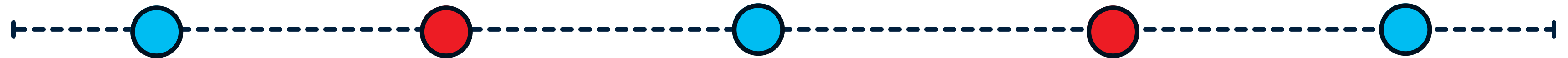


# STATE OF THE VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY, FAITH AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SECTOR IN SUFFOLK 2023



## NUMBER AND SIZE OF VCFSE ORGANISATIONS IN SUFFOLK

4035 registered  
VCFSE  
organisations in  
Suffolk

Around 16,000  
registered,  
unregistered and  
informal VCFSE  
organisations in  
Suffolk

Just 3.3% of Suffolk  
charities  
have an income of  
over £500,000

Suffolk has  
approximately 5%  
more micro charities  
than the national  
average at 49.54%  
and 44.79%  
respectively.

Majority of Suffolk  
charities are small  
with an income of  
£0-250k



[www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk](http://www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk)



# INCOME HEADLINES

94% of charities in the micro, small and medium income bands account for 25% of income into the sector in Suffolk

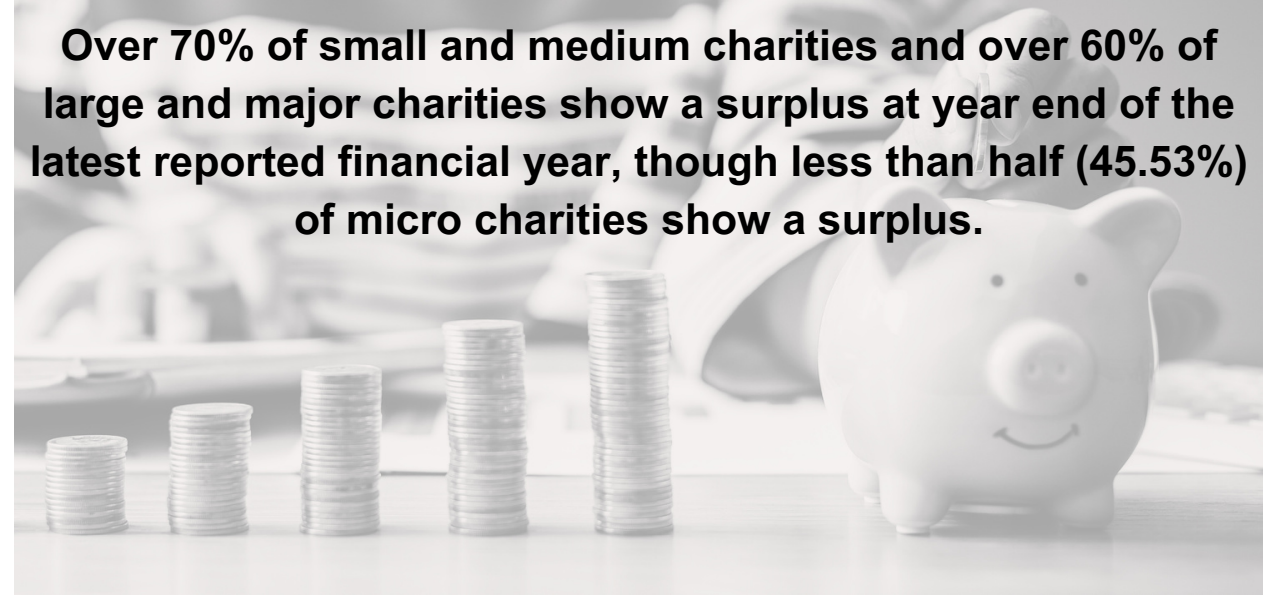
75% of income into Suffolk charities is picked up by 25% charities this being just 58 organisations (in the large, major, and super major charities).



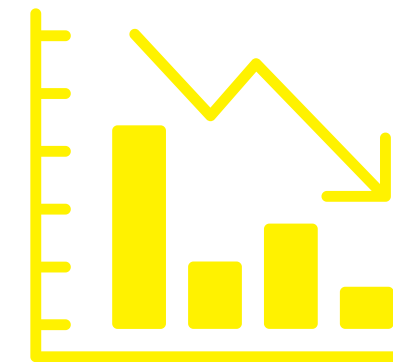
Nationally the income charities earn through trading activities has shrunk significantly since the last report in 2019. According to the Third Sector Trends 2022 Report, “the proportion of TSOs [Third Sector Organisations] which earn more than 80 per cent of their income from trading has fallen since 2013 (from 20% to 14%).”



According to the NCVO Almanac 2022, “this is the first time in over 20 years that public income has made up the majority of voluntary sector income”



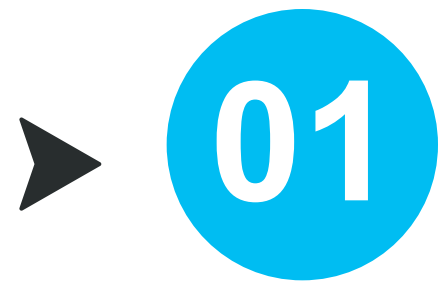
Over 70% of small and medium charities and over 60% of large and major charities show a surplus at year end of the latest reported financial year, though less than half (45.53%) of micro charities show a surplus.



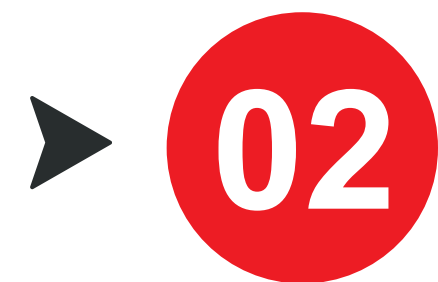
41.54% of micro charities reporting a deficit at the end of their last financial year



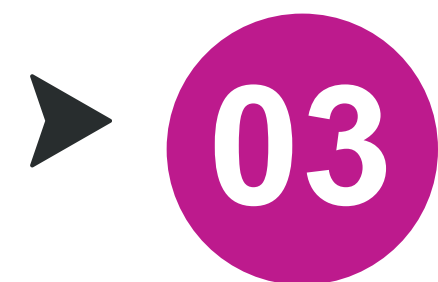
Charity commission data shows that since 2017 the 133 Suffolk charities with an income of over £500k have reduced to 98 with an income of over £500k



The deficit figures are more encouraging than expected with 27.75% of small and 25.44% of medium charities reporting a deficit at the end of their latest financial year, both are lower numbers of charities reporting a deficit than the previous 2019 report showed.



Micro charities have presented a different picture with 41.54% of micro charities reporting a deficit at the end of their last financial year, which is slightly increased from that reported in the previous State of the Sector Report of 2019.



Over 70% of small and medium charities and over 60% of large and major charities show a surplus at year end of the latest reported financial year, though less than half (45.53%) of micro charities show a surplus. This reflects a trend that has been seen since 2017



Only 65% of charities had a reserves policy in place. 26% of organisations had a business continuity plan indicating a potential risk that many organisations might face with major business interruption due to lack of contingency planning.

# Employees and Volunteers




01

Across the 98 charities in Suffolk that have an income of over £500,000, there are 8598 employees and 16,826 volunteers

02

The Suffolk Volunteering Survey published in 2022 showed intention to volunteer with 64% stating that they ‘...plan on volunteering at least once a week...’



03

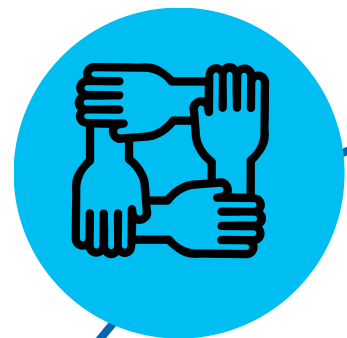
Volunteers tend to be older - 71% of respondents to the 2022 survey were over the age of 45 years, with 53% being over the age of 55 years.

# SO WHAT DOES THIS DATA TELL US?



## Social Enterprises

more information needs to be available to those wanting to establish and requiring support for sustainability and growth.



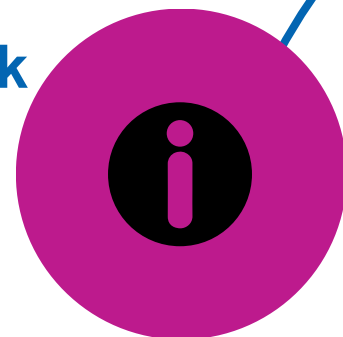
## Partnership and collaboration

is an area that flows naturally from the need of the sector to look at sustainability and funding – our survey could ask what VCFSE organisations are doing in terms of partnering with others – there are some good examples available where groups of VCFSE organisations are working together. However, we need to showcase some of these to enable knowledge across the sector to grow.



## Information on the purposes of VCFSE organisations across Suffolk

this may identify gaps that reflect developing need, for instance we do not have any/many gang related grassroots organisations. This may be too specialist but if we are aware of the issue, we may later be able to deal with it through other related routes.



## SO WHAT DOES THIS DATA TELL US?

The VCFSE sector needs to develop more accurate data on the sector – starting with a few areas where we know we need more information



## Improve training and development

national standards and qualifications relevant to the sector. CAS has a package of training and development for the sector which ranges from 'essentials' such as safeguarding to funding, GDPR and other areas of interest such as Social Value. Other sector partners also have areas of specialism and skilled staff to deliver quality accredited training. The Suffolk sector needs to work with national partners such as NCVO and NAVCA on developing a national standard for the sector.



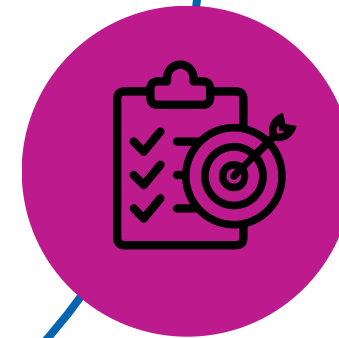
## Income

and where it comes from.



## Better business planning

both from the perspective of managing finance and particularly reserves, but more widely in terms of business continuity planning – what will the organisation do when the worst happens? There are a range of sector organisations and pro bono partners who could help with this – CAS operates Suffolk Pro Help, and there are sector leading organisations across Suffolk who have experience and skills in this area.



## What is meant by 'sustainability'?

This links to issues such as business planning, and business continuity planning. It also links to a better understanding of how to use funding in a strategic sense – planning when to bid for specific funding and when not to.



## Need for the sector to capture volunteer activity more effectively

and translate this into a value recognised by the wider economy – we are able to capture opportunities, but we have gaps in knowledge around who is doing what across the plethora of VCFSE organisations. This stretches from registered charities - who can usually provide data - to small community groups who may not be registered. The latter may have many volunteers doing great work – but it goes largely unrecorded so we do not know what the impact would be if it reduced or ceased for any reason.

