

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND]

CIVIL SERVICE PLACEMENT IN SOUTHEND ON SEA ON BEHALF OF SPES

Sara Graziani

Chiara Piva

COUNTRY FACT SHEET

- **Population** 59,232,000 inhabitants
- **Area** 244,064 sq. km.
- **Population density** 243 inhabitants per sq. km.
(More than 90% of the population lives in urban areas)

■ **Present form of government** Constitutional monarchy

■ **System of government**

Great Britain is a state comprised of four nations: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is divided, on an administrative level, into 9 regions, and subdivided into 47 counties, 7 metropolitan counties and 3 island areas. The present Government has adopted a policy of administrative decentralisation, arranging the central apparatus into autonomous and semi-autonomous organisational units.

■ **European elections**
10-13 June 2004 78 European parliamentarians

■ **Social security and welfare system**

It is practically universal and managed by the Government. In the last few years, this sector has undertaken a policy towards privatisation like the rest of Europe; in fact, the United Kingdom is progressively advancing towards and encouraging workers to substitute the public system with a private one.

■ **Public health system**

The Government has reorganised the public health system in ac-

cordance with the principle of subsidiarity, assigning the responsibility of managing the entire system to the central level. The new local public health authorities are, however, now responsible for the development of strategies for local public health services. Therefore, the public health system is managed locally, with a view to guaranteeing that national priorities are integrated into local planning.

■ **Level of education**

Percentage of young adults (aged 20-24) who have completed secondary schooling (2004): 76.4%
Percentage of the adult population (aged 25-64) who have completed the highest level of secondary schooling (2002): 81.7%

■ **Immigration rate** 3.7% of the present population

■ **Growth rate (2003)**
(report of annual births/deaths per 100 persons): 0.3%

■ **Employment rate (2003)**
Population between the ages of 15-65: 71.8%
65.7% female and 78.1% male
Population between the ages of 55-65: 54.5% female and 65.6% male

■ **Unemployment rate (2003)**
Population between the ages of 15-65: 4.7%
5.4% female and 5.6% male

SAVS

Southend Association for Voluntary Services

Southend Association of Voluntary Services is Southend's Council for Voluntary Services (CVS).

Established in 1980, SAVS has become the acknowledged support and co-ordinating agency for the local voluntary and community sector, and it acts as a liaison point between statutory organisations and members of the public.

SAVS members represent people with various disabilities, the young, the not so young, ethnic minorities and campaigners. The task of SAVS is to assist these organisations by supporting them in their work through providing practical assistance, resources, information, training and advice. In short, doing everything possible to increase the effectiveness of the local voluntary sector.

As an umbrella organisation, SAVS is the best place to identify and address the needs of the volunteer and the voluntary sector as a whole. SAVS is constantly in touch with its membership (180 voluntary and community organisations), together with the wider community, and distributes to a mailing list of over 1,000 groups in the Southend area at least 3 times a year. It also offers monthly newsletters to its members, forums, direct mailings, training, talks, public meetings, exhibitions and fairs.

Over the years, SAVS has earned an excellent reputation for itself by promoting the work and activities of the voluntary sector within Southend and beyond.

[CONTACT]

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES (SAVS)

29/31 Alexandra Street

Southend on Sea, SS1 1BW - United Kingdom

www.savs-southend.co.uk

[Maureen Frewin]

PARTNER CENTRE FACT SHEET

SAVS

■ Population served 160,300

■ Geographic area Southend on Sea 50 sq.km.

■ Organisations members 210

■ Organisations served 300

■ People employed full-time 12
part-time 15

<p>■ Number of volunteers</p>	<p>on the Board and in controlling organs in services and activities</p>	<p>15 20</p>
<hr/>		
<p>■ Annual budget year 2004</p>	<p>1,200,000 Euro</p>	
<hr/>		
<p>■ Agencies</p>	<p>SAVS Centre Registered Office 2 Additional Offices in Southend-on-Sea</p>	
<hr/>		
<p>■ Services offered</p>	<p>Training Advice Information Practical resources Representation International networking <i>other</i> Regeneration Volunteer Bureau Community Café Social Enterprise</p>	<p>X X X X X X</p>

INDEX - United Kingdom

SECTOR OVERVIEW	p. 45	5.2 The Local Compact	46
1. Historical background	45	6. Regulations, organisations and provisions to promote and qualify volunteering	46
2. Importance of the third sector and volunteering from a statistical viewpoint	46	6.1 Councils for Voluntary Service	46
2.1 Charities in figures	46	6.2 National Association of Councils for Voluntary Service	46
2.2 The voluntary sector workforce	46	6.3 National Council for Voluntary Organisations	46
2.3 Staff and working hours: full-time, part-time	46	6.4 Government Active Community Unit	46
2.4 The workforce: gender, ethnic origin, disability	46	6.5 Charity Aid Foundation	46
3. Economic importance and forms of funding	46	6.6 Volunteering England	46
3.1 Donations	46	6.7 Volunteer Centres	46
3.2 The national lottery	46	7. Society and institutional outlook on the role of volunteering	46
4. Juridical and organisational forms of principal not for profit entities	46	7.1 The Millennium Volunteers Scheme and plans to involve the young in volunteering	46
4.1 Defining a general charity	46	7.2 The Millennium Volunteers Scheme and the National Volunteer Scheme for Young People	46
4.2 Principal entities: an outline	46	7.3 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	46
4.3 Defining a charity	46	7.4 Entrepreneurial funding and sustainable funding	46
4.4 Why become a charity	46	7.5 New Government policies regarding the sector	46
4.5 Regional variations in the recognition of charitable status	46	SUPPORT BODIES	46
5. Relations with public institutions	46	1. Essex Association of Councils for Voluntary Service	46
5.1 The Compact	46		

1.1 Service and support	46	<i>Organisations interviewed</i>	46
1.2 Networking	46		
1.3 Representation	46		
1.4 Development of the sector	46	<i>Bibliography</i>	46
1.5 Strategic partnerships	46		
1.6 EACVS Members	46		
2. Southend Association of Voluntary Service	46		
2.1 Volunteer Bureau	46		
2.2 Advance Partnership	46		
2.3 Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	46		
2.4 Children's Fund Programme	46		
3. Volunteer Centre North Lanarkshire	46		
3.1 Volunteer Centre Network - Scotland	46		
ABOUT VOLUNTEER ORGANISATIONS	46		
1. Legal status, organisational structure and financial resources	46		
2. Territorial range, human resources and relationships with other bodies	46		
3. Areas of activity, goals and typology of beneficiaries	46		

Overview of the sector

VOLUNTEERING ACROSS EUROPE

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of not for profit organisations in the United Kingdom has been characterised by the gradual evolution and institutionalisation of voluntary activities, and of the relationship with the State. An essential element in the development of the sector has always been the varying balance in the provision of services between the main economic sectors of society: the State, the private sector and voluntary sector. The formalisation of philanthropy can be traced back more than four hundred years to the codification of the “Poor Laws” at the end of the 16th century, and the introduction of the “Statute of Charitable Uses” in 1601. The Statute of Charitable Uses was a first attempt by members of the Tudor dynasty to provide social policies capable of confronting ever more widespread poverty and crime in early seventeenth century England.

The Statute recognised those activities of clear benefit to the community, and placed under Crown protection: assistance to the elderly and sick, road maintenance, help to the poor and the promotion of commerce. The Poor Laws delegated the responsibility to the parish overseer, who provided relief for the aged, sick and infant poor, as well as work for the able-bodied in workhouses - all activities funded from within the parish itself. The new legislation enabled the Tudors to contain and control social problems of the time, principally caused by the agrarian crisis and urban overpopulation.

Another major advance attributable to the Statute of Charitable Uses was the introduction of officials to supervise and regulate the activities of charitable organisations; a fact which contributed in no small measure to fostering popular trust in their activities - a phenomenon which continues to this day and from which charitable organisations continue to benefit. In the same period, the Reformation, by relaxing the stronghold of the Catholic Church and facilitating the gradual handover of management to members of the aristocracy and the middle class, helped move towards the secularisation of charitable work.

Further progress was marked by the Mortmain Act of 1736, which significantly increased the number of activities that could be granted legally recognised charitable status. These included hitherto disregarded spheres of activity such as the protection of animals and the management of museums.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the Industrial Revolution saw a still more massive growth in urban population, a boom that radically transformed major cities such as London, Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds. Many of the most prestigious British charities such as *Barnardo’s*, *the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)*, *the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)*, *the Salvation Army* and *the Shaftesbury Society*, were founded in this period in an effort to meet the radically changing social needs.

In 1793, the Rose’s Act formally recognised Friendly Societies, mutual-aid organisations formed voluntarily by in-

dividuals to protect members against debts incurred through illness, death or old age. The close of the century was marked by frequent debate over the effectiveness of charitable institutions in providing social and economic relief.

In 1853, following years of inquiries into the work of British charities by the Whig reformer Henry Brougham, the government set up the "Charity Commission" to oversee and regulate the activities of all charities in England and Wales. This was effectively the first real step towards the development of a national policy aimed at regulating and supporting charitable organisations. In the same period, the idea began to spread that the poor could be divided into two categories: those "deserving" of help and the "undeserving", who were considered to live in misery because they were morally weak or work-shy. These beliefs, which still influence contemporary society, led to the "Poor Law Amendment Act" of 1834, an updated version of the old Poor laws, which ascribed the State the task of dealing with the needs of the "undeserving" poor.

Instead, voluntary organisations assisted the "deserving" poor through setting up *workhouses*, in which the poor were given room and board in exchange for employment. In 1871, the Royal Commission officially recognised several kinds of recently developed forms of voluntary organisations which had been founded in the meantime, including trade unions, building and housing societies and consumer associations.

By 1885, some of the biggest London-based charities could boast funds superior to certain European governments. Despite the undoubted progress, however, widespread poverty persisted and the means of providing social relief remained woefully inadequate. Many middle-class reformers became convinced that more active intervention towards social welfare was necessary. State involvement in the provision of social services began to increase significantly towards the end of the 19th century, culminating with the creation of the welfare state by the first post-war Labour government. This resulted in a profound and lasting change throughout the social sector, comparable only to the introduction of the Charitable Uses Act. The fact that the State was now responsible for many social services, which up till then

had been the province of charities, meant that charitable organisations themselves had to face a series of questions over what their future role was to be.

The Charity Act of 1960 established the Central Register of Charities, to which all charities were obliged to register and to provide annual accounts of their finances. The predominant role of the State in providing social services and social research was only interrupted towards the end of the 1970s under the governments of Margaret Thatcher and John Major (1979-1997). The welfare state was blamed for creating a sub-class of citizens totally dependent on State benefits and for soaking up funds that could otherwise be used for investment. The duty of the State to provide welfare services was certainly still recognised; what were required were new methods. The public and private sectors were to be integrated according to the philosophy of the free market. There were to be partnerships based on pure competition. Very swiftly, the State found that running a welfare system thus devised was impossible. Voluntary organisations again came to the fore in affirming their role and importance which coincided with the first electoral victory for new Labour Party in 1997.

Although it is still too soon to speak of the birth of a new theory of social policy, the current strategies and the model of welfare services are completely different to the past: midway between free market theories and state collectivism. The expression *third way* was coined to differentiate this approach from the previous two: the *first way*, represented by liberalism and individualism expressed by the Conservative Party, and the traditional *second way* of the social democrats. The *third way* attempts to take the best of both preceding strategies. The cardinal elements of this new approach are the recognition of the fundamental role of the State in creating the conditions whereby the market can develop - thus diminishing unemployment, in supporting self-help programmes for the family, education, the spread of anti-discrimination and equal opportunities policies and in the creation of partnerships between the public, private and not for profit sectors to provide welfare and social services of quality. In fact, in recent years the third sector has received unprecedented attention

and support and now benefits from a number of specially devised tax incentives¹.

2. IMPORTANCE AND EXTENT OF CHARITIES FROM A STATISTICAL VIEWPOINT

It is estimated that there are 153,000² active charities in the UK. Indicators of the extent of the sector and its economic impact in 2002 are as follows: the total income amounts to £ 20.8 billion; operating expenditure amounts to £ 20.4 billion; accumulated assets are worth £ 70.1 billion; the paid workforce comprises 569,000³ employees (2% of the total paid workforce), of which two thirds are part-time.

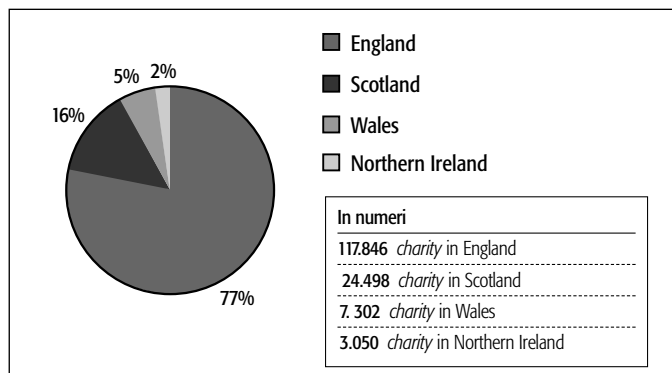
Findings from the 2002 Home Office Citizenship Survey estimate that: 27% of the population has undertaken voluntary work through organisations, groups or clubs of various kinds at least once a month; 39% of the population has undertaken voluntary work at least once during the year.

2.1 CHARITIES IN FIGURES

At the beginning of 2002, 152,696 charities were counted, with a significant increase over recent years, in comparison with 98,000 in 1991 and 120,000 in 1994. It is possible to attribute this expansion not only to the actual numerical growth in organisations, which has indeed occurred, but also to a more efficient registration system, providing a more accurate count. Figures published more recently by the

Charity Commission⁴ confirm the growth in the number of charities:

Charities per geographical area in 2002



Source: Charity Commission, NCVO; NICVA; SCVO; WCVA.

Looking back at the previous graph, it is evident that three quarters of charities are located in England; the data can be interpreted differently if related to the percentage of population in the various geographical areas considered. Therefore, if the total population of the UK is distributed as follows: 78.54% in England⁵, 8.43% in Scotland, 4.76% in Wales, 2.67% in Northern Ireland - it is clear that the data for Scotland is the most surprising, as the ratio between the number of charities and the population almost doubles those for the other nations. Despite the exceptional situation of Scotland, there is clearly a close correlation between population density and the incidence of charities. It is also evident that voluntary activity is mainly locally based, in so far as the majority of organisations, 82.1%, define themselves as local operators, whilst only 9.5% operate nationally and 8.4% internationally.

¹Kendall J. and Knapp M. *The voluntary sector in the UK*, Manchester, Manchester University Press, 1996.

Salamon L. and Anheier H., *Defining the nonprofit sector: A cross-national analysis*, Manchester, Manchester University Press, 1997.

To consult the *Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project*, a systematic comparison of all aspects of the third sector in a broad cross-section of countries, see: www.jhu.edu/~cnp/.

²Charity Commission's Register of Charities, NCVO publication, *The UK Voluntary Sector Almanac*, London, 2004.

³NCVO publication, *The UK Voluntary Sector Almanac*, London, 2004.

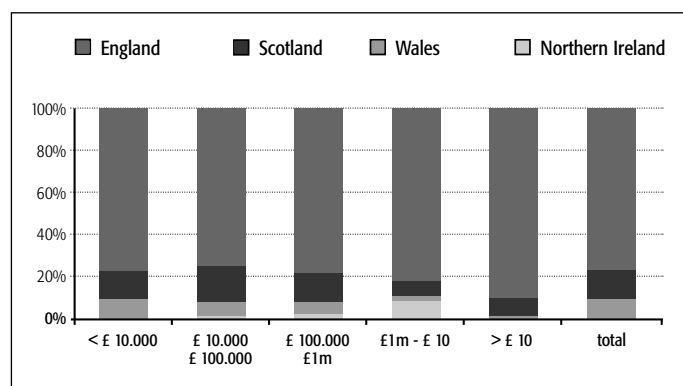
⁴Cf. www.charity-commission.gov.uk.

⁵Cf. data obtained from the website: www.sapere.it.

Total number of charities per income class in 2002⁶

under £ 10.000 ⁷	between £ 10.000 and 100.000	between £ 100.000 and 1 milion	between £ 1 milione e 100 milioni	over £ 100 milioni	total
Registered Charities (England and Wales)					
100.159	42.838	15.382	3.535	421	162.335
General Charity (whole of UK: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland)					
90.713	43.800	15.785	2.167	232	152.696

Number of charities per extent of income



Source: *Charity Commission, NCVO; NICVA; SCVO; WCVA.*

⁶This table distinguishes between Registered Charities and General Charities, the latter category being a sub-category of the former, which is restricted as follows: non-departmental public bodies and *quangos* (such as the British Council and the British Museum); educational establishments, including universities and Voluntary-Aided Schools, recognised as “exempt” charities and predominantly founded by the government; National Health System (NHS) administered charities and private health care providers; financial institutions that are allocated to the private sector in National Accounts, such as Charities Official Investment Funds (COIF); cooperatives; mutual organisations such as friendly societies and building societies, housing associations, sports clubs and associations and independent schools; religious organisations where their primary concern is the support and promotion of religion.

⁷These figures represent the total annual income of a charity, and have been divided into five association groups, on the basis of their annual income.

⁸NCVO publication, *The UK Voluntary Sector Almanac*, London, 2004.

⁹*Labour Force Survey 2002*, the LFS is a wide-scale survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics. It provides details on employment in comparative terms between the public, private and non-for-profit sectors. The data in this section also refers to two other important surveys carried out on the UK voluntary sector: the *Annual Voluntary Sector Salary Survey*, providing data on salaries for 2003, and *Futureskills 2003*, an in-depth survey carried out by the Voluntary Sector National Training Organisation, providing details on recruitment and skills requirements for employees in the voluntary sector.

2.2 THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR WORKFORCE

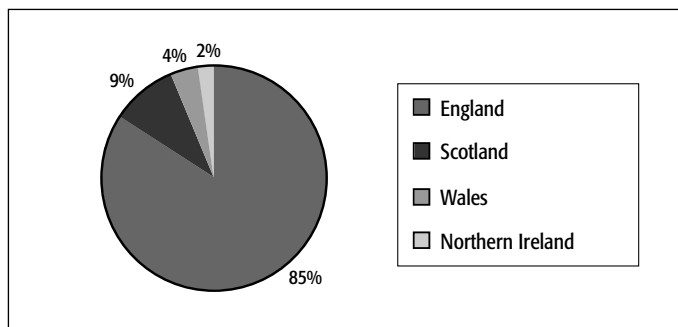
The third sector in the UK has long been an important source of employment both in terms of paid employment, and in terms of opportunities offered to all those who, for various reasons, fall outside of the for-profit sector. The voluntary sector workforce is traditionally divided into two groups: voluntary and paid workers. The former group is divided into volunteers and trustees, the latter into part-time and full-time workers. Most organisations are predominantly made up of volunteers, but there is an increasing tendency to recruit paid staff, due to the growing demand for service delivery. The involvement of paid personnel is justified by the need to integrate and coordinate the work initiated and progressed by the volunteers. The staff must, of course, be duly motivated and trained, but the lack of skill and experience limits the efficiency of the sector. It is estimated that there were 569,000 (2002 data) employees in the voluntary sector in 2002. This figure includes both part-time and full-time workers and corresponds to 2%⁹ of the paid workforce in the UK (that is, 1 in 50 paid workers operate in this sector).

Total number of employees between 1995 and 2002 in the various sectors

	1995	1998	2000	2002
Private sector	19.095.000	20.288.000	20.711.000	21.054.000
Public sector	6.042.000	5.940.000	6.246.000	6.268.000
Voluntary Sector	478.000	536.000	563.000	569.000
Total	25.616.000	26.764.000	27.520.000	27.891.000

The percentage of employees in the voluntary sector has risen by 1.1% between 2000 and 2002, and the geographical distribution corresponds, essentially, to that registered in the other sectors (public and private): at least 9 out of 10 paid workers are located in England. However, this data also has a more realistic interpretation if we relate the number of employees to the population of the various geographical areas, as previously indicated. The employee data go somewhat against the trend in relation to the earlier data on the high presence of charities in Scotland.

Employees in the voluntary sector per geographical area



Source: LFS.

Distribution of employees in charities divided according to annual income class

	< 100k	100.000 - 1 m	1 m - 10 m	>10 m	Totale
1994-95	17,2%	29,2%	27,3%	26,2%	100%
1997	14,9%	36,1%	29,2%	19,9%	100%
2001-2002	11,4%	30,7%	27,1%	30,7%	100%

Source: NCVO, NICVA, SCVO, WCVA, ONS

Charities with paid staff within each annual income class

	<10k	10k - 100k	100k - 1 m	>1 m - 10 m	>10 m
2002	4,2%	24,2%	72,9%	91,2%	96,7%

Source: NCVO, NICVA, SCVO, WCVA, ONS.

2.3 STAFF AND WORKING HOURS: FULL-TIME, PART-TIME

The third sector, and the voluntary sector in particular, continues to attract employees mainly due to the flexible working conditions and the possibility of working part-time, in so far as 78% of part-time employees have chosen this option, and only 1 in 10 have not been able to obtain full-time work.

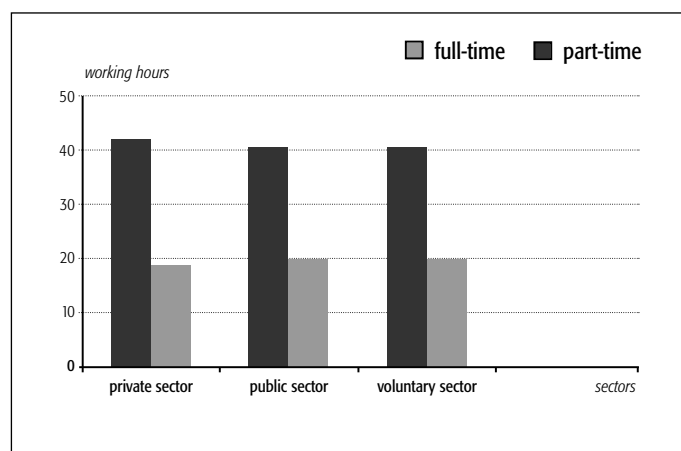
Distribution of full-time and part-time workers in the three sectors (absolute values in thousands and %)

	Full- time	Part-time	Totale
Private sector	16.180 (76,8%)	4.874 (23,2%)	21.054 (100%)
Public sector	4.396 (70,1%)	1.872 (29,9%)	6.268 (100%)
Voluntary sector	366 (64,3%)	203 (35,7%)	569 (100%)
Total	20.941 (75,1%)	6.950 (24,9%)	27.891 (100%)

Source: LFS, NCVO publication, *The UK Voluntary Sector Almanac, 2004.*

Expenditure in the sector for paid staff is estimated to be around 43.2% of the total expenditure, amounting to £ 8.8 billion. It is interesting to note the relationship between salary and scope of the organisation; with regard to roles of responsibility, the gap between salaries received in the large and small organisations is widening, whereas this gap is narrowing with regard to non-managerial roles.

Distribution of full-time and part-time workers in the three main sectors



Source: LFS.

2.4 THE WORKFORCE: GENDER, ETHNIC ORIGIN, DISABILITY

The LFS¹⁰ provides certain details on the voluntary sector workforce: 5.6% of workers in the sector are of ethnic origin, two thirds of employees are female. There is also a close relationship between gender and the choice of part-time or full-time work, since the majority of women prefer to work part-time rather than full-time, whilst men have the opposite tendency.

Employees per gender in the various sectors

¹⁰The classification provided by the LFS and readapted for this purpose gives an accurate picture of the activities in which paid work is predominantly based.

¹¹Barbetta G.P., Cima S., *Le istituzioni no profit in Italia, Dimensioni organizzative, economiche e sociali*, (Non-profit organisations in Italy, Organisational, economic and social dimensions), Milan, 2003.

	Men	Women
Private Sector	61.1%	38.9%
Public Sector	36.6%	63.4%
Voluntary sector	33.5%	66.5%

Source: LFS.

Some 10.1% of workers in the sector have a disability, a slightly higher proportion than that existing in the private sector (8.5%) and the public sector (8.6%). A further 6% of workers are defined as having a disability which in no way affects their work.

In 2002, a fall was registered in the percentage of disabled employees in the voluntary sector, whilst this same percentage rose in the public and private sectors. This trend could be interpreted as the result of a greater awareness on the part of the latter two sectors with regard to the disability issue, resulting in a subsequent improvement in employment access for the disabled, which had previously been available to a large extent only in the voluntary sector.

The following table analyses the incidence of paid workers in certain employment sectors: the social services, and activities relating to education and culture, employ the highest number of paid workers; employment is, however, rare in the hospital services, which can be attributed to the existence of the National Health Service, which unlike other sectors, such as the education sector, has not been privatised by neo-liberal British governments¹¹. The strong growth in the education sector and social services, however, continues to follow a positive trend, as in these areas the Labour Government has pursued the privatisation policies initiated by the Conservative Governments, developing cooperative relationships between the public and non-profit sectors.

Activities and employees in the voluntary sector (absolute values in thousands and %)

Social work (residential)	51.0	(9%)
Social work (other)	238.2	(41%)
Activities relating to religion	33.4	(5.9%)
Construction, sale of real estate goods	24.0	(4.2%)
Hospital activities	24.2	(4.3%)
General, secondary education	24.5	(4.3%)
Primary education	12.4	(2.2%)
Special education, primary	9.0	(1.6%)
Other membership activities	18.5	(3.3%)
Museum activities	12.3	(2.2%)
Retail sale of various items	8.6	(1.5%)
Other	112.9	(19.8%)

Source: LFS. System used: Standard Industrial Classification System (SIC 92).

3. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE AND FORMS OF FUNDING

The indicators of the economic extent and importance of the third sector in Britain, in 2002, are as follows¹²:

- The total income amounts to £ 20.8 billion in 2002 (£ 21.2 billion in 2001), thus registering a fall in real terms of £ 429 million, between 2001 and 2002 (2%).
- Two thirds of the total income is generated by just under 2,400 charities.
- Accumulated assets are worth £ 70.1 billion.
- Income received from the public sector corresponds to 37% and represents the greatest source of income.
- Contribution to the UK GDP is £72 billion (the UK GDP is equivalent to £ 184,667¹³ per capita for a population of about 59 million inhabitants).

¹² NCVO publication, *The UK Voluntary Sector Almanac*, London, 2004.

¹³ www.britishembassy.gov.uk.

In the voluntary sector in particular, the most significant source of income is the public sector, which accounts for 37% of the total income, whilst investments from organisations amount to just 10% of the total income, and another 5% of the income derives from other organisations by means of grants.

Sources of income in 2002 and 2001 (%)

	Income derived from the sale of services and other activities		Income derived from donations (voluntary income)		Proceeds from investments		Total	
	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001
Service users	16,8	15,5	19,9	21,8	0,0	0,0	36,6	37,3
Public sector	17,7	15,8	19,5	18,9	0	0,0	37,0	34,7
Private sector	1,8	1,8	2,5	3,9	0	0,0	4,3	5,7
Voluntary organisat.	1,3	1,2	5,3	5,7	0	0,0	6,6	6,8
Other sources	5,2	5	0	0	10,0	10,5	15,5	15,5
Total	42,9	39,3	47,1	50,2	10,0	10,5	100,0	100,0

From the table above, in which the incomes for 2001 and 2002 are compared, the increasing importance of the public sector as a source of funding for the not for profit sector is evident, as is the significant growth in gains deriving from the sale of goods.

With regard to the increase in public intervention, as can also be seen below, there is a tendency, on the part of the government, to allow the activities of the voluntary sector to be seen as part of the deli-

very of public services, substantially on a par with the business world. In confirmation of this, when comparing the figures with those of the preceding year, it can be seen that the only growing source of income in real terms is precisely that deriving from the public sector, registering an increase of £ 382 million, corresponding to 5.2%. Considering the various types of sources guaranteeing annual income to the sector, this continues to be characterised by the importance of grants and donations, which together represent half of the income, amounting to £ 9.8 billion (2002). These sources of income are particularly important for the smaller organisations, whose activities are regionally based.

A smaller proportion corresponds to income obtained from the sale of goods or services, amounting to £ 8.9 billion. Financial investments are certainly a genuine basis for sustaining a charity's activities, but these types of income also bring their own problems, such as the inherent risks of such activities; the negative perception arising from fruitless transactions or from relationships being established with financial entities which are not compatible with the objectives of the investor association.

In the case of share investments, larger organisations have the advantage of being able to amortize the market fluctuations, as they are in a better position to establish relationships with public agencies, unlike the smaller associations.

3.1 DONATIONS¹⁴

This source of income is important not only due to its significant financial contribution to the not for profit sector, but especially as the participation and involvement of the public in funding voluntary organisations is an important indicator of the trust that civil society places in the activities and the role of charities.

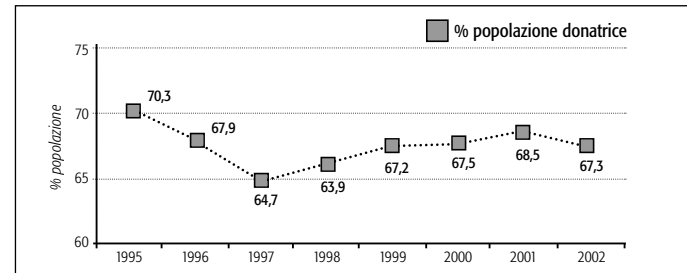
The donor profile has on the whole remained the same over recent years:

- 71% of women donate on a monthly basis.
- 63% of men donate on a monthly basis.

- With regard to age bands, the highest donors are those aged between 55 and 64 (73% donate an average of £ 15 per month).
- In the 16 to 24 age bracket, however, 56.1% donate £ 6.97 per month.

Trend in donations (1995-2002)

Fonte: NCVO.



How people donate

	% donors	% donations
Street collections	20.9	2.9
Door to door	15.6	3.5
Raffles and lotteries	13.8	5.2
Charity shop purchases	11.8	7.4
Shop counter collections	10.3	1.5
Church collections	10.1	11.8
Sponsorship	7.9	11.9
Office collections	6.4	4.2
Purchasing goods for charities	5.0	3.1
Pub collections	4.9	1.7
Buying a magazine	3.5	1.7
Participating in charity events	3.4	8.3
Subscriptions	2.7	3.7
Covenants	2.5	8.7
Through TV or radio promotions	2.0	1.9
By telephone	1.0	1.1
Other	5.7	9.6

¹⁴See website: www.allaboutgiving.org.

This table illustrates the various ways in which donors make their contributions to charity activities.

Medical research and youth charities receive the highest number of donations, amounting to a third of the total donations. Religious organisations also continue to benefit from a large amount of support from the public.

3.2 THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

Funds distributed as a result of the national lottery are an important source of income for the UK voluntary sector.

Despite a decline in popularity of the lottery, it continues to make a significant contribution to many voluntary organisations. Important changes have been made over recent years to the distribution system for the monies collected; the Government, in fact, has undertaken to allocate part of the lottery proceeds to sports, the arts, heritage and the voluntary sector, through the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund.

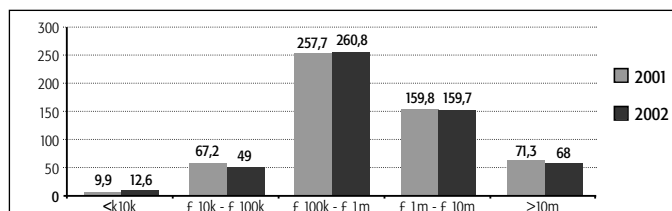
Lottery revenue has thus been distributed across five “good causes”: charities, sports, the arts, heritage (16.7 % allocated to each one) and the New Opportunities Fund which has distributed 33.3% of the funds to the health, education and environment sectors. The 16.7% awarded to charities has been distributed entirely by the Community Fund.

In fact, many charities are also in receipt of funds from other lottery distributors. According to statistics published by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, charities were awarded £ 333 million in 2002.

According to the data provided by the charities themselves, the sum of lottery funding received amounts to 2.6% of the sector’s total income, equalling £ 550 million, representing a drop in funding in comparison with the preceding year.

Income, in real terms, generated by the lottery per size of organisation (£ million)

Source: NCVO.



The lottery was initially expected to reach a hypothetical revenue level of £ 750 million, for the staging of the London Olympic Games, but if this objective is not achieved (and according to experts in the sector, it is indeed unlikely to occur), the part destined to the voluntary sector will only be increased by modifying the amounts established up until 2009.

Another issue, which is of concern to experts of the sector, is that the need to defend the independence of the so-called fund “distributors” is left open to debate, and it is suspected that the Government would like these to come under its direct control, thus enabling it to intervene in the selection of budget entities and the projects to be supported. Furthermore, it is important to note that charities enjoy special tax treatment. Tax relief for 2002/2003 amounted to £ 2.8 billion, compared to £ 2.6 billion for 1997/1998.

4. JURIDICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL FORMS OF PRINCIPAL NOT FOR PROFIT ENTITIES

Freedom of association is recognised in the United Kingdom, but there is no legally coded law of association. It is not even possible to trace a commonly accepted legal definition of what constitutes a not for profit organisation. Broadly speaking, it could be said that a not for profit organisation is constituted by two or more people who freely join together to pursue a common purpose other than that of profit-making¹⁵. There are two fundamental elements that must be conside-

red to establish a not for profit organisation: its legal status and the nature of its aims.

Every voluntary association, whatever its size, must have a “governing document”, in which there are a series of internal regulations - “governing uses” - which sets out the mission and the objectives it intends to reach through its activities. The characteristics and the form of the regulations, as well as the rights and duties of members and the composition of its internal operating and management structure, will depend on the form of the legal status it intends on adopting. Almost all voluntary organisations are governed by a committee, whose members’ official titles vary according to the legal status of the organisation. Similarly, the rights and duties of members will be defined according to the chosen formula of association.

The United Kingdom is distinguished by a mixed economy of welfare whereby social and welfare services are provided by statutory bodies, formal and informal volunteerism¹⁶ and the private for profit sector. However, it has never been easy to obtain a precise and widely accepted definition of the third sector or the world of volunteerism. Moreover, the overlapping of limits between one sector and another, along with the development of new organisational models, such as social enterprises¹⁷, has made the distinction even more complicated than in the past. Established definitions have made use of differences in organisational types based on legal structure, aims and external relations. In this report, the definition of the third sector is the one adopted by British Prime Minister Tony Blair in the policy document “Private Action, Public Benefit”¹⁸; a definition which was also taken up by some of the principal institutions that have studied the sector including

the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the NCVO. The criteria for the recognition of voluntary organisations are as follows:

- Formalisation: the organisational structure, the people and the activities undertaken must be subject to a recognised statute or specific regulations and procedures.
- Independence: organisations must be formally and institutionally independent and separate from both the public and the private sectors.¹⁹
- No distribution of profit: organisations must not distribute profits either internally to their members or to external stakeholders.²⁰
- Autonomy: organisations must be effectively independent in determining their own activity.
- Voluntary: organisations must include a high proportion of volunteers in the management of their activities.
- Public interest: organisations must operate for the benefit of the public interest at large and not for the exclusive advantage of its own members.

4.1 DEFINING A GENERAL CHARITY

Throughout this report, unless otherwise specified, research data and subsequent discussion have referred to general charities. The original definition of general charity was formulated for the first time by the Office for National Statistics in a report published in 1990-91. General charities are defined as all those organisations registered with

¹⁶ Informal volunteerism is to be understood as when an individual donates his or her help. Formal volunteerism should be understood as when help is donated through the actions of a group, club or association.

¹⁷ A vast range of organisations, including cooperatives, small locally based enterprises or commercial branches of established charities, that use commercial activity to reach aims of social interest such as job creation, the development of geographically and/or economically disadvantaged areas or the provision of services.

¹⁸ Prime Minister’s Strategy Unit, *Private Action, Public Benefit*, London, September 2002.

¹⁹ This criterion excludes institutions belonging to the State, registered charities that are also non-departmental public bodies (NDPB) or quasi non-governmental organisations (*quangos*) such as the *British Council*, the *Arts Council* and the *British Museum*. This definition led to the exclusion of a significant number of charitable associations.

²⁰ A stakeholder: an individual or group who holds an interest in a group or organisation and are in a position to influence its programmes, products or services. This criterion does not include the management of commercial activities for profit, providing that any profits are destined towards the reaching of the charitable aims for which the organisation has been founded.

the Charity Commission²¹ in England and Wales, with the Charities Register (CRIS) run by the SCVO in Scotland or the equivalent database run by the NICVA in Northern Ireland - with the exception of organisations that are also financial institutions or government organs (such as the British Council). It is one of the most selective of the existing definitions, excluding around 40% of registered charities with an annual income above 15,000 Euro ca.

4.2 PRINCIPAL ENTITIES: AN OUTLINE

The table below²² shows the principal organisational types currently to be found in the United Kingdom, with a brief examination of their respective legal status and the consequent advantages and disadvantages for their operation.

Summary of the principal organisational types of not for profit organisations			
TYPE OF ORGANISATION	EQUIVALENCE AND MAIN CHARACTERISTICS	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<p>Unincorporated association Simple associations of people who meet to further commonly held social interests or needs, or in answer to a common need that has emerged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple (de facto) voluntary associations. • If they meet the necessary requirements they may register as a charity²³ and request legal status. They represent the most widespread form of voluntary organisation in the UK. They are also the most difficult to quantify, given the absence of norms and controls. 	<p>Because of the relative lack of regulation, establishing unincorporated associations is quick and economical. If an unincorporated association is registered as a charity, it acquires all derived advantages²⁴.</p>	<p>As they have no legal status, in many respects they remain a group of single individuals who meet together. In England and Wales, they are obliged to register with the Register of Charities²⁵ of the Charity Commission if they declare charitable aims and possess an annual income above 1,500 Euro.</p>
<p>Charitable trusts Simple organisations that may be defined as "organised assets for a not for profit objective."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations. • On the basis of their institutional mission, it is possible to distinguish between operative foundations, focused on <i>carrying out</i> charitable 	<p>They may be established quickly and economically and have relatively low management costs. Given their charitable aims, they are obliged to register as charities and</p>	<p>They have no legal personality. They are not democratic organisations as they do not necessarily include members, and usually the administrators are the only</p>

²¹ A government organisation established by law as the regulator and registrar for charities in England and Wales. Cf. Historical introduction.

²² The information summarised in this table was collated from: Reason Jacki, Hayes Ruth e Forbes Duncan, *Voluntary but not Amateur - A guide to the law for voluntary organisations and community groups*, London, London Voluntary Service Council, (6th ed., 2000).

²³ For a definition of a *charity* see the paragraph below.

²⁴ For a more detailed analysis of the financial and fiscal regulations concerning charities go to: www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/menus/charity.htm

²⁵ An official register where only organisations whose *charitable status* has been approved by the *Charity Commission* are eligible.

	works and <i>grant-making</i> foundations that “give”. The most common of these are the grant-making trusts, organisations responsible for the distribution of funds to other voluntary associations. They may request legal personality.	may thus obtain fiscal benefits.	people empowered to take organisational decisions. As a charity, they are regulated by the Charity Commission.
Companies limited by guarantee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A not for profit organisation limited by guarantee with legal personality. • A guarantee company that does not have shareholders and the profits are reinvested within the company. 	They have legal personality. They cannot distribute their profits to their members, and are therefore eligible to register as charities and obtain the derived fiscal benefits.	As companies they are required to register with the Register of Companies, and as such are bound by company law. As they are limited by guarantee, all the associates must give an undertaking to contribute a nominal amount towards the winding up of the company in the event of a shortfall upon cessation of business. If they are registered charities they must respond to the Charity Commission.
Industrial and Provident Society (IPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social cooperatives: they conduct businesses operating as industrial or commercial cooperatives. • This type of organisational structure is suitable for medium size and large organisations. 	They have juridical personality. If they have charitable status they may apply to the Inland Revenue to obtain the same fiscal benefits as a registered charity.	They may not register as a charity and are therefore ineligible to receive donations from charitable trusts. They are obliged to register with the Register of Friendly Societies and to abide by its regulations.
Friendly Societies Self-help societies, created to help persons in case of economic hardship.	Mutual associations. They continue to foster savings and provide financial services, in particular funds and pension plans, health care insurance and banking activities, under the spirit of mutualism. Many of these services, moreover, have ad hoc tax exemptions for their members.	If they meet the necessary requirements, they may apply to register as a charity and obtain the derived fiscal benefits. Their organisational structure is particularly suited to small associations dedicated to mutual self-help.	They are not a legal entity. If they have charitable status they are only required to register with the Registry of Friendly Societies. However they are still obliged to submit to the provisions and regulations of the Charity Commission.

4.3 DEFINING A CHARITY

There are certain procedures concerning the legal recognition of what constitutes a charity that are only found in the United Kingdom. Independently from its internal structure (except for IPS) any voluntary organisation may be defined a charity once its “Charitable Status”, that is to say, its fundamental solidarity purpose that must be of public benefit, has been officially acknowledged.

“Charitability is a status, not a legal form - an official badge which may be attached to a range of different types of organisation.”²⁶

For this reason, there are many small organisations without a legal structure which are recognised charities in the United Kingdom, whereas there are other, perhaps larger organisations which, although having a legal structure, are not recognised as charities. All of the organisational types discussed above possess the formal characteristics which would allow them to be registered as a charity, but in fact, may not be. It will be seen that such classification has been shaped and determined by individual group aims and also by profound historical and cultural reasons. As far as the procedures for legal recognition of charitable status are concerned, it should be emphasised that the regulations in England and Wales are both different and considerably stricter than in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Some of the resulting measures have been developed from the private sector, others are specific to the not for profit sector and are intended to protect the interests of the public and donors and to promote a positive image of the sector, rather than follow strictly economic prerogatives.

4.4 WHY BECOME A CHARITY

The principal advantage for organisations that are officially recognised as charities is a fiscal one, especially as a consequence of the

policy adopted by most trusts (foundations) to provide funds only for officially recognised bodies. All the same, the sense of reassurance that is generated by the public when dealing with a charity, is a factor that should not to be underestimated. In fact, the very words “charity” or “charitable”, for the historical reasons mentioned previously, evoke a sense of trust in the public at large. Despite the growing number of people who are paid to work in the sector, there is no doubt that its image continues to derive benefit from the large number of unpaid volunteers. It is their commitment which the general public perceives as the definition of “charitable”. Without the status as a charity, it would be far more difficult to attract such a large number of volunteers and supporters. Furthermore, fiscal and financial conditions for officially acknowledged charities have improved significantly in recent years through increased tax incentives for the charities themselves or the availability of increased tax exemptions for donors to charities. From this point of view, taxation legislation in the United Kingdom, although still rather complex and subject to frequent modification, is probably the most generous in the world towards the third sector. In particular, charities are exempt from any type of taxation and from the stamp duty normally paid when transferring, buying or renting properties and from taxation on buying shares in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland²⁷. Other advantages include: tax deductible donations from individual income taxpayers (pay packet and Gift Aid) or companies, ratepayers and payers of property tax; capital gains tax and the possibility of leaving tax-exempt donations in wills.

Perhaps the greatest disadvantage deriving from legal status as a charity is the legal limitation of certain political and awareness-raising activities. A charity must not be political, and in the case its activities are deemed to have become political, it may lose its charitable status. Consequently, if an organisation can reach its aims only through a specific change in legislation or government policy it will not be allowed the status of a registered charity. Furthermore, if the aims of an organisation are charitable, though its members intend to pursue

²⁶The Prime Minister’s Strategy Unit, *Private Action, Public Benefit*, London, September 2002, p.25.

²⁷Any exemption must, however, be agreed by the local office of the Inland Revenue.

them through political campaigns, it would be advisable to establish two separate entities: a charitable trust and a non-charitable association for any political activity. In this manner, the organisation would not lose the status and subsequent benefits endowed by membership of the Charity Commission²⁸.

The laws regulating the setting up and administration of charities are rather rigid. With the introduction of the Charity Act in 1992, they have become even more bureaucratic and intrusive. Furthermore, the first part of this act was subsequently redrafted to include the Charity Act of 1960 in the new Charity Act of 1993. The new legislation added a vast amount of regulatory measures and supplementary laws comprising over 100 sections. In particular, charity administrators are now subject to significantly increased responsibilities and obligations and could be liable to penal sanctions for failure to comply with the new regulations. Moreover, charities with a company structure are now obliged to conform to the Companies Act.

4.5 REGIONAL VARIATIONS IN THE RECOGNITION OF CHARITABLE STATUS

England and Wales

There are 188,000 registered charities in England and Wales, of which 27,000 are branches of a central charity. Since 1990, their number has risen by about 1,800 every year²⁹. The legal recognition of Charitable Status is obligatory for all charitable organisations except

for “Exempt or Excepted charities”³⁰. Other types of organisation may also be exempted from the obligation to register, such as churches and voluntary schools³¹. The make up of the Charity Commission and the powers conferred on its members are outlined in the Charities Act of 1960, as are the Commission’s responsibilities to keep an accurate register of all members, to regulate and oversee the activities of charitable organisations and, when necessary, remedy any abuses. In particular, the Charity Commission must resolve any legal disputes on behalf of the Supreme Court and any administrative disputes on behalf of Parliament. The Charities Act of 1992 reinforced the Commission’s powers, allowing greater access to the management and administration records of charities and consenting more rapid action in the case of abuses. The same act also clarifies the responsibilities of charity administrators³², introduces new regulations concerning accountability and stricter regulations concerning the activities of professional fundraisers.

Scotland

There are currently 28,869³³ active charities in Scotland. However, these figures are not entirely reliable because there is no official register of charitable organisations, nor is there an official body that regulates the activities of these organisations, as does the Charity Commission in England and Wales. To compensate for this administrative and fiscal gap, special legislation was passed in 1990, and a database was set up to collate all the necessary information on recognised organisations.

²⁸ Jean Warburton, LL.B., *Unincorporated Associations: Law and Practice*, 1st ed. 1986, London, Sweet & Maxwell, (2nd ed., 1992), p.8.

²⁹ Cf. *“Private action, public benefit”*, London, 2002.

³⁰ “Exempt charities” comprise those organisations registered according to the Charities Act of 1993 Schedule 2, and include universities, the majority of state schools, Industrial and Provident Societies and various national institutions. “Excepted charities” comprise those small organisations with an income inferior to 1,500 Euro, which do not benefit from endowments and neither own nor utilise properties. Excepted and Exempt charities enjoy special taxation incentives, which are stipulated in the Charities Act 1993 Part VI.

³¹ “Voluntary schools” or “Voluntary maintained schools” are managed by Boards of Governors made up of members nominated by shareholders, by representatives of parents, teachers and by members of the Education and Library Boards. In accordance with the regulations governing the local management of schools, the Boards of Governors are entirely responsible for the school’s management costs. All investments receive an 85% subsidy from the Ministry of Education.

³² Voluntary members of the board of directors.

³³ Scottish Executive Voluntary Issues Unit, *SCVO’s Research Unit*, London, February 2004.

Northern Ireland

There are approximately 5,000 recognised charitable organisations in Northern Ireland. The official recognition of charitable status is the responsibility of the Department of Finance and Personnel, whose powers - less extensive than those of the Charity Commission - were laid down by the Charities Act for Northern Ireland of 1964.

5. RELATIONS WITH PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

In England, local authorities are divided into 9 regions, 47 counties and 7 metropolitan counties, who are authorised to provide services such as education, social services and transport. Each county is then subdivided into districts, which manage electoral rolls, recreation and sports services for the area of competence within the county, and also deal with road cleaning.

Then, along the lines of the municipal council there are borough councils, which cover even smaller areas. The 36 metropolitan borough councils, excluding London, cover vast geographical areas around the UK's most important cities³⁴. The London metropolitan area alone has 32 borough councils.

Another important administrative structure is the unitary authority, which is created arbitrarily by transforming a district into an authority that has the responsibilities of a county, but does not have its own county council. In practice, the unitary authority acquires the significance of a county but is not equipped with its own council. In any case, the territorial boundaries of the old county are modified to exclude the new administrative area from the county council authority.

Less complex, but along the lines of the English format, are Scotland's territorial divisions for administration, which comprise 9 regions and 3 island areas, whilst Wales has 9 counties.

Several considerations can be made: local authorities are of fundamental importance in the development of the third sector and the voluntary sector, especially at unitary authority, county and borough

council level. Direct knowledge of the Southend and Essex context in general confirms ongoing liaison and cooperation with associations operating in this area.

5.1 THE COMPACT

In order to illustrate the relationship existing between the world of institutions and the voluntary sector in the UK, a description will be provided of the development and aims of one of the most innovative and significant cases currently being implemented on a European level: the Compact.

The Compact is an agreement between the Government and the entire voluntary sector (which in effect, comprises the whole of the third sector in the UK), established in 1998, with the aim of improving relationships and cooperation between the public sector and the third sector. This agreement was reached following work carried out by the Deakin Commission for the Future of the Voluntary Sector, at the request of the Government, and the report entitled *Building the Future Together*. Both documents came to the conclusion that the public sector and the third sector, performing complementary roles and sharing the same values, could benefit from a mechanism which would allow them to enjoy a more integrated working relationship, based on mutual commitment. First and foremost, this is based on the recognition of the independence of voluntary groups in the promotion of their own campaigns.

The Compact is, in fact, a useful mechanism which guarantees the right of voluntary groups operating in the region, to be consulted and to give a contribution where they deem it necessary for the improvement of services in the community itself and in the protection of the environment, thus laying the foundations for efficient and effective cooperation between the public sector and the third sector. With this agreement, the Government considers the third sector an important partner in improving the quality of public services, in that those working in the area can share their acquired skills and expe-

rience to assist in the identification and resolution of problems. The principles of the National Compact have been transformed into the Codes of Good Practice, which cover funding, consultation, appraisal of policies adopted, volunteering, etc. It is a set of manuals covering good practice based on cooperation between the sectors.

It is important, in fact, to remember that the Compact is an agreement between Government and the third sector, with no strict terms of reference legally binding³⁵ the parties. Its legitimacy is based exclusively on the obligations assumed by the parties, through stages of consultation. In this regard, the Government in the first instance undertakes to: recognise and guarantee the independence of the third sector, including the right of the latter to campaign for its own policies, and to comment on those of the Government; promote an equal partnership based on good practice - most importantly through continual consultation - and make public, whenever possible, all decisions and findings; carry out an annual review and evaluation of the objectives achieved with regard to the Compact (the annual meeting between the Government and third sector representatives has led to the creation of a forum, the reports of which are published and filed in the library of the Houses of Parliament).

The third sector, for its part, undertakes first and foremost, to respect the laws currently in force and the guidelines established by the Charity Commission which specifically require the sector to: work in continuous cooperation with Government and other agencies in the sector, through those in roles of responsibility; maintain high standards of governance and conduct and provide constant accountability with regard to operations to both funders and beneficiaries; involve service beneficiaries, volunteers and members of the organisations

with regard to activities and policies for consultation with the Government, and in the development and management of activities; share and promote best practices in ongoing cooperation with the Government; foster equal opportunity and genuine involvement of volunteers in the annual evaluation of the Compact, in the establishment of specific financial and management plans; use effective monitoring and evaluation tools.

In particular, achieving high quality standards is a fundamental aspect. The third sector independently believes it is necessary to foster this aspect by means of special education and training courses (organised by voluntary centres), which aim at obtaining nationally recognised certification³⁶.

First of all, when considering the possible internal limitations for a fairer undertaking of the Compact, it is worth noting the aforementioned lack of any legal obligation with respect to the agreement. However, this limitation has been overcome by the creation of bodies responsible for the resolution of disputes, thus helping the Compact to become much more than a mere declaration of intent. The other issue is in relation to the apprehension that the Government, in time, may consider the synergy and cooperation with the third sector as a strategic tool for whittling down the original objectives to the establishment of a preferential relationship just with the organisations active in the provision of services, thus excluding those organisations which do not make a direct contribution to the Government's agenda. An initial guarantee that this will not occur has been provided by the role which the NCVO - the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and Black and Minority Ethnic Organisations, the largest association in the third sector and voluntary sector, along with the service

³⁵ In fact, should a dispute need to be resolved, there is a "body" which has been granted judicial authority: the *Active Community Unit* (part of the Home Office) which has appointed the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) as mediator for the Compact. The CEDR is an "independent" not for profit organisation, supported by multinational companies and led by professional bodies. All public bodies, voluntary organisations and third sector bodies can therefore turn to the CEDR if they believe that a party has not acted in accordance with the principles of the Compact. The role of mediator is allocated to a professional, on payment of a fee. Within the same context, on the initiative of the NCVO, the Compact Advocacy Programme has been established, providing free consultation for the resolution of disputes arising between the Government and the associations, in relation, of course, to the Compact. The programme is not dedicated solely to this purpose, but has a wider remit, aiming to identify and address the shortcomings of the Compact in its original draft.

³⁶ This exists on various levels (PQASSO quality standards) which each organisation can achieve through adjusting its own methods of managing staff, volunteers and service provision, to the nationally recognised standard.

centres, have taken on in launching and implementing the Compact³⁷.

This has led to the creation of a mechanism which involves and protects the interests of the third sector organisations, to the order of hundreds of thousands throughout the country as a whole.

Currently on a regional and local level, the Home Office is working in close cooperation with the key local government departments such as Government Offices for the Regions and the Local Government Association (LGA).

5.2 THE LOCAL COMPACT

At this stage, in fact, it is said that at least 90% of local authorities have already developed, or are in the process of developing, the Local Compact (as is the case in Southend). Local groups (Local Strategic Partnerships, LSPs) have been continuously encouraged to assume a central leading role in the drafting of the document. In fact, the Local Compact is an agreement, on the same basis as the national agreement, with the purpose of establishing cooperation and partnerships between local bodies and voluntary organisations, and facilitating access to funding. Also in this case, in order to undertake this project, some useful guidelines have been drawn up recommending the key stages to follow in order to reach the objective. Firstly, the guidelines have highlighted the importance of the economic aspect: financial resources for undertaking the Compact are, in effect, no small sum. The funds which need to be raised will be used for training, meetings, publications, promotion, etc. All these means are essential in ensuring the awareness of the Compact itself among all interested parties and the training of organisations' staff and volunteers, who are often unprepared and lack the relevant technical skills.

In view of this, the Local Compact Steering Groups play a funda-

mental role. These groups have assumed the task of promoting the development of the Compact training process, providing support and information to the interested associations. Their composition varies according to the circumstances or, in other words, according to the area in question. Regarding consultations, the local bodies recognise the importance of the voice and opinion of experts from the third sector and the voluntary sector, particularly because of their ability to provide useful information on the needs of a specific geographical area, but the methods for implementing this cooperation need to be studied and envisaged, even in logistic terms.

At the national level, the relationship between the two sectors has been based on an important review since July 2001: the "Cross Cutting Review", which discusses the role of the voluntary sector in the provision of public services. This discussion has furthermore identified the need for investment in the sector and for an increase in its role in the provision of services, through an evaluation of the current state of services offered and the identification of any possible obstacles limiting the expansion of the sector. The fund made available for this purpose is called the "Future Builders Fund", available as of 2004. The fund amounts to £ 125 million, all of which are public funds. The review also deals with the issue of the organisations' infrastructures, focusing on the role of those organisations which can be defined as service centres, and which operate on both local (CVO) and national (NCVO) level. Infrastructures are, in fact, often made available by these bodies to smaller organisations (a place in which to meet, computers, internet access, leaflets, etc.), and also include the work of experts to increase the prevalence of organisations in the region in which they operate and to improve the supply of public benefit services. It is precisely in this context of cooperation and substitution by the third sector in providing services to the public, that the Home Office has proposed an increase of £ 80 million to increase activities in not for profit sector.

³⁷The working group consisted of representatives from the most important third sector umbrella bodies, mainly from the voluntary sector, representatives from the associations, CVS and the NCVO. The work of this group aimed to examine the details of the Compact, to consult and put in contact various voluntary groups, in order to understand the state of the art conditions and to effectively assess the willingness to initiate this process of cooperation. A Reference Group was established, made up of representatives from 65 voluntary organisations, to act as a sounding board for the activities undertaken by the Working Group on Government Relations, both with regard to the phases prior to consultation with the Government, and the subsequent stages. The number of organisations involved in this process, throughout the country, is to the order of hundreds of thousands, including voluntary centres.

6. REGULATIONS, ORGANISATIONS AND PROVISIONS TO PROMOTE AND QUALIFY VOLUNTEERING

Our research has identified several important support networks that are useful to the promotion and development of volunteerism. Principal among these are the umbrella organisations that support groups operating in the same domain, which might be determined by geographical situation, activity or working methods (vertical or horizontal coordination)³⁸. Organisations receiving support are frequently affiliated to the relevant umbrella organisation. The principal umbrella organisations operating in this field in the United Kingdom are:

- Councils for Voluntary Service;
- National Association of Councils for Voluntary Service;
- Active Community Unit (which plays an important role in the relationship between the government and the third sector);
- National Council of Voluntary Organisations;
- Charity Aid Foundation;
- Volunteering England.

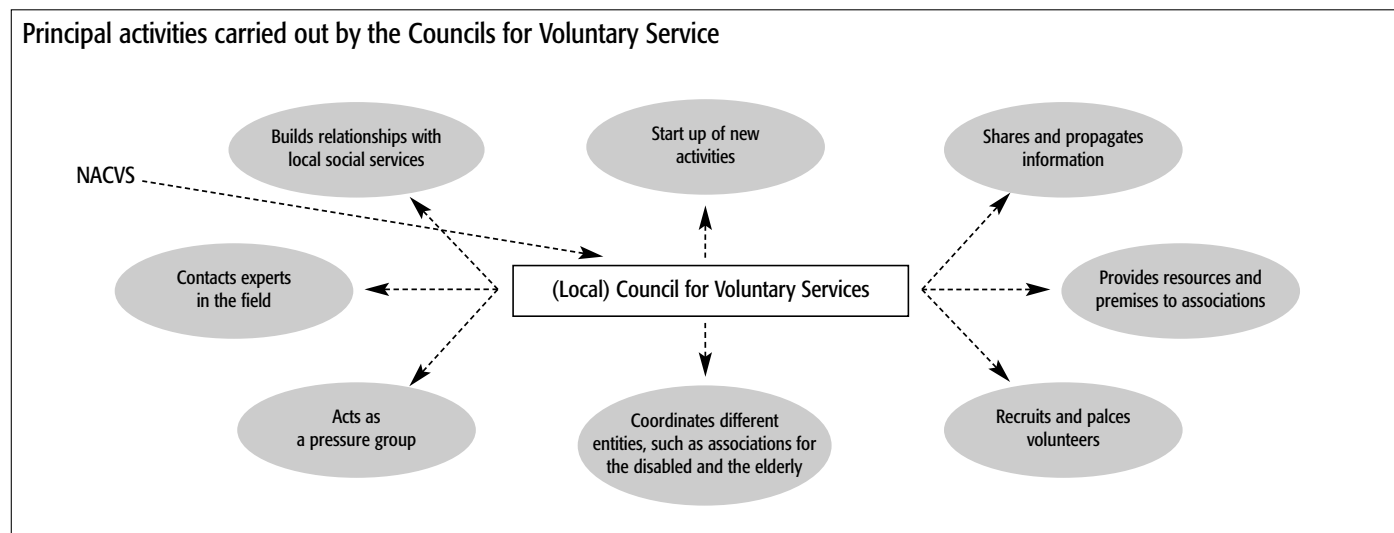
6.1 COUNCILS FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The CVS (Councils for Voluntary Service) are agencies for the development of local voluntary activity, created with the task of fostering effective volunteerism by providing specific services, such as consultancy, information and training.

To all effects and purposes, a Council for Voluntary Service or CVS, represents an umbrella organisation which is closest to the community and its needs.

The general objectives that all CVS have in common in the United Kingdom, independently of the size, character and services provided, are the following:

- To help not for profit organisations improve the quality of their work by offering a series of support services to its members, free of charge.
- To foster cooperation among third sector organisations and agencies in order to share different experiences and improve the quality of the services provided.



³⁸V. Moore, Stephen, *Social Welfare Alive!*, Cheltenham, Stanley Thornes Ltd, 3rd ed., 2002, p.463.

- To represent the needs of the sector to local and business entities as well as to the general public.
- To actively engage with strategic partnerships and improve relationships with other sectors of the economy.

There are no sector laws that regulate the life and activities of the CVS and thus they are considered like all other voluntary organisations, with the sole exception of their mission and the role they carry out³⁹.

Therefore, according to the legal form adopted, generally that of a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, the centres for voluntary service follow the norms in force in the territory in which they operate (which is different in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland). CVS develop from a number of initiatives and most of them are significantly financed by the local administrative authority; however, in recent years CVS have moved to a mixed funding package to ensure sustainability.

It is worthy of note that the CVS have taken on an increasingly central role in recent years in creating strategic partnerships for the development of numerous new initiatives such as Health Action Zones, the Compact and the New Deals.

6.2 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The National Association of Councils for Voluntary Service (NACVS)⁴⁰ was established in the 1920s and some of its member organisations were established at the end of the 19th century. NACVS is

a registered charity organisation, with a Trustee Board elected by its members, the CVS, which represent the voluntary organisations throughout the territory. It coordinates the activities of a growing network of over 300 Councils for Voluntary Service (CVS) throughout England and Wales. Two similar independent networks operate in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

6.3 NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations⁴¹ (NCVO), founded in 1930 as a national council for social services, is now considered as the central body for the not for profit sector. Since 1990, it has established increasingly close links with organisations across the spectrum of the voluntary sector, and has also joined forces with other bodies in establishing the Social Economy Forum (debate forum on economical-social issues).

6.4 GOVERNMENT ACTIVE COMMUNITY UNIT

The Active Community Unit⁴² (ACU) is an institution responsible for reaching the objectives set by the government for local voluntary activities, with particular concern to fostering greater social participation by the general public. The ACU is also responsible for funding Volunteering England.

6.5 CHARITY AID FOUNDATION

The origins of the Charity Aid Foundation⁴³ (CAF) date back to

³⁹Their task consists of supporting groups that operate within the same context, whether it be geographic, type of activity, or working of the group. In this case, the CVS becomes a point of reference and observer for local voluntary activity, and has representatives of voluntary organisations and local administrative bodies on its council board.

⁴⁰For further information on NACVS go to: www.nacvs.org.uk.

⁴¹For further information on NCVO go to: www.ncvo-vol.org.uk.

⁴²For further information on the Active Community Unit go to www.homeoffice.gov.uk.

1924, when a specific governmental department dedicated to charity was set up, the Charities Department. In 1974, the Charity Aid Foundation acquired the status of a registered charity and took on its current name. Since then, the foundation has developed to a great extent, particularly over the last decade. The Charity Aid Foundation now provides services to over 350,000 private individuals and to several of Britain's largest organisations. In particular, it deals with the allocation of annual funds to charities which amount to 345 million Euro. The focus of its activities is to see that the money which is allocated is distributed in the most effective and efficient manner to the charity organisations which have the greatest need. It encourages debates on the activity of the not for profit world by promoting research, conferences and seminars. The CAF has offices in various locations around the world, with headquarters in the United Kingdom, in London and Kent.

6.6 VOLUNTEERING ENGLAND

Volunteering England is a national umbrella organisation, created to serve as the voice for volunteering world, whether it be formal (carried out through the organised activity of the public, private and not for profit sector), or informal and spontaneous. This national agency for volunteerism is open to all those who have a particular interest in the world of volunteering, and it offers a vast range of services to its members⁴⁴. Its principal activities include:

- Developing and promoting good practices in the management of the volunteers.
- Fostering the involvement of members of ethnic minorities or disabled persons in voluntary work.
- Keeping the needs and stances of local, regional and national volunteerism high on State policy agendas.

- Playing a guiding role in the strategic development of English volunteerism.

6.7 VOLUNTEER CENTRES

Volunteer Centres are the local agencies affiliated to the Volunteering England network. First founded in 1960 in Wales, they operate as “employment centres” for volunteers, providing support and information to all those individuals and organisations interested in volunteerism. The Volunteer Centres may operate within CVS for practical purposes, though in any case, they maintain their independence. With its activities, each Volunteer Centre pursues the six principal objectives here below listed:

- Brokerage: the primary function is to recruit, address and place volunteers in the most appropriate organisation, whether it be local or national, depending on the aptitude and interests of each volunteer.
- Sponsorship: develop new projects to foster volunteerism, in collaboration with other bodies, by providing diversified opportunities for those who wish to undertake this experience.
- Publicise its own activities: participate in the most important regional and national events, conducting awareness-raising campaigns.
- Promote the use of good practices: offer consultancy, training and accreditation for potential volunteers, volunteers, volunteer managers and entities interested in promoting volunteerism.
- Influencing policy-making decisions: identify proposals and laws that could have an impact on the sector and campaign proactively for a more volunteer-friendly climate.
- Strategic development of volunteerism: develop strategic development plans at regional and national level, as experts in the field of volunteerism.

⁴³ For further information on the Charity Aid Foundation go to www.cafonline.org.

⁴⁴ For further information on the role and activities of Volunteering England, go to www.volunteering.org.uk.

Support bodies

1. ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The Essex Association of Councils for Voluntary Service (EACVS) was established in August 1988 with the purpose of offering regional service centres the chance to obtain support, exchange information and create a local action forum on issues of great interest for the territory. Since then, the group has grown considerably and fosters the creation of new structures, making relations easier between the public sector and regional voluntary groups, standing as the sole point of reference. At this moment, EACVS comprises 14 services centres located in the Essex area. Despite the fact that the centres are all quite different from one another, whether for background, features or size, they share the same values and aims: support, promotion and development of local and community volunteerism. These objectives are pursued through 5 key functions:

1.1 SERVICES AND SUPPORT

The CVS promote the efficiency of voluntary work and local groups, providing a vast range of services, including: easier access to basic services (such as conference rooms, photocopiers, computers) and more complex services, such as accounts and job search.

Local groups are also supported through a regular newsletter, implementation of training courses and fundraising refresher courses.

1.2 NETWORKING

As the point of reference for local communities, the CVS encourage networking both within the volunteer sector, amongst the various organisations, and outside of it, between institutional organs

and the private sector.

This process of openness allows local groups to learn from each other's experiences, establish more solid contacts and work more efficiently.

1.3 REPRESENTATION

Through ongoing work in the community, the CVS enable local volunteer groups to have their point of view represented.

This fits in perfectly with the government's intention to encourage involvement of the volunteer sector in defining the services to be offered to the population.

Numerous CVS organise thematic forums through which volunteer organisations are able to put forward their proposals, which then contribute to influencing local and national political decisions.

1.4 DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECTOR

Nowadays, many of the social and support services that are taken for granted in the United Kingdom were developed over the course of many years and initially by local volunteer groups. Care of the elderly and safeguarding children's rights are just two examples. This tradition continued throughout the twentieth century, and even today, volunteer service centres play a role of primary importance in identifying failings in State provided services and in developing innovative methods that will meet the real needs of citizens.

1.5 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The CVS work in partnerships with local authorities and government

agencies to establish which services should be offered to the public.

They play a key role in allowing local groups to enter these networks and become directly involved in schemes. The various strategic partnerships may be on different scales, from sub-regional to district, and may be dealing with several issues at the same time or concentrating on solving just one problem.

1.6 EACVS MEMBERS

The present EACVS members are:

- *Basildon, Billericay & Wickford Council for Voluntary Service,*
- *Braintree District Voluntary Support Agency,*
- *Brentwood Council for Voluntary Service,*
- *Castle Point Association of Voluntary Service,*
- *Chelmsford Council for Voluntary Service,*
- *Colchester Council for Voluntary Service,*
- *Harlow Centre for Voluntary Support,*
- *Maldon & District Council for Voluntary Service,*
- *Rayleigh & Rochford association of Voluntary Service,*
- *Southend Association of Voluntary Service,*
- *Tendring Community Voluntary Service,*
- *Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service,*
- *Council for Voluntary Service Uttlesford,*
- *Voluntary Action Epping Forest.*

2. SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICES

The Southend Association for Voluntary Services (SAVS) is an independent and non-political institution, founded in 1980, in response to increasing requests for a centre that would offer assistance and support to local volunteer groups. The centre's activities aim at the promotion of the volunteer sector in the Southend region and provide the organisations with a structure for liaising with public authorities. It is increasingly successful in its role as coordinator for the third

sector, the general public and government organs, through the organisation of forums, commissions, seminars and consultations.

The centre has become a point of reference for local organisations, where the most suitable information can be gathered by those wishing to set up volunteer organisations and obtain hands-on assistance and services for their support.

SAVS also operates at a local administration level, and is one of the 320 Councils for Voluntary Service (CVS) in England. It is a member of the National Association of Councils for Voluntary Service (NACVS), in a regional network located in Sheffield and a member of the EACVS, the Essex CVS network.

SAVS has been a registered charity (no.1063655/0) since it was founded, and in 1998 it became a company limited by guarantee (no.03351855).

In 2004, it reached the second level of PQASSO QUALITY SYSTEM certification, a system for assessing the quality of services provided, specially created for small voluntary work organisations, which resembles the European ISO 9001/2000 system.

Over the 25 years it has been active, its targeted objectives have increased significantly and its action territory has also extended.

As far as the centre's resources are concerned, as with all charities, it operates thanks to public funds, business activities and donations, although in 1999 SAVS took the path of self-funding by setting up a Resource Centre, using mainly the proceeds of successfully implemented schemes. Most of these projects were presented to local public or regional authorities. Moreover, member organisations (about 1,800) pay SAVS an annual £ 20 fee for unlimited or discounted use of its services. SAVS makes its structure available to volunteer organisations and the larger groups make a financial contribution for its use.

The Centre is also an information point: it offers legal and tax advice for funding applications, with experts who assist organisations in establishing and controlling accreditation procedure for reaching high levels of efficiency and greater economic independence. The services offered are: definition of quality standards for services offered, preparation of business plans, calculation of budgets. Also, a funding gui-

de is available, offering the information organisations need for fundraising opportunities, as well as a magazine on the same theme called "Funding Update".

2.1 VOLUNTEER BUREAU

An integral part of the SAVS structure is the Volunteer Bureau/Centre, which is a member of Volunteering England, a new national agency for development of volunteer groups that opened on 1 April 2004, following a merger of the Consortium on Opportunities for Volunteering, the National Centre for Volunteering and Volunteer Development England, which works to promote volunteer groups as a force able to bring about effective changes in local community life.

2.2 ADVANCE PARTNERSHIP

This three-year programme was created to help volunteers to acquire specific expertise that could prove to be useful in the work they do within the various volunteer organisations. Free training courses are offered to all interested volunteers. Advance Partnership objectives include: providing training opportunities at local level for the volunteer sector; creating customised courses for the voluntary work sector; developing new or alternative ways of training; enhancing abilities and know-how in the voluntary sector using a programme that focuses on specific needs; inspiring and motivating volunteers, board members and paid staff.

2.3 NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND

A Project to identify and assist England's underprivileged areas: in April 2004, a map was published of the geographical areas in England that highlighted the most poverty-stricken areas. This new survey will update the 2000 results, based on 37 indicators that emphasise the va-

rious aspects of this problem, and 7 intervention categories. 2004 data identified 32,000 zones (compared to 8,500 pinpointed in 2002), with populations ranging from 1,000 to 3,000 people.

The NRF (Neighbourhood Renewal Fund) will be fully distributed by March 2006 to 88 recipients to help the zones that these indices have found to be the most disadvantaged.

2.4 CHILDREN'S FUND PROGRAMME

SAVS is a leader structure in the management of this fund that targets children aged between 5 and 13, and their families. Through the Children, Young People & Families Directorate (CYPFD), which is part of the Department of Education and Science, the fund's intention is to identify children and adolescents who are beginning to show signs of difficulty, and plan assistance and support services. In this respect, Southend Children's Fund addresses the following three areas:

- Positive Family-Focused Relationship Support, for special types of situation as a support tool for improving relations in those families suffering various sorts of problem.
- Information on special services and aid opportunities for families in difficulty.
- Crime-fighting activities.

3. THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE VOLUNTEER CENTRE

North Lanarkshire is Scotland's fourth largest local administration. After Glasgow, it is the neediest area in Scotland, both for unemployment and for poor standards of education and living conditions. In the past, this area's economic wealth was based on heavy industry since it had many steelworks and coal mines. When this type of business fell into decline, there were negative consequences for the population and the territory. In 1981, a local volunteer organisation was set up with the name of Monklands Volunteer Bureau, to handle the

two towns in this area. The Bureau's main role was to recruit volunteers and send them where there was a need. Subsequently, thanks to a government scheme, the organisation was able to expand its activities throughout North Lanarkshire. In 1997, the Bureau changed its name to North Lanarkshire Volunteering Development Agency (NLVDA). The structure also extended its role, no longer acting as just a Volunteer Bureau, but becoming a strategic agency for local development, investing in training and consultancy activities. Over the last five years, the functions and interests of the centre have increased considerably. In particular, in 2003 NLVDA created the Citizenship Centre, inaugurated by Scotland's Prime Minister. The Centre has proved to be a real breakthrough for the formation of the Scottish Citizen Forum. The agency recently adopted a new series of objectives to target, in conformity with what was set out in last year's Scottish Executive's Volunteering Strategy document.

The aims are to:

- Involve larger numbers of young people in voluntary work.
- Overcome all barriers to voluntary work.
- Improve experiences in voluntary work (through work with volunteers and involving voluntary organisations).
- Improve and assess the impact of voluntary work in order to be able to influence procedures and policies.

North Lanarkshire Volunteering Development Agency is a Scottish NGO with company limited by guarantee status (no.190682) and a charity recognised by the Inland Revenue (no. SCO11175). Its an-

nual budget is about 835,000 Euro, it is regulated by United Kingdom government provisions and operates in line with best transparency practices.

NLDVA is part of the Scottish CVS, called CVS Scotland.

3.1 VOLUNTEER CENTRE NETWORK - SCOTLAND

The North Lanarkshire Volunteer Centre is part of Volunteer Centre Network - Scotland, coordinating body for all Scottish service centres, created in 2002, with the objective of offering the various centres a standardised, identifiable image. The creation of the Volunteer Centre Network followed the 1996 decision to open a centre for voluntary services in each of Scotland's 32 local administrations, with the main intention of creating a consolidated structure for national voluntary work. Consequently, this process of standardisation led many service centres to change name and adopt the general "Volunteer Centre" definition. They were given the required information and issued with a logo to identify themselves, entered in the national Volunteer Centre database and its website (www.volunteerscotland.info). These initiatives were not officially launched and publicised throughout Scotland until 2003.

The centre continues to work in various contexts and on projects of both local and international impact. Particularly important is its interest in certification systems for quality and management of the services provided (Investors in People, Volunteer Centre National Standards, Scottish Qualifications Authority).

7. SOCIETY AND INSTITUTIONAL OUTLOOK ON THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERING

Umbrella bodies, regional and national coordination centres are actively involved in monitoring the needs and the signs of change or continuity in the voluntary sector, in an attempt to understand its role and contribution. As has been seen in this brief report, the complex and dynamic voluntary sector in the United Kingdom has had to change continuously in trying to meet the needs of the rapid transformations affecting society, and hence, the conditions in which it must operate. Below are some of the key priorities that need to be faced in the short and long term⁴⁵.

7.1 THE MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS SCHEME AND PLANS TO INVOLVE THE YOUNG IN VOLUNTEERING

The Millennium Volunteers scheme⁴⁶ (MV) is currently one of the most successful programmes for volunteerism which addresses the young in England. The Volunteer Bureaus are the bodies responsible for executing this project which attempts to stimulate the involvement of young people aged 16-24 in volunteering. With this project, the Government wishes to make volunteering more accessible to adolescents and young adults, whether they be still at school or not. The young are invited to take part in the State programme which offers incentives, such as the possibility of having one's own commitment to the MV scheme acknowledged by receiving certificates that are now considered as an excellent addition to one's CV, welcomed by potential employers or universities.

After 100 hours of voluntary activity, an MV Award recognised by the Minister for Young People and Learning is presented to the volunteer, while that of 200 hours - the MV Excellence Award - is recognised by the Secretary of State for Education. Since the initiative was

launched in 1992, hundreds of young people have joined the programme and benefited from these awards not only personally but also professionally. There have also been evident signs of improvement at a territorial level, with significant improvement to general living conditions. Presently, in England (Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales offer other autonomous initiatives) about 160 MV projects have been set up that offer various possibilities of doing voluntary activity. The possibility to create projects autonomously and not only join the existing ones has been given to those young people who join the MV project. They are therefore given the possibility to directly face the various problems of the territory, propose solutions and put them into effect.

The core aims of the MV scheme are:

- To improve the general image and profile of volunteering.
- To involve the young who would normally reject such initiatives.
- To offer the young the possibility to think over their interests and values.
- To develop the idea that anybody can help solve community problems.

7.2 THE MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEER SCHEME AND THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

As seen above, the Millennium Volunteer Scheme has so far proved to be an outstanding success. As a result, the Government has decided to step up its commitment, and to make the project one of its national priorities, thus enlarging the possibilities of involvement for young people in voluntary work. Currently, there is a pilot scheme in England to finance local voluntary gap year projects (a "gap year" is generally a year that the young take off between the end of high school and the start of their university studies), similar to the Italian experience of the National Civil Service. If the scheme proves successful, it could be extended to a

⁴⁵ Cf. Miller, Christopher J., *Producing Welfare - A Modern Agenda*, New York, Palgrave MacMillan, 2004.

⁴⁶ For further information on the Millennium Volunteers scheme and to have an idea of the projects currently underway go to www.mvonline.gov.uk.

national level, offering students and university graduates the opportunity of gaining relevant and structured work experience, both in the public and voluntary sectors. In particular, the sector is anxiously awaiting the publication of a study on young volunteerism conducted by the Russell Commission.⁴⁷ “Only then will we know what the future holds for MV,” said Simon Last, MV Project Manager in Essex, Southend and Thurrock in an interview. “I am sure that similar initiatives will follow, we just have to wait and see exactly what they are like. I do not believe the basic format of the programme will change very much. Probably far more people will be involved - or at least the awareness levels among the general public about voluntary work will be raised considerably.” The British government has proclaimed 2005 the Year of the Volunteer, and has organised twelve months of special events that focus on youth participation.

7.3 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

The efficient use of new information and communication technology is one of the main points on the sector’s agenda. Numerous initiatives have been launched to boost familiarity and the use of these technologies, especially at a local level. In fact, apart from their not being easily available, most associations do not currently draw advantages from the new ICT developments. It is widely acknowledged that ICT can play a strategic role in this sector, and its use would only improve the services provided, the collection of funds and the running of the organisation.

7.4 ENTREPRENEURIAL FUNDING AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

There is a real threat of a division within the voluntary sector between small and medium-sized organisations, and the more wi-

dely known national and international charities. In the past, local projects and organisations have scarcely benefited from increased State funding. Many organisations now face the constant fear of closing down due to lack of funds. Consequently, the idea of forming partnerships or carrying out joint projects - either within the voluntary sector or together with members of the private sector - is increasingly gaining ground. Furthermore, the end of certain forms of financing (such as European Union structural funds or money from national lotteries) will oblige still more groups and organisations to face serious problems of financial sustainability. At the same time, the increase in public or state loans will have no effect other than to slow down key income flows⁴⁸. In general, the voluntary sector is seriously faced with finding and adopting new sources of funding, for example, those provided by social enterprises, or in developing alternative means of support other than the sale of goods and services. However, it seems probable that in the future, income will by and large depend on the latter activity.

7.5 NEW GOVERNMENT POLICIES REGARDING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

For some years, the sector has been awaiting the enactment of updated and amended legislation which addresses the creation of a more cohesive community. In particular, specific legislation needs to be approved on the provision of public services that takes into account the ethnic diversity of the community and the diverse welfare needs of the population - and the implementation of the 2004 Charity Bill⁴⁹, which regulates charities. A positive signal on behalf of the Government was the publication of the document entitled “Post-Spending Review 2002”⁵⁰.

⁴⁷ For more information go to www.russellcommission.org.

⁴⁸ *NCVO, The UK Voluntary Sector Almanac*, London, NCVO Publications, 1996 (5th ed., 2004).

⁴⁹ A grouping of provisions prepared by the government to modify the law that regulates charities and activities connected to it.

⁵⁰ R.T. Hon. Gordon Brown, *Post-Spending Review 2002*, London, HM Treasury Report, 2002. For the latest information on developments in the social sector go to: www.dsc.org.uk.

About volunteer organisation

1. LEGAL STATUS, ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE ORGANISATIONS

The establishment of the organisations dates back as far as 1908, when the oldest was set up, until 2004, when the most recent organisation was founded. Only ten organisations own their own **headquarters**, whilst the majority rent premises; only five are provided with premises free of charge, and six use the residence of one of their members as headquarters.

Of the organisations consulted, twenty-four operate on a five day-a-week basis, carrying out their activities for a total of 40 to 51 hours per week, and all of them operate continuously throughout the year.

Fifteen percent of the organisations were formed by an independent group of people, 58% were created from a pre-existing activity, 10% on the initiative of a public body, and the remaining 13% did not specify. Only two organisations claim to be **guided** by Christian (or another religious faith's) ideology, the remainder state they were not founded on any religious or ideological values.

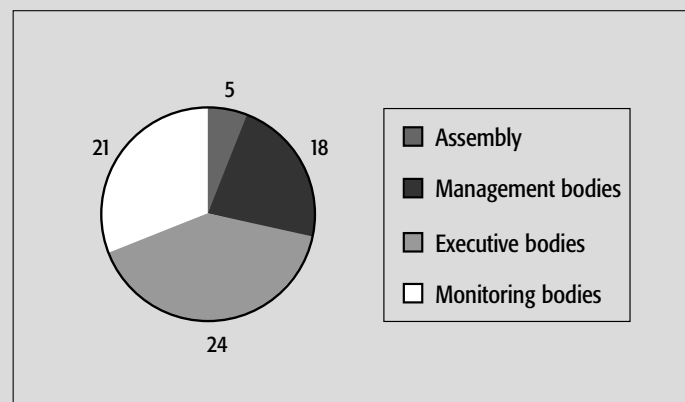
The legal status of the organisations was found to be quite heterogeneous: fifteen are voluntary organisations, three are not for profit organisations, one is a foundation, one is a not for profit public body, whilst another is a company limited by guarantee; finally, twelve are registered charities.

In their statutes, twenty-six organisations declare their involvement in not for profit activities, twenty-one indicate the democratic nature of their body, fifteen the charitable nature of social duty, seventeen claim to act for the sole purpose of solidarity and six are entered on a particular roll or register. Specifically, six organisations are currently registered with the Charity Commission and three with Company House, two are entered on the Local Authority register, and one is registered as a friendly society and thirteen with the Charity Commission.

All organisations interviewed (with the exception of one) have their own **statute** and six of these also have regulations. The organisations are also governed by **sector legislation**: Charity Laws (regulating four), Laws on the management of particular medical/diagnostic services (use of specific equipment, etc.), Borough Council procedures and laws (one), Company Acts (3), DES Department of Education and Skills (one), Human Rights (one) Equal opportunities (one), Race Relation Act (one). Art. 13 UE against discrimination (one) Compact (one), Best Values (one), performance of not for profit activities (five), democratic nature of the body (five) acting for the sole purpose of solidarity (six), financial accountability for activities (nine), keeping registers of volunteers (eight), volunteer insurance (nine).

The responses given clearly show that the **organisational structure** of five organisations includes an assembly, 18 have a board of directors, 24 have executive bodies and 21 also have monitoring bodies (auditors and the like).

Organisational structure of the bodies



In 2003, the organisations were **funded** in various ways: in four-

teen cases income derived from contributions from members or memberships fees and/or from self-financing activities, in nineteen cases from private funds, in nine from the sale of goods and/or services, in thirteen income came from ongoing contracts or provision of services, eight organisations derived their income from projects submitted to public bodies and the European Union, and lastly two organisations were funded by the Government. We can therefore deduce that funding is predominantly public in nature.

The organisations' **income** is categorised as follows: twelve organisations have an income of over 150,000 Euro, as many again claim to receive between 51,000 Euro and 150,000 Euro, four receive between 26,000 Euro and 50,000 Euro, and the remainder have an average income of around 10,000 Euro.

2. GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE, HUMAN RESOURCES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER BODIES

The geographical range within which twenty-four organisations operate is typically local, although ten also perform their activities on a regional level and three internationally. Almost all of the organisations, as many as thirty-one, performed contracted activities in 2003 with **public bodies**, twenty-two of these for a fee.

In terms of projects and **initiatives carried out as part of a network**, fifteen organisations undertook relationships with schools, professional training centres and universities; twenty-four with other voluntary organisations; nine with organisations with a socio-cultural focus; a further eight with denominational bodies; ten liaised with foundations and a further seven with businesses and banks; seventeen with their own organisation's national, regional or provincial chapters; ten with other public bodies; ten with services or offices of the city; five with self-help groups or organisations and five with health service bodies (drug addiction, advisory bodies, mental health, rehabilitation).

Almost all of the organisations interviewed participate actively in a **coordinating body** at various levels: all form part of national and

regional networks; eleven belong to provincial bodies and twenty-two to international bodies.

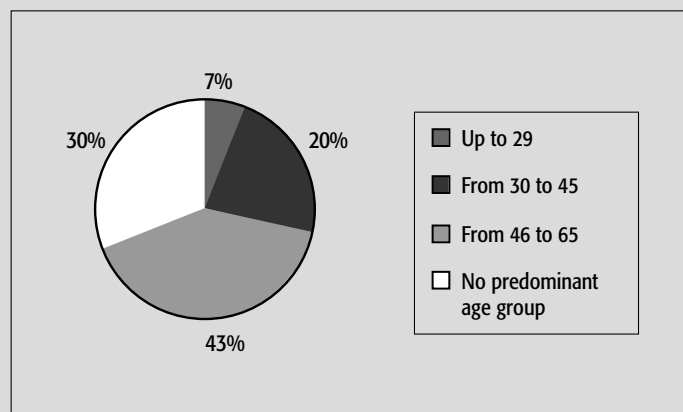
Another important result clearly demonstrates the significant role of as many as thirty-four organisations which use the services offered by a **volunteer promotion** body: twenty-nine for training activities, seventeen for organising events, twenty-seven for information, fifteen for communication, nine for logistical services and advice, and eleven for volunteer promotional activities.

Of the organisations surveyed, twenty-three were in a position to quantify their users, which ranged from a minimum of 78 to a maximum of 23,000 users. As a norm the beneficiaries or **users** of the organisations are not required to pay a subscription or any fee for services.

There are 547 active **volunteers**, who commit an average of around six and a half hours per week to voluntary activity, whilst there are 3,289 occasional volunteers. There are 390 paid employees in various roles, 74 are employed full-time and 167 part-time.

As can be seen from the graph, the predominant age group is from 46 to 65.

Age groups of volunteers acting gratuitously and continuously



Most organisations actively seek new volunteers, making use of a support group in 78% of cases, such as the Volunteer Bureau or Citizens Advice, etc. Furthermore, twenty-two organisations require vo-

lunteers to undergo in-house induction training, whilst sixteen require a minimum weekly commitment.

3. AREAS OF ACTIVITY, GOALS AND TYPOLOGY OF BENEFICIARIES

The numerous responses given indicate that the organisations perform **multiple activities**.

Activities performed by the organisations

Welfare	16
Health	11
Advocacy	10
Cultural issues and protection of cultural heritage	5
Education and training	18
Recreation	11
Sport	6
Civil defence	1
Protection and raising awareness of the value of environmental and natural heritage	1
Projects (project support) in developing countries	1
Raising funds to finance activities carried out by other bodies	6
Coordination and support for operational groups or territorial areas	5
Other	14

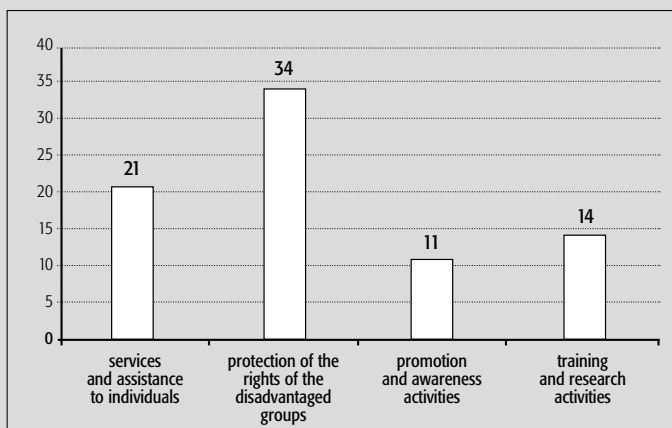
One of the most active sectors is education/training, followed by welfare, health and so on.

Combining the data gathered, it is possible to deduce that the

main areas of intervention of the voluntary organisations, in terms of resources and the quantity of services used, are: welfare activities and those relating to the advocacy.

With regard to areas of intervention, the following graph illustrates that twenty-one organisations are involved in providing services and assistance to individuals, thirty-four organisations are involved in protecting the rights of disadvantaged groups, eleven in promotion and awareness-raising activities and finally fourteen in training and research activities.

Main areas of intervention of the organisations



The questionnaire also asked the organisations to identify the **specific beneficiaries** and types of individuals with which they are involved on a continuity basis. Combining the many responses given, we can see that the largest groups of beneficiaries are: children and young people (thirteen organisations), people in need (seventeen), disadvantaged groups (fifty-four) and families (ten).

LIST OF THE ORGANISATIONS INTERVIEWED

These are the organisations we have met, that have allowed for some direct insight into the reality we have been investigating.

Age Concern Southend, Southend On Sea
Amigo's Mentor Service, Southend On Sea
Batias (Indipendent Advocacy Service), Southend On Sea
Cage Center, Lanarkshire
Car-Gomm Society, Shoeburyness
Chelmsford Council For Voluntry Service Cvs, Chelmsford
Circles Srb Project, Southend On Sea
Citizens Advice Bureau, Southend On Sea
Community Information Shop, Southend On Sea
Dial Sothend, Southend On Sea
Essex Community Foundation, Chelmsford
Essex Country Scout Council, Little Wakering
Gay Swithchboard, Southend On Sea
Growing Together, Westcliff On Sea
Hamelin Trust, Billericay
Hamlet Court Road Community Information Shop,
 Westcliff On Sea
Homeless Action Resource Project, Westcliff On Sea

Homestart, Southend On Sea
I.L.A. (Indipendent Living Advocacy), Whitelands
Lady Mcadden Breast Screening, Westcliff On Sea
Leigh On Sea Endeavour Trust, Ave Leigh On Sea
Millennium Volunteers, Southend On Sea
Mendip Community Group, Westcliff
Mencap, Southend On Sea
Naval & Military Club, Southend On Sea
North Lanarkshire Fibromyalgia Support Group, Stourbridge
Peaceful Place, Southend On Sea
Prince's Trust, Newlands
Phoenix Agency L.T.D., Southend On Sea
Share-It, Westcliff on Sea
Shared Leisure Scheme, Southend On Sea
South Essex Relate And Family Mediation, Southend On Sea
Southend Volunteer Bureau, Southend On Sea
Southend And District Pensioners Campaign, Westcliff
Southend Carers Forum, Southend On Sea
Southend Children's Fund, Southend On Sea
The Dove Project, Westcliff On Sea
Turnabout Trust, Rochford
Victim Support Essex, Southend On Sea
Volunteer Centre North Lanarkshire, Wishaw
Volunteering England, Londra

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barbetta G.P., Cima S., *Le istituzioni non profit in Italia, Dimensioni organizzative, economiche e sociali, Milano, 2003.*
- Cesiav, *Il volontariato in Europa. Quadro giuridico, forme organizzative, strutture di promozione, raccordo e qualificazione del volontariato*, Roma, Novembre 1999.
- Kendall J. e Knapp M. *The voluntary sector in the UK*, Manchester, Manchester University Press, 1996.
- Miller, Christopher J., *Producing Welfare - A Modern Agenda*, 1ª ed., New York, Palgrave Mcmillan, 2004.
- Moore S., *Social Welfare Alive!*, Cheltenham, Stanley Thornes Ltd, 3ª ed., 2002.
- NCVO, *The UK Voluntary Sector Almanac*, 1ª ed., London, NCVO Publications, 1996, 5ª ed., 2004.
- Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, *Private Action, Public Benefit: A Review of Charities and the Wider Not-For-Profit Sector*, London, Settembre 2002.
- R.T. Hon. Gordon Brown, *post-Spending Review 2002*, London, HM Treasury Report, 2002.
- Reason Jacki, Hayes Ruth e Forbes Duncan, *Voluntary but not Amateur - A guide to the law for voluntary organisations and community groups*, London, London Voluntary Service Council, 6ª ed., 2000.
- Salamon L. e Anheier H., *Defining the nonprofit sector: A cross-national analysis*, Manchester, Manchester University Press, 1997.
- Scottish Executive Voluntary Issues Unit, *SCVO's Research Unit*, London, Febbraio 2004.

United Kingdom in:
Volunteering across Europe. Organisations, promotion, participation.
Spain, France, United Kingdom, the Netherlands,
Poland, Czech Republic, Italy.
v. I.
Rome, Spes, [2006]. pp. 111 - 148.

For publications, initiatives and collaborations please contact:

SPES - Centro di Servizio per il Volontariato del Lazio

Via Liberiana, 17

00185 Rome - Italy

Tel.: +39.06.44702178

Fax: +39.06.45422576

E-mail: europa@spes.lazio.it

Website: www.volontariato.lazio.it