

How can we build positive relationships through volunteering?



Volunteering Forum
12th July 2017

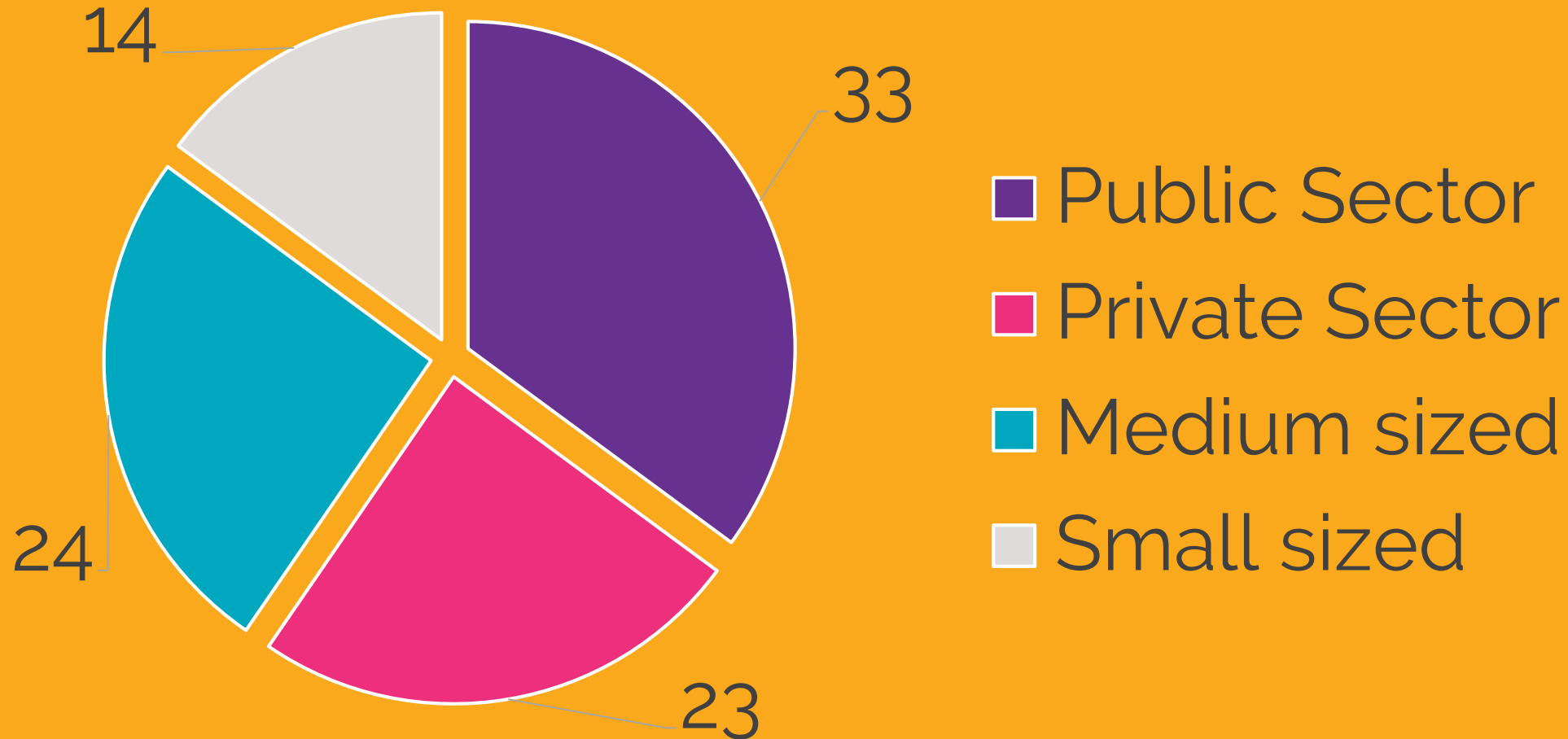
The Conservative Party Manifesto 2015

- > Plans to give employees 3 days ESV
- > Businesses of 250 employees



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Percentage of ESV Schemes





The Voluntary Sector Perspective:

Why get involved?
The benefits and challenges



The Impact of ESV / 'Corporate' Volunteering on our Organisation



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ESV/Corporate Volunteering: Why we got involved

- Identified a need for high impact 'short sharp' team volunteering days
- Help needed with larger projects as it has proved to be almost impossible to get a team of formal volunteers together on one day
- To increase engagement with local and national businesses
- To increase fundraising opportunities with these companies

ESV/Corporate Volunteers: Their Expectations

- A welcome break from their desks/work places
- Collaboration with colleagues in a unique setting whilst making a meaningful contribution to their local or wider community
- Increased employee job satisfaction

Challenges/Concerns:

- Unknown quality of volunteers
- How to identify their skills, knowledge and expertise
- Risk Assessments
- Health and Safety – of workers and environment

How we overcame challenges:

- Liaised with organiser 'Team Leader' from organisation and met at the hospice prior to the day
- Provided the leader with details of the work to be carried out on the day – cascaded to team members
- Employee Support volunteers completed a 'Details form' and declared any medical needs which may prevent them from carrying out identified tasks. Sought advice from Occupational Health Manager if appropriate
- Risk assessments carried out by us re: tools to be used, etc.

Why encourage ESV/Corporate Volunteering?

- **Value:** Employees who do corporate volunteering believe that their activity was of good or excellent value to their charity
- **Understanding:** Volunteers improved their understanding of issues affecting their local community or the organisation
- **Impact:** High % of organisations incl. SRH said that the work done by corporate teams would otherwise not have been done or put on hold

ESV/Corporate Volunteering

- Increased morale.
- Increased commitment to local communities.
- Increased strength of relationships between company and charity.
- Volunteers are the most important resource community organisations have. The ability of people to willingly work together for the better of their community and themselves is invaluable.



The Business Sector Perspective:

Why get involved?
The benefits and challenges



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- Across our global business we provide vital information, analytics and data solutions in multiple formats. 3190 employees globally
- 36 locations with more than 10 staff
- Head office in Sutton for over 30 years – 800 staff
- Division of a company called RELX – a FTSE-100 company



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Volunteering in our communities

- All staff entitled to two days extra leave per year to help a charity or qualified non-profit organisation.
- Volunteer Skills Matching service to identify a charity who would benefit from staff expertise
- Encourage and promote Volunteering Team days to build spirit
- Approximately 40% of staff use their volunteer days – higher than industry standard

Charity Action Group

- Group of 18 members of staff who meet every six weeks. Made up of a cross section of staff from different departments
- Organise fundraising activities
- Support 2 charities each year – Sutton Homestart and Emmaus
- Communicate and market activities via intranet, posters, presentations, reception displays
- Budget



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Building relationships with local charities

- The Diamond Centre for Disabled Riders
- National Trust – Morden Hall
- Horizon
- Sutton Community Farm
- Royal Marsden - £63,000 in 6 years
- Sutton Shopmobility
- Wellesley Lodge
- Deen City Farm



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Skills we can offer

- Marketing
- HR
- Web page development
- Social Media Skills
- Administration

Benefits to our staff

- Increased professional development of staff
- Increased employee morale
- Increased employee retention
- Increased CSR rating

Working with the Voluntary Sector

- Reluctance to offer one-off volunteering
- One-off volunteering can lead to an ongoing relationship
- Appreciate you might feel it is not worth the effort in organising
- We offer a donation to cover costs of volunteering
- Example of how well it can work

Example of Team Volunteering

Team of 15 spent a day with Horizon on St. Helier Estate. There was a long list of jobs to complete, including cleaning the new windows inside and out, painting the wall on the roof, fixing clip frames on backs of doors and walls, preparing all of the rubbish for the skip (including loading the skip), assembling the disabled ramp and laying laminate flooring...

Judith from Horizon said "We all want to say a MASSIVE THANK YOU for what you achieved. You and your team were up to their usual outstanding selves! The building and grounds are looking so much better and we have jobs ticked off our list that have been there for months!!!"



The Way Forward

- VCS to look at a market place event
- VCS to provide RBI templates for ESV
- Top Tips on ESV
- Examples of Good Practice to be shared
- Advice on DBS & Risk Assessment



Volunteer Centre
Sutton



We're the go-to people
for volunteering in Sutton.



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