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## Volunteering North West Funding Research Project

*To identify the current funding resources of Volunteer Development Agencies (principally known as Volunteer Centres) in the North West region, and their current workload, relating to the six core functions. This information may be used to help individual Volunteer Centres, and the North West Region collectively, to identify future funding needs, and campaign for improved core funding.*

*Allan Jones  
Volunteer Centre Warrington  
June 2006*

Volunteering North West is funded by the  
Government Office for the North West and ChangeUp



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Volunteering North West (VNW) has been in operation for over 20 years and has an extensive regional membership of over 30 Volunteering Infrastructure organisations. VNW aims to support the development of Volunteering in the North West and ensure that there is a modern, dynamic, strategic, co-ordinated and sustainable infrastructure for Volunteering throughout the region.

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## Volunteering North West – Regional Funding Research Project

### A. Introduction

This piece of research is one of a number of other projects that are being carried out for the Volunteering Development Agencies, mostly now called Volunteer Centres, in the North West of England. The aim of this particular part of the research is as follows,

***To identify the current funding resources of Volunteer Development Agencies (principally known as Volunteer Centres) in the North West region, and their current workload, relating to the six core functions. This information may be used to help individual Volunteer Centres, and the North West Region collectively, to identify future funding needs, and campaign for improved core funding.***

The 6 core functions of Volunteer Centres (VCs) are,

- *Brokerage*
- *Marketing volunteers*
- *Good practice development*
- *Developing volunteering opportunities*
- *Policy response & campaigning*
- *Strategic development of volunteering*

These 6 core functions were first formally identified in Volunteering England's 10 year Strategy for Volunteering Infrastructure for the period 2004 –2014, produced in 2004. Previously many VCs were concentrating solely on the first 2 core functions, mainly because their financial resources meant this was all they could afford to do, and indeed that was what their funders were paying them to do. Volunteering England became the national body for VCs, following the amalgamation of 3 other bodies during 2004.

When this research project was started, there were 34 separate Volunteer Centres operating in the North West region of England. Since then, a new organisation has opened in Ellesmere Port and Neston, but regrettably the one at Lancaster has closed at the end of March 2006, when its short term funding expired.

Also, the four Volunteer Centres operating on the Wirral are coalescing, so that they will effectively have one central office where administration is concentrated, whilst the remaining premises will concentrate on brokerage services to their local organisations and the public. Therefore, the information for the Wirral relates to the new organisation and not to the smaller individual constituent parts. So effectively, 31 questionnaires were sent out.

Of the North West VCs, the majority are hosted by the local Council for Voluntary service (CVS), but 6 are independent.

The questionnaire asked for details of each Volunteer Centre's financial situation covering the four financial years from April 2004 to March 2008, to try and get an ongoing rather than just a snapshot picture of the level of funding. It also asked further questions about workload, and gave respondents the opportunity to make comments regarding other matters such as staffing, outside pressures, and any general comments they felt would help with the research. A copy of the questionnaire is included as Appendix B.

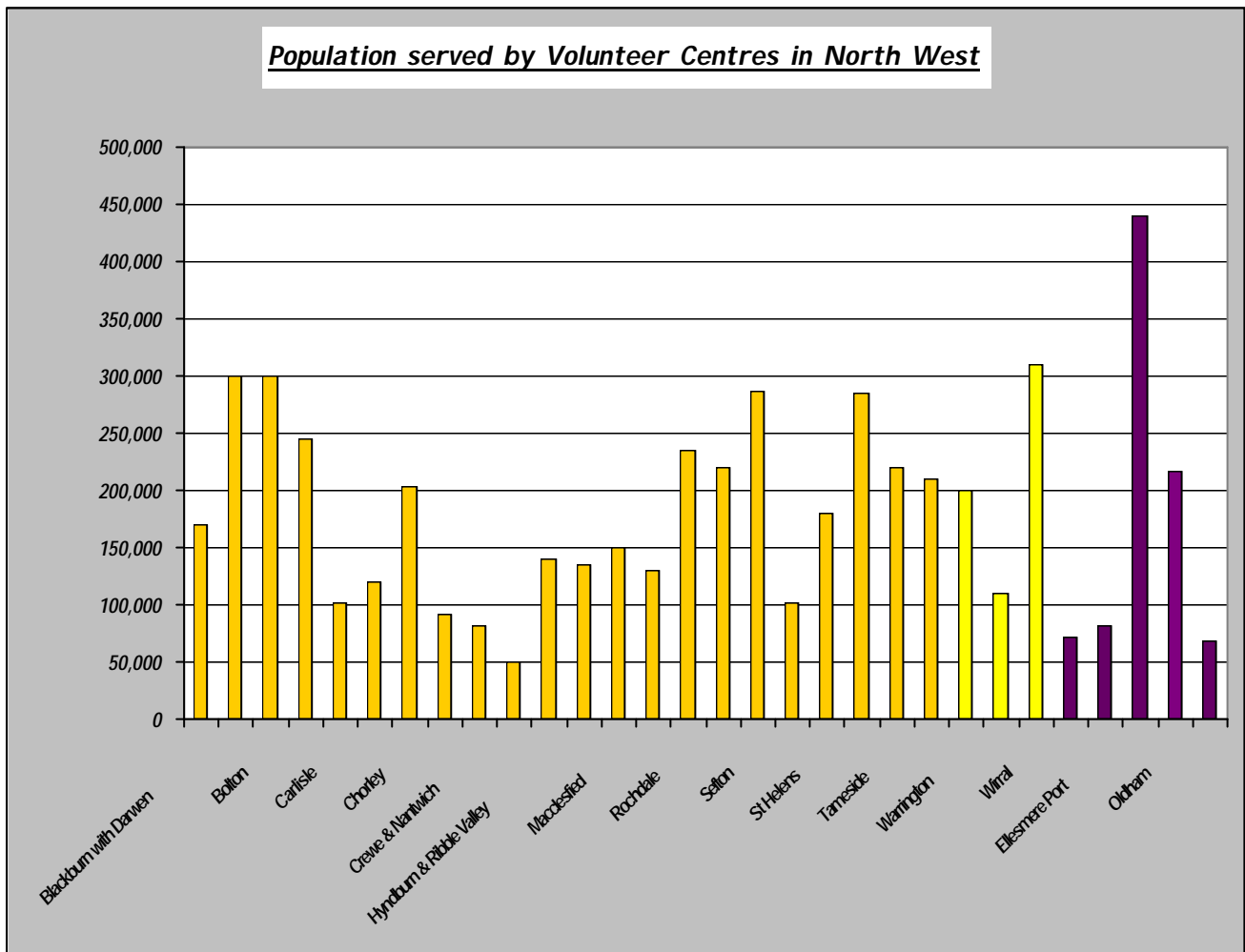
Over 80% of the Volunteer Centres have replied, and therefore the following research and comments have been based on these replies, together with the results of meetings and conversations that I have had with many of the individual Volunteer Centres.

## B. Background to the North West area.

The North West Volunteer Centres operate over a wide geographical area. Some are in old industrial cities; some in country towns and others deal with predominantly rural areas. The total population of the North West according to the 2001 census is 6,730,000 people. Table 1 shows the populations served by each of the Volunteer Centres in the North West, and whether the VC is Independent or Hosted by the local Council for Voluntary Services (CVS).

<u>VC Name</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Independent?</u>
Blackburn with Darwen	170,000	Hosted
Blackpool	300,000	Yes
Bolton	300,000	Hosted
Burnley, Pendle	245,000	Hosted
Carlisle	101,000	Hosted
Chester	120,000	Hosted
Chorley	204,000	Hosted
Congleton	92,000	Hosted
Crewe & Nantwich	82,000	Hosted
Eden	50,000	Yes
Hyndburn & Ribble Valley	140,000	Hosted
Lancaster	135,000	Hosted
Macclesfield	150,000	Hosted
Preston	130,000	Hosted
Rochdale	235,000	Hosted
Salford	220,000	Hosted
Sefton	287,000	Hosted
South Lakeland	102,000	Yes
St Helens	180,000	Hosted
Stockport	285,000	Hosted
Tameside	220,000	Yes
Trafford	210,000	Hosted
Warrington	200,000	Yes
West Lancs	110,000	Hosted
Wirral	310,000	Hosted
Barrow	72,000	Hosted
Ellesmere Port	82,000	Hosted
Liverpool	440,000	Yes
Oldham	217,000	Hosted
West Cumbria	69,000	Hosted

The figures have been provided by the Centres that replied, and checked with the 2001 census to confirm their accuracy. For areas that did not reply, figures have been taken from the 2001 census. The following graph summarises these details.



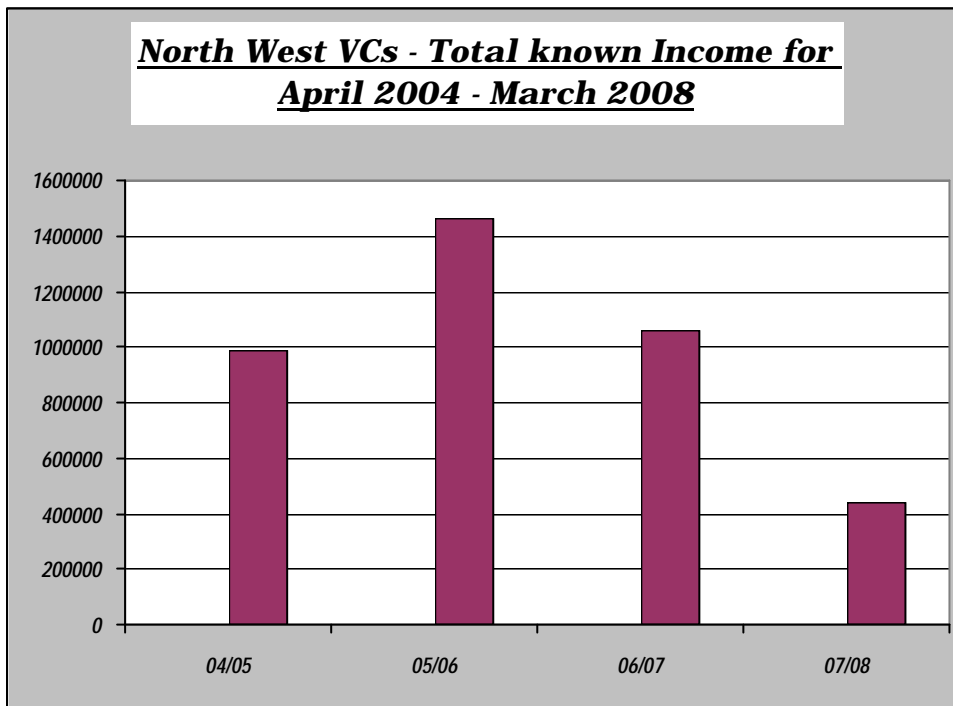
These population figures need to be treated with some caution as when dealing with the brokerage element of the core functions, it cannot be guaranteed that people seen by any one Centre, will actually live in the area theoretically served by that Centre. There is evidence to suggest that particularly in urban areas, around 10% of the number of people seen by VCs, live outside the area they theoretically cover. However, these figures should give a reasonably accurate guide to the number of people served by each Centre, although with the rural ones, their populations are often spread over a large area.

The total number of people with a Volunteer Centre relatively close by is around 3 ¾ million, or about 56% of the people who live in the North West. Although VCs can be found all over the North West, there are some areas not served by any VC. Obvious examples are central Manchester, Wigan and Southport.

### **C. Sources of Finance**

The questionnaire asked VCs to provide details of their income for the 4 financial years starting in April 2004, and finishing in March 2008. Because some VCs were not able to provide income figures for each financial year, some caution must be used in trying to interpret the figures. A few VCs were unable to provide information for every year, and about half have no idea what income they will have in 2007/08 and beyond, if any! The reason being that the bulk of the funding is short term. For example, many VCs have had funding from one or other of the sources offered from the Lottery, and invariably these have time limits, usually 3 years. As mentioned earlier, Lancaster VC has recently closed after its Lottery money expired, and the parent CVS was unable to source sufficient replacement funding. Appendix A shows the detailed breakdown of each VCs funding over the 4-year period.

The point about declining income in future years is illustrated by the following graph entitled “North West VCs – Known Income 2004 – 2008”, which shows a large drop in known income for 2007-08 compared with 2006-07, which itself shows significantly less income than 2005-06.

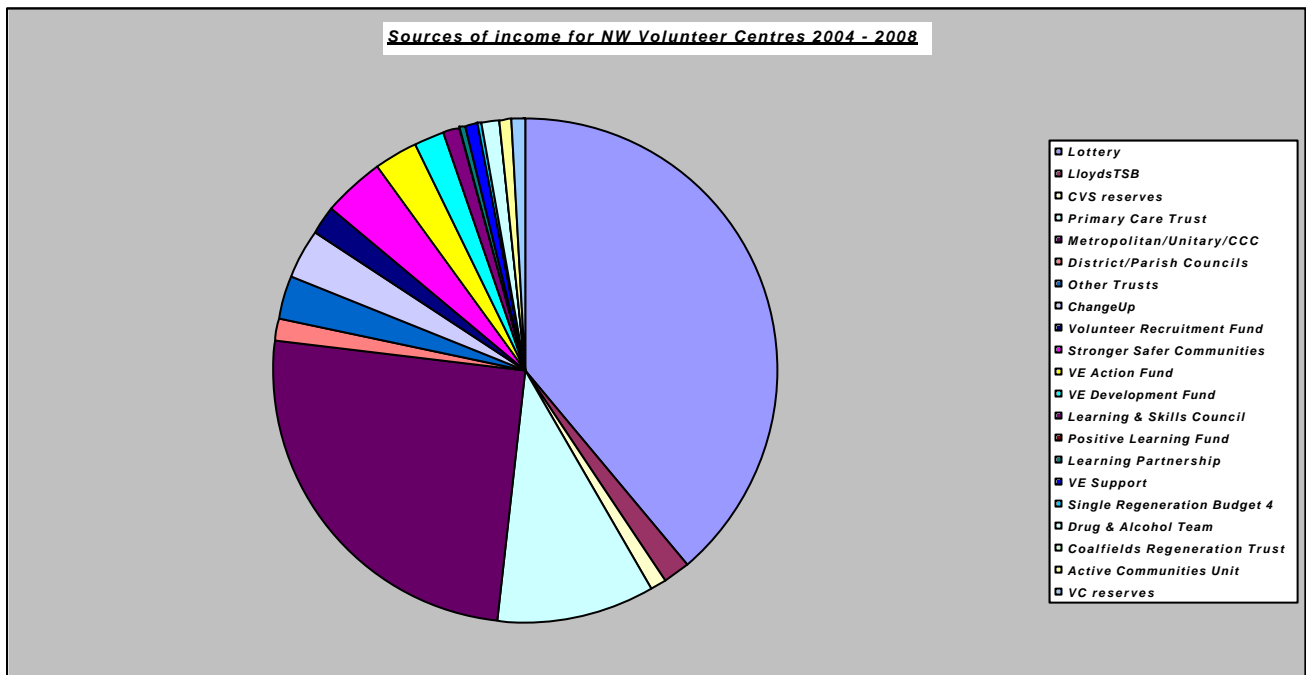


The breakdown of the known sources of finance from 2004 – 2008 is shown in the chart below.

<u>Sources of Finance</u>	<u>Years</u>				<u>Total</u>	<u>% of total</u>		
	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>				
Lottery	468,320	559,963	350,559	158,169	<b>1,537,011</b>	38.86		
Metropolitan/Unitary/County	211,765	316,623	316,445	152,895	<b>997,728</b>	25.22		
Primary Care Trust	115,204	124,030	120,539	30,000	<b>389,773</b>	9.85		
Stronger Safer Communities		D for C & LG	0	80,000	80,000	<b>160,000</b>	4.04	
ChangeUp		Home Office	0	98,130	24,956	0	<b>123,086</b>	3.11
Other Trusts	38,463	36,136	19,500	19,500	<b>113,599</b>	2.87		
VE Action Fund		Home Office	0	101,626	0	0	<b>101,626</b>	2.57
Volunteer Recruitment Fund		Home Office	0	47,000	24,000	0	<b>71,000</b>	1.79
District/Parish Councils	18,600	19,462	18,826	0	<b>56,888</b>	1.44		
LloydsTSB	15,000	33,500	21,000	0	<b>69,500</b>	1.76		
Learning & Skills Council		D for E and S	39,000	3,000	0	0	<b>42,000</b>	1.06
CVS reserves	28,353	10,000	6,500	0	<b>44,853</b>	1.13		
Drug & Alcohol Team			0	39,700	0	0	<b>39,700</b>	1.00
VE Development Fund		Home Office	46,309	63,769	0	0	<b>110,078</b>	2.78
Active Communities Unit		Home Office	0	33,986	0	0	<b>33,986</b>	0.86
VC reserves			0	0	30,000	0	<b>30,000</b>	0.76
Learning Partnership	5,000	9,000	0	0	<b>14,000</b>	0.35		
Single Regeneration Budget 4ODPM	2,414	7,500	0	0	<b>9,914</b>	0.25		
Positive Learning Fund			0	6,000	0	0	<b>6,000</b>	0.15
Coalfields Regeneration Trust			0	0	5,000	0	<b>5,000</b>	0.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>988,428</b>	<b>1,463,725</b>	<b>1,063,025</b>	<b>440,564</b>	<b>3,955,742</b>	<b>100.00</b>		

D for C & LG - Department for Communities and Local Government  
D for E and S - Department for Education and Skills  
ODPM - Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

The following pie chart graphically shows the sources of funding for the VCs that replied to the survey, over the same 4-year period. The total income over the 4 years is about £4 million. The Lottery under its many guises is the major funder. A larger version of this pie chart is included as Appendix A. It looks slightly different but the information is the same!



Before 1999 the Lottery provided no money at all, as it did not have a suitable fund to which Volunteer Centres could apply. Since then it has comfortably become the overall major provider of VC funds. In the year 2004 – 05, the Lottery provided North West VCs with over 47% of their income. This availability of Lottery funding seems to have enabled a large number of North West VCs to acquire funds that have enabled them to expand the range of services that they can offer. However, most of the Lottery money was only provided for 3 years, although some VCs were able to get a 3-year renewal. With the expiry of the existing Lottery funding, the overall contribution of the Lottery to VC funding over the 4-year period to March 2008 is just under 40%.

16 VCs have had funding from the Lottery, but as mentioned the amount **known** to be coming from this source in future (2007-08 and onwards) is much smaller than earlier years, as the current funding comes to an end. Many VCs are applying for money from the new Lottery fund called BASIS, which can provide funding for bodies providing support to other infrastructure organisations. However, the results of these initial bids will not be known before the end of 2006 at the earliest.

Whilst very important to VC funding, the Lottery has never previously been able to provide more than 3 year funding. With BASIS being able to provide funding for a 5-year period, successful VC will be able to do some medium term business planning.

Large Councils (Metropolitan, Unitary and County Councils) are the next largest finance suppliers making up just over 25% of the total, and they fund 15 VCs in the North West. Primary Care Trusts then come next with 10% of the total. These are regarded as much more stable sources of money, although at least one VC has had its funding from this source removed in the last 2 years. Increases in funding from these sources are normally restricted solely to an allowance for inflation, so plans for any expansion of services are not really practical. This situation could change if Volunteering England is able to obtain extra funding from Local Authorities.

A further 18 sources of finance were identified, that made up the outstanding 25% of funding. The list is as follows,

*Stronger Safer Communities*  
*ChangeUp*  
*Other Trusts*  
*Volunteering England Action Fund*  
*Volunteer Recruitment Fund*  
*District/Parish Councils*

*LloydsTSB*  
*Learning & Skills Council*  
*CVS reserves*  
*Drug & Alcohol Team*  
*Volunteering England Development Fund*  
*Active Communities Unit*  
*VC reserves*  
*Learning Partnership*  
*Single Regeneration Budget 4*  
*Positive Learning Fund*  
*Coalfields Regeneration Trust*

With the exception of a modest amount of money from District and Parish Councils, nearly all of this money is short term. As an example Volunteering England has provided 7 of the North West VCs with funding from its Development Support Fund, principally in 2004-05 and 2005-06, which has enabled them to continue operating. However, at present there is no long term funding available from Volunteering England, although it is engaged in discussions with the Government and the Local Government Association to try and produce more long term funding.

Of the North West VCs who replied, 3 of them are now wholly or partly dependent on reserves from their own or CVS resources, for all or part of their current funding. In all three cases bids have or are going to be made to the Lottery for BASIS funding. If the bids are unsuccessful, then the future of these VCs is in serious doubt.

The majority of the other funding sources are effectively the Government. Principally the Home Office is the main ultimate source of cash, being involved in 7 sources of funding. However, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Education and Skills also figure as funders. One or two VC Managers queried why there was such a range of Government funding sources although the nature of the work funded is quite varied, and probably fits under the remit of different Departments. The funding is usually provided to undertake a particular project over a specified period of time. For example, one VC has funding to support volunteering in just 3 deprived wards of their town.

The chart at the bottom of page 4 shows that there is little continuity of funding. VCs are obtaining funding from a wide range of sources, but the short-term nature of virtually all of these sources is a problem.

The largest individual annual income that any VC currently has to support its "core" work is just under £150,000. The smallest is just under £10,000. However, the size of income received in the current financial year is **NOT** always a guide to the security of this funding. A number of the larger VCs are dependent on short term funding, and their continued existence at their current size will be threatened if this short term funding cannot be replaced.

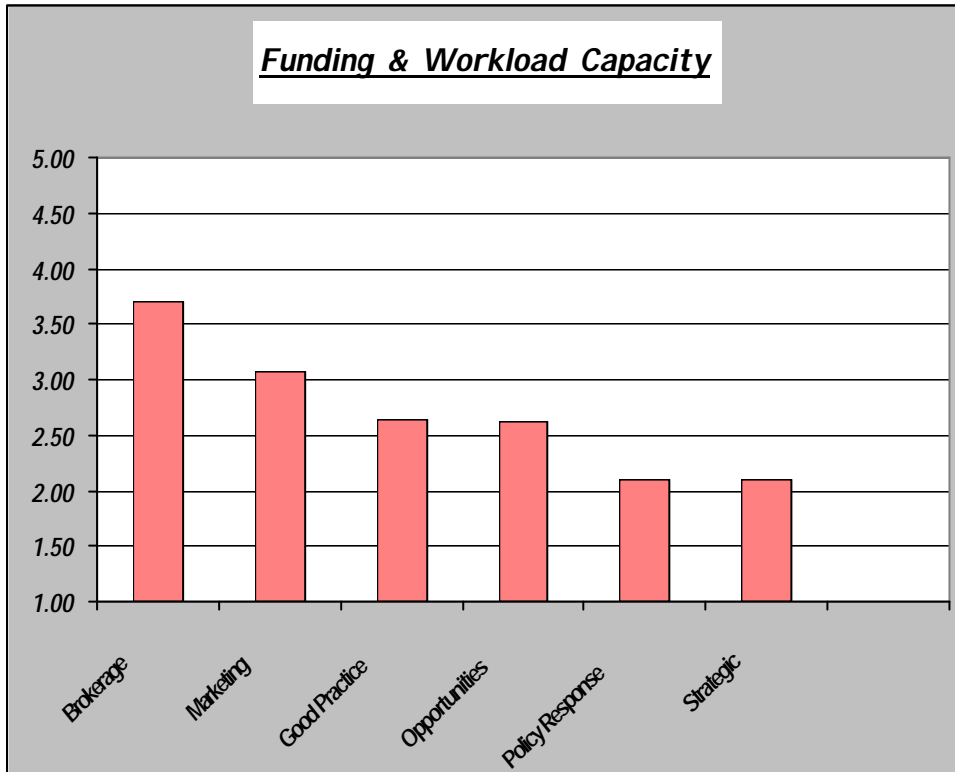
The overall level of funding in the North West VCs supported the equivalent of about 40 full time employees at the end of 2005 for "core" work, for the VCs that replied to the questionnaire. The maximum number of staff at any one location was 4 full timers, and the smallest was just under the

equivalent of half a full time post. The average number of staff supported by this money was 1.62 full time employees per VC. The full details are shown in the following table,

<b><u>Number of staff</u></b>	<b><u>Full time equivalent</u></b>
Blackburn with Darwen	1.00
Blackpool	1.00
Bolton	3.00
Burnley, Pendle	0.53
Carlisle	1.25
Chester	2.43
Chorley	0.70
Congleton	1.03
Crewe & Nantwich	0.45
Eden	1.23
Hyndburn & Ribble Valley	1.40
Lancaster	0.00
Macclesfield	0.71
Preston	1.71
Rochdale	2.57
Salford	0.91
Sefton	1.57
South Lakeland	2.00
St Helens	0.72
Stockport	0.65
Tameside	4.00
Trafford	2.57
Warrington	3.30
West Lancs	2.20
Wirral	3.50
Total full time equivalent posts	<b>40.43</b>
Average	<b>1.62</b>

## D. Workload

The survey asked VCs to rate on a scale of 1 – 5, how they felt their current level of funding gave them the **capacity** to carry out the workload of the 6 core functions, outlined on page 1 of this report. It was made clear that this question was not an attempt to try and judge the quality of the work provided. The scale worked on the basis of 1 = great difficulty, and 5 = comfortably. The following graph summarises the results.



Until the last few years, brokerage was the main aim of VCs. Therefore, it is probably not surprising that that this core function was the one that VCs found easiest to deal with. These were the functions that the Local Authorities were paying for, and in most cases still require. Figures from Volunteering England show that nationally the number of enquiries per annum from volunteers to Volunteer Development Agencies rose from 186,000 in 2000 to 371,000 in 2004/05. Clearly there is a substantial and increasing national demand for brokerage services.

In addition to this normal increasing workload, there was general agreement within the North West VC Managers that their VCs were being expected to do much more work over the last few years, with no additional resources than they have had previously.

One oft-quoted example is the Do-It database. This is one of the national databases run by the charity YouthNet, which was established in May 1995. Originally, YouthNet was set up “to create a socially inclusive environment where young people living in the UK are engaged informed and inspired to achieve their ambitions and dreams.” It was to do this by using mobile phones, digital interactive TV and the Internet, which are “the tools that are central to the way young people communicate.”

One of its operations is the do-it.org.uk website, which YouthNet claims is the only national volunteering database in the UK. It was felt that as anyone in the country could access this database if they were interested in volunteering, it should be linked to VCs around the country, as one of their prime functions is to find volunteers for the opportunities that were available. The Home Office Active Communities Unit provided cash to re-equip VCs with the necessary hardware to link them to the do-it database.

The database has been an enormous success. VCs in the North West, and presumably nationally, have seen the number of enquiries from this source, to use a couple of quotes, “rocket”, and “gone through the roof.” A number of VCs are now dealing with well over 1,000 do-it enquiries per annum, when they had none 3 or 4 years ago. So the problem at the local VC level is, that their workload has gone up, but they have not been provided with any new financial resources to meet the extra demand.

VC Managers are generally delighted with the increase in the number of people expressing an interest in volunteering through the do-it site, but queried why was no apparent thought given to the needs of the VCs and other organisations that would deal with the enquiries once they have been generated.

In addition to do-it, there is the Timebank organisation that has provided significant numbers of new enquiries for VCs. It is a national charity providing volunteers with information on volunteering work and volunteering projects in the UK and overseas. It has often produced a large number of new enquiries over a very short space of time, when it advertises for a particular project. This puts a short-term strain on the VC network. There is a direct link on the Timebank website to the VC network. As with do-it, there is no funding available to VCs for the work generated by Timebank.

## **E. Outside Pressures**

The survey questionnaire also asked VCs to identify “outside pressures that affect your workload and resources.” The most common “pressures” mentioned were ChangeUp and Volunteering England.

### 1. ChangeUp

With its relatively new ChangeUp strategy the Government is looking to build up capacity in voluntary and community sector organisations, over the long term, with a set of “outcomes” being laid down to be achieved by 2014.

The London ChangeUp project website best sums the position up by saying, “*ChangeUp is a government funding stream designed to improve voluntary and community infrastructure. By infrastructure the government means the second tier organisations that support the front line services.*” Also, and importantly in relation to funding, the site continues, “*ChangeUp is a one-off investment to help them (the second tier organisations) support the sector more effectively.*” A few VCs have received direct financial assistance from ChangeUp, but strictly on a one-off basis. So although ChangeUp is a long-term project up to 2014, it will only provide finance in the first year. There is no reference to on going funding that will help VCs.

6 core themes for the ChangeUp strategy have been identified, one of them being Volunteering. Volunteer Centres do provide services to front line organisations and thus meet the ChangeUp criteria.

As part of this strategy, Volunteering England, became the “hub” for the core theme of Volunteering. It was charged with the responsibility for achieving the long term Change Up objective of producing a “*leaner, effectively marketed and high quality volunteering infrastructure reaching, recruiting and placing a greater number and diversity of individuals coupled with improved volunteer management*”.

In the First Annual Report of the England Volunteering Development Council produced in 2005, which was reviewing the progress of the Strategy for Volunteering Infrastructure referred to on page 1, the following statement is made concerning the development of the Regional Volunteering Infrastructure.

*A strategy for each region to be produced, this to include: ensuring coverage of all local authority areas by a volunteer development agency: reduction of duplication and improvements in working practices at a local level; 100% take up of quality accreditation of volunteer development agencies and the associated use of the local volunteering infrastructure brand: and the funding required to*

*provide development resources necessary to achieve this and deliver on the regional volunteering infrastructure functions as previously described.*

In June 2005 the Government announced the creation of the Capacity Builders agency. Its aim is to “*manage the Change Up framework at arm’s length from the Government*”. It is scheduled to start work in Summer 2006.

In short, the Government sees the value of using volunteers to assist in delivering a much wider range of services than at present.

So there is considerable pressure from ChangeUp for volunteering infrastructure organisations including VCs to work much more closely together. This would save duplication of work. For example, administration could be concentrated in one office as is the aim in the Wirral, rather than spread over a number of close by sites. Staff with expertise in certain areas could apply their skills over a wider area, and similar nearby VCs could get the benefit of this specialist knowledge. Clearly this is easier in some areas than others. In the Wirral there are 4 VCs all within a few minutes drive of one another, whereas the South Lakeland VC covers an area of over 660 square miles! Also, as the majority of VCs are hosted by their local CVSs, agreement will have to be reached by these parent organisations before any merger of function or operation can go ahead.

By getting VCs to work together the Government hopes they can more effectively provide their services to other organisations. At present, some VCs have formal Agreements with Local Authorities that provide them with funding, that specify the type and amount of work that the VC will do in exchange for the financial support. With higher quality infrastructure bodies in place perhaps this type of agreement could be expanded.

The ChangeUp initiative has produced considerable extra work for North West VCs. Meetings have to be prepared for and attended, and as an example, at present Managers of 2 of the larger urban VCs are currently seconded for 50% of their working week to dealing with ChangeUp work. This inevitably impacts upon the normal VC work. Other VC Managers are also involved in additional ChangeUp work without receiving any additional funding.

The logic of trying to build a better infrastructure framework is generally appreciated within the North West VC network; the problem is the time and money it diverts away from the day-to-day work. This has been highlighted as a possible serious difficulty, as the VCs have targets to meet that are set by their current funders, and if they are not met, then there is some concern about the future of these funding sources.

## 2. Volunteering England

As mentioned earlier, Volunteering England was created in 2004 from an amalgamation of 3 smaller national volunteering organisations. It has been provided with more finance over the last few years. Thus it has been able to increase the number of staff, to enable it to deal with new initiatives, some of which are listed below,

- Establishment of the Volunteer Centre brand across the whole of England.
- Introduction of revised Quality Standards for individual VCs.
- Excellence in Volunteer Management, which includes Investors in Volunteers which is a kite mark developed by Volunteering England, to recognise good practice in volunteering organisations, and the development of a training strategy for Volunteer Managers.
- The “Its time to give time” initiative relating to Employer supported volunteering.

These new initiatives have also produced extra work for local VCs. For example, considerable effort is required from local VCs to make sure that their organisation attains the revised Quality Standards. To achieve the required level of quality, each VC must produce detailed evidence of their competence in its dealings with each of the 6 core functions. There is a large manual that sets out

precisely what is required. It sets out a 3 year rolling programme that at its conclusion should mean the VC achieves accreditation. Effectively, by 2008 all VCs will be accredited under the new scheme.

As an example of the workload involved, in satisfying the requirement on “brokerage”, a VC must establish a system to evaluate the benefits to the organisations that have volunteering opportunities, of the volunteers that the VC has sent to them, as well as a system to evaluate the experience of volunteers. Basically, volunteers are going to have to be tracked once they have left the VC and gone to a third party organisation, to see whether they have become volunteers, and if so how successful have they been.

The logic behind this is generally accepted, as it will provide more detailed information on what both volunteers and the organisations get out of the arrangement. The problem that VCs have with these Quality Standards is that to achieve the necessary level of competence over the 6 core functions, will require a substantial amount of time being invested to meet these requirements, and there is no funding available to assist.

One North West VC Manager estimated that starting from scratch, it took the equivalent of nearly 3 months full time work to achieve the necessary level of competence required by the Quality Standards. All this at a time when the principal funders require the work they are paying for to be satisfactorily carried out.

The new Quality Standards require VCs to use the PQASSO standards for their internal functions. Another VC Manager has pointed out that the parent CVS does not have the PQASSO Quality Standard. Apparently, that may mean that the hosted VC will not be able to get itself accredited. This is a worry because, if they fail to do so, Volunteering England has the power to remove the brand name from the local VC, and to withdraw its membership of the national body. The 3-year programme does not actually mean that each VC has 3 years to obtain the new accreditation. There is a current Quality Standard, and by the time that Standard expires, a local VC is expected to have been accredited at the higher level. No gap in accreditation is allowed. Some VCs had only 6 months to reach the new level.

Having made these points, it must be said yet again that there is a general appreciation of why Volunteering England wants to improve the quality of the service offered by the network, and that the better VCs become at what they do, the easier it may be to obtain funding.

There is general awareness that Volunteering England may be adding to the local VCs workload, but that it is also working to try and obtain more secure funding for the network.

## **G. Some VC Manager’s comments**

The questionnaire not only asked specific questions about levels of funding, workloads etc, but also gave space for VC Managers to express their own thoughts by answering the two questions, “Are there outside pressures that affect your workload and resources?” and “Are there any other comments that you think may be helpful to this research?”

My favourite answer to the question about outside pressures, was the simple but very clear one word reply, “*Questionnaires!!*” Apparently, Volunteering England had sent out their annual questionnaire at the same time as this one was despatched.

Many VC Managers took the opportunity to give their thoughts, and the following are some samples of their comments,

*“Basically, we are only just keeping afloat and cannot meet the increasing demand for our service. Without additional funding, the service will remain at this level, and we will crisis manage, rather than develop a quality service that is much needed by volunteers and volunteer involving organisations.”*

*“Principal external pressure over the next 12 months will be VE’s more stringent requirements for accreditation of VCs. These make no allowance for greatly varied funding, staffing and overall*

*capacity of different Centres. For VCs like ours – one permanent 15 hour staff member – the future will be hugely challenging.”*

*“Partner agencies therefore see the VC as the agency that should be leading on and co-ordinating the Borough strategy on volunteering. Most partners want to show involvement in forwarding volunteers and look to us. However, no additional resources are available for doing this strategic work, and we are trying to squeeze time out of exiting resources.”*

*“Balancing act – who are we here to serve:- potential volunteers, servicing volunteers or the Government?”*

*“Short term funding – no long term sustainable core funding. Making frequent funding applications is a huge drain on staff time. New VE Quality Standards have greatly increased the short term workload to compile portfolio.”*

*“ChangeUp has increased workload by 50% for very little return! Nothing personal.”*

*“With all the extra workload linked to ChangeUp i.e. meetings etc, and having to do my own admin, I struggle with developing most of the core functions effectively.”*

*“Will be a major crisis if BASIS doesn’t work!”*

## **H. Conclusion**

It seems that until quite recently, most of the VCs work was based on Brokerage and Marketing Volunteering, and the majority of VCs funding came from Local Authority and PCT sources to pay for this work. The arrival of Lottery funding enabled many VCs to expand and provide a wider range of activities such as Good Practice work. The problem with Lottery funding is its short-term nature. When it stops, so will the work unless alternate funding sources can be found.

In 2004 the national body of what were then called Volunteer Bureaux amalgamated with 2 other voluntary organisations to create Volunteering England. When the ChangeUp programme was introduced in the summer of 2004, Volunteering England received funding to enable it to achieve its ChangeUp aims, as the national “hub” for volunteering.

This has meant much more work is coming down to the local VC from Volunteering England, often relating to ChangeUp. The aim is to get the VC network better organised and accredited, to enable it to meet future challenges. As mentioned earlier, there is broad agreement within the VCs for this national aim. The problem is, how do you resource or find staff time to pay for all the extra work that is being asked for, when there is no extra funding being provided? The expiry of existing Lottery funding for many of the North West VCs, means that if this source cannot be replaced, then there has to be some doubt about to whether they will all be able to continue operating.

To many in the North West network it seems that progress is being made with the VE’s strategy (bottom of page 10), with the exception of the “funding required to provide development resources”, the source of which is currently not clear. The local network will give its fullest support to Volunteering England in its search for funding.

One VC Manager has commented, *“The Government is concerned with ‘outcomes’, but I’m more concerned with ‘incomes.’”* Another has said *“There is this long term ChangeUp strategy to produce results by 2014, with VCs being one of the engines of this change. The problem is this engine may not have the fuel to get to 2007.”*

## Appendix A – Details of VCs funding April 2004 – March 2008

### Volunteering North West - Funding Research

<u>VC Name</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>04/05</u>	<u>05/06</u>	<u>06/07</u>	<u>07/08</u>	<u>Total</u> 3,955,742
Hyndburn & Ribble Valley	Lottery	75,000	37,500	0	0	
	Lloyds/TSB	0	0	10,000	0	
	CVS reserves	0	0	6,500	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>37,500</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>129,000</b>
Eden	Lottery	50,165	25,318	0	0	
	Lloyds/TSB	0	5,000	5,000	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50,165</b>	<b>30,318</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>85,483</b>
Blackburn with Darwen	Neighbourhood Renewal (PCT)	35,000	35,000	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70,000</b>
Preston	Lottery	0	55,000	63,100	63,400	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>63,100</b>	<b>63,400</b>	<b>181,500</b>
Sefton	Sefton MBC	29,250	30,000	30,900	31,800	
	Neighbourhood Renewal (PCT)	17,000	17,000	17,000	8,500	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>46,250</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>47,900</b>	<b>40,300</b>	<b>181,450</b>
Burnley, Pendle	LCC Social Services	11,970	12,387	12,500	12,800	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,970</b>	<b>12,387</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>49,657</b>
South Lakeland	County Council	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	
	District Council	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	
	Frieda Scott Trust	8,000	0	0	0	
	Lottery	8,000	0	0	0	
	Lloyds TSB	0	15,000	0	0	
	ChangeUp	0	2,000	0	0	
	Kendal Town Council	0	750	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,000</b>	<b>30,750</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72,750</b>	
Tameside	Local Authority	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	
	Lottery	0	80,000	80,000	80,000	
	Vol. Recruitment Fund	0	23,000	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>143,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>423,000</b>
Rochdale	Lottery	68,191	70,161	0	0	
	Safer Stronger Communities Fund	0	0	80,000	80,000	

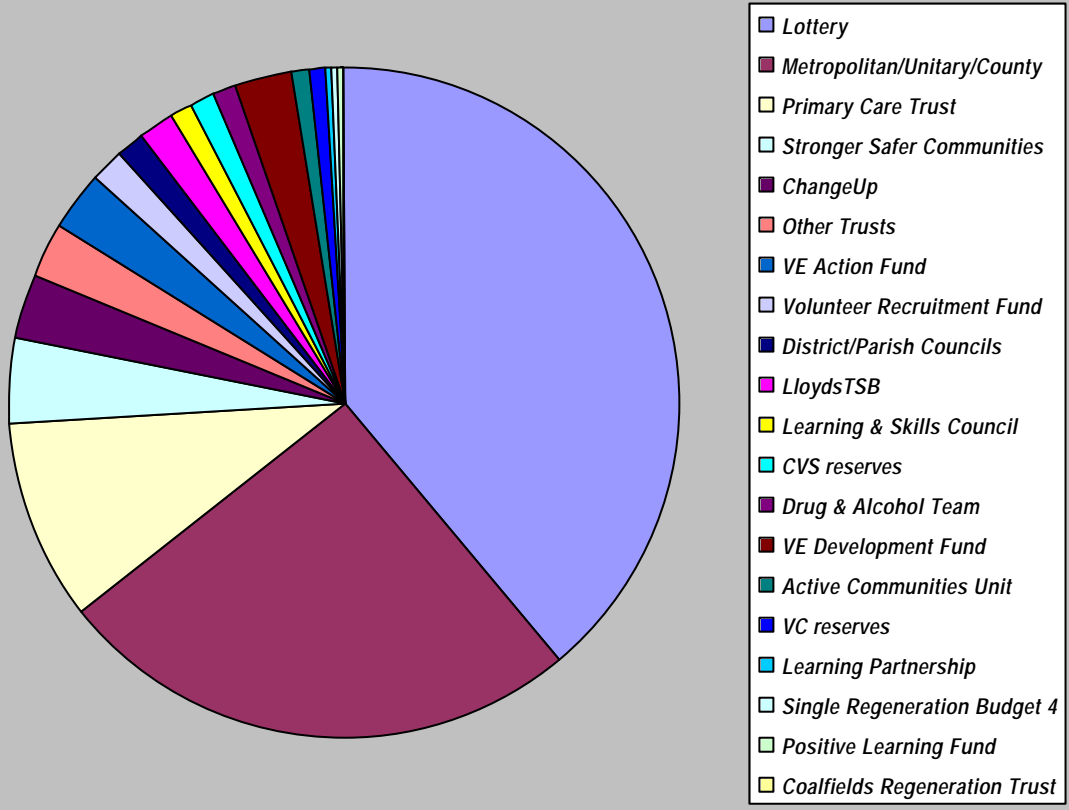
	<b>Total</b>	<b>68,191</b>	<b>70,161</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>298,352</b>
Carlisle	Lottery	18,000	18,000	18,000	0	
	Lloyds/TSB	0	6,000	6,000	0	
	VE Action Fund	0	23,330	0	0	
	Vol Recruitment Fund (Home Office)	0	24,000	24,000	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>71,330</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>137,330</b>
Chester	Lottery	48,059	49,122	28,873	0	
	Chester CVS	22,813	23,553	24,142	24,745	
	Cheshire West PCT	27,031	27,707	28,400	0	
	VE Action Fund	0	17,220	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>97,903</b>	<b>117,602</b>	<b>81,415</b>	<b>24,745</b>	<b>321,665</b>
Warrington	WBC	16,202	16,486	16,816	17,000	
	PCT	20,229	20,836	21,253	21,500	
	Lottery	63,774	0	0	0	
	LSC	39,000	3,000	0	0	
	VE Development Fund	26,309	8,769	0	0	
	ChangeUp	0	61,130	19,956	0	
	VE Action Fund	0	27,309	0	0	
	Positive Learning Fund	0	0	6,000	0	
	VC Reserves	0	0	30,000	0	
WBC Chief Executive	0	0	4,000	0		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>165,514</b>	<b>137,530</b>	<b>98,025</b>	<b>38,500</b>	<b>439,569</b>
Macclesfield	CVS	9,100	9,250	9,400	9,550	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>9,250</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>9,550</b>	<b>37,300</b>
Trafford	PCT	1,790	0	0	0	
	Advocacy Scheme	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	
	Trust Income	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
	Other	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,790</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>53,790</b>
Hoylake	Lottery	41,381	41,632	42,868	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41,381</b>	<b>41,632</b>	<b>42,868</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125,881</b>
Wirral	Barclays Bank	3,020	3,000	0	0	
	Learning Partnership	5,000	9,000	0	0	
	Volunteering England	0	0	0	0	
	VE Development Fund	0	25,000	0	0	
	SRB4	2,414	0	0	0	
	CVS reserves	28,353	5,000	0	0	
	Nationwide	0	10,000	0	0	
	ChangeUp	0	35,000	0	0	
	VE Action Fund	0	15,000	0	0	
Lottery	0	0	101,904	0		

	Drug & Alcohol Team	0	0	39,700	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>38,787</b>	<b>102,000</b>	<b>141,604</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>282,391</b>
West Lancs	Lancs CC Social Services	24,988	26,727	26,751	0	
	West Lancs Dist Council	5,600	5,712	5,826	0	
	Local PCT	14,154	19,987	20,386	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>44,742</b>	<b>52,426</b>	<b>52,963</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150,131</b>
Bolton	Bolton Metropolitan Lottery	0	45,000	0	0	
		0	99,000	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>144,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>144,000</b>
Tameside	Local Authority Lottery	0	0	0	0	
		0	0	0	0	
	Volunteer Recruitment Fund	0	0	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Salford	Lottery	20,000	10,000	0	0	
	Volunteering England	0	30,000	0	0	
	Local Authority (LPSA2)	0	0	27,000	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>87,000</b>
St Helens	Lottery	56,500	57,883	0	0	
	Healthy Living Initiative (Lottery)	0	4,908	5,000	0	
	Coalfields Regeneration Trust	0	0	5,000	0	
	ChangeUp	0	0	5,000	0	
	Active Comm. Unit (Home Office)	0	33,986	0	0	
	SRB4	0	7,500	0	0	
	CVS reserves (as necessary to 03/07)					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>56,500</b>	<b>104,277</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>175,777</b>
Congleton	Cheshire County Council	0	35,000	36,000	0	
	East Cheshire PCT	0	3,500	3,500	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38,500</b>	<b>39,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>78,000</b>
Crewe	Cheshire County Council	30,442	31,220	31,936	0	
	Crewe & Nantwich Bor. Coun.	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	
	Other grants	7,943	3,636	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>48,385</b>	<b>44,856</b>	<b>41,936</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>135,177</b>
Blackpool	LloydsTSB	15,00	7,500	0	0	

		0				
		20,00				
	Volunteering England	0	0	0	0	
	VE Action Fund	0	18,767	0	0	
	Blackpool Council	0	20,000	30,000	0	
	NRF	0	0	30,000	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>46,267</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>141,267</b>
		17,00				
Stockport	Stockpot MBC	0	17,000	17,000	17,000	
	Other grants	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>94,000</b>
		19,25				
Chorley	Lottery	0	11,439	10,814	14,769	
	CVS	0	5,000	0	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>19,250</b>	<b>16,439</b>	<b>10,814</b>	<b>14,769</b>	<b>61,272</b>

Appendix A – Graph of North West VCs Income from April 2004 – March 2008

North West Volunteer Centres - Sources of income  
2004 - 2008



## VOLUNTEERING NORTH WEST Regional Volunteering Infrastructure Action Plan

Organisation Details	
Contact Name	
Organisation Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone No	
Email	
Are you independent or hosted?	
Population size you serve	

In recent years, what funding have you secured that enables you to carry out the 6 core functions of VCs?				
Financial Year	Source	Amount	Start date of funding	End date of funding
April 05 - March 06	a.			
	b.			
	c.			
	d.			
	e.			
	f.			
April 04 - March 05	a.			
	b.			
	c.			

	d.			
	e.			
	f.			

**What income have you secured for future years relating to the 6 core functions?**

Financial Year	Source	Amount	Start date of funding	End date of funding
April 06 - March 07	a			
	b			
	c			
	d			
	e			
	f			
April 07 - March 08	a			
	b			
	c			
	d			
	e			
	f			

**What level of staffing, in order to meet the 6 core functions, does your current funding provide?  
E.g 1 full time, 1 @ 28 hours per week**

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**Do you have other funding sources for work additional to the 6 core functions? If so, please give the nature of the work along with funding sources and levels**

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What level of staffing does this extra funding provide?

Does this additional funding help to support your core work? If so, how?

How do you rate your current workload? Is it...		
	Please tick	Comments
A. Decreasing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
B. Static	<input type="checkbox"/>	
C. Increasing	<input type="checkbox"/>	

On a scale of 1 - 5, how do you feel your current funding level gives you the CAPACITY to carry out the workload of the core functions. (This is NOT about the quality of your VCs work) 1 = with great difficulty; 5 = comfortably		
	Scale 1 to 5	Comments
Brokerage	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Marketing Volunteers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Good practice development	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Developing volunteering opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Policy response & campaigning	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Strategic development of volunteering	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Are there outside pressures that affect your workload and resources?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, what are they?	

Are there any other comments that you think may be helpful to this research?

**Thank you for your time in completing this questionnaire. This information you give will be a valuable contribution to the research and will help to make the case for sustainable funding in the future.**

**Please return to Allan Jones in the freepost envelope provided**