy, government, corporates) there are many challenges to understanding the ‘environment’ for philanthropy. Government could play a role in convening discussions and supporting research in this area. The information on which all funding decisions are based could be far better and more available. There could be more support for ongoing research efforts to bring data around what causes are funded, where funding goes and where it comes from. Initiatives like 360 Giving^{xxxiii} are already out there but so far, they are not comprehensive enough to derive strategic assessment of need vs. the actual allocation of available capital and assets.
- c) **Make strategic use of dormant assets – we have plenty of social investment already.** Now assets should be used to capitalise non-statutory local funders and capacity-building organisations, who are well placed to understand local need, local capacity, and to lever in other sources of financial support. This requires a meaningful engagement with the proposals made by the sector on how to use dormant assets. It also requires a comprehensive assessment of local needs and infrastructure before allocating assets.

- d) **Mobilise corporate philanthropy:** Promote guidance from the London Benchmarking Group and other initiatives about how to account for and report expenditure on Community Investment. Change reporting standards so that companies must again declare charitable cash donations in their annual reports. Support a campaign for a segment of companies – for example listed on the FTSE – to commit to donating at least 1% of pre-tax profits to charity.

4.3 Voice

We won't fully address the democratic deficit in British politics unless charities and community groups are free to speak out, advocate and represent sometimes unpopular causes – and, critically, are able to influence policy-making. Too often politicians want to shoot the messenger when charities raise difficult or embarrassing issues (e.g. food banks; winter crisis in A&E). Politicians at all levels, and in all parties, need to rethink this completely and view charities as sources of intelligence and advice about community needs and priorities.

4.3.1 What is the issue?

DSC would argue there interlinked but distinct sets of issues that have a profound impact on charities' ability to speak up:

- a) Silencing the sector - charities' views and information have been consistently excluded from decision-making processes at the central and even local level.
- b) The space for charity campaigning has been reduced.

4.3.2 What government can do

- a) **Reform the Lobbying Act:** There is broad agreement between experts and the sector about how to fix this: implementing the recommendations of the Lord Hodgson report. There is still time to implement the changes. Reform is needed now.
- b) **Get rid of restrictive grant standards and 'gagging clauses'** that seek to prevent charities from speaking up and introduce campaigning restrictions.
- c) **Government should use its convening power as a force for good including devolution:** The democratic deficit can be reduced through genuine support and engagement with the local infrastructure. The devolution process should also be not become another lost opportunity for the charity and voluntary sector to be engaged in local decision-making processes.

4.4 Volunteering and trusteeship

Voluntary trusteeship and volunteers make the bulk of the voluntary sector function. There are over 184,000 charities in England and Wales alone.^{xxxiv} The Charity Commission reports that these charities are led by over 954,000 trustees.^{xxxv} Other research showed that the number of active charity trustees in England and Wales is around 700,000, which is still a huge number.^{xxxvi} 11.9 million people formally volunteered at least once a month in 2016/17.^{xxxvii} This is significantly down from 14.2 million people in 2015/16.^{xxxviii} 19.8 million formally volunteered at least once a year in 2016/17.^{xxxix} This is also down from 21.8 million people in 2015/16.^{xl}

These people are the backbone of the sector. Charities and voluntary organisations could not do the work that everybody else in society benefits so much from without them. But they are increasingly treated as a reliable resource taken for granted as supposed to an activity and valued behaviour that requires adequate support, nurturing through education and investment from government. Charities' resources are increasingly stretched because they step in where the state retreats. Individuals have increasingly less time and resources available due to other external factors such as the labour market, decrease of state support and the wider economic environment.

4.4.1 What is the issue?

- a) Underinvestment in enabling support for trusteeship, including a lack of investment into training for trustees and a meaningful engagement with sector proposals to increase diversity in boards and senior leadership.
- b) Dominance of a top down and ineffective policy approach to civic engagement and a lack of funding and support for volunteering as a whole.

4.4.2 What government can do

Government should address core questions to support trusteeship across the country:

- a) **Who pays to develop trustee skills, training and awareness of legal duties?** The vast majority of charities will struggle to invest anything at all in trustee development. A fund is needed which can financially support trustee training at those charities which do not have the resources to do so.
- b) **How is government supporting trusteeship now and in the future without increasing the regulatory burden?** Multiple regulatory agendas – often with very negative framing – plus various Charity Commission initiatives, pile more and more responsibility onto trustees' shoulders.

- c) **How has cutting the Commission’s budget over time impacted the support for charity trustees?** Recent budget improvements are welcomed but are not enough to fix the significant budget decrease over time. Properly resourcing the Charity Commission means it can play its essential role in providing accessible advice to charity trustees.
- d) **How does government plan to engage with proposals for increasing diversity of boards and senior leadership?** There is a strong business case for diversity in board membership having a positive impact on organisational development.

Government can do more to support volunteering and education around the topic:

- a) **Fund and support (particularly local) volunteering networks or organisations**, which understand how to signpost, advise and recruit volunteers – such funding has been slashed in recent years.
- b) **Ensure that volunteering and exploration of charity work is part of the National Curriculum**, such as in citizenship, politics or social studies. Charities and volunteering need to be part of citizenship education.
- c) **Encourage business to better enable employees to volunteer**, examining how changes to the legal and regulatory context could facilitate that. Reviving government’s own volunteering pledge would be a step in the right direction.

4.5 Regulation

The Charity Commission is arguably the single most important state institution for the largest number of formally constituted civil society organisations – charities. By the end of 2017 there were over 180,000 registered charities in England and Wales alone, with tens of thousands more unregistered or exempt from registration. The Charity Commission’s objectivity and independence is also fundamental to how its legally binding decisions are perceived by charities and for its overall legitimacy with the sector it regulates.

4.5.1 What is the issue?

- a) Charity Commission funding is inadequate for the breadth of its role and required work. This has contributed to an increased focus on its compliance and policing role and under-resourcing of enabling work that underpins informed self-regulation by trustees. This is of the main pillars underpinning the regulation of a vast sector.
- b) Charity Commission independence has been eroded over time. Recent governments have sought leverage over the Charity Commission via the appointments process.

4.5.2 What government can do

Additional resources to support the Commission's vital work must be found – without imposing a financial burden on charities themselves (for example fees for registration etc.). Government should:

- a) **Increase the Charity Commission's budget to previous levels and make this funding increase permanent.** A few pounds more will go a long way when it comes to more effective and preventative regulation.
- b) **Refrain from charging charities for their own regulation.** It's a flawed idea on many levels.^{xli}
- c) **Accessible help and advice for charity trustees, provided directly from the Commission (not civil society intermediaries) is essential.** 'Hard' regulation is core to the Commission's work, and the recent increase in safeguarding issues and cases show that capacity in this area is crucial. But addressing root causes and preventing serious incident cases to arise in the first place will not be possible without putting enabling work on an equal footing.

The Charity Commission's objectivity is fundamental to how its legally binding decisions are perceived by charities and for its overall legitimacy with the sector it regulates. Government should:

- a) **Respect the independence of the Commission,** uphold it as a value and not interfere with it. While its mandate is set by parliament it must be above party-political decisions in its regulatory work.
- b) **Not use public and media scandals** as an opportunity to demand certain approaches or decisions from the Commission that serve political interests. This will undermine its independence and confidence in its objectivity in the sector
- c) **Encourage the public and media to refer to the Commission,** which is basing answers and decisions to any questions on facts and the regulatory framework it operates in.

5. DSC's Policy Principles

DSC has four core policy principles^{xliii} that guide our work and that we use to try to influence everything that affects the voluntary sector. These are:

- **Responsible Giving** - which is about how individuals, businesses and government should support charities;
- **Responsible Regulation** - which argues that charity law and regulation should be proportionate, appropriate and enabling towards charities;
- **Responsible Delivery** - which promotes transparency and beneficiary focus in the charity sector;
- **Responsible Independence** - which stipulates that government and charities should strive to promote charities' independence.

Responsible Giving

Responsible Giving is about how individuals, businesses and government should support charities. Givers should be informed about the characteristics, motivations, capacity, aspirations and needs of the organisations they are giving to. They should consider the impact that their giving will have and the outcome it is meant to achieve.

Responsible Independence

Responsible Independence stipulates that government and charities should strive to promote charities independence. The independence of voluntary and community organisations from state power flows from the individual citizen's right to freely associate and act in the public arena. It is not absolute, but neither is it something that is given or sanctioned by government.

Responsible Delivery

Responsible Delivery promotes transparency in the charity sector. Voluntary and community organisations should be transparent about their aims and activities. They should provide evidence of their effectiveness and seek to maximise their impact. Most importantly, they should be driven by the best way of serving the needs of their users or beneficiaries.

Responsible Regulation

DSC has a long-standing interest in charity law and regulation, especially the Charity Commission with which we work closely according to our principal of responsible regulation. DSC believes that voluntary activity should be regulated responsibly. Some regulation is necessary to safeguard and maintain the interests of the general public, the beneficiary, and of the organisations and individuals being regulated. However, it should have a demonstrable benefit and should aim to empower and strengthen voluntary activity rather than control it arbitrarily.

6. About the Directory of Social Change

The Directory of Social Change has a vision of an independent voluntary sector at the heart of social change. We believe that the activities of charities and other voluntary organisations are crucial to the health of our society.

Through our publications, courses and conferences, we come in contact with thousands of organisations each year. The majority are small to medium-sized, rely on volunteers and are constantly struggling to maintain and improve the services they provide. We are not a membership body. Our public commentary and the policy positions we take are based on clear principles, and are informed by the contact we have with these organisations.

We also undertake campaigns on issues that affect them or which evolve out of our research. We view our role as that of a ‘concerned citizen’, acting as a champion on behalf of the voluntary sector in its widest sense. We ask critical questions, challenge the prevailing view, and try to promote debate on issues we consider to be important.

ⁱ <http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SectorData/SectorOverview.aspx>

ⁱⁱ <http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SectorData/SectorOverview.aspx>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.cass.city.ac.uk/faculties-and-research/centres/cce/trustee-awareness-research-2017>

^{iv} <https://data.ncvo.org.uk/a/almanac18/volunteering-overview-2015-16/>

^v <https://data.ncvo.org.uk/category/almanac/voluntary-sector/volunteers-workforce/>

^{vi} <https://data.ncvo.org.uk/a/almanac18/volunteering-overview-2015-16/>

^{vii} <https://data.ncvo.org.uk/a/almanac17/volunteering-overview/>

^{viii} <https://data.ncvo.org.uk/a/almanac18/workforce-3/>

^{ix} [https://www.civilsociety.co.uk/news/charity-sector-income-is-rises-by-5bn-in-two-years.html?utm_source=Civil+Society+News+List&utm_campaign=a957e866d2-](https://www.civilsociety.co.uk/news/charity-sector-income-is-rises-by-5bn-in-two-years.html?utm_source=Civil+Society+News+List&utm_campaign=a957e866d2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_10_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_26f393b813-a957e866d2-86867165)

[EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_10_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_26f393b813-a957e866d2-86867165](https://www.civilsociety.co.uk/news/charity-sector-income-is-rises-by-5bn-in-two-years.html?utm_source=Civil+Society+News+List&utm_campaign=a957e866d2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_10_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_26f393b813-a957e866d2-86867165)

^x <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/council-funding-be-further-cut-half-over-next-two-years-lga-warns>

^{xi} <https://www.ft.com/content/5fcbd0c4-2948-11e5-8db8-c033edba8a6e>

^{xii} <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-responds-autumn-budget-2017>

^{xiii} <https://www.lgiu.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/LGIU-MJ-State-of-Local-Government-Finance-Survey-2018-Full-Report.pdf>

^{xiv} <https://www.thinknpc.org/blog/contracting-crisis-place-based/>

^{xv} <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/cost-cuts-impact-local-government-and-poorer-communities>

^{xvi} <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2017>

^{xvii} https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/236823/homelessness_monitor_england_2017.pdf

^{xviii} <https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/end-year-stats/>

^{xix} <https://theconversation.com/rapid-rise-in-mortality-in-england-and-wales-in-early-2018-an-investigation-is-needed-93311>

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