

Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service

Mapping Community & Voluntary Groups' Needs in Cambridgeshire

March 2011

CCVS Summary



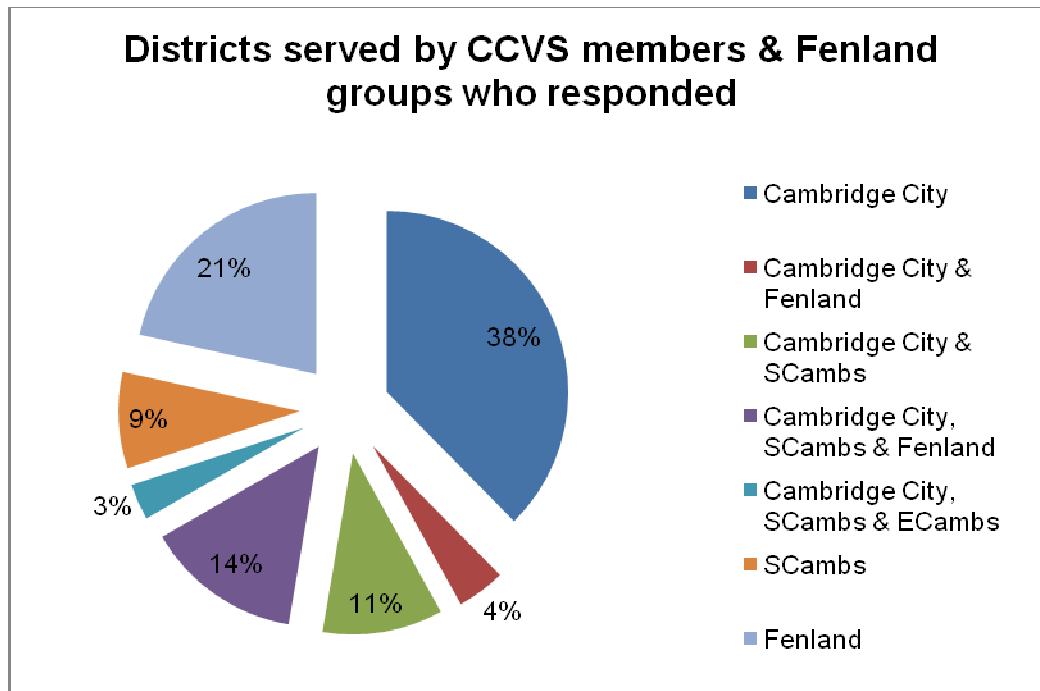
Mapping Community & Voluntary Groups' Needs in Cambridgeshire March 2011

CCVS Summary

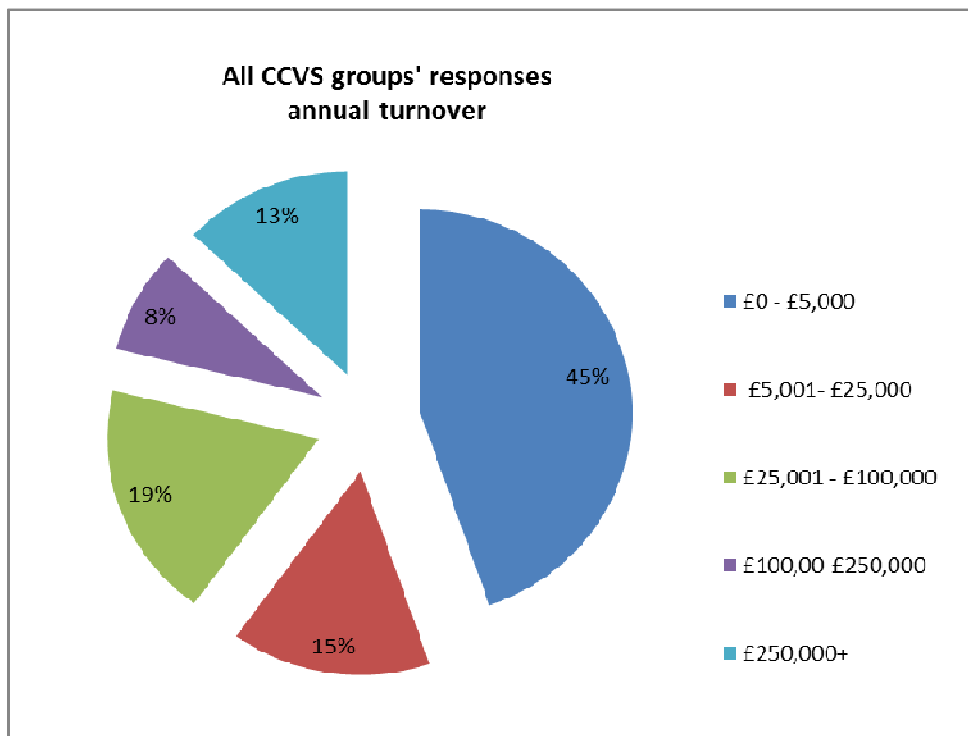
CCVS provides development support services to community and voluntary groups in Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire and Fenland, as well as to some groups that deliver services county-wide. Voluntary Community Action East Cambridgeshire, (VCAEC) provides similar services in East Cambridgeshire and Hunts Forum does the same in Huntingdonshire. The three organisations make up a consortium called CVS5 (CVS services covering the five Districts of Cambridgeshire).

Mapping Community & Voluntary Groups' Need in Cambridgeshire, March 2011 is the result of the three organisations collaborating over their annual needs assessment surveys and analysing the results together to get a picture of the community and voluntary sector across Cambridgeshire. Whilst the picture that emerges shows strong similarities across the Districts CCVS has drawn out the elements that particularly pertain to Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire and Fenland in order to plan services for 2011-12 based on the survey results and the known CCVS budget for the same period.

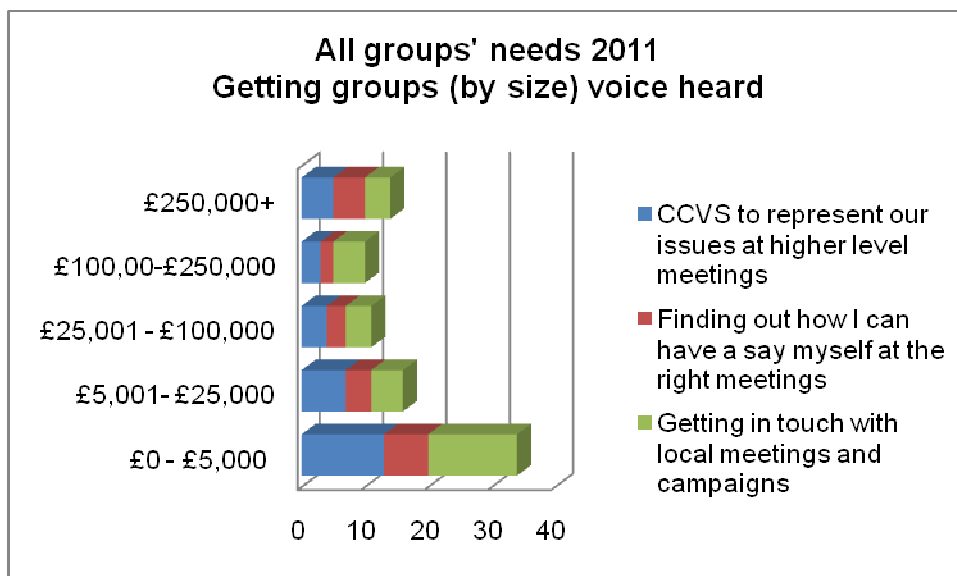
134 groups responded to the survey, serving a combination of areas.



Most groups were in the smallest category, measured by their turnover.



The issue of the need for representation was evaluated by size of group and showed that almost equal numbers wanted both CCVS to continue to represent their issues and to find out about how they could get in touch with local meetings and campaigns, with fewer wanting to find out how they could represent themselves, except the larger groups.



About a quarter of groups wanted to get together with other groups doing similar types of work, although a third of Fenland groups just wanted to keep in touch with groups in their geographic areas.

Of 26 training opportunities the top ten priorities from the three geographic areas illustrate different needs, except with regard to training in volunteer management, health & safety and writing funding application.

Top ten training priorities			
	Cambridge	Fenland	SCambs
Bookkeeping			
Creating a website			
Duties of Trustees			
Equality & Diversity			
Food Safety			
First Aid			
Full Cost recovery			
Health & Safety			
Leadership			
Managing a website			
Measuring Outcomes			
Media Skills			
Mental Health Awareness			
Money management			
Presentation skills			
Project Management			
Staff Management			
Strategic planning			
Volunteer Management			
Writing a business plan			
Writing Funding applications			

More than a third of all the groups recognised the need for expert consultancy or one-to-one support over the forthcoming year. As far as methods of communication were concerned most groups preferred the *CCVS Community News* to looking things up on the website.

CCVS will use the analysis of the responses to the annual survey to prioritise and plan work for 2011-12. Already a series of training opportunities is being developed, some based on single areas but others using County-wide funding in order to reach a greater number of groups. Fewer resources will be available for expert consultancy, but communications and information will be a high priority for all the groups that CCVS serve.