

# ESSP UPDATE

## A VIEW FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

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# CONTENTS

- What is the scale scope and Impact of the VCSE
- What current issues are experienced by the VCSE
- The Impact of COVID 19 (negative and positive)
- Longer term issues and prospects

# NEED FOR A DIFFERENT TYPE OF CROSS SECTOR CONVERSATION

- Strategic
- Long term
- Macro
- Collaborative

Public  
Sector  
leaders

The diagram features a light blue background with white circuit-like lines in the corners. On the left, two green circles are stacked vertically. The top circle contains the text 'Public Sector leaders' and the bottom circle contains 'VCSE alliance'. A large red plus sign is positioned between these two circles. To the right of the plus sign is a red arrow pointing towards a large green circle on the right side of the image. This large circle contains the text 'Partnership plus' in quotes.

VCSE  
alliance



“Partnership  
plus”

# NEW RESEARCH PUBLISHED

Updating the Economic Value Analysis 2010

Commissioned before COVID 19 but extra work undertaken to look at impact and responses

Looking at the sectors economic impact as well as its social or community contribution

**IVAR**

## The contribution and value of the VCSE sector in East Sussex

Institute for Voluntary  
Action Research

March 2021



# ECONOMIC IMPACT OF VCSE SECTOR

- The economic Gross Value Added (GVA) by the East Sussex VCSE sector **at least £76m** – actual figure much higher as methodology based on registered charities only
- The East Sussex VCSE Sector employs at least 6,000 people (estimated 6% of County workforce)
- Regular volunteers contribute 9.6m hours per annum with an estimated value of £110m
- Provide support to those with additional needs and pathways into employment
- Sector very similar to business community in being generally micro (“agile but fragile”)



# COVID 19 RESPONSE

- Early response at community level formalised over time into highly effective hubs to support the most vulnerable
- Cross sector working 'at speed' widely recognised as being crucial
- Model being looked at by ESCC as having potential for the longer term
- Threw a spotlight on inequalities, loneliness, and groups marginalised from services






# FINANCIAL HEALTH

- Generally low reserve positions
- Charities spent out reserves during austerity to mitigate funding reduction
- COVID 19 leading to increased demand + expenditure to adapt services make possible “hybrid” working & make buildings COVID safe
- Longer term funding unclear (often the wrong “sort” of money)



# KEY STRENGTHS

- Person centred approach, less time limited, able to consolidate change
  - Preventative as well as responsive
  - Many organisations “beneficiary led”
  - Trust built up over time
  - Huge (but sometimes untapped) intelligence at community level
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# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use monitoring to “tell stories” & capture learning as well as achieve compliance
- Pause reflect and celebrate on the cross sector collaboration accelerated via COVID
- Learn by doing and create spaces to trial experiment and test
- “Do tanks” as well as “think tanks”
- Don’t lose the power and energy of localism

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Fund projects with proven impact over longer periods
- Co-design wherever possible
- Adapt and flex to accommodate change
- Include resource for cross sector partnership activity

# BUILDINGS AND ESTATES

- Opportunistic rather than planned
- Only 8% of VCSE orgs occupy spaces which were created or significantly adapted to meet the needs of their specific work
- Challenges in planned rather than reactive maintenance
- Challenges in making buildings COVID safe
- Challenges in leveraging in capital funding



# THE FUTURE OF WORKPLACES

Hybrid

Collaborative

Enabling not just accommodating

Focused on reforming delivery services

Access in its broadest context





# PLACE

EMPOWERMENT & INVESTMENT IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES





## AND FINALLY...

- Having invested in this work let's keep the ideas in the report alive
- Continue conversations that further cross sector working
- Develop a clear and accessible vision in East Sussex weaving together “the best of all sectors”

The background is a blue gradient. In the corners, there are white line-art illustrations of circuit boards or neural networks, with lines and small circles representing nodes.

- Thanks for listening