Reality check

Enabling the third sector to be real partners

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Some facts

- In 2006, there were **167,405 registered charities in England and Wales**
- **47%** of all registered charities define **children and young people** as **beneficiaries** of their work
- In 2005, the UK voluntary and community sector (VCS) provided **paid employment to 611,000 people**
- Children and young people's organisations employ roughly **between a third and a quarter** (about 160,000) of the numbers employed in the total VCS workforce
- In 2007, **73% of all adults** (31 million in England and Wales) had volunteered (formally or informally) at least once in the last 12 months, with **48%** (20.4 million in England and Wales) having volunteered at least once a month

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We conclude

- there are about **287,000 paid employees** in the voluntary sector working for children's and young people's organisations
- there are about **9.6million volunteers** that give their time at least once a month
- there is a strong tradition of community based youth work, pointing to a **disproportionately large number of volunteers**
- small scale studies show the number of volunteers outnumber that of paid employees by about **10:1**

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We estimate

Third sector organisations in England working with young people employ **50,000 full- and part time staff** and engage **500,000 volunteers.**

The third sector is the largest employer in the youth sector.

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Why don’t we ask:

How do we enable local authorities to be real partners?

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Seriously …

get to know the third sector:

- who provides services?
- who supports and represents?
- what are the sector's needs?

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And then,

place third sector at the heart
of workforce strategies

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And don’t forget to

consider the development needs of volunteers

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Youth workforce reform requires

Balance:

- Begin with the development needs of the largest group
- Encourage volunteers, don’t bar them
- Meet young people’s needs within the context of their communities

Accessibility:

- Provide information to the third sector
- Use established and trusted engagement routes
- Make all programme elements available

Flexibility:

- Learning programmes
- Practical considerations
- In your thinking

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