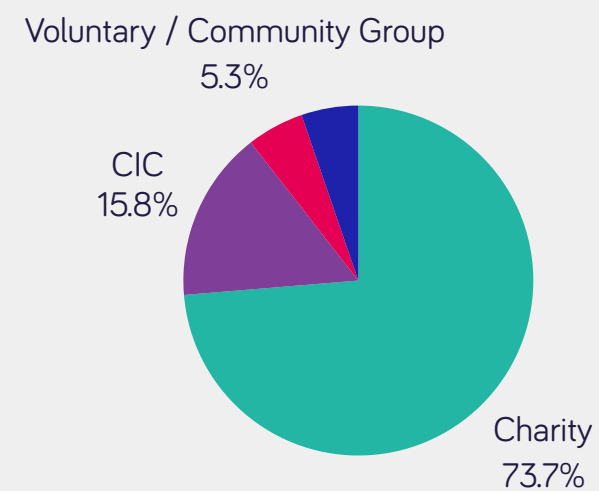
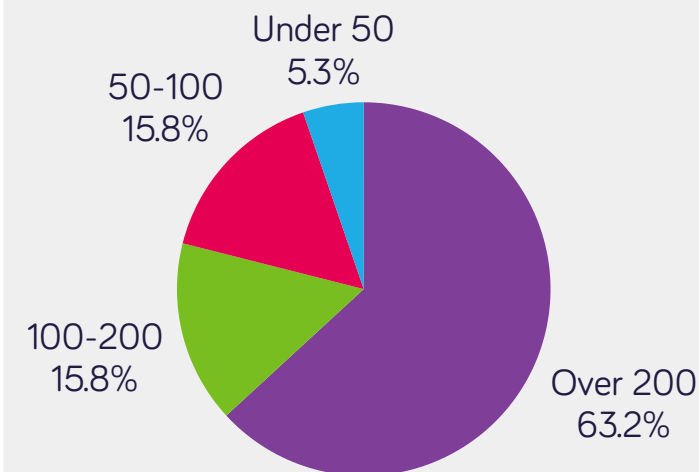




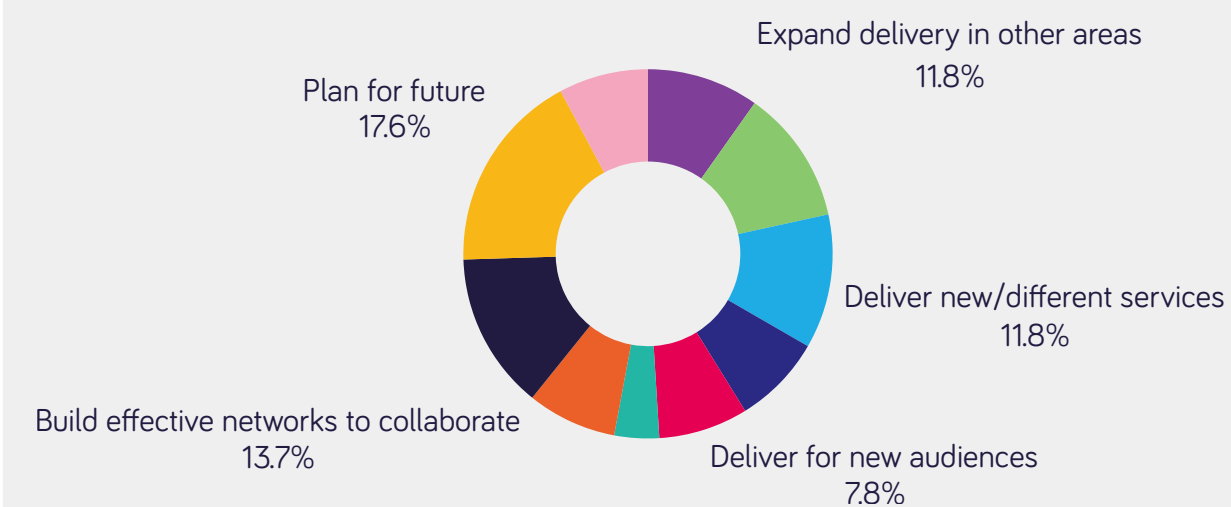
Type of organisation



Individuals supported through Tendring VCS orgs every month



Areas of focus for Tendring VCS organisations

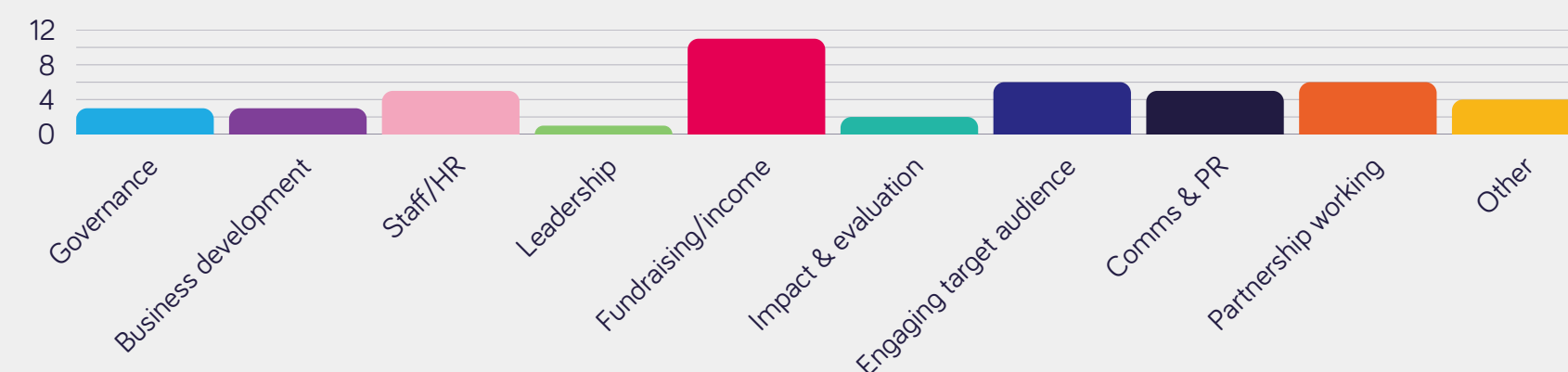


This place plan, is based off of **19** VCS organisations completing the survey.

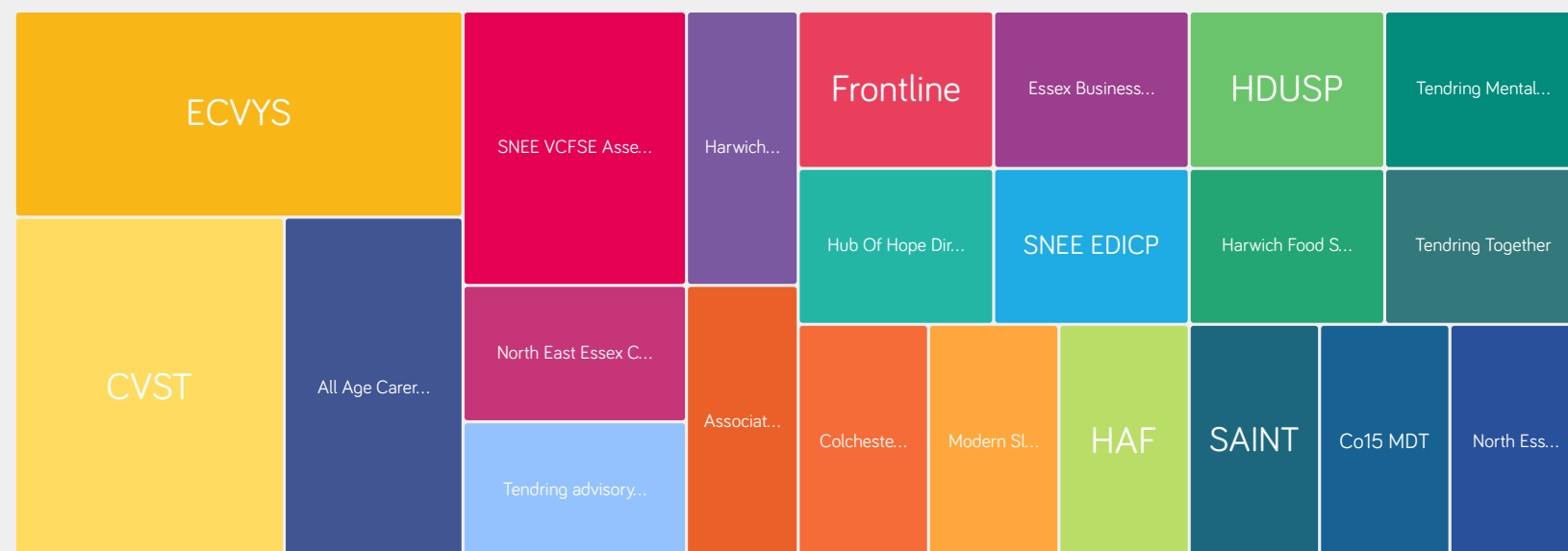
Tendring VCS organisations sustainability



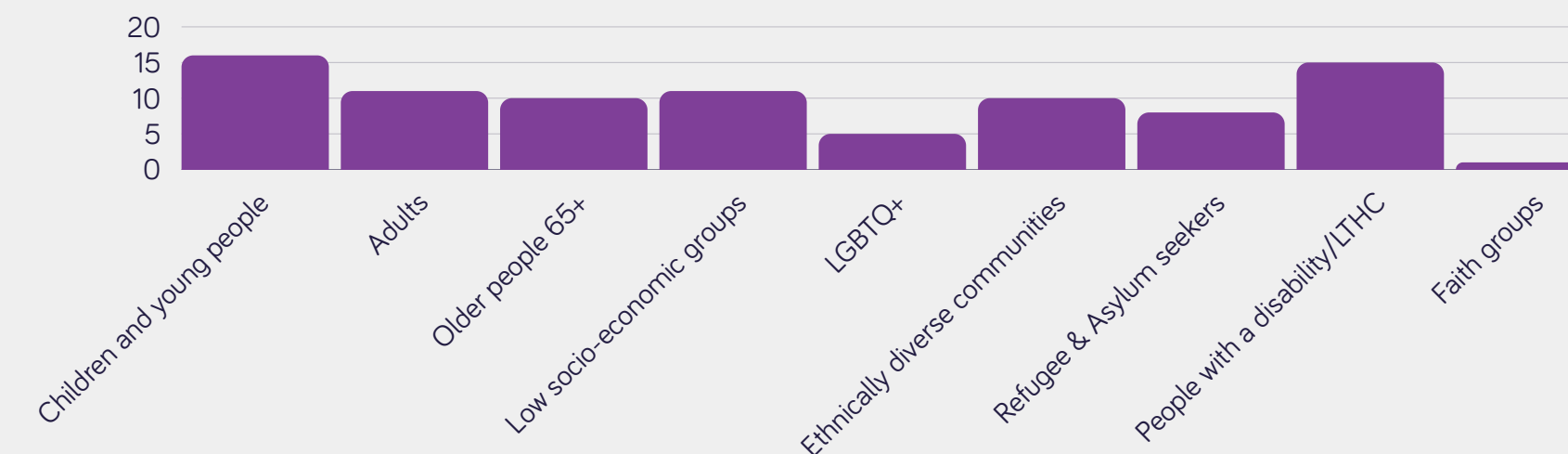
The current unmet support needs in Tendring



Networks and forums already being utilised in Tendring



Types of people VCS organisations support in Tendring





This place plan, is based off of **19** VCS organisations completing the survey.

Fundraising and income generation is the most common unmet support need, followed by **engaging target audience** and **partnership working**

Learning Opportunities:

- Diversifying income
- Fundraising skills and delivering effective campaigns
- Developing effective networks
- Asset-based-community-development
- Comms/PR
- Access to practical training and development opportunities; Mental Health First Aid, EDI, Project Management
- Leadership and Board/Trustee Support/Mentoring

Developing Networks:

- Funders/Commissioners
- Developing Partnerships spaces
- Leaders/Founders support spaces
- Local business relationships
- Community Impact

Bespoke support will include:

- Single point of access to provide the right level of support at the right time
- Matchmaking and brokering service with other local organisations - Peer-to-Peer mentoring

Community Participation:

Many VCSE organisations want to reach new audiences or offer new services but face challenges engaging their target communities. More discovery needed and explore these barriers and identify ways to support more effective community engagement.

What does the survey not tell us? What does their response tell us beneath the surface?

We've heard there is a strong appetite among organisations to build more effective networks and foster deeper collaboration. Many have expressed that partnership working remains an unmet need, despite the presence of numerous forums and networks in the area. This suggests a gap between existing structures and the needs or accessibility of local organisations. As we move forward, it's vital to better understand how current networks are functioning, who they are reaching, and where there may be opportunities to strengthen or realign efforts to ensure inclusive and impactful collaboration.

In addition many VCSE organisations in Tendring have expressed a need to plan more strategically for the future. However, few are explicitly identifying business development, leadership, or organisational development as skill gaps. This may suggest that some organisations are unsure of what support they need to plan effectively, or may not yet be "joining the dots" between strategic planning and the capabilities required to do so. It's also possible that leaders are hesitant to self-identify areas of weakness, or lack the language to articulate these needs. This highlights an opportunity to explore how we can better support organisations to reflect on their development needs and build confidence in planning for the future.





What else have we found/heard?

What support would you value right now and in the future?

Reliable Long-Term Funding

Organisations consistently highlight the need for stable and predictable funding sources. This allows them to plan for the future, sustain their operations, and expand their services without the constant uncertainty of financial instability.

Effective Multiagency Working and Partnerships

Support in fostering partnerships and enhancing multiagency cooperation can lead to more comprehensive and coordinated service delivery.

Training for Staff and Volunteers

Equipping workforce with the skills to meet needs within their communities. Investing in staff helps in creating a supportive environment and improves the overall well-being of both workforce and recipients.

Engagement

Support to adopt more inclusive, community-led engagement by building skills in co-production, storytelling, and culturally aware communication, and creating safe, shared spaces for participation.

Have you accessed anything past or present that has been particularly useful?

Volunteer support has also been a major asset, with some organisations supported by large, responsive volunteer bases. External consultancy, particularly in areas like finance, IT, SEND awareness, and impact measurement, has helped build capacity. Community engagement, local advertising, and internal networking have proven effective for outreach, while partnerships and forums continue to play a vital role in collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Funding

Many voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations struggle with securing funding, particularly for core operational costs. While project-based funding is more readily available, it often leaves essential day-to-day expenses, such as staff salaries, rent, and infrastructure, unsupported. This creates financial instability and forces organisations into a continuous cycle of searching for new funding sources to stay afloat. Long-term sustainability remains a pressing concern, as reliance on short-term grants makes strategic planning difficult.

01



Engagement

Engaging local communities is a common challenge for VCS organisations in Tendring, especially when trying to reach new or underserved groups. Barriers like low visibility, limited trust, and digital exclusion often hinder efforts, while traditional outreach methods can fall short. Effective engagement requires time, local insight, and sustained presence—resources many organisations lack.

03



Quality Leadership and Training

Quality training that genuinely improves practice is highly valued, as is support for leadership development to navigate the challenges of short-term funding cycles and frequent staff changes. Many organisations require training in areas like safeguarding, mental health first aid and digital skills. However, cost barriers and limited availability of training providers create difficulties in upskilling teams effectively, leading to gaps in knowledge and capabilities.

02



Networking

Given the districts significant variation in demographics and levels of need across different parts of Tendring enhanced networking and collaboration are essential to foster knowledge-sharing and peer support among organisations facing similar challenges. Building a more cohesive support network would help organisations navigate challenges more effectively and avoid duplication of efforts. Commissioners and funders play a crucial role in creating the conditions that allow for better partnership work, ensuring that organisations can collaborate and support each other to meet the evolving needs of the community.

04



Top challenges: