

# One door...



to a thriving, connected & sustainable Third Sector

## A summary of a mapping exercise of Third Sector organisations in Renfrewshire 2009

### Renfrewshire's Third Sector in 2009

- 700 non-profit organisations
- 5,400 paid staff
- 12,900 volunteers
- 13% are social economy organisations generating 175 Million Pounds income

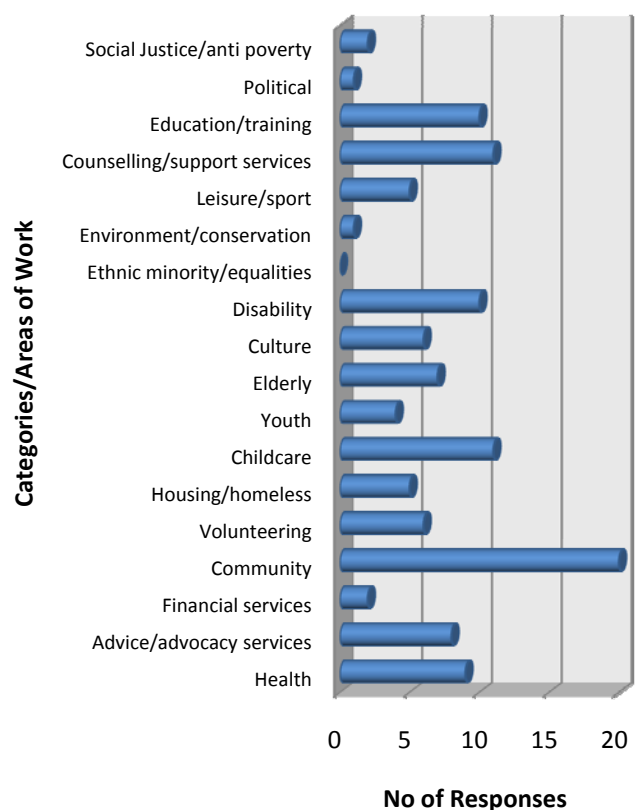
### Mapping Research Objectives

- To map the Third Sector (community, voluntary & social enterprise organisations) in Renfrewshire
- To recognise the contribution it makes to the well-being of people living in Renfrewshire.
- To establish the contribution voluntary organisations in Renfrewshire make to the social economy.
- To explore potential cost-based services the CVS could implement in order to improve its long term sustainability.
- 147 of 186 surveys were returned – 64%

### Key Findings

- The estimated number of organisations has risen by more than 60% since 2003 (418-700)
- 59% of respondents employ staff
- The main focus of work is in local communities
- Childcare, counselling & support services, disability and education are common areas of work along with volunteering
- There is a gap in meeting the needs of ethnic minorities & equalities work
- The most common beneficiary groups are older people, volunteers and young people, closely followed by disabled people and residents of disadvantaged neighbourhoods
- Half of third sector organisations provide services Renfrewshire wide
- 88% of organisations employing staff are registered charities and 57% are companies limited by guarantee
- 35% of organisations not employing staff are registered charities and only two are companies limited by guarantee
- The median income is £37K but there is a gulf between the maximum £14.5M and the minimum £192
- Local authority grants are the main source of income for all organisations although social economy organisations have much higher levels of self-generated or trading income and donations
- The main difficulty with securing funding is finding the time or having the capacity to complete applications

### Main Areas of Work



# Creating a Thriving, Connected & Sustainable Third Sector

## The role of infrastructure support services

### RCVS Vision:

Our vision is for a robust infrastructure which supports a diverse range of thriving, connected and sustainable third sector organisations able to meet the changing needs of Renfrewshire's communities.

### RCVS Mission:

RCVS exists to provide a one-door approach to accessing infrastructure services for all third sector organisations operating within Renfrewshire.

This is achieved within the following thematic programmes:

### Thrive

- Providing a programme of capacity-building support using a differentiated strategy to meet diverse third sector needs

### Connect

- Acting as a catalyst for effective engagement between the community and voluntary sector and between the local decision making and planning structures in order to influence policy and contribute to delivering on local outcomes

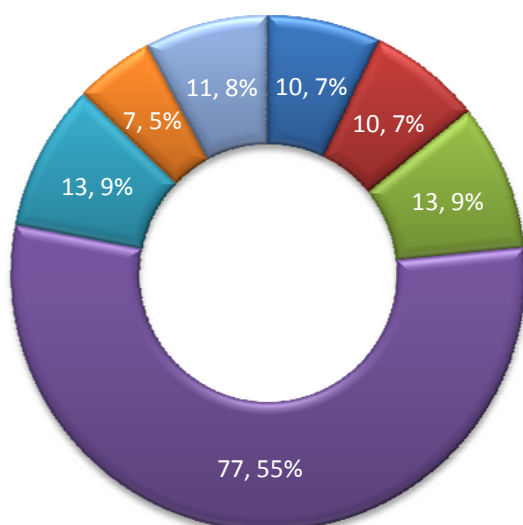
### Research & Development

- Building on the existing mapping exercise and third sector database and building data, knowledge and understanding of third sector activity

### Sustainability & Continuous Improvement

- Working internally and with other providers to improve the quality and sustainability of infrastructure services

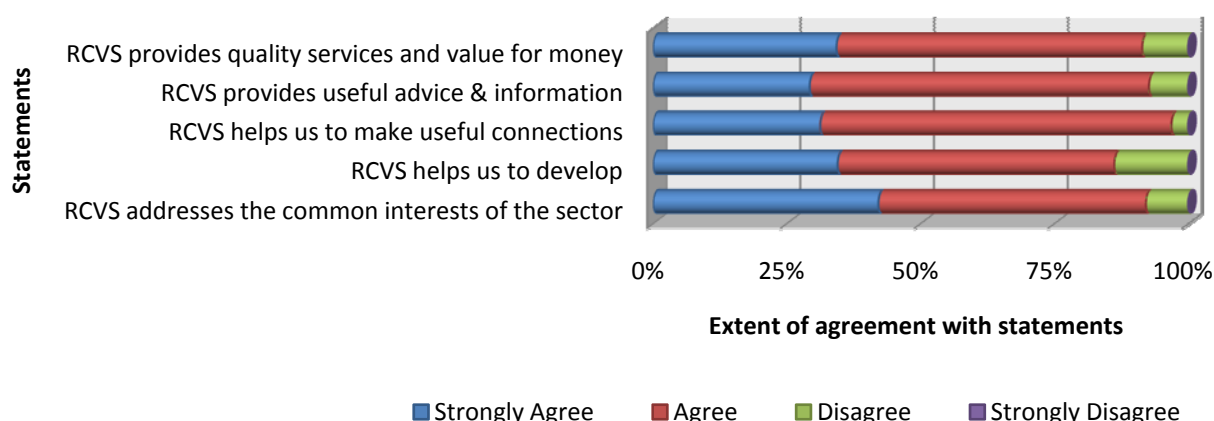
## Use of Support Services



- Renfrewshire Council (Community Learning & Development)
- Renfrewshire Council (Economic Development)
- Renfrewshire Council (Social Work Department - Locality Planners)
- RCVS
- Paisley Partnership Regeneration Company (PPRC)
- Community Enterprise in Strathclyde (CEiS)
- Private sector consultants

The breakdown of support services used reflects the fact that 77 survey respondents are members of RCVS.

## How RCVS helps third sector organisations



### Views on RCVS Support Services

- The most commonly used services are the information services, namely the e-bulletin, funding advice & support, the newsletter and the website
- The services organisations are least aware of are event management, financial support and marketing services
- 90% of respondents view the e-bulletin and funding advice provided by RCVS as excellent or very good
- The vast majority of respondents using RCVS services rate the support and handling of their enquiries as excellent or very good
- Social economy organisations with staff are more aware of and more likely to use RCVS services
- Social economy organisations get more involved in thematic networks and take advantage of services such as governance, training, payroll services and employers advice (via GCVS)
- Many organisations do not appear to be fully aware of their support needs and lack the time and capacity to do so
- 15 organisations indicated an interest in the development of a third sector hub facility
- There is a low level of inter-trading between third sector organisations which indicates a potential development opportunity
- Few organisations actively participate in existing third sector networks - however the benefits of knowing what is happening locally, having an opportunity to network with others and a chance to share ideas and resources are recognised benefits

### Key Recommendations

- There is evidence to support the need for a differentiated strategy in how organisations are supported, especially given clear distinctions between employers and non-employers
- Develop a strategy to target organisations with apparent gaps in structures & resources
- Continue to provide training in funding, governance & risk-management
- Review under-utilised services and decide whether they are still needed or whether to focus on other priorities
- Work with other providers to provide an integrated 'pipeline' of support to build third sector capacity and engagement
- Build the internal capacity of RCVS to better meet more specialised needs in different tiers of the third sector
- Revisit the roles & relevance of existing networks and explore alternatives to engaging in decision-making
- Maintain strategic threads of third sector engagement in decision-making
- Develop ideas around inter-trading within the sector
- Target particular organisations with an interest and capacity in extending their role in representing wider third sector interests in influencing and delivering local outcomes
- Work to persuade community planning partners and decision-makers of the valuable contribution third sector organisations can make to achieving local outcomes and their role in supporting better engagement