

GMCVO

Knowledge

VCS Views on Public Sector Funding Cuts – A GMCVO 2010 survey

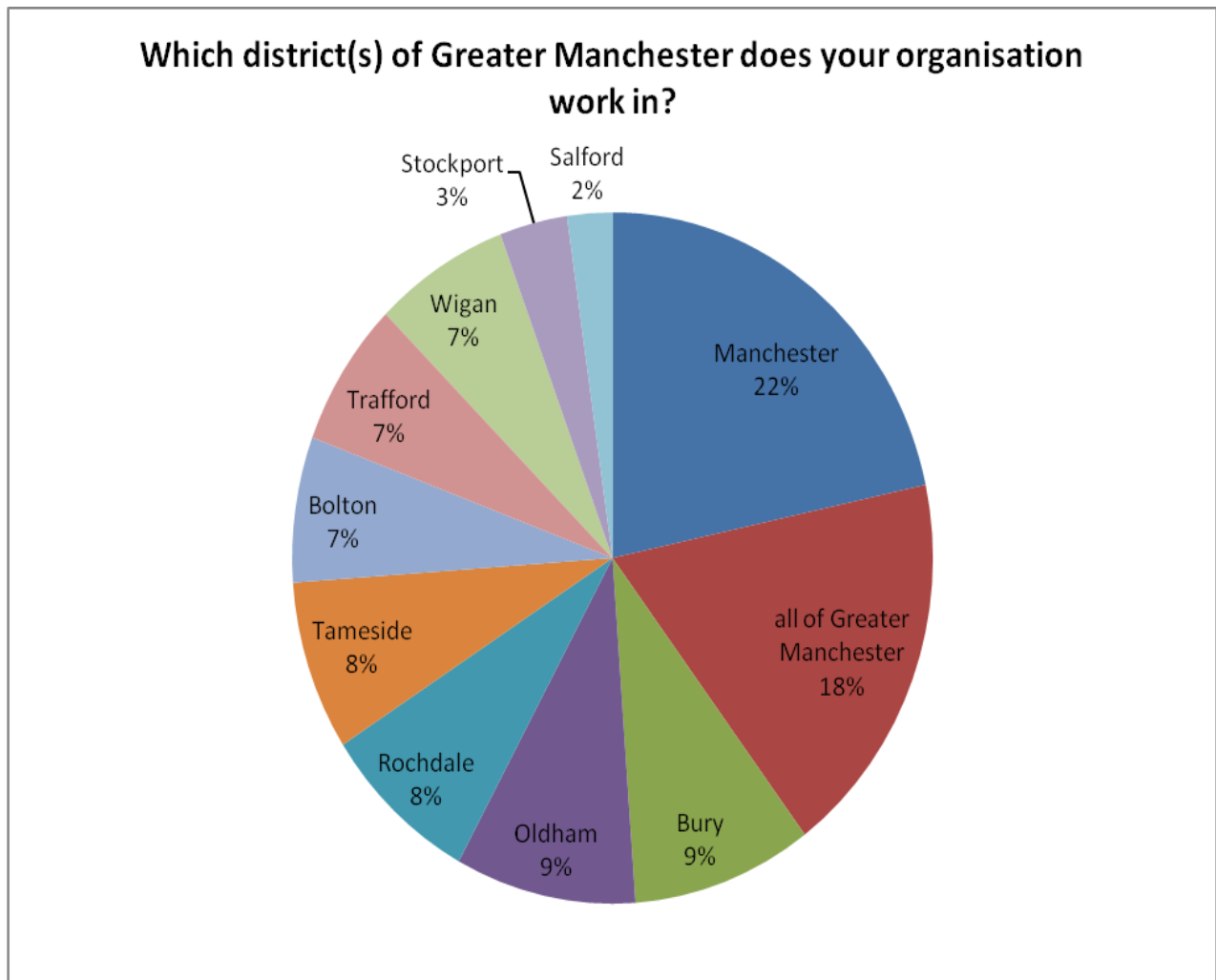


VCS Views on Public Sector Funding Cuts – A GMCVO 2010 Survey

As we know 2011 is going to be a very challenging year for the local voluntary sector. As part of the preparations for this, Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) conducted a survey to gauge the sector's view on the public sector funding cuts that have already occurred and/or are expected to occur and what impact this would have on Greater Manchester Voluntary organisations. The findings of this survey are intended to help and support GMCVO in lobbying, informing policy, and holding discussions with policy makers at a national level on the issues experienced by the Greater Manchester Voluntary sector. Finally we received 63 responses in total.

Demographics of Respondent Organisations

Responses were obtained from organisations that work in the ten districts of the sub-region and those who work across Greater Manchester sub-region. The breakdown of respondents per district is shown below.

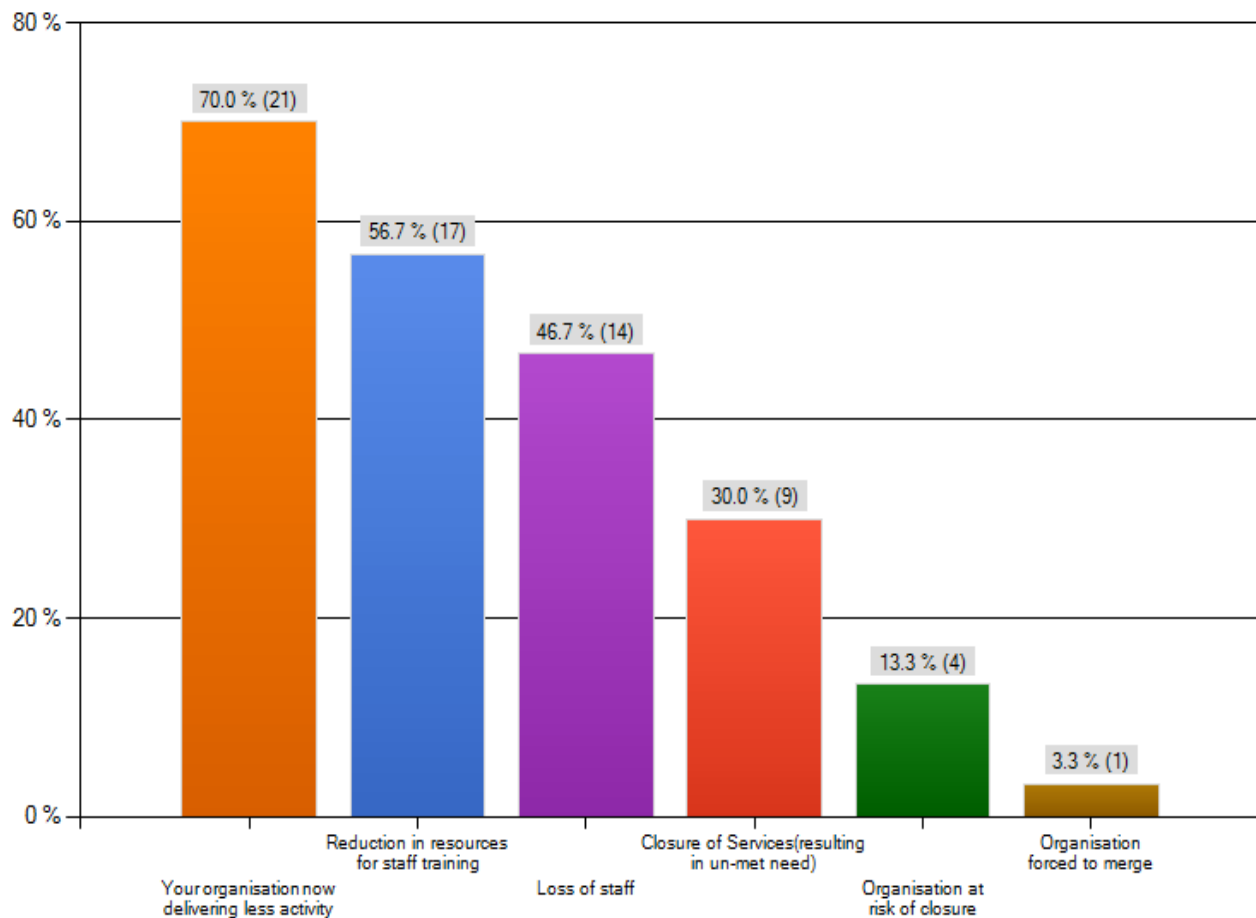


Public sector funding cuts already experienced (2009/2010)

Respondents were firstly asked to report if their organisation had already experienced any public sector funding cuts this year (2009/2010). The majority of respondents (57%) cited 'yes' compared to 38% of respondents who reported 'no'. The remaining 5% respondents cited 'don't know'.

Respondents were then asked to state what impact this would have on their organisation and were provided with a number of options from which they could select all those that applied to them. The findings are shown below.

If you have answered yes to Q1, how did this impact on your organisation? (tick all that apply)

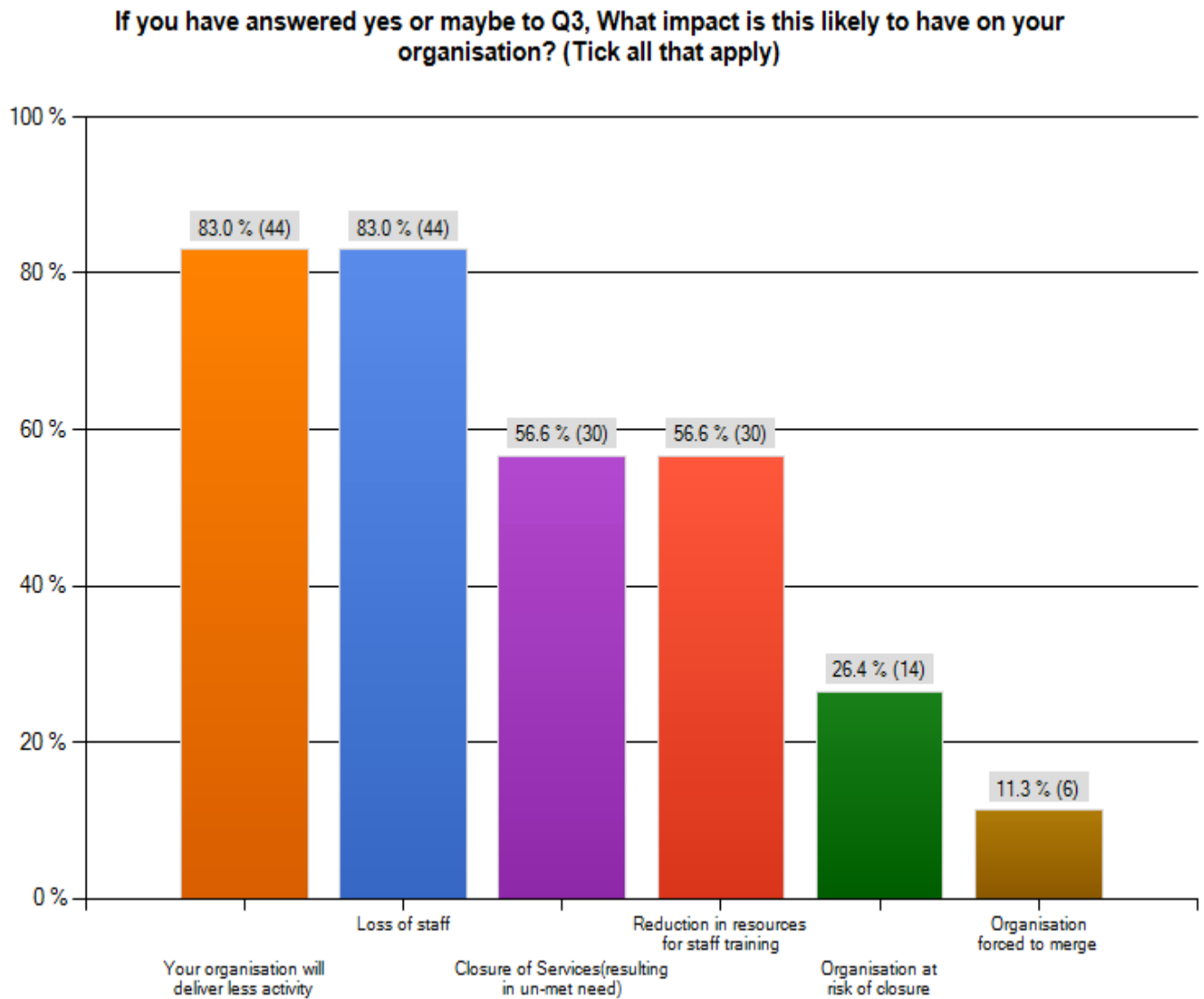


In addition to this, a number of other factors were highlighted by participants with the most popular ones being reduction in staff hours, delivering less funding to groups and using up reserves to cover shortfalls and in some cases to provide information and advice services.

Future funding cuts post 2011

Respondents were asked to report if their organisation is expecting to lose any public sector funding post 2011. The majority of respondents (68%) cited 'yes' compared to 13% of respondents who reported 'no' , the remaining 19% of respondents cited 'don't know'.

Respondents were then asked to state what impact this would have on their organisation and were provided with a number of options from which they could select all those that applied to them. The findings are shown below.



Similarly, participants reported other key factors such as reduction in staff hours, using up even more reserves and no training budget for staff/volunteers.

Conclusion

Broadly speaking, the majority of organisations report they would be losing public sector funding post 2011. More importantly, respondents have mentioned they are already using up their reserves to support delivery and make-up for the shortfall. This is very worrying as the full extent of cuts will not be known/experienced post 2011 and many organisations have already started using up their reserves and plan to use more post 2011.

The area where these cuts will impact the most, as cited by the participants, is in their ability to deliver existing or increased levels of service delivery. Many respondents reported they expect reduction in staff hours and in some cases loss of staff/volunteers within the next 12 months, especially if no formal training opportunities are created as a result of reduction in resources for staff/volunteer training. Information on the range and types of services likely to be affected via less activity, loss of and/or reduced staff or closure due to such cuts was not obtained as the survey did not go that far in detail.

It is also notable that the number of respondents who reported organisation at risk of closure doubled from 13% in 2009/2010 to 26% post 2011. Finally, this also seems to be the case for organisational mergers, with 12% of respondents saying they would be forced to merge post 2011 compared to only 4% who cited a merger during 2009/2010.

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