Summary Report

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1. Research overview
Research Overview

• This presentation builds upon Chapter 11 of the Scottish Household Survey (SHS), which is an annual survey based on a random sample of the Scottish adult population (9,400 in 2017).

• This report focuses exclusively on Formal Volunteering – defined as “....... giving up time to help any groups, clubs or organisations in an unpaid capacity.” However, from 2018 a set of informal volunteering questions have been included in the SHS.

• The most recent year’s data is analysed, which can be 2016 or 2017 as some questions are asked on a biennial basis (details are included in the SHS questionnaire) before a longitudinal analysis is completed by comparing the most recent year’s data to 2007, or years identified as special interest cases.

• SHS data goes back to 1999 but due to a change in the research methodology only data from 2007 – 2017 is analysed in this presentation.

• The Full Report provides more detailed analysis of the SHS 2007 – 2017 data

• We would like to thank the Scottish Government for undertaking an editorial overview of this work and providing valuable feedback.

Core SHS Data + Volunteer Scotland Analysis = Additional insights on volunteering
2. Volunteering participation and frequency
Current Volunteer Rates 2007 - 2017

• Volunteering participation has flatlined at 27% - 28% for the last five years.

• However there has been a statistically significant decrease in current volunteers from the high rate of 31% in 2008 to 28% in 2017.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007-2017
Number of Current, Past and Non Volunteers 2016

- **Current Volunteers** = Those who have undertaken formal volunteering at least once in the past year.

- **Past Volunteers** = Those who have formally volunteered at some point in the past, but not in the current year.

- **Non-Volunteers** = Those who have never formally volunteered.

**Sources:** Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2016 & Mid Year Population Estimates 2016
Regular and Occasional Volunteering Rates
2007 - 2016

From 2007, there has been a slight (1%) increase in regular volunteering. This increase is not statistically significant.

During the same time period there has been a statistically significant decrease (from 13% in 2007 to 10% in 2016) in occasional volunteers.

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2007 - 2016
3. Hours volunteered
Volunteering Hours 2007 - 2016

The number of volunteering hours has remained relatively static over the past 10 years, with a peak in 2010.

The factors underpinning the peak of 195 million hours in 2010 is unclear. Further analysis will be undertaken to better understand the reasons for this increase in hours.

Intensity of Volunteering 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intensity</th>
<th>Hours per Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>&lt;5 hours/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>6-15 hours/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>16+ hours/month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of volunteers contribute modest amounts of time each month - less than 5 hours.

However, there is a hard core of “high intensity” volunteers that contribute over 16 hours a month.

Intensity of Hours Volunteered 2007 - 2016

High and medium intensity volunteering has remained very stable during the last 10 years:

- High intensity fluctuating between 5 - 6%.
- Medium intensity fluctuating between 7 – 8%.

However, there has been a statistically significant decrease in low intensity volunteering – from 18% in 2007 to 15% in 2016.

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007-2016 – VS Secondary Analysis
The Civic Core, 2016

‘Civic Core’ = the high intensity volunteers, contributing 16+ hours/month.

They comprise 19% of volunteers, but deliver 65% of volunteering hours.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2016–VS Secondary Analysis
Scottish Population 2016

- **Civic core** = 225,000 adults contributing 102 million hours.
- **Other volunteers** = 990,000 contributing 55 million hours.
- **Non-volunteers** = 3,300,000 contributing 0 hours.

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2016 & Mid Year Population Estimates 2016
4. Which groups and activities do Scotland's volunteers support?
Groups & Organisations Volunteers Support: Top 8 (2017)

The top 8 groups and organisations are those with involvement from more than 10% of volunteers.

The groups and organisations are not mutually exclusive - volunteers can volunteer with more than one type of group and organisation.

Other Categories:
- Environmental protection 7%
- Education for adults 6%
- Citizens groups 4%
- Political groups 4%
- Safety, first aid 4%
- Wildlife protection 4%
- Domestic animal welfare 3%
- Justice and human rights 3%
- Trade union activities 1%

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2017 & Mid Year Population Estimates 2017
Volunteer Activities: Top 8 (2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>% of Volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generally helping out</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising money</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doing whatever is required</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping to organise or run...</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee work</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education or training or coaching</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing advice or assistance...</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office work or administration</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The top 8 volunteer activities are those with involvement from more than 10% of volunteers.

The volunteer activities are not mutually exclusive - volunteers can volunteer with more than one type of activity.

Other Categories:
- Managing, organising or co-ordinating others 8%
- Visiting, buddying or befriending people 7%
- Providing direct services 6%
- Campaigning 6%
- Providing transport or driving 6%
- Counselling 4%
- Representing others 4%
- IT Support 3%
- Advocacy 3%

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2016 & Mid Year Population Estimates 2016
5. Which groups in society are more likely to volunteer?
Levels of Volunteering: by Age - 2017

The 35-44 age group has the highest participation rate at 33%.

The 75+ age group has the lowest participation rate at 20%.

Do the same age groups have consistently higher/lower participation rates?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Age 2007-2017

The 75+ age group have had the lowest participation rates each year.

The 35-44 age group has had the highest rate (circled in blue) in all but two years:

2011, where the 45-59 age group had the same participation rate.

2016, where the 16-24 age group had the highest participation rate of 32%.

The decrease in volunteering in the 25-34 (29% to 23%) and 45-59 (33% to 29%) age groups are statistically significant.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Gender - 2017

The female participation rate of 30%, is 4% higher than the male participation rate of 26%.

This equates to 700,000 females and 560,000 males.

Are female participation rates always higher than male participation rates?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Gender 2007 - 2017

Since 2007 female participation rates have been consistently higher than male participation rates.

In 2017 female participation rates were 4% higher than males, the same difference as in 2007. The changes for both genders are not statistically significant.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017
Participation Rates: by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintiles (SIMDQ)- 2017

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintiles ranks areas in Scotland on a scale of:

1 – Most deprived 20% of the population to
5 – Least deprived 20% of the population.

In 2017 participation rates increased from 19% in SIMD Q1 (20% most deprived) to 37% in SIMD Q5 (20% least deprived).

Do the most deprived areas in Scotland have the lowest participation rates over time?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintiles (SIMD Q) 2007 - 2017

From 2007 the participation rates for SIMD Q1 are consistently the lowest across all quintiles.

Participation rates are highest in the least deprived quintiles, 4 and 5, in all years. The decrease in the participation rates for SIMD Q4 and Q5 are statistically significant.

The gap in participation rates between SIMD Q1 and SIMD Q5 is decreasing over time, from 23% in 2007 to 18% in 2017.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Urban / Rural Classification – 2017

Remote and Accessible rural areas had the highest participation rates of 31% in 2017.

Large Urban areas had the lowest participation rates of 26% in 2017.

Are rural participation rates always higher than urban participation rates?

To answer this question Urban and Rural classifications are recoded into two classes.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Urban / Rural Classification 2007 - 2017

Between 2007 and 2017 rural participation rates have been consistently higher than urban participation rates.

The gap between the participation rates has decreased during this time, with the difference in participation rates decreasing from 10% in 2007 to 2% in 2017.

The 9% decrease in rural participation rates is statistically significant. The 1% decrease in urban rates is not statistically significant.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Employment Status (2017)

In 2017 participation rates were highest amongst:
- Self Employed
- Part Time Employed
- In Education

with all three groups having a participation rate of 32%. This could reflect the flexibility and additional time individuals have within these groups.

Participation rates are lowest for permanently sick or disabled at 13%, and for the unemployed at 24%.

Do the same groups have consistently high / low participation rates?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>In Education</th>
<th>Self-employed</th>
<th>Part-time employment</th>
<th>Full-time employment</th>
<th>Permanently retired</th>
<th>Looking after Home/family</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
<th>Permanently sick or disabled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Between 2011 and 2014 self-employed individuals had the highest participation rates.

In 2015 and 2016 the highest participation rates changed to individuals in education or a government work / training scheme.

In 2017 the highest participation rate of 32% was equal across three groups:

- **Self-employed**
- **Part-time employed**
- **In education**

From 2011 -2017 permanently sick or disabled participation rates were consistently the lowest.

The decrease in participation rates of the self-employed and those employed part-time are statistically significant.

**Source:** Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2011 - 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Educational Qualifications (2016)

Individuals educated to a degree level had the highest participation rates of 42%.

Those with no qualifications have the lowest participation rates of 11%.

Are the participation rates by educational qualification consistent over time?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2016
Levels of Volunteering: by Educational Qualifications (2007-2016)

Individuals educated to a degree level had the highest participation rates between 2007 and 2016.

Those with no qualifications or unknown qualifications had the lowest participation rates during the same period.

The changes in participation levels are statistically significant across all educational qualification levels with the exception of degree level qualifications and unknown qualifications.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2016
Levels of Volunteering: by Income Level (2017)

In 2017 individuals with an income over £40,000 had the highest participation rates of 39%.

Those with an income between £6,001 and £10,000 had the lowest participation rate of 20%.

The lowest income group of £0 - £6,000 had a higher participation rate (23%) than the next two highest income bands.

Are the highest / lowest participation rates attributed to the same income bands over time?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2017

The highest income band has the highest participation rate each year between 2007 and 2017.

Income bands between £0 and £20,000 had the lowest participation rates each year.

The decrease in participation in the following income bands is statistically significant:

- £15,001 - £20,000
- £25,001 - £30,000
- £30,001 - £40,000
- Over £40,000

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017
6. Summary Highlights and what’s next
Summary Highlights:

• For the last 5 years adult volunteering participation rates have flatlined at 27% - 28%, which equates to 1.2 million volunteers in 2017.
• There has been a statistically significant decrease in participation rates between 2010 and 2017, from 31% to 28%.
• Almost half (49%) of Scottish adults (16+) have never volunteered.
• Initiatives to increase adult volunteering participation in Scotland have a very large target market – 73% of the adult population = 3.3 million people (based on 2016 participation rate and population figures).
• The statistically significant decrease in occasional volunteering (from 13% to 10%) is driving the overall decline in participation rates.
• 81% of volunteers are low intensity (< 5 hours/month) or medium intensity (6 – 15 hours/ month), but they only contribute 35% of volunteering hours.
• 19% of volunteers are high intensity (16+ hours/month), but they contribute 65% of volunteering hours = the ‘Civic Core’.
• Volunteers contributed 157 million hours in 2016.
• The equivalent of over 102,000 FTEs a year.
• Which equals the number employed in two cities the size of Stirling.
Summary Highlights:

In Scotland you are more likely to volunteer if:

- You are female
- Aged 35-44
- Live in SIMD Q5 (least deprived)
- Are self employed / part time, employed or in education
- Earn over £40,000
- Live in a rural area

You are more likely to support:

- Children’s groups in and outside schools
- Local community groups
- Sports & exercise
- Health, disability and social welfare

Your role is more likely to involve:

- Generally helping out
- Raising money
- Doing whatever is required
- Helping organise / run an event

Comparing the demographics of volunteers between 2007 and 2016/2017 shows that a volunteer in 2007 would be from approximately the same demographic background as a volunteer in 2016/2017.
What Next:

- Further analysis to explore these findings in more detail, focusing on statistically significant changes. For example, why are rural participation rates decreasing at a much higher rate than urban rates?

- Analysis of subsets of the population e.g. male / female to build a better understanding of volunteers within each group.

- Creation of volunteer ‘personas’ for each of the sub groups analysed. A ‘persona’ is a profile of the typical volunteers within a specific demographic group, for example male volunteers. ‘Personas are constructed by statistical analysis which identifies the most likely characteristics that the group of volunteers has, e.g. age, education etc.

- Expanding the analysis to include further details from the Scottish Household Survey, e.g. including health and community engagement in the analysis of volunteering data.

- In 2018 the SHS has included questions on informal volunteering. We can then compare formal and informal volunteering in Scotland for the first time.
Appendix: Technical Note and Data Sources

Technical notes for the this report can be found here. Explanations of the secondary analysis undertaken (including the volunteer core) and definitions used in this report are outlined in this note.

Data tables for all charts can be found here.

Technical notes for the surveys used in this report can be accessed via:

- [Scottish Household Survey](#) website

Where results do not sum to 100%, this may be due to computer rounding, multiple response, or the exclusion of ‘don’t know’ or other categories.

Data Sources:

- [Scottish Household Survey, 2007-2017](#)
- [Mid Year Population Estimates, 2007-2017](#)
- [Average Scottish Wage Excluding overtime 2007-2017](#)