



Giving of time and money

Findings from the 2012-13 Community Life Survey





Contents

1

Introduction and summary 01

2

How have levels of volunteering changed over the last 10 years? 03

3

Who volunteers formally, what activities do they do and what are the barriers? 07

4

What is the role of informal volunteering? 10

5

What are the recent trends in charitable giving? 12

6

How are people supporting their community through social action? 15

7

What is the overlap between giving time and money? 18

8

What is the link between volunteering, giving and social capital? 20

9

What is the link between volunteering, giving and well-being? 22

10

Methodology 24

11

Authors and acknowledgements 26

12

Glossary of key terms and definitions 27



This report presents headline data from the Community Life Survey in relation to *Giving time and money*.

The Community Life Survey is a new Cabinet Office survey tracking trends and developments across topics related to encouraging social action and empowering communities.

This report includes data and analysis from the 2012-13 Community Life Survey, for which a representative sample of 6,915 adults in England were interviewed between August 2012 and April 2013.

Giving time and money can take a variety of forms: for example helping out as part of an organised group or club; assisting neighbours and individuals on a more informal basis; and donating money to support either local, national or international causes.

However, there is also increasing interest in the ways that individuals can support their communities through social action which, in this report, is defined as people getting together to initiate or support a local project or activity focussed on a community need.

This report covers the prevalence, nature, trends and overlaps in relation to all these forms of giving time and money.

This report focuses on the following methods of giving time or money:



(Regular) formal volunteering: Giving unpaid help (at least once a month) through groups, clubs or organisations to benefit other people or the environment



Social action: Giving unpaid help to support a community event, campaign or project

The reference period for volunteering and social action is the previous 12 months, while the reference period for charitable giving is the previous 4 weeks, based on date of interview.

Trend data before 2012-13 is derived from the Citizenship Survey which ran from 2001 to 2010-11, and used comparable tracking measures.



(Regular) informal volunteering: Giving unpaid help (at least once a month) as an individual to people who are not relatives



Charitable donation: Donating money to charitable causes

Further definitions of key terms used in this report are provided in the Glossary (Chapter 12).

Base numbers for all charts are provided in the tables which accompany this report (see page 25).



The key findings are as follows:

Rates of both formal and informal volunteering have increased since 2010-11. This increase is seen across most population groups, although notable increases in formal volunteering have been observed amongst full-time students and young people (16-19 years old). Annual formal volunteering rates have also increased across a number of regions in this time period, including but not restricted to London.

The proportion of people giving to charity has risen. However, the average amount donated has not changed in real terms since 2010-11.

Around one in four people have given time to support a social action project in the previous 12 months. The most common types of project supported are community events such as street parties, and campaigns to prevent something happening in the community.

There is a large degree of overlap between volunteering, giving and social action. This suggests that participation in one behaviour helps reinforce involvement in others.

There are clear similarities in the profile of people who get involved in giving time or money. Compared with those who are not involved, these people are more likely to be older, with higher levels of education, in higher-level occupations and actively practising a religion.

There are similarities in the types of area associated with higher levels of charitable giving, formal volunteering, and social action. These actions are more common in affluent areas, rural areas and certain regions: levels are consistently higher than average in the East of England and lowest in the North East.

A central core of one in seven people get involved in all three activities of formal volunteering, informal volunteering and charitable giving. This group are more likely to be affluent, educated and in higher-level occupations compared with those who participate in a more limited way.

Giving time and money is associated with high social capital. Those who give time or money are more likely than those who do not to have high levels of interaction with neighbours, to trust people in the community and to have a diverse circle of friends.

Giving time (through formal volunteering and through social action) and giving money are both associated with higher levels of well-being.





Key findings

- Rates of volunteering in 2012-13 have increased significantly compared with 2010-11: from 39% to 44% for annual formal volunteering and from 55% to 62% for annual informal volunteering.
- Between 2010-11 and 2012-13, there has been a notable increase in annual formal volunteering rates amongst full-time students (from 47% to 60%) and young people aged 16-19 (from 42% to 58%).
- Annual formal volunteering rates have increased across a number of regions between 2010-11 and 2012-13, including but not restricted to London.

This chapter provides an overview of both the longer-term and more recent trends in formal and informal volunteering rates. Overall, the latest data indicate an increase in volunteering rates in 2012-13 compared with 2010-11. This chapter highlights those population groups which are most associated with these increases.

Trend data – annual volunteering rates

The proportion of people involved in either formal or informal volunteering at least once in the last 12 months was higher in 2012-13 (72%) compared with the level observed in 2010-11 (65%)*.

Annual volunteering rates in 2012-13 (informal and formal volunteering combined) remain lower compared with 2001, when the current time trends began. However, the latest figures represent a break in the decline in combined volunteering rates observed since 2005.

Whilst it is encouraging that volunteering rates have increased, it is too early to say whether this represents a sustained reversal of the decline since 2005.

Data from 2013-14 will indicate if this trend continues.

The increase in volunteering rates is observed across both formal and informal volunteering. The proportion of people involved in formal volunteering, at least once in the previous 12 months, increased from 39% in 2010-11 to 44% in 2012-13. The proportion involved in informal volunteering, at least once in the previous 12 months, increased from 55% to 62% in this period.

Annual informal volunteering has shown more variation over time than annual formal volunteering. While the level of annual informal volunteering reported in 2012-13 also represents an increase in levels seen since 2009-10, it remains significantly lower compared with 2001, 2005 and 2007-8 and in line with levels observed in 2003 and 2008-9.

The annual formal volunteering rate reported in the 2012-13 survey is higher or at the same level as those observed since the start of the survey in 2001.

There has also been an increase between 2010-11 and 2012-13 in the proportion of people who report formal volunteering and informal volunteering on a regular basis (defined as at least once a month). Regular formal volunteering at least once a month increased from 25% to 29% in this period, while regular informal volunteering increased from 29% to 36%.

Trends in annual volunteering are displayed in the chart on page 4.



While both formal and informal volunteering rates have increased since 2010-11, the longer-term trend for each follows a slightly different pattern.

* The Citizenship Survey series ended in 2010-11, and no tracking measure was recorded in 2011-12



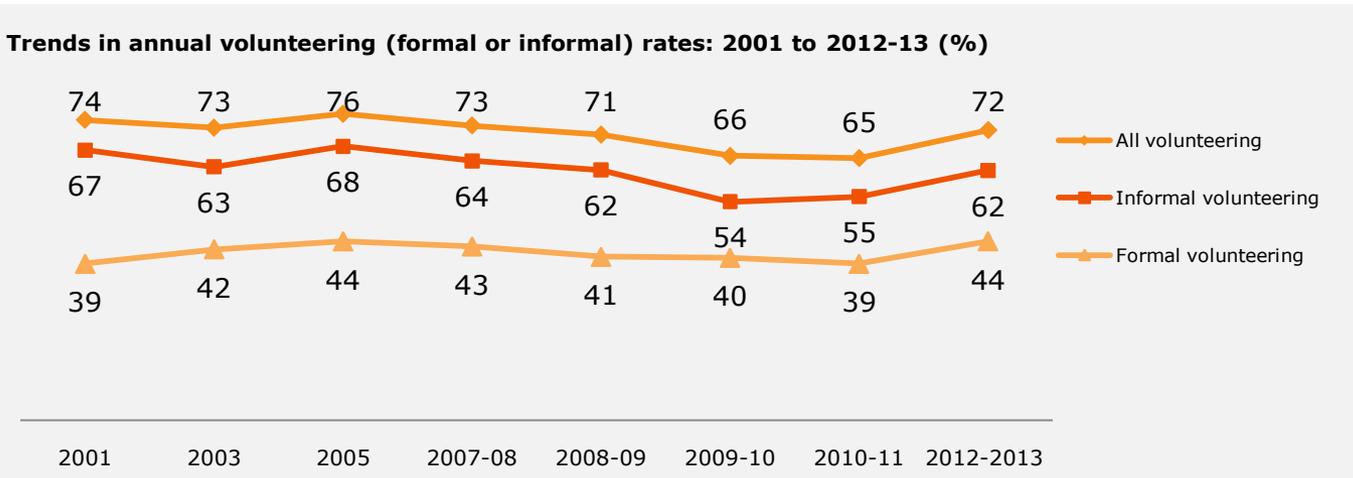
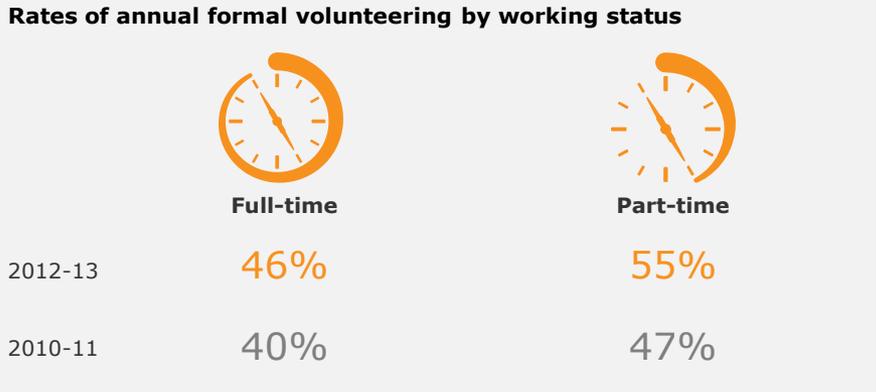
Where has the rise in formal volunteering occurred since 2010-11?

While the rise in formal volunteering is fairly evenly spread across key demographic groups there are a few groups where volunteering rates have shown a marked increase.

A significant increase in annual formal volunteering is seen amongst the economically inactive. This is primarily driven by an increase in volunteering rates amongst full-time students, from 47% in 2010-11 to 60% in 2012-13. A marked increase was also seen amongst young people aged 16-19 (from 42% to 58%), many of whom will also be full-time students.

Increases were also seen across the working population (full-time and part-time) where annual volunteering rates rose significantly from 42% to 48%, and this group remains the most likely to volunteer formally when compared with the economically inactive and unemployed.

Whilst significant increases were seen amongst both full-time and part-time workers the increase was most notable amongst part-time workers.





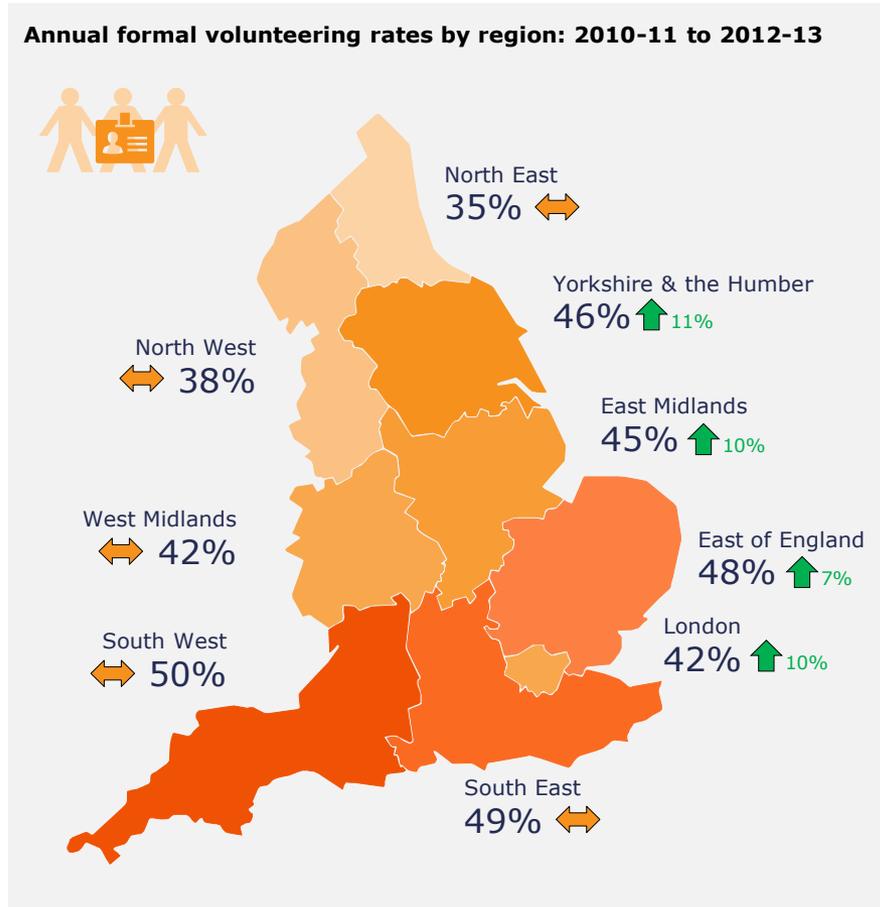
Formal volunteering rates have increased significantly amongst ethnic minority groups, from 33% in 2010-11 to 43% in 2012-13.

Changes in levels of formal volunteering also show variation by region. The East Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber, the East of England and London have all seen notable significant increases in levels of formal volunteering since 2010-11.

Levels of formal volunteering are highest in the South East and South West, though no increases were seen in 2012-13 compared with 2010-11.

While it is difficult to determine exactly what has driven the increase in formal volunteering, it might be hypothesised that the awareness and increased profile of volunteering resulting from the Olympics may have inspired people to get involved in volunteering.

However, whilst acknowledging that the survey was not set up to establish the cause of the increase nor to measure the impact of the Olympics, it is notable that increases have been seen across a number of different regions and not solely in London.



↑ Increase from 2010-11 ↓ Decrease from 2010-11 ↔ No change from 2010-11



Where has the rise in informal volunteering occurred since 2010-11?

Trends in volunteering over time show that the increase in informal volunteering was evident amongst the majority of age groups, except those aged between 50 and 74.

As observed with formal volunteering, there was a large increase in annual informal volunteering amongst the economically inactive from 48% in 2010-11 to 57% in 2012-13.

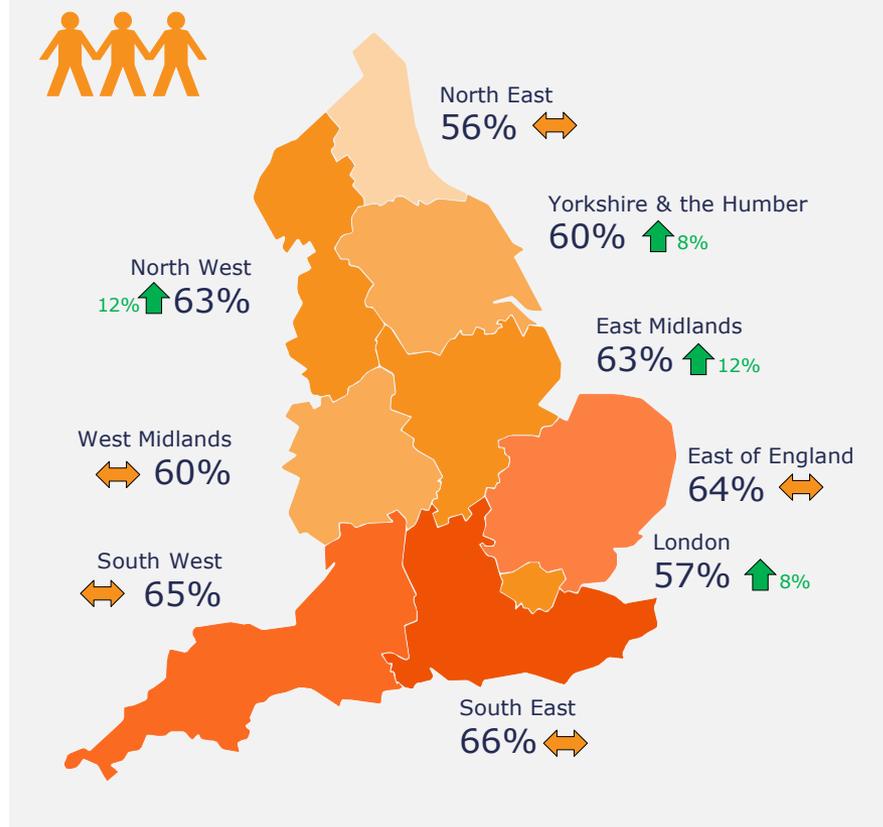
This was also primarily driven by a significant increase amongst full-time students where levels increased from 55% to 70% in this period.

An increase was also evident amongst those retired from work, where rates increased from 50% in 2010-11 to 55% in 2012-13.

It is worth noting that in 2009-10 there was a marked decline in annual informal volunteering rates amongst the economically inactive from 58% in 2008-9 to 47% in 2009-10.

The increase in annual informal volunteering rates between 2010-11 and 2012-13 was most notable amongst people living in the North West and the East Midlands although changes were also noted across a number of other regions.

Annual informal volunteering rates by region: 2010-11 to 2012-13



↑ Increase from 2010- 11 ↓ Decrease from 2010- 11 ↔ No change from 2010 -11



Key findings

- Sports organisations remain the most popular group for which people volunteer formally (52% of people who volunteer at least once a month help these groups).
- There is a positive relationship between regular formal volunteering and level of education: 39% of those educated to degree level participate in regular formal volunteering compared with 14% of those with no qualifications.
- Participation in regular formal volunteering is related to area deprivation (19% of people living in the most deprived areas took part compared with 36% of people living in the least deprived areas).
- In line with 2010-11, the main barriers to participation are work (cited by 58%) and home/family commitments (cited by 31%).

Formal volunteering is defined as unpaid help given as part of a group, club or organisation to benefit others or the environment. In 2012-13, 44% of adults volunteered formally at least once in the 12 months prior to interview and almost three in ten (29%) participated at least once a month.

This chapter explores the role of formal volunteering, the profile of people who gave time in this way and the barriers to such participation.

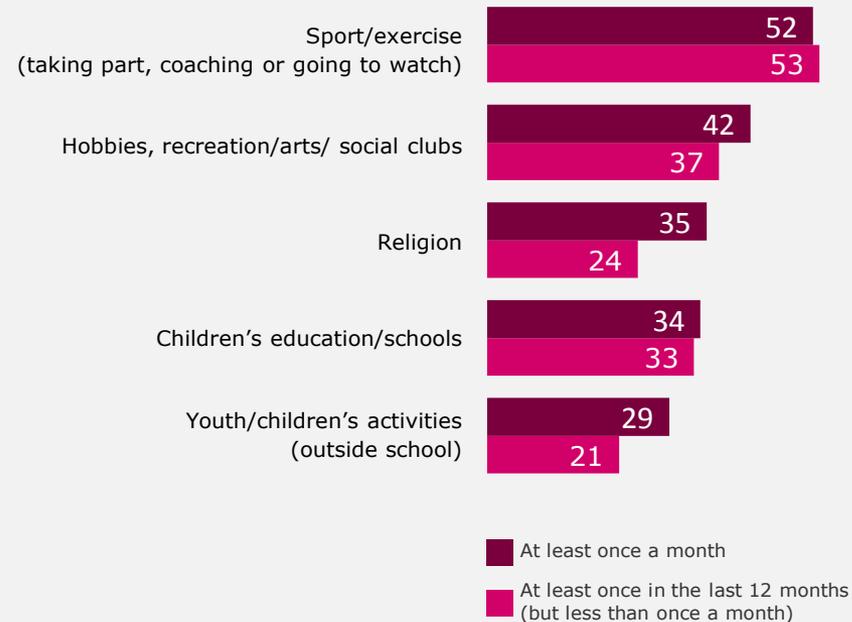
What activities do formal volunteers participate in?

Amongst those volunteering formally on a regular basis, the most commonly cited activities include organising or helping to run an activity or event (53%) and raising or handling money or sponsored events (53%). Sports organisations were the most popular type of group for which people volunteered formally. Over half (52%) of those volunteering at least once a month gave time to this, while 42% participated in groups revolving around hobbies/arts/recreation, 35% gave time to religious organisations and 34% helped with children's education/schools.

There were very few differences in the types of organisations helped according to the frequency of volunteering.

Regular formal volunteers were however significantly more likely than infrequent formal volunteers to cite helping religious groups.

Top 5 organisations helped through formal volunteering (%)





On average, regular formal volunteers spent 11.1 hours volunteering across all activities in the four weeks prior to the interview (an estimated average of 2.8 hours a week).

Who participates in regular formal volunteering?

Individuals aged 26 to 34 are less likely to volunteer than those aged 35 to 74 (24% and 31% respectively). Although not significantly different, 28% of 16 to 25 year olds and 27% aged 75 or over volunteered regularly.

No significant differences are observed between men and women.

Religious affiliation is strongly related to formal volunteering. Four in ten (40%) people actively practising their religion take part in regular formal volunteering compared with a quarter (25%) of those not actively practising.

There is also a positive relationship between participation in regular formal volunteering and level of education. People with higher qualifications are more likely to take part in volunteering than those with lower level or no qualifications.

People from managerial and professional occupations, and full-time students, are more likely to participate in regular formal volunteering than those who have never worked or who are long-term unemployed.

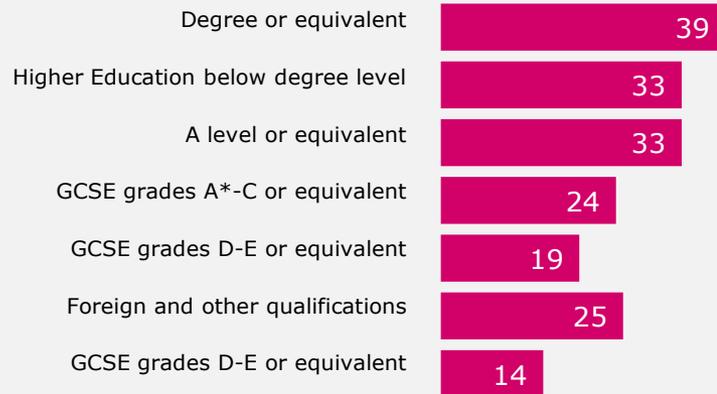
Certain geographical factors are also significant - those living in rural communities being more likely to volunteer formally on a regular basis compared with those living in urban communities (36% and 27% respectively).

There is also regional variation, with regular formal volunteering being most prevalent in the South West (34%), East of England (33%) and the South East (32%) and least prevalent in the North East (21%) and North West (25%).

Levels of participation in regular formal volunteering are related to area deprivation, where participation generally decreases as the level of local deprivation increases. A fifth (19%) of people living in the ten per cent most deprived areas take part in regular formal volunteering compared with 36% of people living in the ten per cent least deprived areas.*

*Index of Multiple Deprivation (see Glossary)

Volunteering by Qualifications (%)



Volunteering by Socio Economic Groups (%)





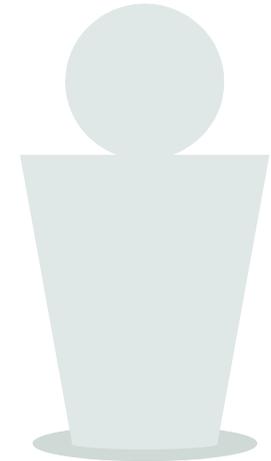
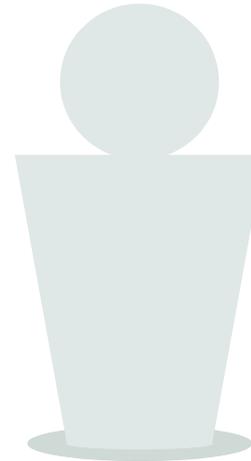
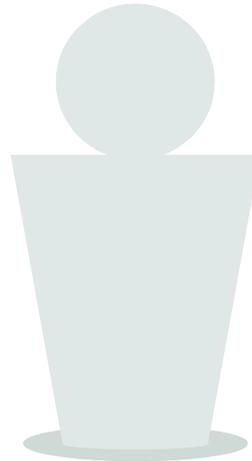
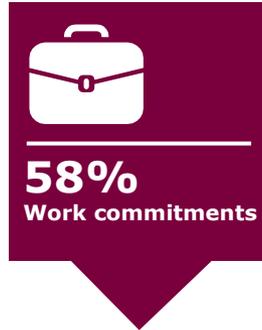
Barriers to volunteering

People who did not participate in regular formal volunteering, or who did so infrequently (less than once a month), and reported that they would like to volunteer more often, were asked about the main barriers preventing them from doing so.

The top three barriers in 2012-13 are in line with those cited in 2010-11.

Individuals who volunteered formally less than once a month were more likely than those who did not volunteer formally at all to cite work, studying and having other things to do in their spare time as barriers.

Top three barriers to volunteering:





Key findings

- Over a third of people give time on a regular basis to help out neighbours and individuals on an informal basis.
- On average, informal volunteers give less time per week compared with formal volunteers (1.8 hours per week compared with 2.8 hours per week).
- While there is some overlap between informal and formal volunteering, most informal volunteers (56%) are participating in isolation from formal volunteering.
- Those who only volunteer informally differ in profile from those who only volunteer formally: they are more likely to be female, younger, with lower qualifications and living in less affluent areas.

Most measures of volunteering focus on those who volunteer through more “traditional” routes, such as helping out at local clubs, organisations, or groups. However, informal volunteering is more prevalent than formal volunteering, with over a third of people (36%) regularly helping out neighbours and friends on a more casual basis.

This chapter explores the role of informal volunteering, and highlights the differences in the profile of people who give time in this way compared with those who volunteer through more structured routes.

What do informal volunteers do?

The activity cited by the largest proportion of people is giving advice, while other common activities include helping people who have difficulty getting out or who need transport.

Regular informal volunteers tend to spend less time volunteering than regular formal volunteers. On average, informal volunteers spend around an hour less per week volunteering than those who volunteer on a formal basis (1.8 compared with 2.8 hours per week).

Activities undertaken by regular informal volunteers (%)



Estimated weekly number of hours spend volunteering





Who volunteers informally ?

While many informal volunteers also give time through formal volunteering or social action...

Of those who volunteer informally on a regular basis...

 **44%** also spend time on formal volunteering

 **31%** also support a social action project or activity

... a large proportion of informal volunteers only give time in this way. It is therefore of interest to compare the characteristics of those who only volunteer informally with those who only volunteer formally to better understand the types of people participating in these ways.

Compared with people who only volunteer formally, people who only volunteer informally are more likely to be female, younger, working in a routine or manual profession, living in less affluent areas and to be less qualified.

Those who only volunteer informally are also less likely to be practicing a religion.

It is interesting to note that, although this group tend to have lower financial means, they are equally as likely as

those who only volunteer formally to have given to charity in the four weeks prior to interview.

Profile of those who only volunteer informally/only volunteer formally (%)



*Index of Multiple Deprivation (see Glossary)



Key findings

- The overall proportion of people giving to charity (measured in the four weeks prior to interview) has increased to 74% in 2012-13 from 72% in 2010-11.
- The proportion of people donating to charity is highest in the East of England (80%) and lowest in London (69%) and the North East (68%). However, amongst those who donated, those in London give more (an average of £24.29) compared with other regions.
- There is a clear relationship between the amount of money donated and income, with those earning higher amounts more likely to give. However, relative to their income, those on lower salaries give proportionately more.

Despite continuing economic uncertainty, the findings indicate that charitable giving has increased in 2012-13, although it is too early to say whether this represents a continuing trend. This chapter provides an overview of how much people donated to charity in 2012-13, how they donated, and recent trends in charitable giving.

Prevalence and level of charitable giving

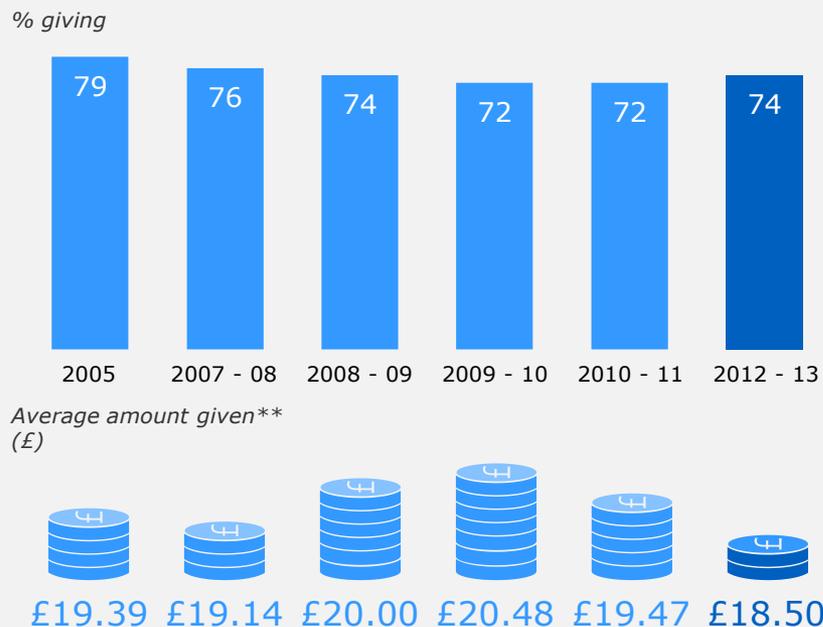
In 2012-13 almost three quarters (74%) of people reported giving to charity in the four weeks prior to interview; this represents an increase from 2010-11 when 72% donated. The proportion of people donating to charity has declined between 2005 and 2010-11 (from 79% to 72%), so the latest figures appear to represent a halt of this trend. However it is too early to say whether this represents a continuing trend. Future data from 2013-14 will indicate if this is the case. This follows a similar pattern to trends in volunteering over this same time period.

Although the proportion of people giving has risen, the average amounts donated have not. In 2012-13 the

average amount given to charity was £18.50. This figure is not statistically different in real terms to the average amount given in 2010-11 (£19.47)*.

However, it represents a real term decrease in the amount given to charity compared with 2009-10 (£20.48).

Proportion of people who have given to charity in the 4 weeks prior to interview and average (mean) amount given by those who donated: 2005 to 2012-13



*Figures before 2012-13 have been adjusted for inflation using RPI

** Mean excludes amounts of £300 or more



Who gives most?

Between the ages of 16 and 74, the level of giving rises by age: 65% of those aged 16 to 24 give to charity, with the figure rising through the age groups to a peak of 78% of 65 to 74 year olds, then dropping slightly to 73% for those aged 75 or over.

Charitable giving was strongly associated with measures of affluence, both at the individual and area level. In general, individuals who earn more are more likely to give money, and to give a larger amount. For example, 69% of those with a personal income of less than £10,000 per annum give to charity compared with 85% of those with an income of over £50,000.

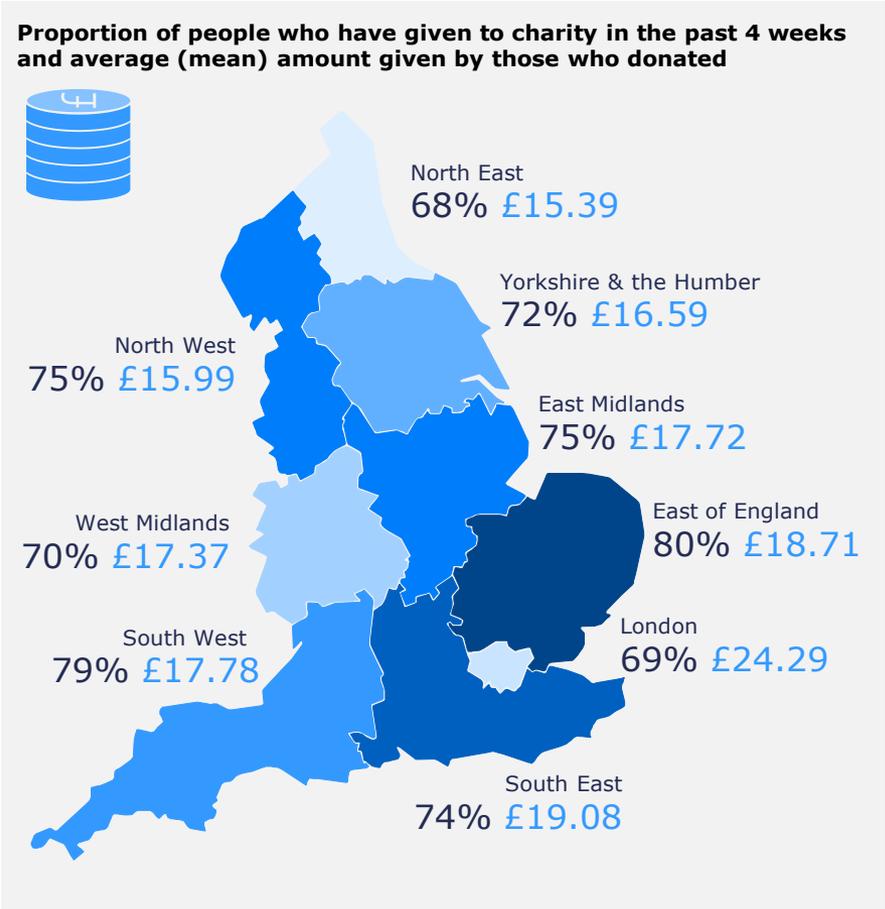
Amongst those who give, those on a lower income give less (£15.08 on average for those earning under £10,000 per annum compared with £36.13 amongst those with an income greater than £50,000). However, this does indicate that, relative to their income, those on lower wages give proportionally more.

Supporting the overall trend, a higher proportion of people living in areas defined as 'Wealthy Achievers' donate to charity (81%) compared with those living in 'Hard pressed' areas* (61%); they also donate a higher amount on average (£22.77 compared with £12.20). This same pattern is observed when comparing charitable giving by level of deprivation (60% give in the most deprived areas give to charity compared with 84% in the least deprived areas**).

The level of giving and amount given also varies by the region. The prevalence of giving is highest in the East of England (80%), and lowest in the North East (68%) and London (69%).

However, amongst those who donate, those in London give more on average (£24.29) than other regions. In contrast, the lowest average amount was given in the North East (£15.39). This regional variation reflects average 2012 earning levels across the regions: London has the highest average weekly income (£653) and the North East has the lowest (£455)***.

*ACORN-defined categories. Refer to Glossary for further information
**According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation deciles (see Glossary for further details)
***2012 Gross median weekly income from ONS <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/ashe/patterns-of-pay/1997-to-2012-ashe-results/patterns-of-pay-2012.html>



Proportion of people who have given to charity in the last 4 weeks

Average amount given by all who have donated



How people give to charity

The most common method of donating to charity is by giving money to collecting tins (47%), buying raffle tickets (33%), buying goods from a charity shop (30%) and giving by direct debit/standing order/payroll (30%) were the next most common methods of donation*.

Those who donated to charity give to a variety of different causes, the most common being medical research (33%); hospitals/hospices (26%); and children /young people (22 %). Women are more likely than men to have donated to animal welfare causes (22% compared with 16%), and men were more likely than women to have donated to sports/exercise causes (7% compared with 4%).

How do people give to charity?



47%

Money to collecting tins



33%

Buying raffle tickets



30%

Direct debit/ standing order / payroll giving



30%

Buying goods from a charity shop



21%

Collection at place of worship

*Due to changes in answer codes at this question from the Citizenship survey it not possible to comment on trends before 2012-13



Key findings

- One in four people (23%) say that they have been involved in a social action project in the previous 12 months.
- While one in ten (11%) people got involved in community events/street parties, other social action was mainly centred on the desire to prevent something in the community: 8% got involved in trying to stop something happening and 4% had tried to stop the closure of a local service/amenity.
- Social action is more common in affluent areas and amongst people who have managerial level occupations.
- Most people get involved because they are asked by someone they know (51%), while one of the key barriers is not being asked (25%).

Social action, in the context of this report, is defined as a community project, event, or activity which local people proactively get together to initiate or support on an unpaid basis.

It is distinct from other forms of giving time in that it is driven and led by local people rather than through an existing group (as in formal volunteering) and tends to focus on a community need rather than the needs of an individual (as in informal volunteering). Examples could include organising a street party, preventing the closure of a local post office, helping to run a local playgroup, or improving local road safety.

This chapter explores the level and nature of involvement in social action, what appears to be driving it and barriers to participation.

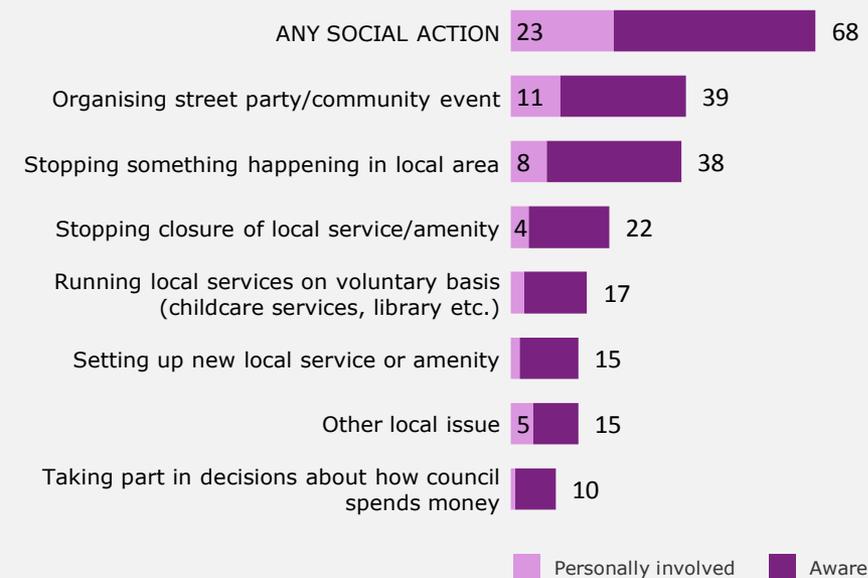
Level and nature of social action*

Most people are aware of social action in their communities, but only a minority actually get involved. So, while seven in ten people (68%) are aware of residents in their local area getting together to resolve a community issue or plan a community event, only 23% say that they have been involved themselves.

Organising a street party or other community event is the activity people are most likely to be aware of, or to get involved in. Community events aside, local action tends to involve activities centred on

preventing something: either to stop something happening or to stop something closing. Social action is less likely to be centred on setting up or running services, though a small minority are involved in this.

Level of awareness and involvement in social action projects in previous 12 months (%)



Percentage figures of 3% or less are not shown on the chart

* This is a new measure introduced in Quarter 4 of the 2012-13 Community Life Survey, and data in this chapter are therefore based on a reduced quarterly sample (n=2,341)



Where is social action happening?

Social action is more prevalent in affluent areas and rural areas. For example, people are most likely to be aware of or to get involved in social action when they live in an area defined as "Wealthy Achievers", while levels of awareness and activity are lowest in areas defined as "Hard Pressed"

There is a similar pattern in terms of deprivation, with people living in areas classified as least deprived more likely to be aware and involved in social action than those living in areas classified as most deprived. By population density, participation in social action is higher in rural areas (32%) compared with urban areas (20%).

Awareness of social action also appears more prevalent when people are satisfied with their local area as a place to live, compared with those who are dissatisfied. However, the proportion of people getting involved in social action is the same for those who are satisfied and dissatisfied with their local area.

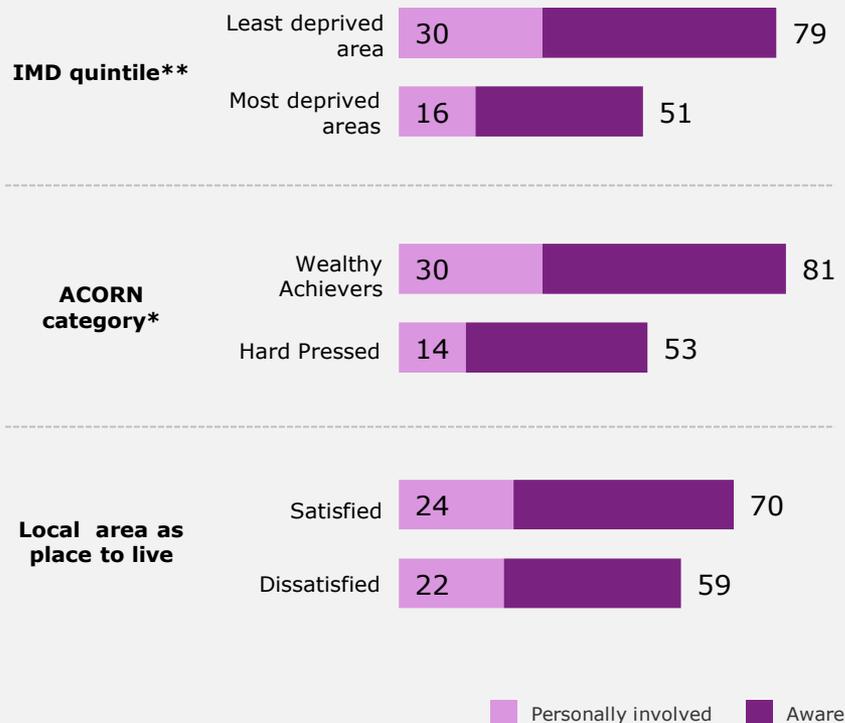
Mirroring similar findings for formal volunteering and giving, level of involvement in social action is highest in the East of England (28%) and lowest in the North East (17%).

Who is getting involved?

Level of involvement in social action is higher amongst those aged 35 or over than amongst those aged 16-34 (25% compared with 18%); it is also higher amongst people from managerial or professional occupational groups (28%) than people in routine or manual occupations (15%) or who have never worked (12%). Men and women are equally as likely to get involved in social action.

Overall, the profile of those involved in social action is more similar to those involved in formal volunteering than informal volunteering.

Where is social action happening? (%)



*ACORN-defined categories (see Glossary for further details)
**Index of Multiple Deprivation, top 20% and bottom 20% (see Glossary)



How are people getting involved?

Of those involved in social action, over half (51%) found out because they were asked by someone they knew.

When asked about what role they had played in the social action project, as might be expected only a small proportion had initiated (9%) or managed (8%) the event or activity; involvement was more likely to be as part of a team, for example participation in a discussion or raising awareness or funds.

Unlike formal volunteering which is often a more regular activity, involvement in social action is less frequent: most participants (75%) got involved on up to three occasions in the last 12 months, with 40% being involved only once.

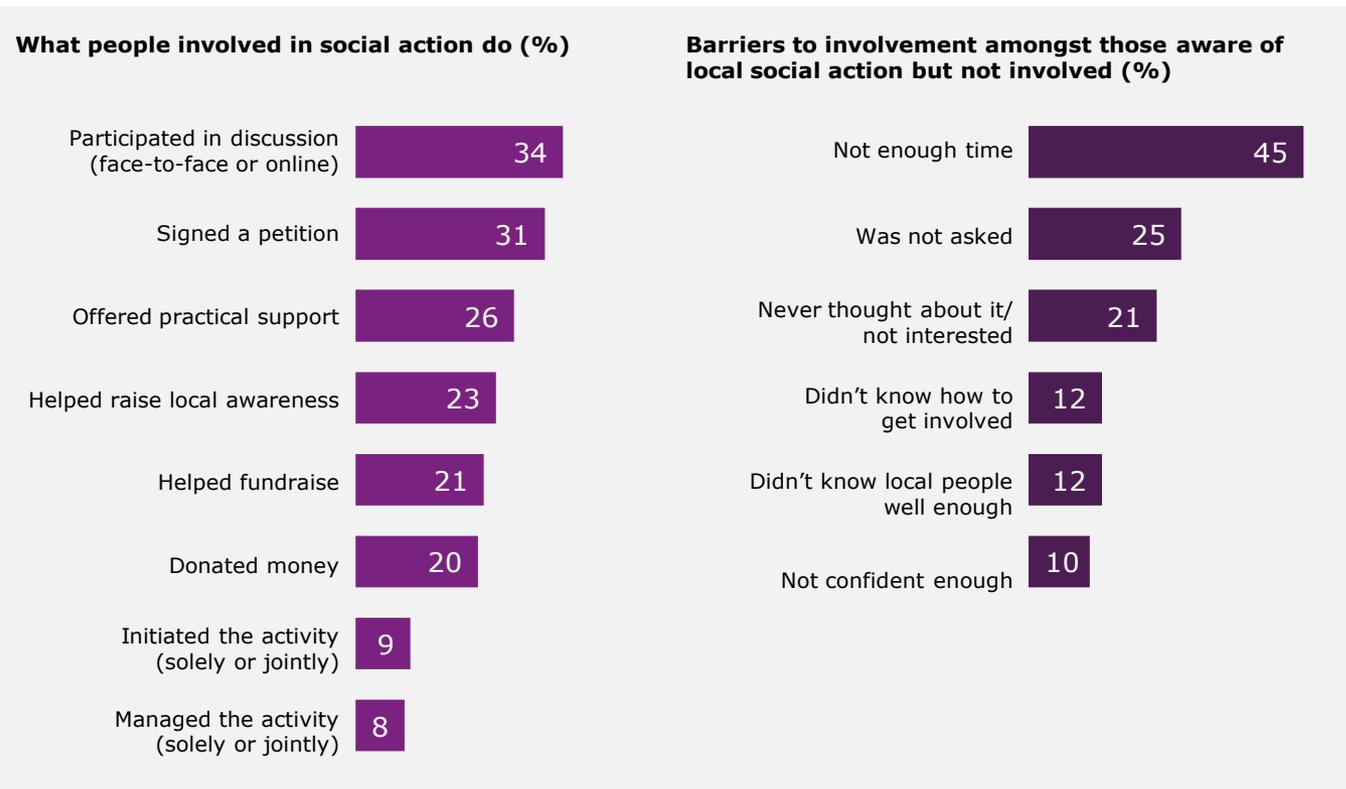
Motivations and barriers

The key motivations behind participation in social action are a desire to serve the community (39%) or simply being asked to get involved (36%). Of those aware of local social action but not involved, 35% expressed a desire to be involved.

The main barrier cited by those in this position is lack of time (45%), echoing the reasons which also stop people volunteering formally.

However, a quarter of people said simply that they had not been asked to get involved.

This supports the notion that involvement in social action is at least partly driven by community networks.





Key findings

- One in seven people (14%) are involved across the multiple activities of regular formal volunteering, regular informal volunteering and charitable giving. This group has a higher likelihood of being aged 50 or over, in managerial-level occupations, practising a religion, and living in more affluent areas.
- Most people who give time on a regular basis also give to charity, though many people donate to charity without giving time.
- The propensity to volunteer formally on a regular basis increases when people are also involved in informal volunteering and charitable giving (from 29% to 48%).
- There is a significant overlap between participation in social action and regular volunteering; and social action and charitable giving.

This chapter provides an overview of the prevalence of, and overlaps between, the key measures of giving time and money in 2012-13. The findings suggest that there is a large degree of overlap and that participation in one behaviour helps to reinforce involvement in other behaviours.

Overall prevalence and overlaps

The survey included four key measures of giving time and money: regular formal volunteering; regular informal volunteering; charitable giving; and participation in social action*. Of these, charitable giving is the most commonly practised, while participation in social action** is least common:

Participation in giving time and money is widespread in the general population. Overall, about eight in ten people (83%) participate in at least one of the following three activities: regular formal volunteering; regular informal volunteering; and giving to charity in the past four weeks.

There is also a significant level of overlap between these three measures, with a central core of 14% of people involved in all three activities. Compared with those who either do not participate at all, or who participate in one or two activities, this central core is characterised by an increased likelihood to be female, aged 50+, in managerial or professional level occupations,

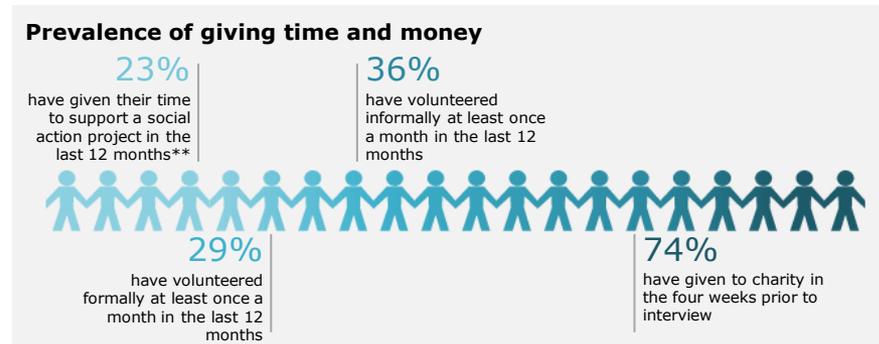
educated to degree level, practising a religion, and living in a more affluent area***.

Most people who volunteer formally, informally or both, also give money to charity: only nine per cent of people participate in regular volunteering without also giving to charity.

Charitable giving was the behaviour that was most likely to be undertaken in isolation from other behaviours: a third (33%) of people had given to charity in the past four weeks but had not participated in regular volunteering. Overlaps between volunteering and charitable giving are displayed in the chart on p19.

Propensity to volunteer by involvement in other activities

Participation in one volunteering or charitable giving behaviour appears to reinforce participation in others. So, for example, the propensity to volunteer formally (29% overall) increases with level of involvement in other activities: to 34% when people also donate to charity; to 44% when people also volunteer informally; and to 48% when people both give to charity and volunteer informally.



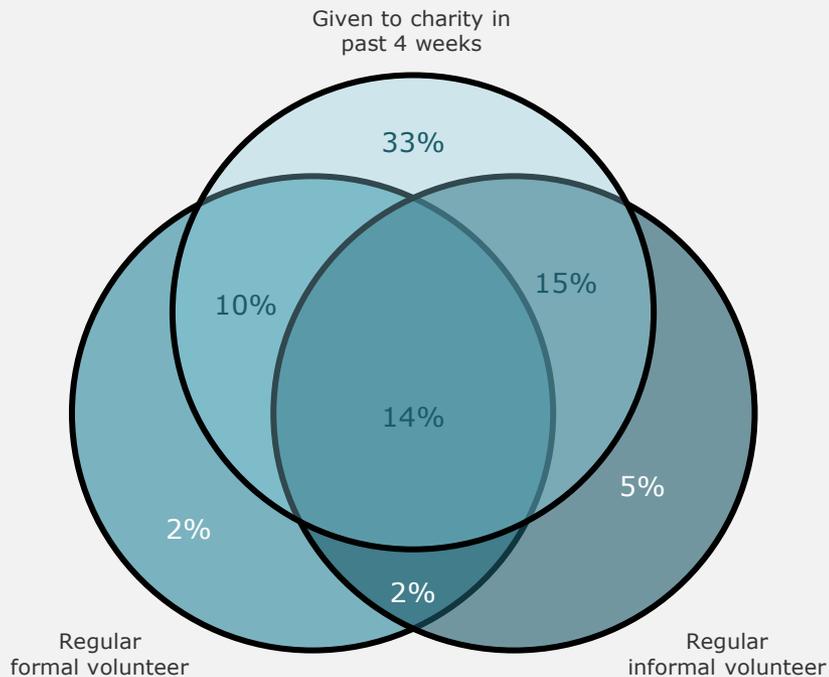
* Refer to Glossary for definitions of these measures

** This is a new measure introduced in Quarter 4 of the 2012-13 Community Life Survey, and is therefore based on a reduced quarterly sample (n=2,341)

*** As defined by ACORN categories (see Glossary)



Overlaps between volunteering and charitable giving



17%

did not give to charity or volunteer on a regular basis in the past 12 months.

Overlap between social action, volunteering and giving

Participation in social action is usually part of a wider set of behaviours that involve giving time and money, indicating that people involved in driving change at the community level are also giving time and money in other ways.

Of those who give their time to support social action projects or community events, half or more are also involved in other activities.

Of those who give their time to support social action projects or community events:



85%
also give money to charity



49%
are also regular formal volunteers



52%
are also regular informal volunteers



Key findings

- Co-operation between neighbours is strongly associated with volunteering and giving: those who borrow and exchange favours with their neighbours are more likely to both give and volunteer (51%) compared with people who do not (33%).
- Volunteering is also related to more diverse social networks in terms of ethnicity and age - for example, those who have a higher proportion of friends from different ethnic groups are more likely to volunteer (51%) than people who have no friends outside their own ethnic group (42%).
- Neighbourhood trust is strongly related to charitable giving: amongst people who feel that many people in their neighbourhood can be trusted, 49% give £10 or more to charity, dropping to 31% amongst people feeling that few or no people can be trusted.

Social capital describes the strength and pattern of networks amongst people and the shared values which arise from these networks.

The survey included a number of

measures of social capital including neighbourliness, social networks, social trust, belonging and cohesion. While many of these attributes were found to be related to volunteering and giving, this chapter highlights

those which were found to be **most strongly** associated with these behaviours after controlling for area-based and individual demographic factors*: neighbourliness, diversity of networks and social trust.

Factors significantly associated with volunteering and giving after controlling for demographics

	Regular formal volunteer	Regular informal volunteer	Given to charity in past 4 weeks
MOST SIGNIFICANT	More diverse social networks by age	High levels of neighbourliness	High levels of neighbourhood trust
↓	High levels of neighbourliness	More diverse social networks by ethnicity	High levels of neighbourliness
	High levels of trust in society	More diverse social networks by age	More diverse social networks by ethnicity
	More diverse social networks by ethnicity	High levels of neighbourhood trust	Strong sense that neighbourhood pulls together
		Strong sense of community cohesion	High levels of trust in society
LEAST SIGNIFICANT		Strong feeling of belonging to neighbourhood	

- ▣ Neighbourliness
- ▣ Diversity of networks
- ▣ Social trust

* A logistic regression analysis was used. See Chapter 10 for more details



Neighbourliness

A strong agreement with the statement "I borrow things and exchange favours with my neighbours" is associated with higher levels of regular formal volunteering, regular informal volunteering and charitable giving.

The relationship between neighbourliness and those who give both time and money is particularly strong: those who borrow and exchange favours with their neighbours are more likely to both give and volunteer (51%) compared with people who do not (33%).

Diversity of social networks

Volunteering is associated with a tendency to have a more diverse group of friends in terms of ethnicity and age.

For example, those who have a higher proportion of friends (at least half) from different ethnic groups to themselves are more likely to participate in regular volunteering: 51% of this group volunteer either formally or informally, compared with 42% of people who say that they have no friends outside their own ethnic group.

Giving is also associated with a tendency to have a more diverse group of friends in terms of ethnicity.

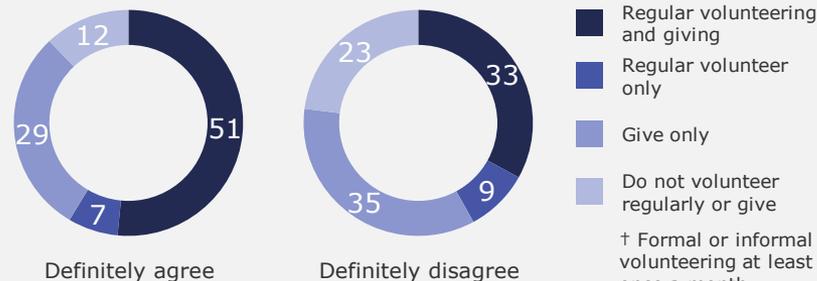
Trust

While trust - both at a neighbourhood level and across wider society - is related to both giving time and money, the relationship between trust and charitable giving is particularly strong.

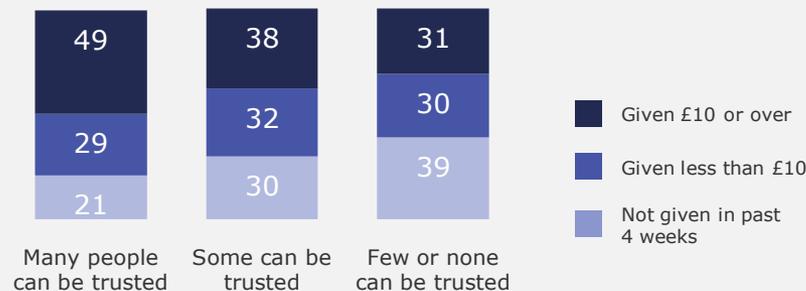
For example, amongst people who feel that many people in their neighbourhood can be trusted, 49% give £10 or more to charity; this drops to 31% amongst people who feel that few or no people in their neighbourhood can be trusted.

Volunteering and Giving by neighbourliness (%)

Borrow or exchange favours with neighbours



Giving by level of trust in neighbourhood (%)





Key findings

- Giving time and/or money is positively associated with higher well-being in terms of *life satisfaction, happiness, and feeling that life is worthwhile.*
- Giving time is more strongly related to higher well-being than giving money, especially in relation to formal volunteering and social action.



It is widely thought that the giving of time and money can have a positive impact on the well-being of those who engage in it, in addition to benefitting those they help.

In order to explore this association, the survey included the four standardised measures derived by the Office of National Statistics which ask people to provide an assessment of their own well-being on a scale of 0-10.

While it is not possible to infer any direct causality from the survey findings, this chapter highlights several positive associations between giving time and/or money and subjective well-being.

Well-being by charitable giving

Across the three well-being measures of *overall life satisfaction, how happy people felt yesterday, and feeling that the things they do in life are worthwhile**, people who give money to charity report higher well-being scores than those who do not, with the scale of the difference being broadly consistent across the three measures.

Average (mean) well-being ratings by whether given to charity in past 4 weeks

Life satisfaction



Worthwhile



Happiness



* There is no significant difference in anxiety scores between those who give time/money and those who do not



Well-being by giving of time

Compared with those who had not volunteered in the last 12 months, people who had volunteered formally on a regular basis, and those who had given time to support a social action project, reported higher ratings on the measures of *life satisfaction*, *happiness*, and feeling that the things they do in life are *worthwhile*.

However this disparity is not evident for informal volunteers across all measures: while informal volunteers are more likely than those who do not volunteer to feel that the things they do in life are *worthwhile*, there is no difference in the *life satisfaction* and *happiness* ratings between the two groups.

Average (mean) well-being ratings by whether given time to volunteering or social action in past 12 months

Life satisfaction



Worthwhile



Happiness





The Community Life Survey

The Community Life Survey is a major survey of adults in England, aiming to track the latest trends and developments across areas that are key to encouraging social action and empowering communities.

The objectives of the survey are to:

- provide robust, nationally representative data on behaviours and attitudes within communities to inform and direct policy and action in these areas;
- provide data of value to all users, including public bodies, external stakeholders and the public, engaging with end users to refine and develop the survey as appropriate; and,
- underpin further research and debate on building stronger communities.

The survey covers a range of topics :

- Volunteering;
- Charitable giving;
- Social action;
- Community cohesion;
- Civic engagement;
- Community empowerment;

- Social capital; and
- Subjective well-being.

The 2012-13 survey was carried out in-home via face-to-face interviews. In 2012-13, the survey had a continuous design with fieldwork spread over three quarters from August 2012 to April 2013. A total of 6,915 interviews were achieved over the three quarters. The median interview length was 32 minutes.

Fieldwork was conducted by TNS-BMRB.

Sample, response rate and weighting

The survey is a household survey covering a representative sample of adults aged 16+ in England. The sample of addresses for the survey was drawn using a three-stage random probability design. At the first stage, a systematic sample of postcode sectors (or primary sampling units) was selected after stratification by the proportion of non-White British, region and ethnic mix.

Checks were carried out to ensure that addresses allocated to each quarter were representative in terms

of stratum profile and 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation. At the second stage, addresses were systematically sampled within the selected wards from the Royal Mail’s Postcode Address File of small users. At the third stage, at each contacted address, interviewers randomly selected one individual aged 16+ from all eligible residents.

After allowing for non-eligible addresses (e.g. empty or non-residential addresses) the average response rate across the three quarters was 61%.

The data are weighted to ensure sample representativeness (both overall and by quarter) by compensating for differences in sampling probabilities and non-response by sub-group. Weighting is based on 2011 census population figures in terms of age, sex and regional distribution.

Reporting of differences

All differences and changes reported, both between groups and over time, are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level, unless otherwise specified. This means that the probability of any observed change

happening by chance is low (1 in 20). The number of respondents the percentage is based on and the observed percentage will affect whether an observed change is statistically significant or not.

Comparison with the Citizenship Survey

The Community Life Survey incorporates key measures from the previous Citizenship Survey (run by the Department for Communities and Local Government from 2001 to 2010-11), and has used a comparable methodology in order that trends in such measures can be tracked over time.



Official Statistics

Data reported from the survey are designated as Official Statistics which means that it meets the high standards of quality set out by the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. More information can be found at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf>

Analysis techniques

Most analysis in this report is based on bivariate analysis (simple associations between pairs of variables without taking into account the possible influence of other variables).

However, in Chapter 8, logistic regression (a form of multivariate analysis) has been used.

While this analysis technique was not used throughout the report (there was not the scope to conduct this on an extensive basis), in this chapter it served the purpose of reducing the number of variables to report on, rather than reporting on all possible associations.

Logistic regression aims to find the best predictors of a binary event occurring (e.g. whether or not someone is a regular formal volunteer), after the possible influence of a range of factors has been accounted for. This eliminates variables whose observed association with the event may lie simply in their close association with other predictor variables.

In Chapter 8, this technique allowed us to highlight only those social capital attributes which were still associated with volunteering and giving, even after area-based and individual demographic factors had been controlled for. Full details of the regression models can be found at <http://communitylife.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/assets/topic-reports/logistic-regression-output.xls>

Supporting data

Excel tables supporting the findings in this report can be found at <http://communitylife.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/assets/topic-reports/giving-time-and-money-tables.xlsx>

A 'ready reckoner' has been provided alongside the Excel tables which can be used to test for statistical significance between percentages in the tables at the 95% confidence

level. An overall design factor of 1.3 has been applied to the dataset.

Further information about the survey

A full technical report for the Community Life Survey will be published in due course at <http://communitylife.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/technical-information.html>

Underlying anonymised data for the full 2012-13 survey year will be available to download through the University of Essex Data Archive (www.data-archive.ac.uk) in autumn 2013.



Authors

- Becky Hamlyn
- Alice Fitzpatrick
- Emma Coleman
- Keith Bolling

TNS BMRB
6 More London Place
London, SE1 2QY
United Kingdom
www.tns-bmr.co.uk

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Further information

For further information, please contact:

Community Life Survey Team
Cabinet Office
1 Horse Guards Road,
London,
SW1A 2HQ
Email: communitylife@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk



Term	Definition
ACORN	A geo-demographic classification using Census and other data to classify postcodes into neighbourhood categories. See http://acorn.caci.co.uk/
Belonging	How strongly someone feels they belong to their immediate neighbourhood, local area or Britain
Charitable giving	Given to charity within the four weeks prior to interview. Amount given to charity is based on all who have given to charity, where the value is known and less than £300
Citizenship Survey	Survey commissioned by Department for Communities and Local Government which ran from 2001 to 2010-11. Key measures from the Citizenship survey have been incorporated in the Community Life Survey. See http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120919132719/www.communities.gov.uk/communities/research/citizenshipsurvey/
Cohesion	Whether someone feels that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.
Economically inactive	People who are neither in employment or unemployment. This includes those looking after a home or retired or permanently unable to work
Formal volunteering	Giving unpaid help through groups, clubs or organisations to benefit other people or the environment
Index of Multiple Deprivation	Index developed by Department for Communities and Local Government which combines a number of indicators into a single deprivation score for each area. The measure used in this report is based on the 2010 summary IMD index – see https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-indices-of-deprivation-2010
Informal volunteering	Giving unpaid help as an individual to people who are not relatives

Term	Definition
Local area	Area within 15-20 minutes walking distance of respondent's home
Neighbourliness	Borrowing and exchanging favours with neighbours
Region	An administrative division comprising nine regions in England
Regular volunteering	Defined as involvement in volunteering (either formal, informal or both) at least once a month over the year before interview
Social action	Given unpaid help to support a community event, campaign or project
Social capital	A term which describes the strength and pattern of social networks amongst people and the shared values which arise from those networks
Social networks	Composition of friendship networks (e.g. in terms of age and ethnicity)
Socio-economic group	An occupationally-based measure derived from the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC). See http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/soc2010/soc2010-volume-3-ns-sec--rebased-on-soc2010--user-manual/index.html
Subjective well-being	Self-reported assessment of people's own well-being such as asking about life satisfaction, happiness, and anxiety. Survey questions are based on standardised measures developed by the Office of National Statistics. See http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/social-and-welfare-methodology/subjective-wellbeing-survey-user-guide/index.html