

PE1438/A

SCVO Response to Public Petition Committee Petition PE1438

SCVO response 30 Nov 2012

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION [PE1438](#)

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to provide improved mental health services for those people in hospital and that have been discharged after having a mental health problem, and to actively stop the stigma of mental ill-health to ensure that people with mental health problems do not feel ashamed of their feelings.

Our response

SCVO welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation and would like to contribute to the following questions:

Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations-

1. What are your views on what the petition seeks?
2. In relation to mental health services are you able to tell the Committee how many Third Sector providers there are

Q1. What are your views on what the petition seeks?

We fully support the call made in the Petition. We believe this is an important step towards a preventative approach to public services as recommended by the Christie Commission. We believe the third sector has an important role to play in providing community-based solutions to mental health preventative services and services designed to improve people's well-being and lives and thereby reduce re-admissions to acute services.

Supporting a recommendation made by the Scottish Association for Mental Health we would point the Committee towards the following report from the University of Edinburgh which we understand is helpful in setting out the landscape:

http://www.institute-of-governance.ed.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/16978/O1_Final_Report_Scotland_health.pdf

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Q2. In relation to mental health services are you able to tell the Committee how many Third Sector providers there are

SCVO has maintained a database of around 30,000 third sector organisations since 1997. The database forms the basis for SCVO statistics on the size, shape and profile of the Scottish third sector which is currently the authoritative source of Scottish third sector statistics.

SCVO estimates that there are around 45,000 third sector organisations in Scotland, based on the membership and contact lists of third sector intermediaries. Of this, roughly half, around 19,200 are charities.

We have identified around 755 third sector organisations on our database that we know have mental health services or support as part of their mission or activities. However, this is a lower limit, as we would expect many more third sector organisations will also indirectly provide mental health support. We estimate around 49% of Scottish third sector charities, around 9000, work in the fields of health or social care in Scotland.

Conclusion

We hope that this information is helpful to the Committee. We are happy to provide further evidence or information on request.

About us

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) is the national body representing the third sector. There are over 45,000 voluntary organisations in Scotland involving around 137,000 paid staff and approximately 1.2 million volunteers. The sector manages an income of £4.4 billion.

SCVO works in partnership with the third sector in Scotland to advance our shared values and interests. We have over 1300 members who range from individuals and grassroots groups, to Scotland-wide organisations and intermediary bodies.

As the only inclusive representative umbrella organisation for the sector SCVO:

- has the largest Scotland-wide membership from the sector – our 1300 members include charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations of all shapes and sizes
- our governance and membership structures are democratic and accountable - with an elected board and policy committee from the sector, we are managed by the sector, for the sector
- brings together organisations and networks connecting across the whole of Scotland

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SCVO works to support people to take voluntary action to help themselves and others, and to bring about social change. Our policy is determined by a policy committee elected by our members.¹

Further details about SCVO can be found at www.scvo.org.uk.

References

Scottish Voluntary Sector Statistics, 2012, SCVO

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/about-the-sector/sector-stats/>

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo-news/state-of-the-sector-survey-2012/>

¹ SCVO's Policy Committee has 24 members elected by SCVO's member organisations who then co-opt up to eight more members primarily to reflect fields of interest which are not otherwise represented. It also includes two ex officio members, the SCVO Convener and Vice Convener.