



# Bromley State of the Sector 2024

## Research findings and call to action



# Overview

- Organisational structures/Governance
- **Staffing and volunteers**
- **Financial situation and funding**
- Service delivery areas/Services groups/communities
- **Challenges and opportunities**
- **Voice, representation and networks**
- Community Links Bromley

# Staffing

## National picture

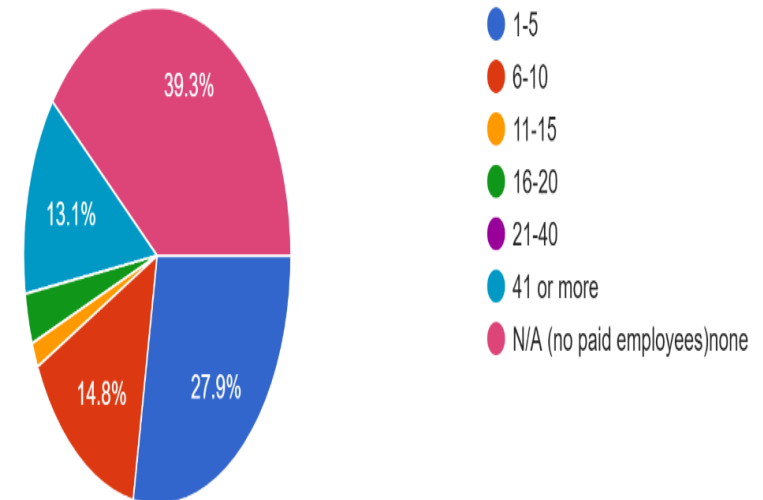
- Nearly 1 million in VCSE in 2023, 3% of UK workforce c/f to 2.5% in 2011.
- Rate of growth 24% increase or 180,000 in that time. Compared to 13% in the private sector.
- But most recent data show a decline in the size of the workforce.

## Locally

- 42.7% have between 1–10 staff.

How many people does your organisation have in paid employment?

61 responses

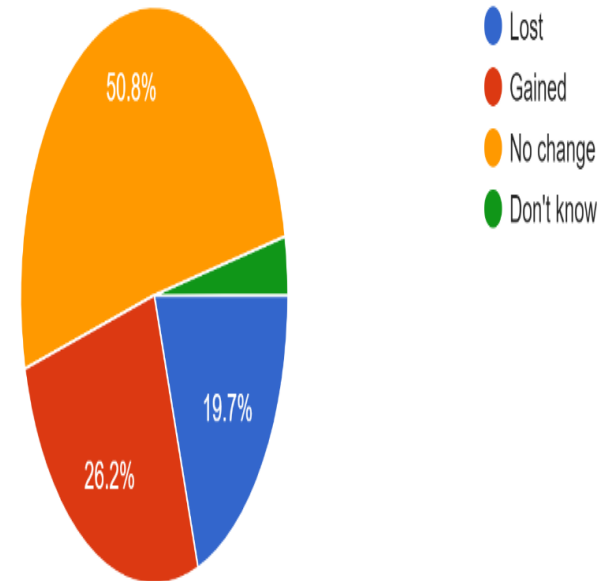


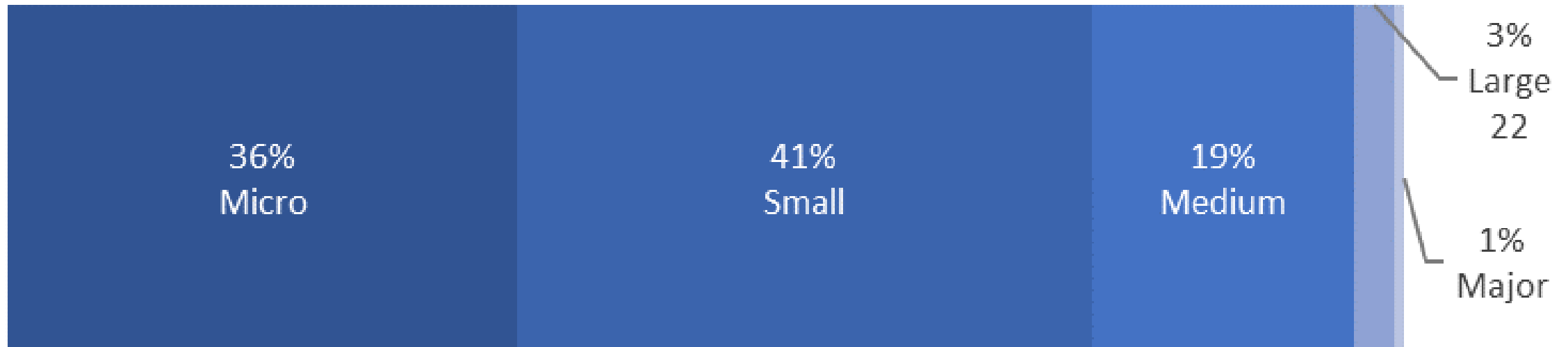
# Volunteers

- 67.2% of organisations have 11 or more volunteers. Important asset base in our community.
- Volunteering remains stable in the Borough with 50.8 reporting no change.
- National evidence suggests an ongoing decline in volunteer numbers since the covid-19 pandemic, and cost of living crisis since late 2021.
- So, need to create flexible, inclusive and accessible volunteering opportunities.

Have you experienced a net gain or loss of volunteers in the last 12 months?

61 responses





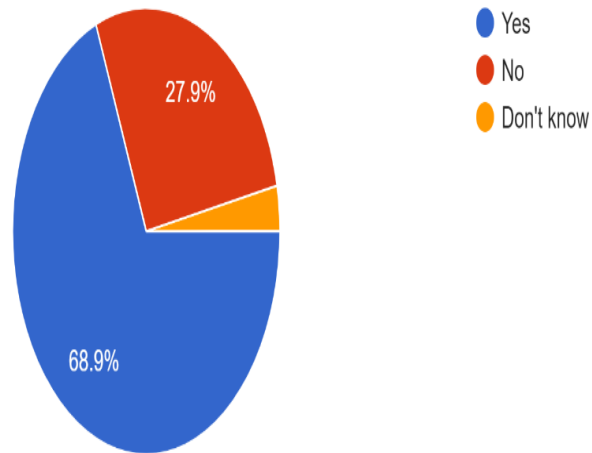
## Financial situation and funding

- National picture. Income dipped by 6% or £3.6bn
- Faster rate of decline for micro, small and medium-sized organisations
- 776 registered charities active in Bromley (2019) Aggregated income of £222,839,132. So still a significant contribution to the local economy
- Smaller organisations made up the vast majority (76%) of the sector. 36% income is under £10,000

# Running costs

Has funding over the last 12 months covered the total cost of running of your organisation for this period?

61 responses



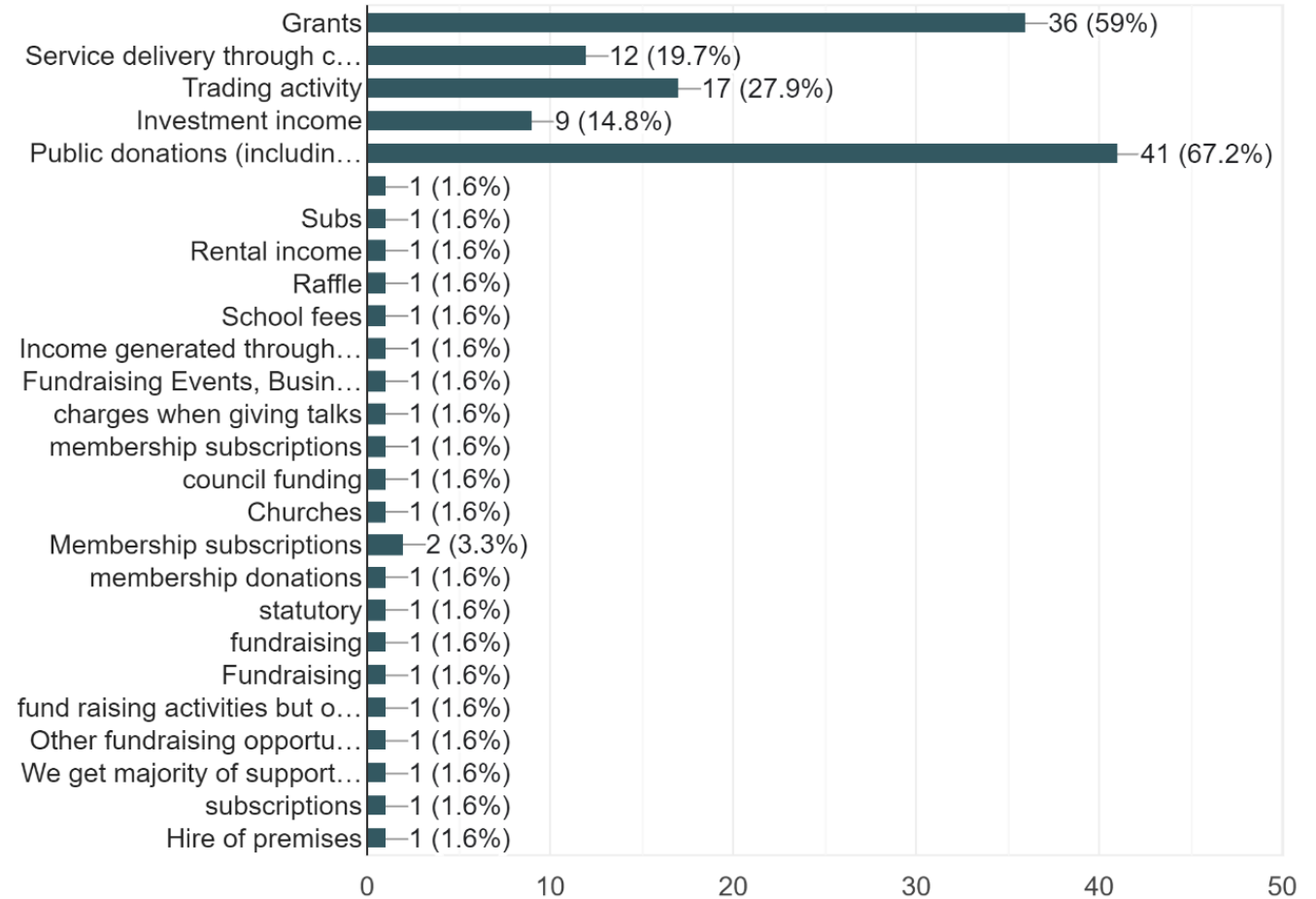
- 68.9% Yes
- 27.9% No
- Challenge met by:
  - Drawing on reserves (69.2% hold reserves)
  - Reduced staff and activities
  - Donations
  - Increased subs
  - Emergency fundraising
  - 23% of charities have reduced/cut services as a result
  - Some casualties – JusB

***The importance of reserves therefore needs to be emphasised***

# Income sources

What are the sources of your organisation's funding? (tick all that apply)

61 responses



# Concerns about the Future and Challenges

- Increasing demand and service pressures
- Financial and cost pressures
- Funding challenges
- Staffing, volunteering and leadership challenges
- Accommodation issues
- Miscellaneous





# BROMLEY VCSE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

- Are you involved in any networks?
- Do you feel that the views of the sector are represented to decision makers?
- Do you have any suggestions about improving representation?



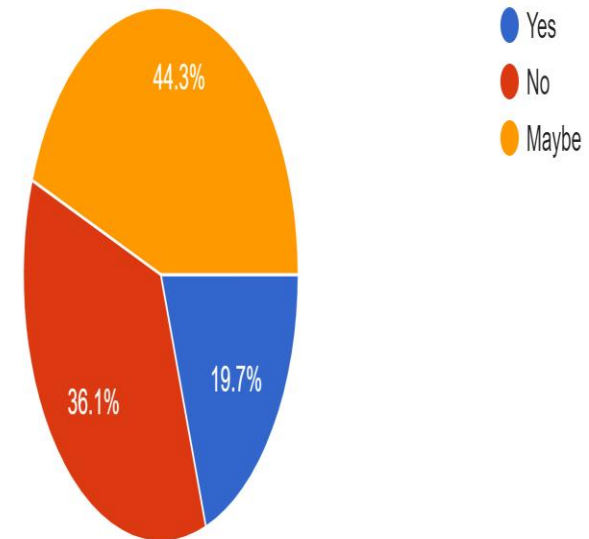
# BROMLEY VCSE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Majority did not feel adequately represented to decision makers 36.1%

- Absence of a clear mechanism
- Sector reps not exempt from criticism
- Council engagement – mixed views
- Result: social issues are diminished by decision makers; lack of recognition of how big

Do you feel that the views of the sector are represented to decision makers?

61 responses



# Questions for the VSSN

What are the top three challenges for you as organisations?

Are there any missing challenges/issues we could highlight?

Do you have any suggestions about improving representation?

# Next Steps

