

WHERE IS THE SECTOR AND HOW CAN RESEARCH HELP IT GET BETTER?

TSRC Conference; February 14, 2019; Dan Corry

MY BACKGROUND



Cuts to service spending, 2009-10 to 2016-17, by councils' grant-dependence in England

- Cuts to spending have been much larger in (poorer) areas more reliant on central government grant funding

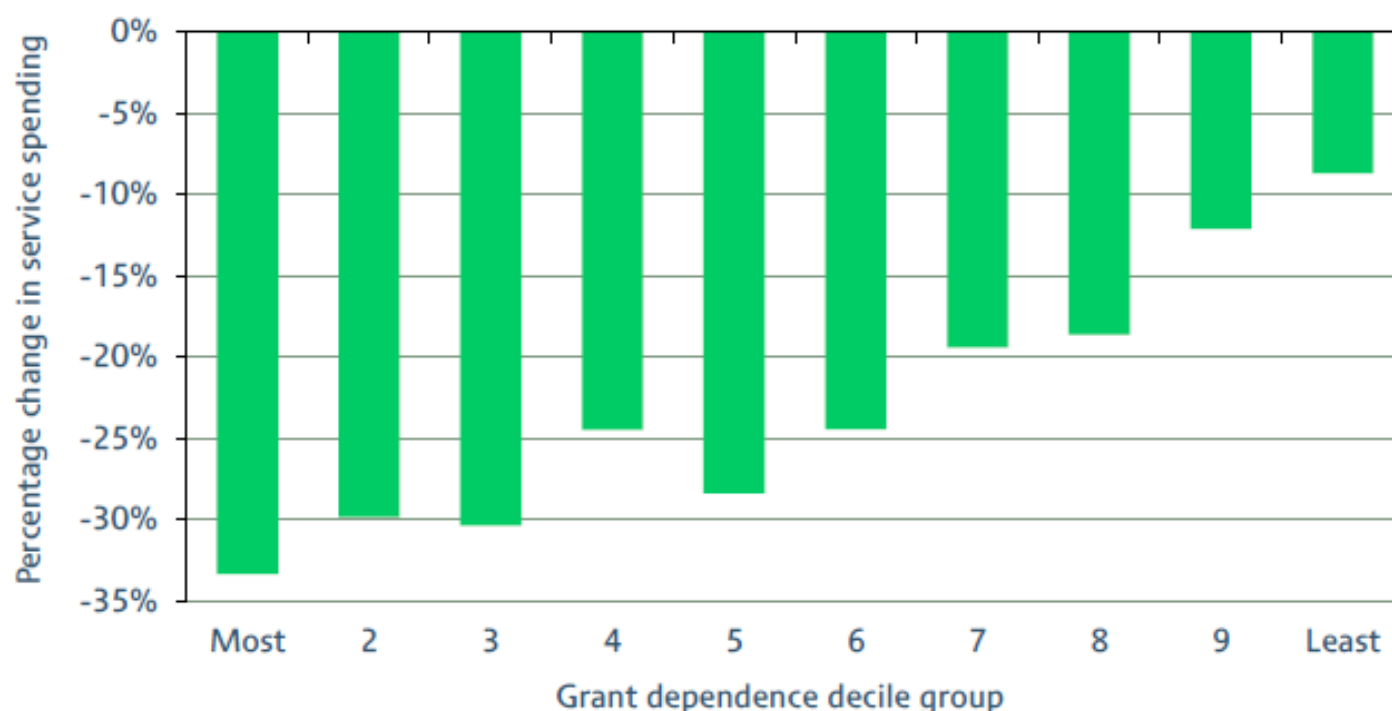
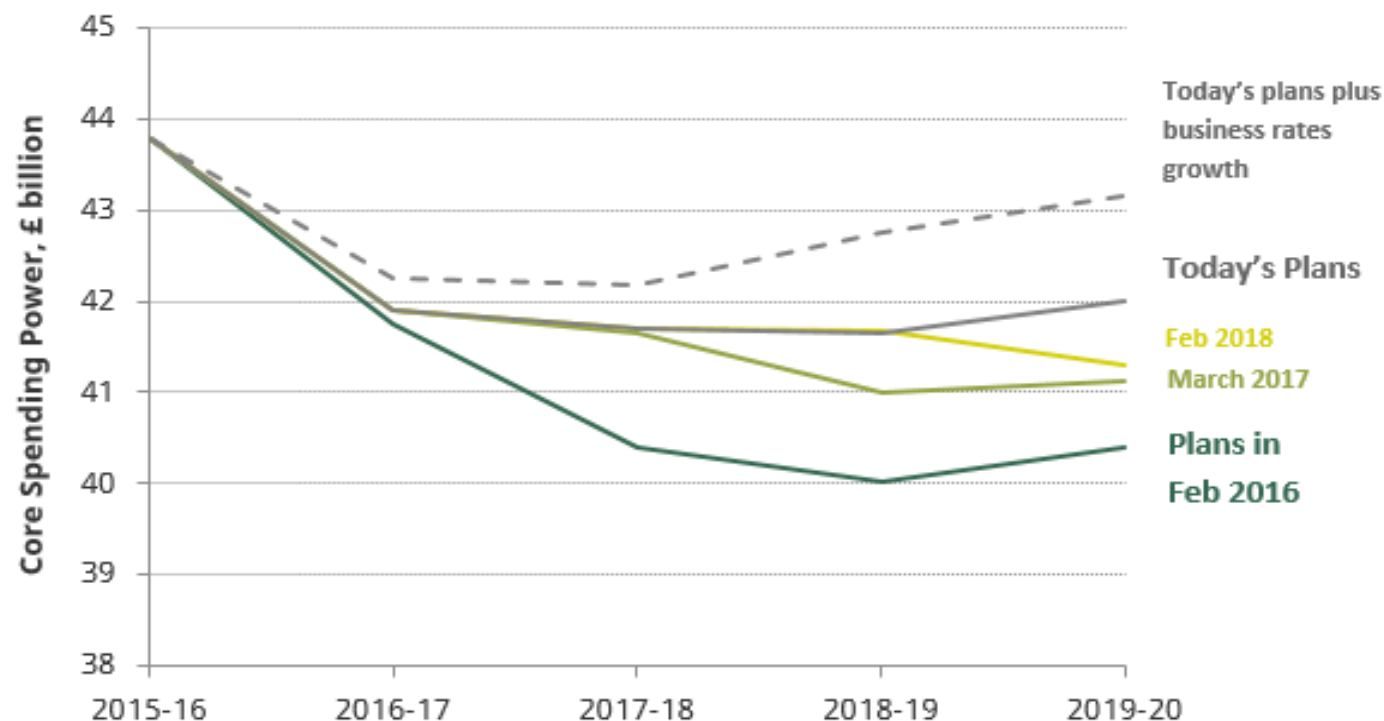


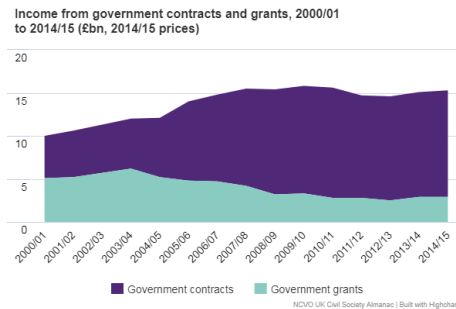
Figure 1. Real terms change in councils' core spending power, 2015-16 to 2019-20, by date

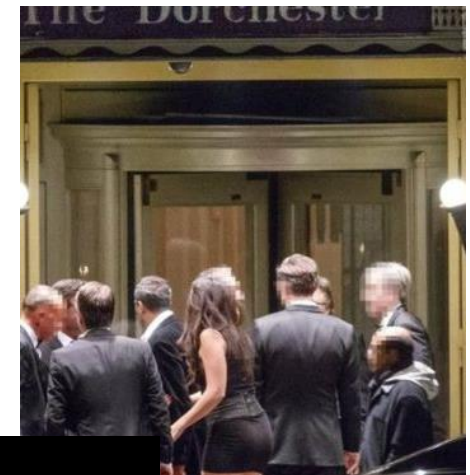


Sources: Authors' calculations using MHCLG, Local Government Finance Settlement, Core Spending Power – supporting information, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and Key information for local authorities 2018-19. Figures adjusted for inflation using HM Treasury, GDP deflators at market prices (Budget 2018).

Source: IFS

SOME ISSUES FACING CHARITIES TODAY







Owen Jones

(Hinton lecture 2018)

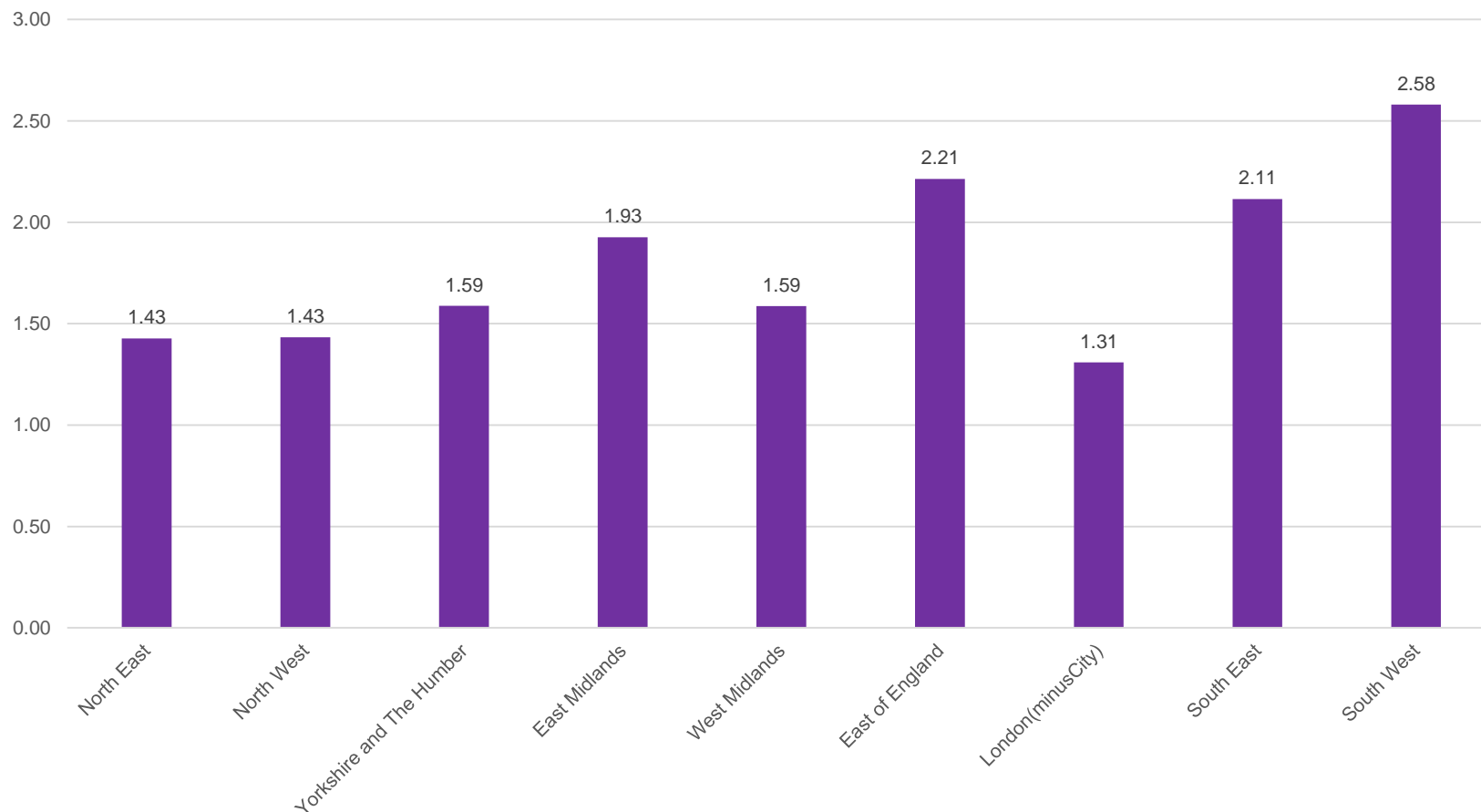
“We understand the need for charity in the here and now to exist,” he said, “but its existence is a failing of our current social order.” He also warned against allowing volunteering to take the place of paid work and said public services should be mainly delivered “in-house” by the state.

Civil Society, 21/11/2018

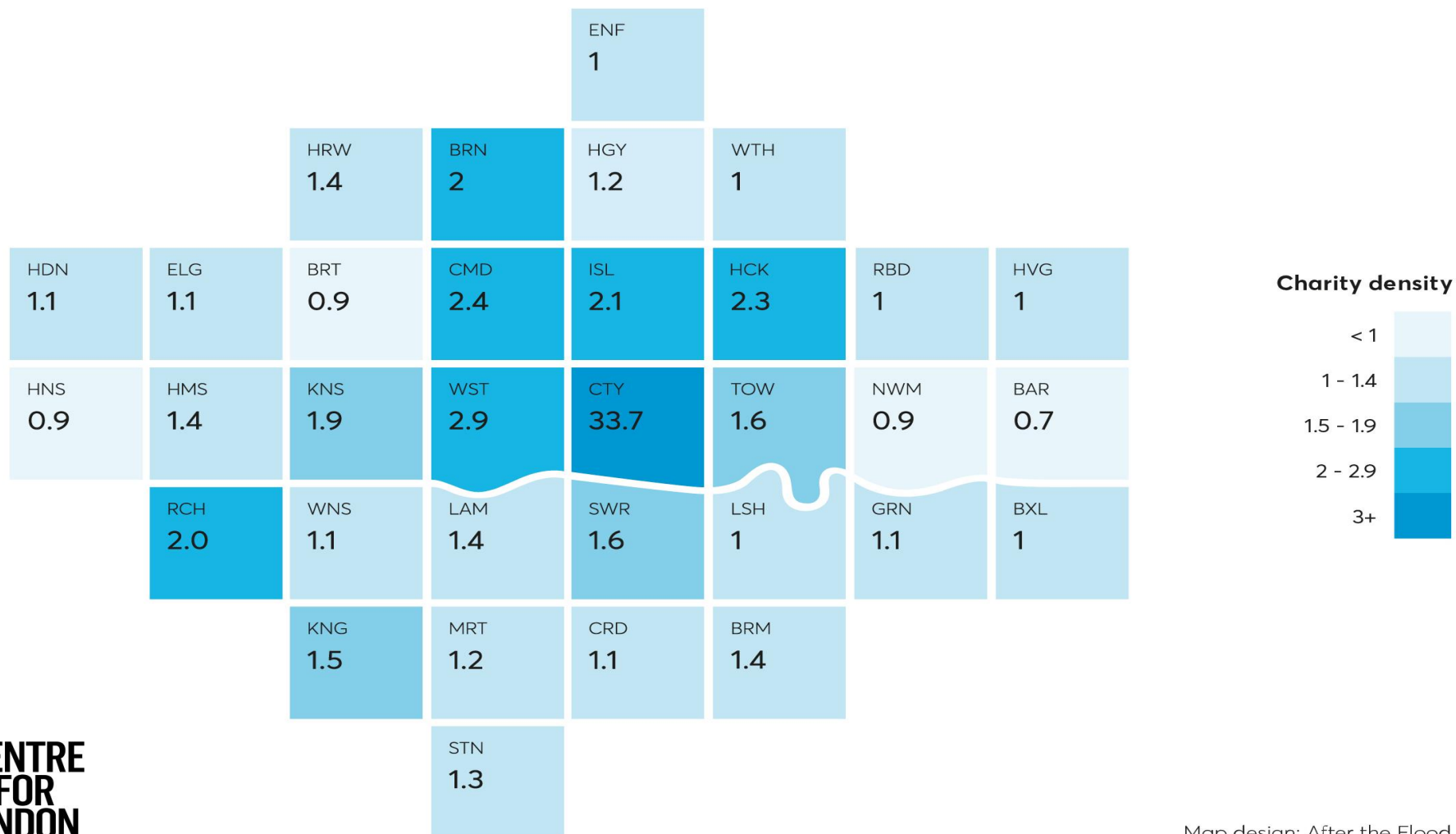


CHARITY DENSITY BY REGION

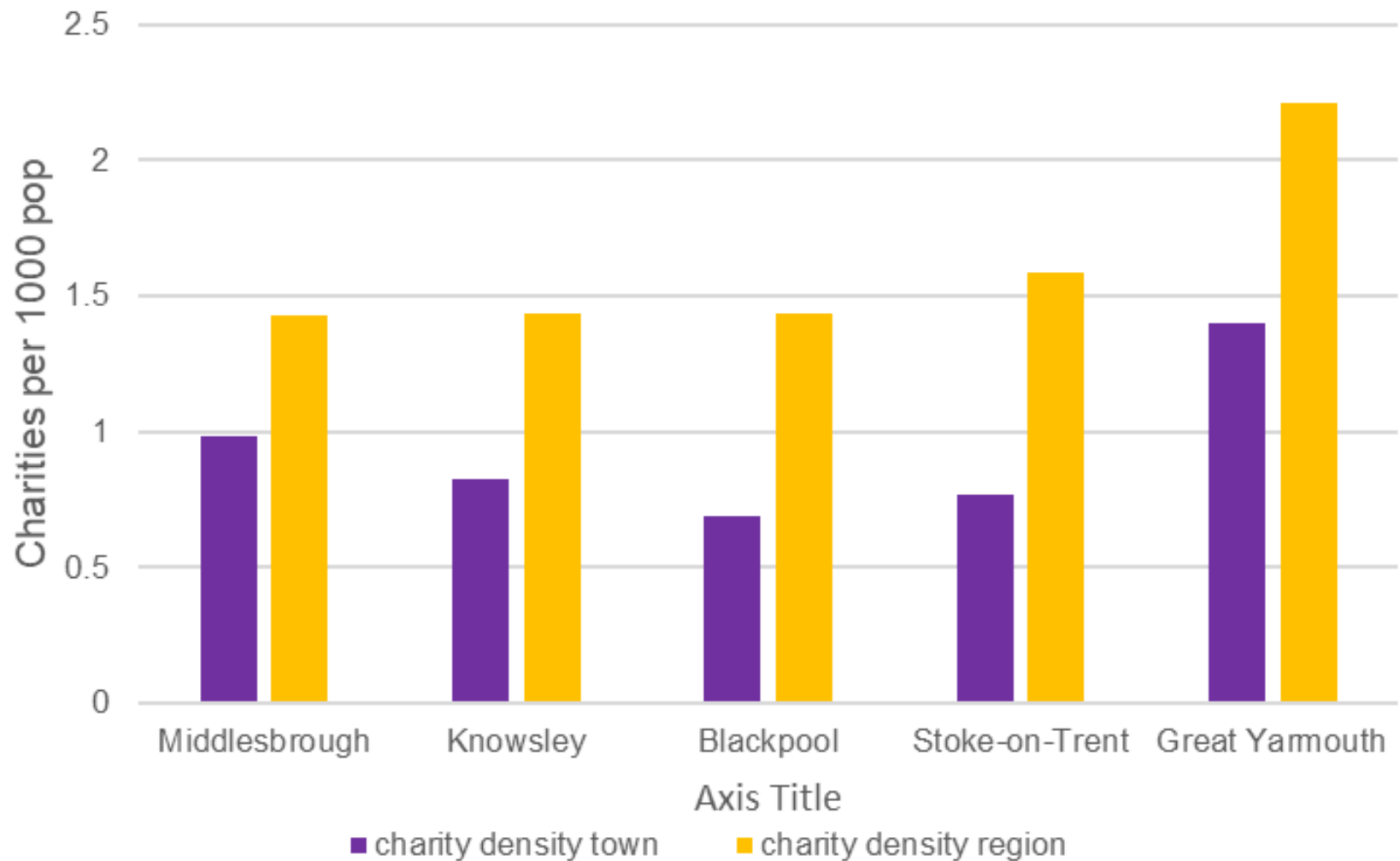
(registered local charities per 1000 population)



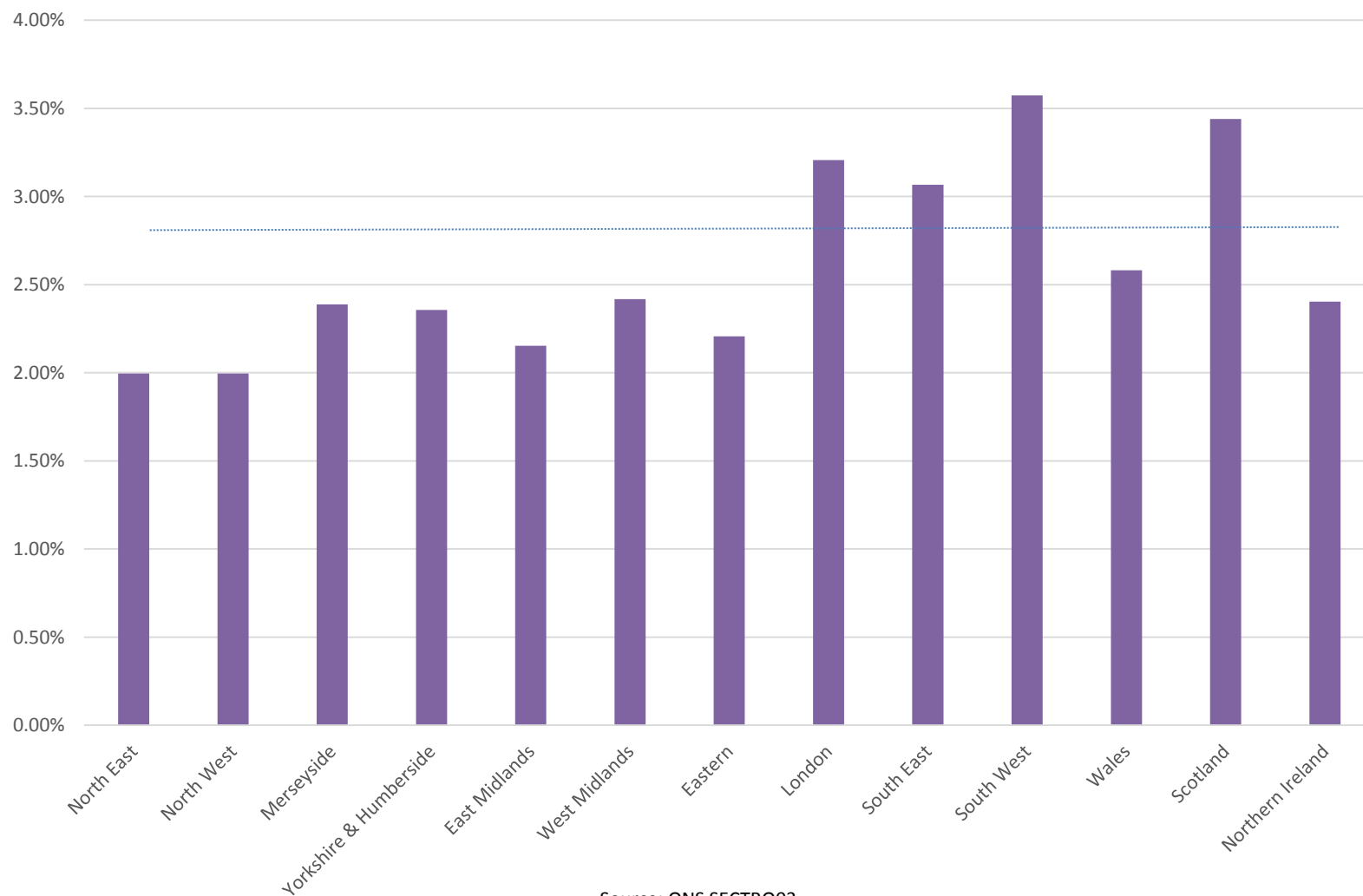
Charity density (local AOB), by London borough



Charity Density for local charities



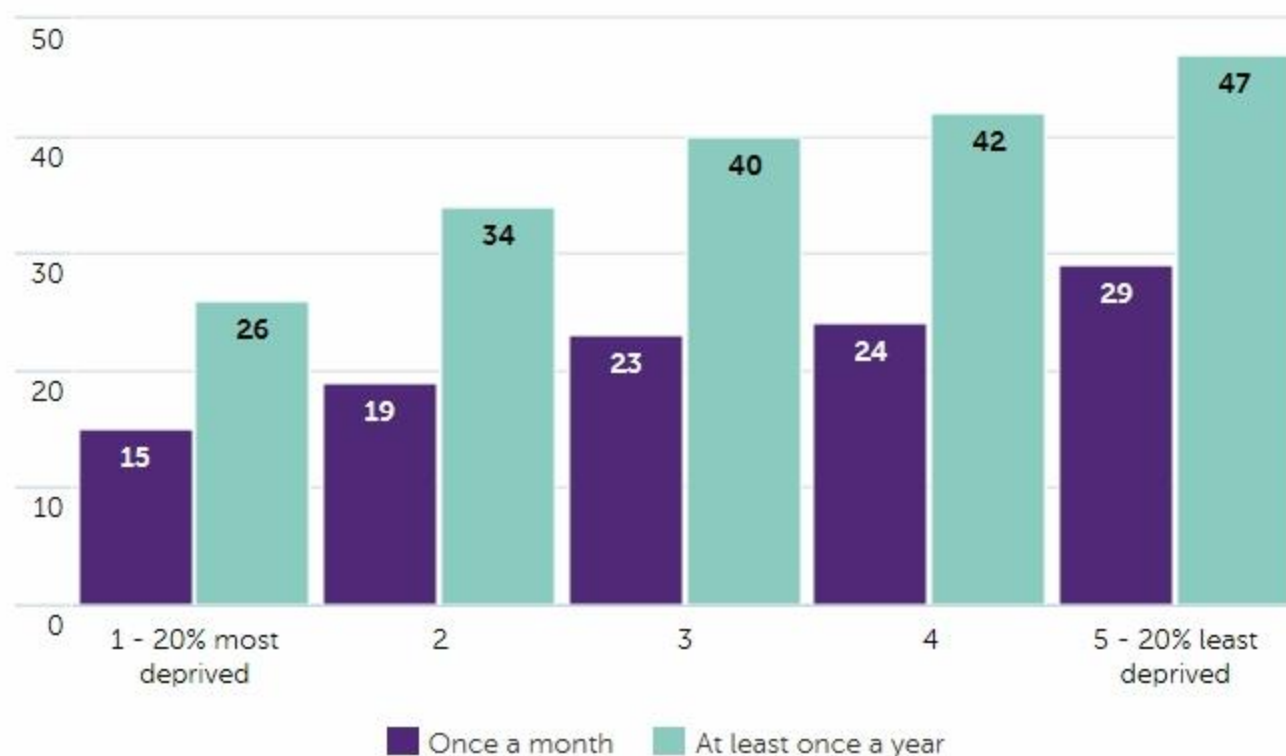
Charity Employment as % total 2017/18



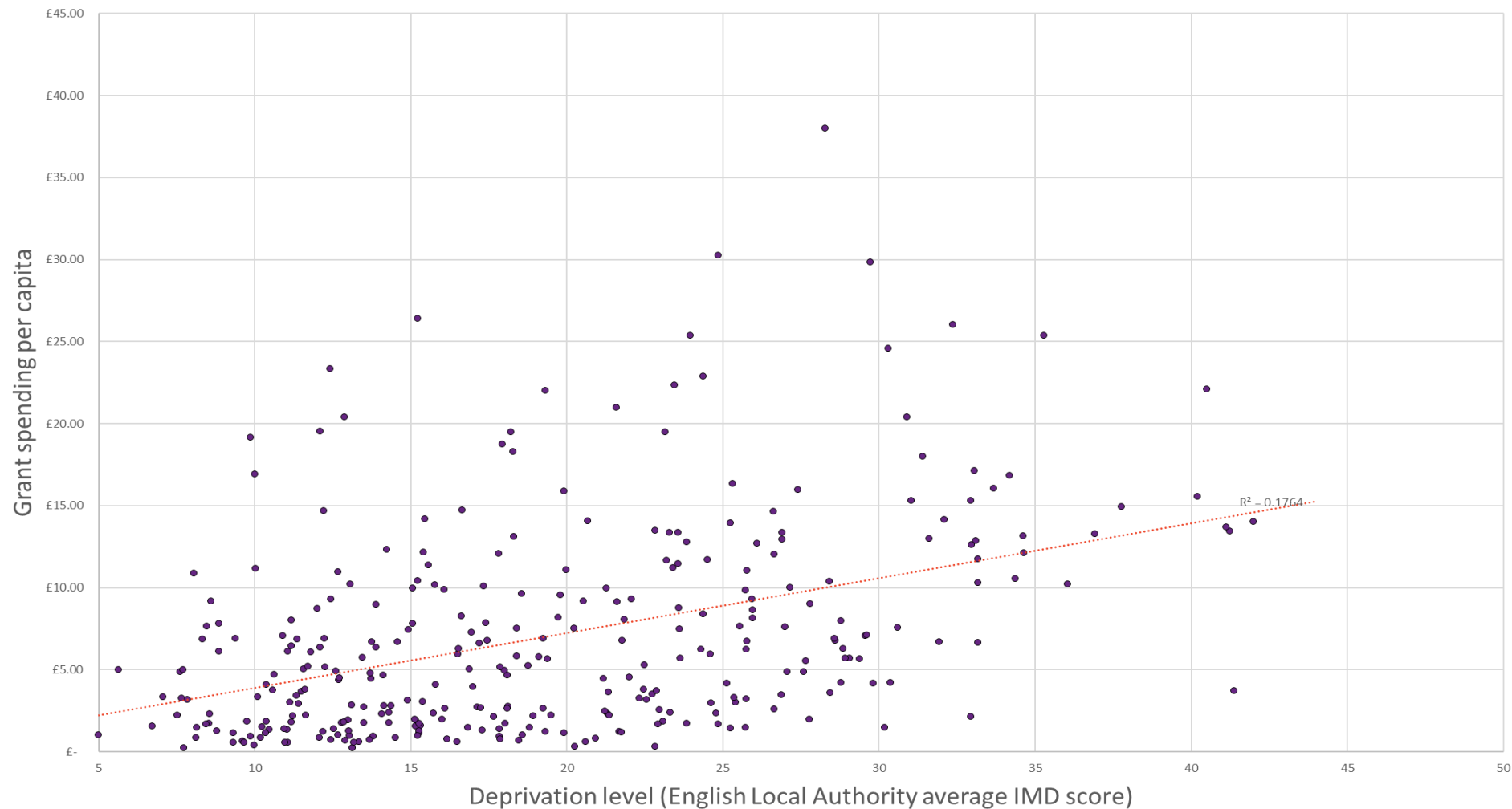
Source: ONS SECTRO03

Proportion of people formally volunteering by levels of deprivation, 2017/18 (%)

Proportion of people formally volunteering by levels of deprivation, 2017/18 (%)

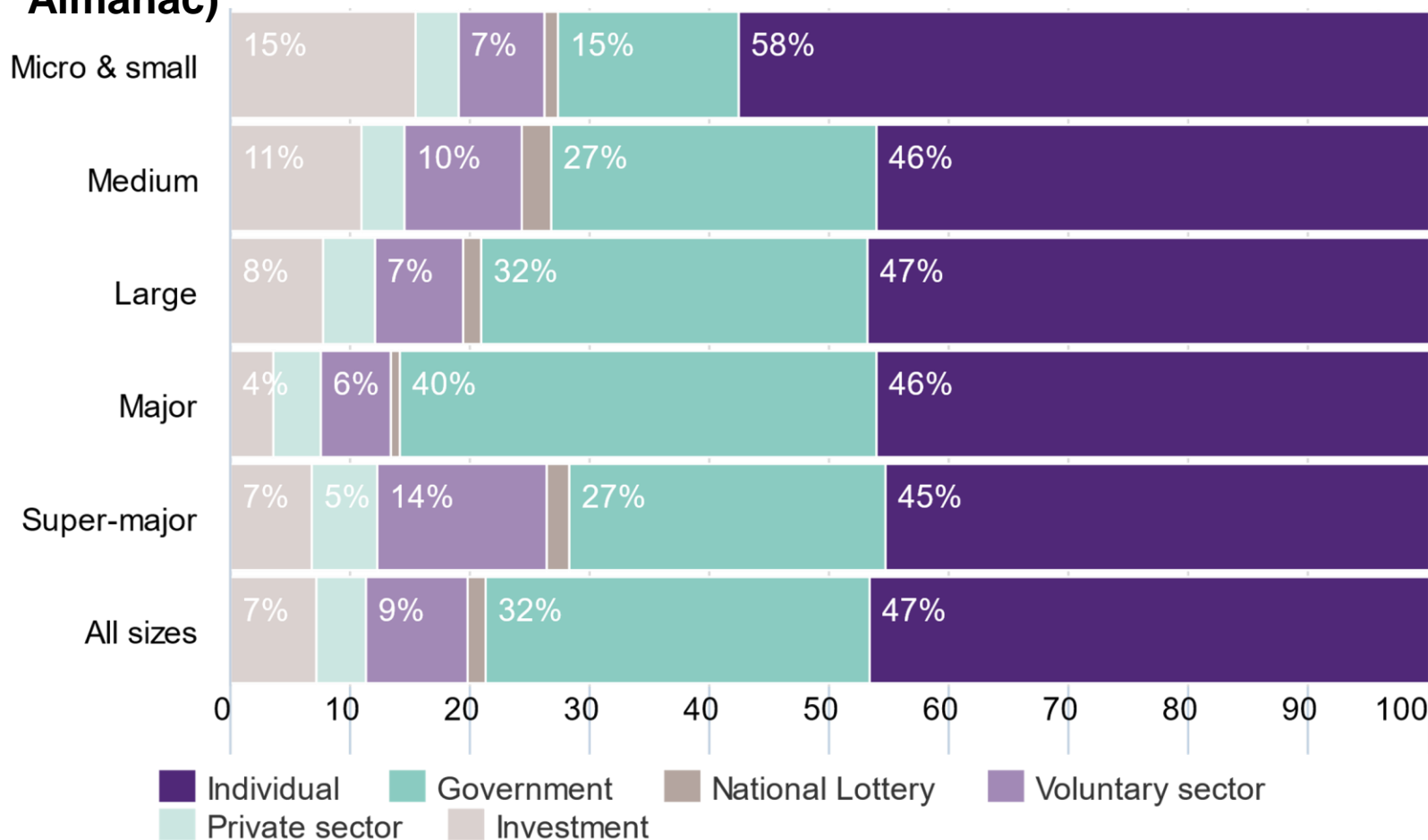


GRANT SPENDING PER CAPITA BY DEPRIVATION



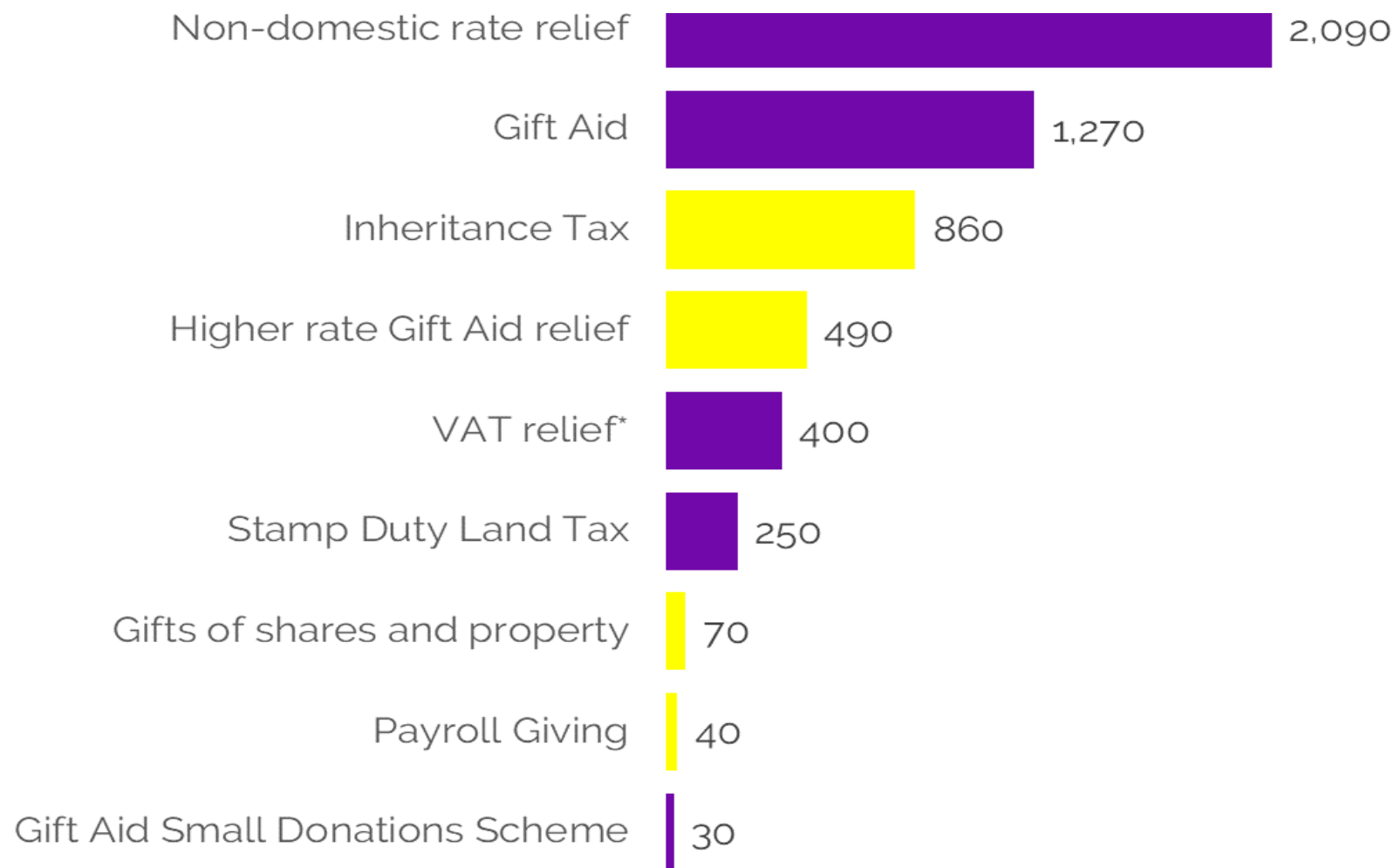
Income sources by size of organisation, 2015/16 (% of income) (source: NCVO

Almanac)



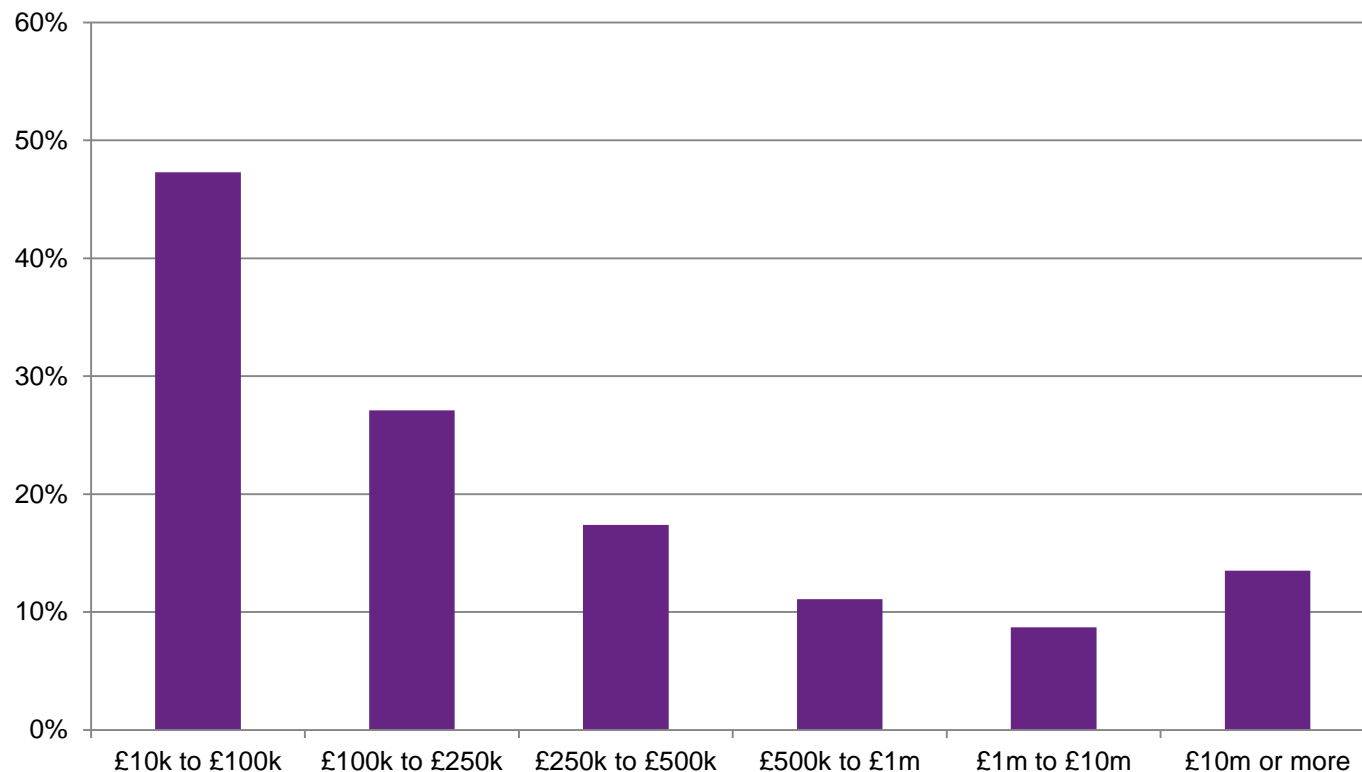
Charitable tax reliefs, £ millions, 2017/18

Source: HMRC Charity Tax Statistics.



WHO'S MEASURING IMPACT?

Proportion of charities not measuring impact against charity size



WHY DO CHARITIES MEASURE IMPACT?

Drivers for increasing impact measurement efforts

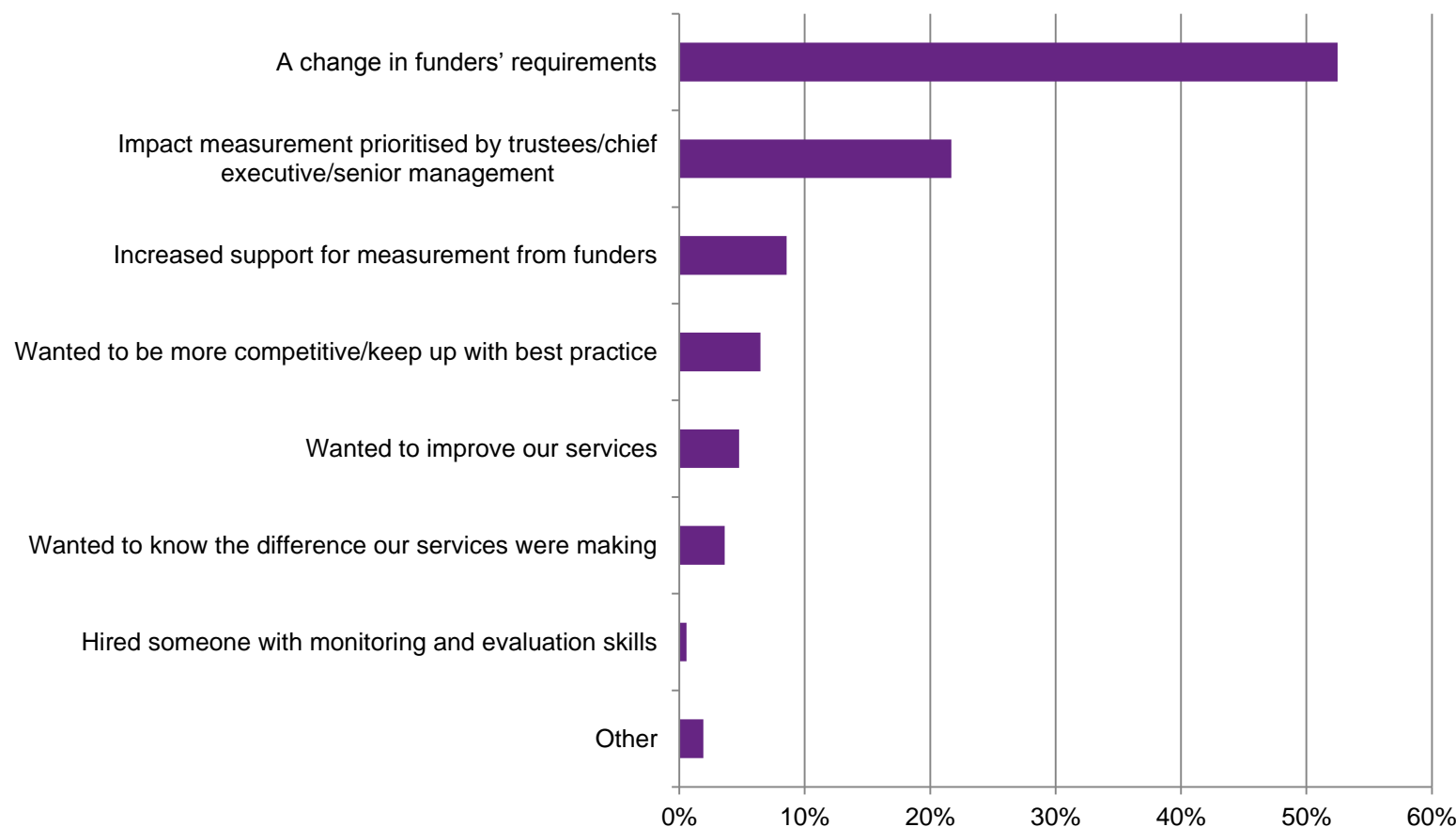
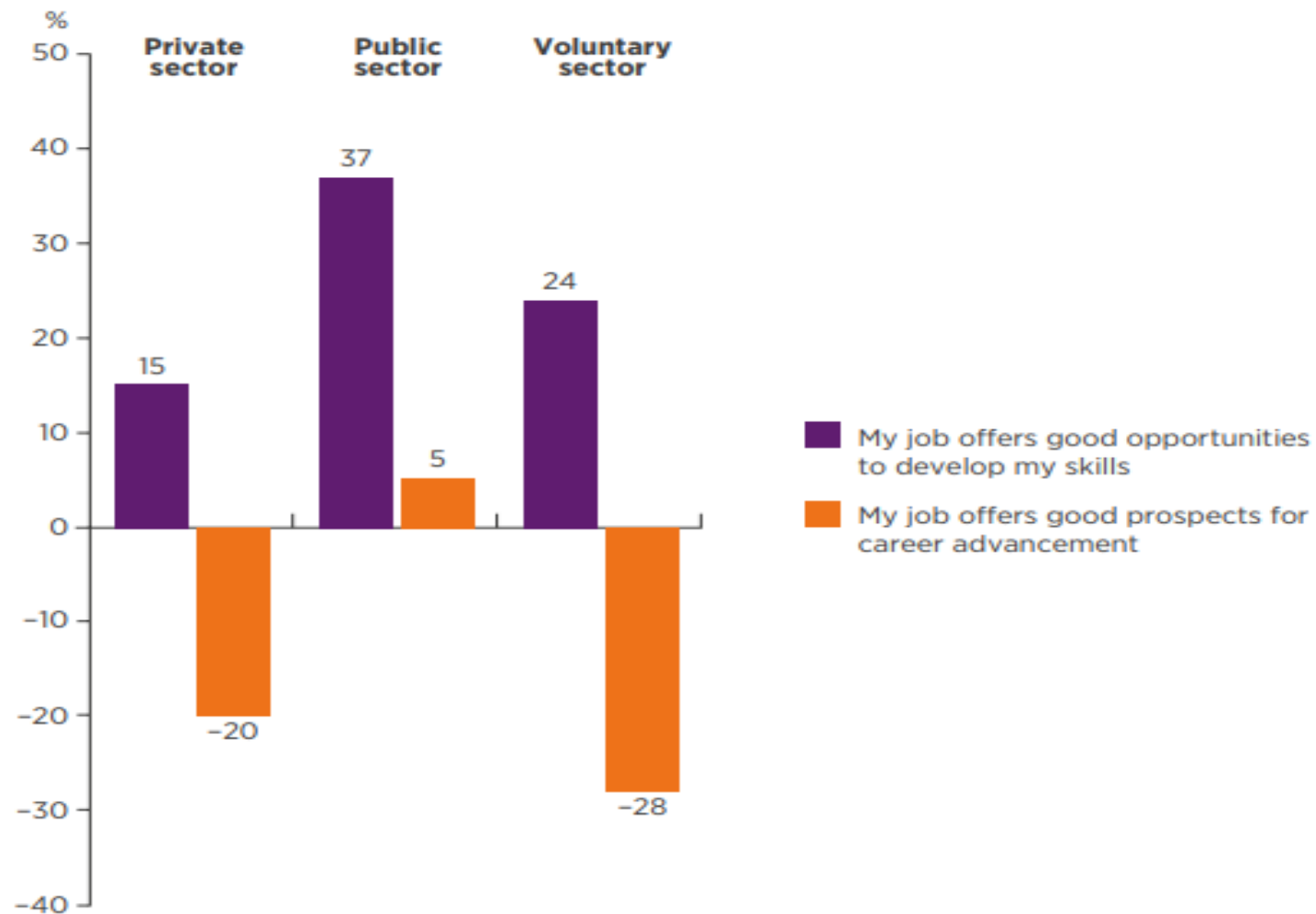


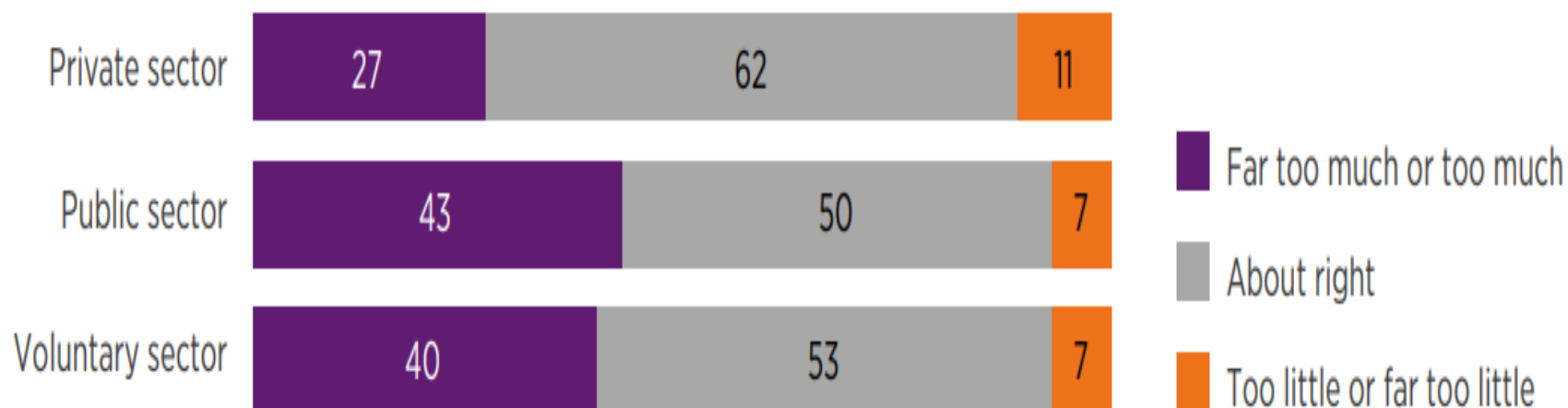
Figure 15: Personal and career development, by sector (net agreement)



Net agreement: (% strongly agree or agree) – (% disagree or strongly disagree)

Base: all employees

Figure 18: Workload, by sector (%)



Base: all employees

Figure 46: Perceived openness to employee voice, by sector (net positive)



Net positive rating = (% very good or good) – (% poor or very poor)

Base: employees including freelancers with only one client, excluding those running their own business

WHAT DOES THE SECTOR WANT TO KNOW THE NPC

ANSWER TO?

SOURCE: CHARITY FUTURES DOING RESEARCH ON THIS (CAROLINE FIENNES).

Some key asks from their top 25 so far:

Impact type:

What are the best ways for charities to evaluate long-term outcomes?

How can qualitative data (e.g. personal stories, case studies) be used to demonstrate impact?

How can impact be measured in a standard way for all charities?

How can the less tangible impacts of charities be measured for work where outcomes are hard to quantify?

How can evaluation enable charities to improve what they do, rather than prove they are making a difference?

Which interventions are most effective (or least effective) and why, within a charity sector (i.e. for a specific problem, or specific context)?

How do charities undertake research, monitoring and evaluation? (i.e. the actual practice and detail)

How can charities improve their communication of how their money has been spent?

WHAT DOES THE SECTOR WANT TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO? (2)

Grant makers

How do grant-makers currently assess their effectiveness? What ways of giving can improve grant effectiveness?

How effective are the approaches used by funders to monitor and evaluate charities?

What are the most effective models for charities to generate non-grant revenue to become financially self-sustaining?

Leadership/governance

What makes for good leadership in the charity sector and does this differ from good leadership in other sectors? How does this vary across different sized organisations?

Does the traditional model of governance in charities still work? What new approaches might deliver greater benefits for intended beneficiaries?

What are the barriers and enablers to ensure diversity amongst trustees?

How can charities working on the same issue collaborate better?

What aids and hinders collaborations between charities and business?

How can the management of small charities be improved e.g. through outsourcing or sharing back-office functions?

DIALOGUE OF THE MISUNDERSTOOD?

- ☐ Usual issues like language, focus, incentives different etc . [What Works Centres are trying to overcome this]
- ☐ Sometimes academics help with the snake oil!
- ☐ Not enough funded/done on what the sector would like to know.
- ☐ Voluntary sector studies etc not high profile, high prestige, certainly in UK. Need to get wider range of academics interested in it. See my [ESRC blog](#)
- ☐ Anti-academic bias amongst charities (outside research etc ones)?
- ☐ Also many don't want to know what is working etc
- ☐ New movements – bottom up etc - not evidence based maybe?



what works
wellbeing

January 2018

briefing | visual arts and mental health



what works
wellbeing



How does participating in
visual art projects impact
the wellbeing of adults with
mental health issues?



the big picture

This is the first overall review of the evidence on the impact of visual arts on the wellbeing of adults with mental health conditions. Prior to this, there have been some insightful exploratory studies showing the positive impacts.

This briefing is based on a [systematic review](#) that looks at interventions that encouraged participation in, and enjoyment of, art among this group.

The review identifies the effects of visual art on subjective wellbeing. This describes both the good and bad feelings that arise from people's outlook: how they think about themselves and others, and what they do in the interactions and practices of everyday life. The visual arts activities we looked at include painting or drawing, art appreciation, making art and exhibiting, ceramics, sculpture, and crafts activities.

We found that there is limited good quality evidence for visual arts impacts, though case studies from the UK have provided important and consistent findings.

The review includes data from 163 participants across four countries: Australia, Sweden, the UK, and the US. Overall, more women were included in the studies than men.

We sifted
through
4,820
studies

and 8
were
included

Five qualitative studies
Two quantitative
One mixed-methods, predominantly
quantitative study/small-scale RCT

“
I benefit
from
socialising,
learning new
things and
widening my
creative
experience.”



*Designs In Mind participant
Find out more in our case
study on page four.*

In partnership with:



Work and Learning Evidence Programme
What Works for Wellbeing
www.whatworkswellbeing.org
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THANK YOU

New Philanthropy Capital – Transforming the charity sector

February 2019