



Developing a strategic approach to Volunteering in Sheffield

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What do we mean by Volunteering?

Definition of volunteering: (simplified definition)

“People freely giving their time for the benefit of others”

Volunteering must be a choice freely made

It must have mutual benefit for organisation and individual to be worthwhile

Scope of volunteering

Formal volunteering

- Frequent volunteering, Trustees, Pro-bono work, Employer supported volunteering (ESV)

Informal volunteering

- Infrequent, community activity, neighbourly

What does that mean?

- People coming together
- Sharing economy
- Grass roots, bottom up
- Mobilisation of skills and resources (time and effort) to take its full place in the economy
- Designing and developing new services
- Enhancing or delivering existing services

“wealth creation” rather than poverty prevention.

Benefits for Individuals and Society

Important point that volunteering benefits at multiple levels:

- Economic contribution
- Education employment and skills
- Health and wellbeing
- Better connections and connectivity
- More resilient communities
- Improved and enhanced services

Inclusive growth and volunteering

“While volunteering is a mechanism to boost personal, social, financial and cultural resources in order to overcome their exclusion, volunteering also requires access to resources. Those with less resources are less able to gain the associated benefits.”

Southby, K & South, J (2016) Volunteering, Inequalities and Public Health: Barriers to Volunteering. Volunteering Matters London

Economic Contribution

National

- £50 billion+ National contribution to the economy – Andy Haldane 2014

Sheffield

- £500m (economic contribution to the city economy)
- £323m – CRESR State of the Sector 2016 (GVA)

Kings fund report

- £1 investment in a volunteering programme yielded an average return of between £3.38 and £10.46.
- The economic value of volunteering averaged around £700,000 per annum in acute hospital trusts,

Education, employment and skills



“Volunteering builds up your charisma, keeps the engine turning.”

Volunteering for stronger communities

Evaluation report: 2013 (national programme with 15 projects)

- 78% participants were 'disadvantaged in the labour market'.
- 53% had no GCSEs or equivalents.
- 22% found paid work (DWP work programme had a 4% rate at the time)
- Improvements confidence in finding work as well as the practical skills needed to secure paid employment.
- Volunteers on AmeriCorps had a 27% higher likelihood of finding a job
- 92% of participants felt that NCS had helped them develop useful skills for the future

Empowerment and deeper well being



“I felt as though I had something to give again, confidence and a purpose in life”



Health Benefits

Volunteering reduces the incidence of depression, stress, hospitalization, pain and psychological distress
(Casiday et al 2008 – systematic review of 43 studies)

Decrease mortality and to improve self-rated health, mental health, life satisfaction, the ability to carry out activities of daily living without functional impairment, social support and interaction, healthy behaviours and the ability to cope with one's own illness.

(Institute Volunteering Research 2011)

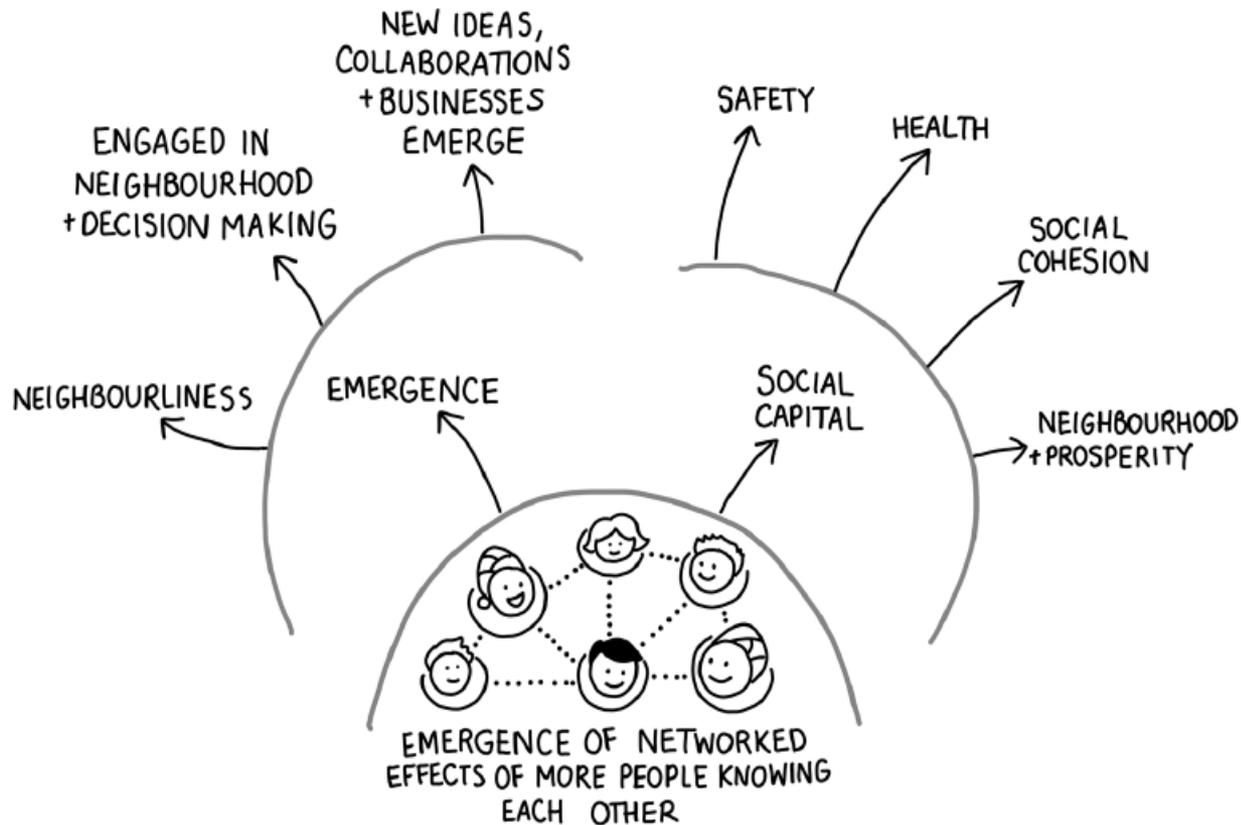
Better connections and connectivity



“He’s alright. He should stay”

Resilient Communities

(Participatory City report)





Improving services

- Engage
- Raise awareness
- Build relationships
- Inform delivery
- Stay relevant
- Deliver in a more effective and efficient way

However organisations do have to invest in supporting volunteering for this to work effectively

Challenges

- Inequality of access – Enabling everyone to contribute to the City
- Investing in volunteering and building capacity for success
- Maximising use of skills
- Mainstreaming volunteering across the city
- Measuring impact in Sheffield

Inequality of access to volunteering



Figure 4 Citizenship Survey 2009-2010, Participation in formal and informal volunteering regularly, by Index of Multiple Deprivation

Enabling access so all can contribute

Individual level

- What will enable people in disadvantaged communities to volunteer and get the benefits?

City level

- Divide between those who do and don't access volunteering won't change without action

Investing in capacity

- Well managed volunteering produces positive outcomes but quality varies significantly.
- Tension between involving volunteers to enhance provision and empowering people to develop skills
- Volunteering can improve services but it's not free, and certainly not a silver bullet for budget cuts

IPPR North Third Sector Trends Survey

The sector depends on regular volunteers, with the smallest organisations valuing volunteering most

Attitudes about the value of volunteers by organisational size

'Agree' or 'strongly agree' with statements	£0–£10,000	£10,001–£50,000	£50,001–£250,000	£250,001–£1m	£1m or more	All
We rely mainly on volunteers who commit time on a very regular basis	85.6%	86.6%	81.7%	79.6%	74.9%	83.1%
We see it as part of our social duty to provide opportunities to volunteers	75.5%	78.5%	84.6%	84.4%	85.8%	81.0%
We could not keep going as an organisation or group without volunteers	92.9%	90.4%	78.3%	59.9%	55.0%	80.6%
We rely mainly on volunteers who can work unsupervised	77.0%	68.6%	53.1%	42.1%	39.8%	60.3%
Many of our volunteers are our service users/ beneficiaries	67.8%	60.2%	58.6%	50.0%	50.0%	59.2%
Supporting volunteers often costs us more than the benefit we get from them	8.2%	11.8%	12.8%	20.2%	14.2%	12.8%
We don't normally take on volunteers unless we have been funded to do so	6.6%	5.7%	5.9%	9.0%	6.9%	6.6%

Source: Third Sector Trends survey 2016

Maximising the use of skills

- Improving the connections and awareness of volunteering so skills are re-distributed across the city.
- 66% of volunteers recruited through word of mouth
 - Disadvantaged communities
 - Employee volunteering

Mainstreaming volunteering

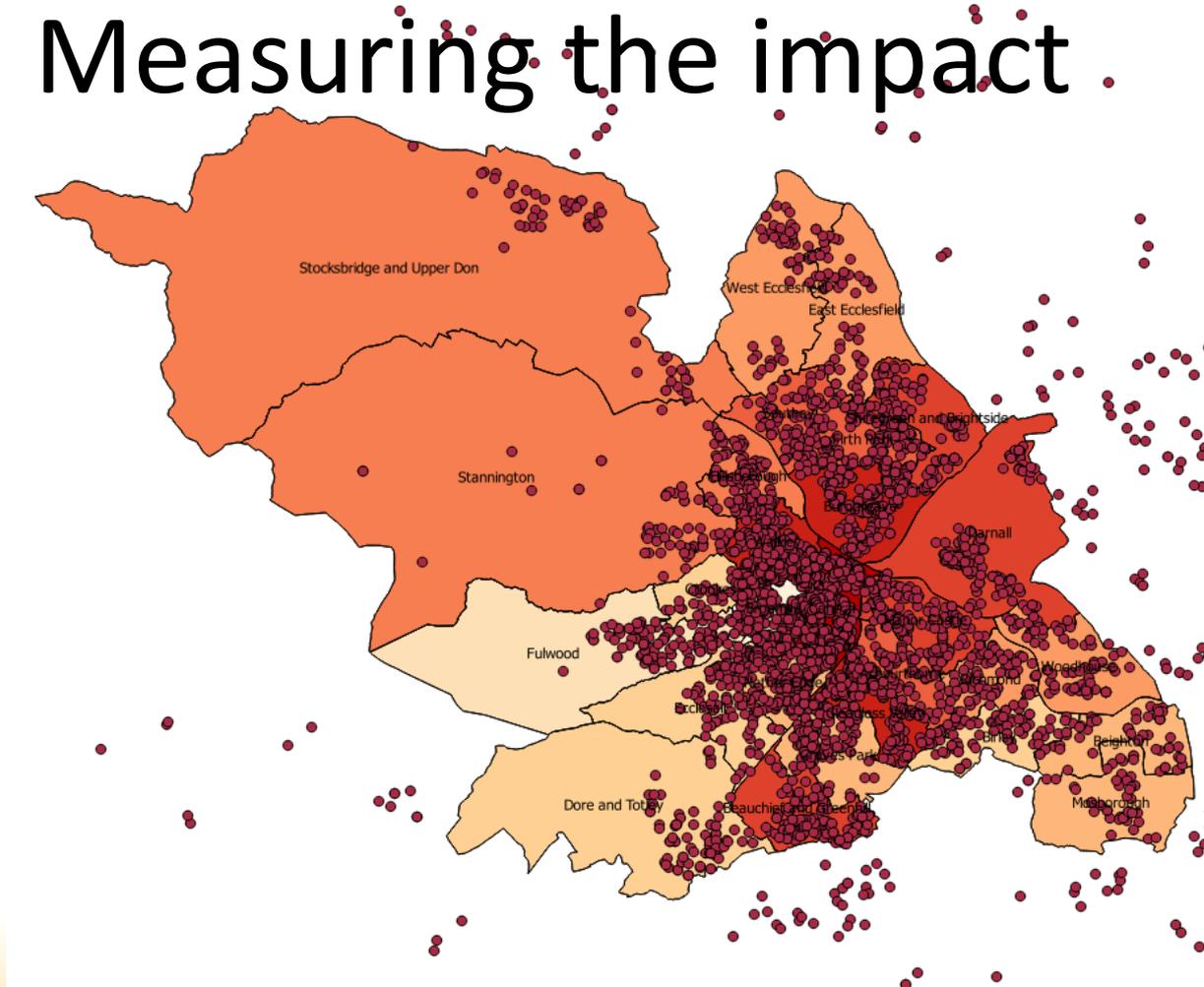
Volunteering is intrinsically linked to inclusive growth agenda but not explicitly recognised.

Sheffield does not have an overview of how volunteering is already included and contributing to existing strategies.

Shift needed from volunteering as a sideline activity to a core asset in delivering growth in the city.



Measuring the impact



Questions

- What is the interdependency between volunteering and our ambitions for inclusive growth?
- How do we best mobilise all of our resources to achieve gains?
- How can a volunteering strategy be better embedded in other city strategies to achieve that?
- What should our ambition be for volunteering on a citywide level? And how will we know?
- Can you nominate someone to attend event on 17th October to take this work forward.