



Women's Resource Centre

WOMEN'S GROUPS IN LONDON

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"Volunteers and local community workers, working on the ground, at the coal face, at the heart of local communities, are far better positioned than ever a government official could be, both to see a problem and to define effective action". 1

PAID STAFF

- The wider voluntary and community sector provides 4% of London's jobs. 2
- Women make up 66.5% of paid employees in the UK voluntary and community sector. 3
- 34% of women's groups had no full time paid staff and 17% had no paid staff. 4
- 57 women's organisations employed 349 full time staff and 63 organisations employed 283 part time staff. 4
- 54% of staff live in the same borough as the organisation. 4
- The average wage for London women's groups was £20,794 per annum. 4

RECRUITING PAID STAFF

- 48% of women's groups have had to re-advertise at least once in the last two financial years. 4
- Half of organisations believed that salary was an influencing factor in recruitment difficulties. Lack of applicants' qualifications, experience and skills was also a significant contributing factor. 3
- "Evidence suggests that the impact of recruitment difficulties includes an inability to meet existing objectives, start new projects or meet quality standards". (p124) 3
- Smaller organisations were particularly concerned that the voluntary and community sector is not attractive to people entering the labour market. 3
- 50% of small voluntary and community organisations in the UK were pessimistic about their ability to recruit in the future. 3

VOLUNTEERING/UNPAID LABOUR

- In the wider UK voluntary and community sector, 22 million adults are involved in formal volunteering and 90 million hours of formal voluntary work takes place each week. 5
- The economic value of formal volunteering is estimated to be £40 billion per annum. 5
- 10% of London women's organisations surveyed had no volunteers. 4
- 2,760 volunteers worked in 80 women's groups. 4
- Volunteers in 69 groups worked an average total of 2,630 hours per week – equivalent to 75 full time staff. 4
- "[Our] problems are associated with recruiting volunteers - is connected to the volunteer agencies who are not 'comfortable' in sourcing LGBT volunteers". 4
- "Admin space is in own home - training space has to be outsourced. Problem is in recruiting volunteers due to this". 4





SCOPE OF THE LONDON WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR

- The number of women's voluntary and community organisations in London is unknown, however, 'guesstimates' place the number at approximately 10,000 groups throughout the UK. ⁶

TYPES OF ORGANISATION

- 55% of women's groups were delivering social services (i.e. 1st tier) and 32% were delivering 2nd tier services. ⁵
- The largest single issues addressed by women's groups in London were violence against women (51% of organisations), women's health (50%) and education (49%). ⁶
- Advice and information, followed by training, then campaigning/lobbying Government and then counselling were the most popular types of services being delivered. ⁴
- 41% of organisations undertook work on a national and/or international level. ⁶
- 39% of London women's groups were mostly pan-London and 21% were mainly borough-wide. ⁴

SERVICE USERS

- In the last financial year, 63 organisations delivered services to 115,438 individuals and 22 organisations delivered services to 2,450 groups. ⁴
- 32% of women's groups in London are predominantly delivering services to women from their local or neighbouring borough(s). ⁴

PREMISES

- "We would like to move - we could probably save rent but we don't have enough money to finance an office relocation!" ⁴
- "We work in a place that has no central heating... it's a Council space and we think they want to demolish it - so they won't invest any money in it so we have to have electric heaters on and that is not really satisfactory". ⁴
- "We are sharing our office with two other groups and it is very difficult for us". ⁴
- At least 10% of women's groups in London do not have any premises. ⁴
- 42% of women's organisations did not have disability access to their premises. ⁴

ICT

- Just under half of women's groups surveyed did not have a website. ⁴
- 43% of women's organisations do not have an organisational email. ⁴

REFERENCES

- 1 Gordon Brown at NCVO Annual Conference 2004. Acc <http://society.guardian.co.uk/societyguardian/story/0,7843,1154882,00.html>.
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- 3 National Council of Voluntary Organisations. 2004. *Voluntary Sector Almanac*. NCVO. London.
- 4 Women's Resource Centre. 2004. *Survey of Women's Groups in London*. WRC. London (Unpublished findings).
- 5 Institute for Volunteering Research. Acc www.irv.org.uk/facts.htm.
- 6 Soteri, Andri. 2001. *A Profile Report on Women's Organisations in London's Voluntary and Community Sector*. Centre for Institutional Studies, University of East London. London.

