



Data Digest

AN AGEING SOCIETY

- In 2001, **18.4 per cent of the UK population (10.8 million people) were aged 65 and over**. This included 9,024,860 (18.3 per cent) in England, 582,525 (20 per cent) in Wales, and 941,982 (18.6 per cent) in Scotland.¹
- The percentage of the UK population over pensionable age will rise to 19.75 per cent in 2011 (11.9 million), and then to 21 per cent (13.1 million) by 2021.²
- The percentage of the UK population over 85 will increase from 1.9 per cent (1.1 million people) in 2001 to 3.5 per cent (2.2 million people) in 2021.³
- By 2056, 5.2 per cent of the UK population will be over 85 (3.3 million people)⁴.
- The total number of people over pensionable age in Scotland is expected to rise by eight per cent on 1998 to just less than one million in 2021⁵.
- One fifth of the adult household population in Scotland is aged 65 and over.⁶

VOLUNTEERING

- Only 27 per cent of people aged 65 and over participate in community and voluntary activities. Of which people 75 and over are least likely to volunteer.⁷
- According to the Home Office, **11.1 million people in England and Wales volunteered formally** at least once in the last twelve months. This is equivalent to 39 per cent of the population.⁸
- Fifty-seven per cent of people who volunteer formally help run an activity or event.⁹
- **The most deprived areas have the lowest levels of formal volunteering** (29 per cent in the most deprived areas compared to 47 per cent in the least deprived areas).¹⁰
- Formal volunteers are amongst those most likely to say that they 'definitely' enjoy living in their neighbourhoods.¹¹
- Formal and informal volunteers are amongst those most likely to say that they felt 'very' or 'fairly' safe in their neighbourhoods.¹²
- Ninety per cent of people agree that a society with volunteers is a caring society.¹³
- In Scotland, almost 8 million hours are volunteered each month.¹⁴
- In Scotland, in 2003, around 38 per cent of adults (1.56 million people) volunteered.¹⁵

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

- For every £1 that an organisation spends on supporting volunteering, generates a notional payback of up to 14 times that figure.¹⁶
- 17.9 million formal volunteers contributed approximately 1.9 billion hours equivalent to one million full-time workers, a contribution worth **£22.5 billion**. The 26.4 million of informally volunteers contributed the same hours worth £22.6 billion although they tended to spend fewer hours volunteering.¹⁷

“Volunteering empowers people. It is rewarding for individuals. It cuts across divides of age, race and gender, which isolate and alienate people. It strengthens the bonds between individuals, which are the bedrock of a strong civil society. And in doing so it helps create a sense of citizenship that is often missing from so many of our communities today.”¹⁸ *David Blunkett*

- In Scotland, volunteering equates to between £400 million and £1 billion contributed to the Scottish economy each year.¹⁹
- In Scotland, there are an estimated 50,000 voluntary organisations. Annual income was £2.1 billion in 2001, equivalent to 1.2 per cent of the annual turnover of the Scottish economy.²⁰

MOTIVATION TO VOLUNTEERS

The reasons that most people are likely to get involved in formal volunteering in the future are²¹:

- Being asked directly to get involved (44 per cent)
- Being involved with friends or family (40 per cent)
- Knowing that someone who was already involved would help them get started (32 per cent)
- Getting involved from home (28 per cent)
- Having an opportunity to improve skills or get qualifications (25 per cent).

Amongst younger people (18-24 year olds) the motivations to volunteer are different to the population as a whole. Only ten per cent were motivated by a need in the community (compared with 26 per cent for the population as a whole), whereas 26 per cent of younger people were motivated by a desire to learn new skills (compared with 15 per cent for the population as a whole).²²

VOLUNTEERING AND BUSINESS

- Seventy-five per cent of the FTSE 100 companies run some form of employee community volunteer programme.²³
- Only 53 per cent of small businesses said they were active in the local community. It is currently estimated that SMEs make a social contribution of up to £3 billion per annum.²⁴

NOTES

¹ Age Concern, *General Statistics 2002*, from http://www.ace.org.uk/AgeConcern/information_426.htm; Office of National Statistics, *Population statistics*, from <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nscl.asp?ID=7433>; and Government's Actuary Department, *Population Projections Database* from <http://www.gad.gov.uk/Population/index.asp>

² Age Concern, http://www.ace.org.uk/AgeConcern/information_426.htm (these figures take account of the recent changes in retirement age); and Government's Actuary Department, *Population Projections Database* from <http://www.gad.gov.uk/Population/index.asp>

³ Office of National Statistics, *Population statistics*, from <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nscl.asp?ID=7433>; and Government's Actuary Department, *Population Projections Database* from <http://www.gad.gov.uk/Population/index.asp>

⁴ Douglas Webb, 'When independence becomes isolation', in *Friends of the Elderly Focus*, Issue 01, February 2003, from <http://www.fote.org.uk/pictures/publications/FOCUS%20%20When%20independence%20becomes%20isolation.pdf>.

⁵ National Statistics, Census: snapshot of the UK's population (2001), from <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=185&Pos=1&ColRank=2&Rank=512>

And <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/pop2001/scotland.asp>; Central Research Unit, Scottish Executive, *Older People in Scotland: Results from the First Year of the Scottish Household Survey*, <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/kd01/red/oldshs-00.asp>; *Scotland Census 2001*, from <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/scotcen2>

This estimate takes account of the change in the statutory retirement age for women from 60 to 65 in 2010.

⁶ National Statistics, Census: snapshot of the UK's population (2001), from <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=185&Pos=1&ColRank=2&Rank=512>

And <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/pop2001/scotland.asp>; Central Research Unit, Scottish Executive, *Older People in Scotland: Results from the First Year of the Scottish Household Survey*, <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/kd01/red/oldshs-00.asp>; *Scotland Census 2001*, from <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/scotcen2>

⁷ 2003 Home Office Citizenship Survey: People, Families and Communities <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/hors289.pdf>

⁸ Headline Finding from the 2003 Home Office Citizenship Survey: People, Families and Communities
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/acuactcomm03.pdf>

⁹ Headline Finding from the 2003 Home Office Citizenship Survey: People, Families and Communities
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/acuactcomm03.pdf>

¹⁰ Figures derived from Duncan Prime, Meta Zimmeck and Andrew Zurawan, *2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey: people, families and communities*, from
<http://www.renewal.net/Documents/Research/Homeofficercitizenship.pdf>

¹¹ Figures derived from Duncan Prime, Meta Zimmeck and Andrew Zurawan, *2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey: people, families and communities*, from
<http://www.renewal.net/Documents/Research/Homeofficercitizenship.pdf> and Melissa Coulthard, Alison Walker, Antony Morgan, *People's Perceptions of Their Neighbourhood and Community Involvement: Results from the Social Capital Module of the General Household Survey 2000*, National Statistics, from
http://www.nationalstatistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_social/Peoples_perceptions_social_capital.pdf

¹² Figures derived from Duncan Prime, Meta Zimmeck and Andrew Zurawan, *2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey: people, families and communities*, from
<http://www.renewal.net/Documents/Research/Homeofficercitizenship.pdf> and Melissa Coulthard, Alison Walker, Antony Morgan, *People's Perceptions of Their Neighbourhood and Community Involvement: Results from the Social Capital Module of the General Household Survey 2000*, National Statistics, from
http://www.nationalstatistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_social/Peoples_perceptions_social_capital.pdf

¹³ Institute for Volunteering Research, *Volunteering Facts and Figures*, from <http://www.ivr.org.uk/facts.htm>; *1997 National Survey of Volunteering in the UK (Summary)*, from <http://www.ivr.org.uk/nationalsurvey.htm>; for detailed datasets see, National Statistics, *Reasons volunteers gave for volunteering, 1997*, from <http://www.nationalstatistics.gov.uk/StatBase/xsdataset.asp?vlnk=564&Pos=4&ColRank=2&Rank=224>.

¹⁴ Volunteer Development Scotland, *Annual Digest of Statistics on Volunteering in Scotland 2004*, from
<http://www.vds.org.uk/information/docs/research/AnnualStatisticsDigest2004.pdf>; VDS, *Volunteering Facts and Figures*, from
<http://www.vds.org.uk/information/factsNFIGures.htm>; The Scottish Council for Volunteering Organisations, *Snapshot Statistics 2003*, from
http://www.scvo.org.uk/almanac/snapshot_of_the_sector/summary.htm

¹⁵ Volunteer Development Scotland, *Annual Digest of Statistics on Volunteering in Scotland 2004*, from
<http://www.vds.org.uk/information/docs/research/AnnualStatisticsDigest2004.pdf>; VDS, *Volunteering Facts and Figures*, from
<http://www.vds.org.uk/information/factsNFIGures.htm>; The Scottish Council for Volunteering Organisations, *Snapshot Statistics 2003*, from
http://www.scvo.org.uk/almanac/snapshot_of_the_sector/summary.htm

¹⁶ *The business case for organisations looking to involve employee volunteers in their work*, from
<http://www.employeevolunteering.org.uk/about/business%20case%20for%20vol.pdf>

¹⁷ 2003 Home Office Citizenship Survey: People, Families and Communities <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/hors289.pdf>

¹⁸ , *The Independent*, 9 October 2001

¹⁹ Volunteer Development Scotland, *Annual Digest of Statistics on Volunteering in Scotland 2004*, from <http://www.vds.org.uk/information/docs/research/AnnualStatisticsDigest2004.pdf>; VDS, Volunteering Facts and Figures, from <http://www.vds.org.uk/information/factsNFigures.htm>; The Scottish Council for Volunteering Organisations, Snapshot Statistics 2003, from http://www.scvo.org.uk/almanac/snapshot_of_the_sector/summary.htm

²⁰ Volunteer Development Scotland, *Annual Digest of Statistics on Volunteering in Scotland 2004*, from <http://www.vds.org.uk/information/docs/research/AnnualStatisticsDigest2004.pdf>; VDS, Volunteering Facts and Figures, from <http://www.vds.org.uk/information/factsNFigures.htm>; The Scottish Council for Volunteering Organisations, Snapshot Statistics 2003, from http://www.scvo.org.uk/almanac/snapshot_of_the_sector/summary.htm

²¹ Duncan Prime, Meta Zimmeck and Andrew Zurawan, *2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey: people, families and communities*, from <http://www.renewal.net/Documents/Research/Homeofficecitizenship.pdf>; and Duncan Prime, Meta Zimmeck and Andrew Zurawan, *Active Communities: Initial Findings from the 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey*, from <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs/infindin.pdf>

²² Duncan Prime, Meta Zimmeck and Andrew Zurawan, *2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey: people, families and communities*, from <http://www.renewal.net/Documents/Research/Homeofficecitizenship.pdf>; and Duncan Prime, Meta Zimmeck and Andrew Zurawan, *Active Communities: Initial Findings from the 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey*, from <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs/infindin.pdf>

²³ Corporate Citizenship Company, *Latest research on employee volunteering: Business in the Community ECI+ 2000 survey*, from <http://www.employeevolunteering.org.uk/resources/themelistsecondlevel.asp?theme='Research'&id=29>;

²⁴ DTI, *Engaging SMEs in Community & Social Issues*, from http://www.bitc.org.uk/docs/SMEs_1.pdf



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