

Meeting of:	Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee
Date of Meeting:	Saturday, 19 October 2019
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	All Scrutiny Committees
Report Title:	Economic Value of Volunteering 2019
Purpose of Report:	To provide an annual report on the economic value of volunteering within the Vale of Glamorgan
Report Owner:	Rachel Connor
Responsible Officer:	Rachel Connor
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	N/A
Policy Framework:	N/A
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This report analyses the economic value of volunteering in the Vale of Glamorgan for 2019.

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.

Reasons for Recommendations

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

1. Background

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 Last year a figure of £40,446,224 was calculated as the average monetary value of voluntary activity in the Vale of Glamorgan.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 This exercise was repeated by the GVS at the end of 2019. Analysis of all volunteer contact with GVS was carried out. This included:
 - Internal databases
 - Volunteering Wales Website
 - Volunteering Events
 - Customer Relations Management (CRM) All-Wales Database
- 2.2 The information received from the gathered information 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 £13.60 which according to the most recent Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings is the average hourly rate. A calculation based on this hourly rate and the information we collected was undertaken by GVS ($6397 \times 8 \times £13.60 = £695,994 \times 52$ (weeks) = £36,191,667).
- 2.3 In comparison with the previous year the monetary value of volunteering has dropped from £40,446,224 to £36,191,667. This drop may be due to a number of reasons, but GVS believes the major factor is the introduction of the new Volunteering Wales Website which, upon its launch, had some problems for the first couple of months. This resulted in all areas of Wales starting from a zero

position for volunteer statistics on the platform. Other factors include a sizeable number of organisations closing over recent years.

- 2.4 Despite the changes to the Volunteering Wales Website, we are still able to provide a general picture of volunteers and volunteering hours over the past 12 months. In 2018 we recorded an average of 7,149 active volunteers, whilst our figures for 2019 show a figure of 6,397.
- 2.5 The number of organisations recruiting volunteers have been continued to be supported by the increasingly varied way in which GVS assists them in attracting volunteers. For instance GVS has held a number of local Volunteering Fayres throughout the Vale of Glamorgan and held a "BIG Volunteering Fayre" in Barry in 2019/20 at which over 60 local organisations offered volunteering opportunities and over 200 members of the public attended. 27% of those who attended signed up to volunteer on the day.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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).

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 GVS aligns its work to the objectives of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1 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.

Employment

- 4.2 Research has shown that volunteering builds the skills, capacity and knowledge of volunteers to equip them for employment.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.3** 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

5. Background Papers