

National Survey of Third Sector Organisations

Headline Report - Bedfordshire

Introduction

This report gives headline findings from the National Survey of Third Sector Organisations, conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Office of the Third Sector. This initial report concentrates only on the results from indicator question (Q23) which measures National Indicator 7: "An Environment for a Thriving Third Sector".

What this report tells you

This report includes:

NI 7 Results Nationally and for Bedfordshire: this is the score for this area in 2008, and the baseline for improvement in the future.

Target percentage point increase and target score (indicative): an estimate of the percentage point change needed to show a statistically significant improvement by 2010 (and so meet the target for NI 7).

National Findings: NI 7 results nationally to help put this result in perspective.

Contextual information: some additional background statistics about your area for further perspective.

Technical details: survey fieldwork dates, sampling and methodology information, and a technical glossary.

Detailed Local Analysis

In April 2009 we will present an analysis of answers to other questions in the survey, designed to provide a deeper understanding of the views of third sector organisations in the local area, and to diagnose the factors which most clearly affect the headline score.

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About this report

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Ipsos MORI

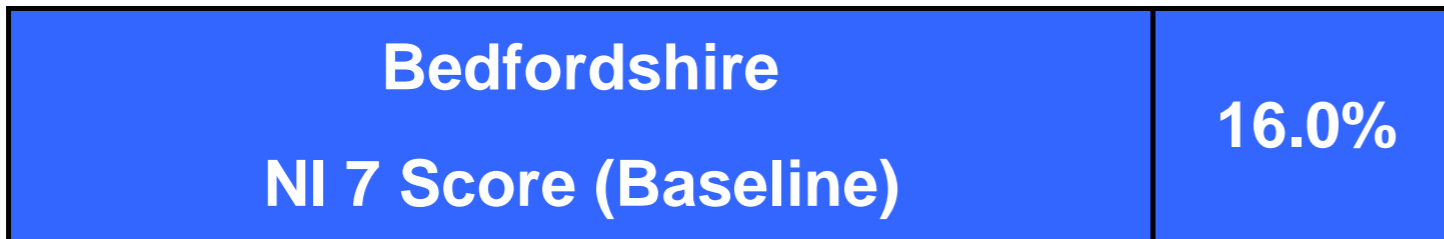


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NI7 Baseline measure - Key Results

Taking everything into account, overall, how do the statutory bodies in your local area influence your organisation's success?



Target <u>percentage point</u> increase (indicative)	3.8
Target score (indicative)	19.8%

*The target for the next two years is to achieve statistically significant improvement. This is affected by the number of organisations in the area and the response rate, in both 2008 and 2010. The information we have so far enables us to update estimates from the pilot phase, but these may change slightly after the second survey in 2010

Bedfordshire	
Number of respondents	512
Response rate	55%





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NI 7 and Level of Engagement (National Results)

The degree to which third sector organisations are likely to rate the impact of local statutory bodies as positive or very positive is affected by a range of factors, which we shall be analysing and sharing with partners.

We already know from the data that third sector organisations that stated they have greater direct dealings with local statutory bodies were much more likely to give a positive or very positive rating*, as outlined in the graph below.

How NI 7 score varies with levels of engagement



Number of respondents: A great deal (2,935); A fair amount (9,661); Not very much (17,234); Not at all (17,042)

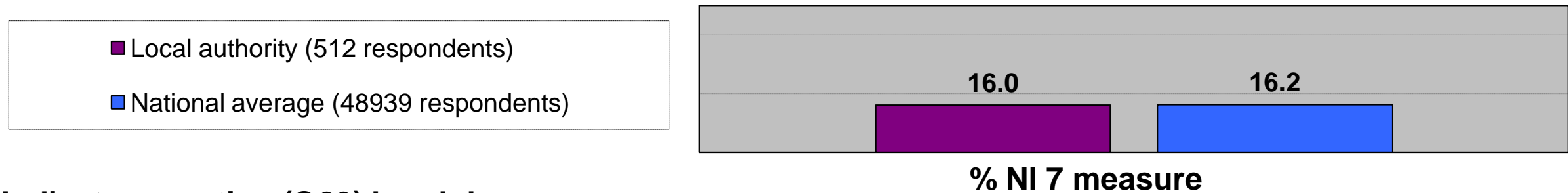
*As measured by Q25: 'To what extent, if at all, does your organisation currently have any direct dealings with local statutory bodies in your local area?'



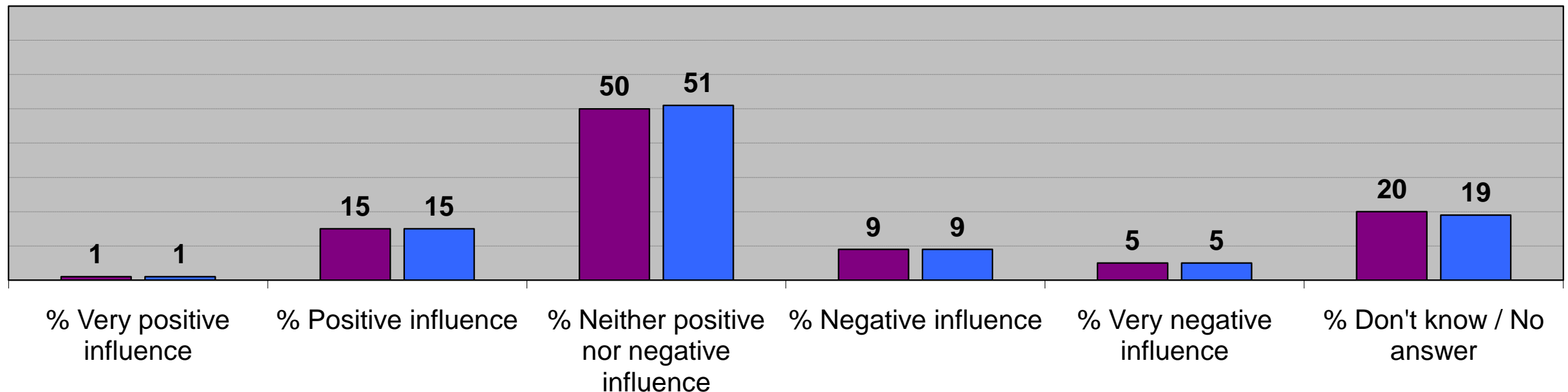
NI7 Baseline measure - National Comparison

Taking everything into account, overall, how do the statutory bodies in your local area influence your organisation's success?

EXPLANATORY NOTE - The chart below on the right shows the NI 7 score for Bedfordshire, as well as nationally. The chart below it shows the results for the indicator question (Q23) in more detail*.



Indicator question (Q23) breakdown



* The NI 7 score comprises "very positive influence" and "positive influence" responses to the indicator question. Note the breakdown chart uses rounded figures which may not appear to sum exactly to the NI 7 figure.



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NI7 - Local contextual data

Registered third sector organisations	Bedfordshire	Nationally
Total number of registered third sector organisations	1,441	170,552
Per capita number of registered third sector organisations (per 1,000 people)	3.62	3.38

Source: Guidestar

New and dissolved third sector organisations	Bedfordshire	Nationally
Proportion of new third sector organisations registered / incorporated in the previous 12 months	2%	3%
Proportion of third sector organisations dissolved in the previous 12 months (note: data available only for registered charities)	2%	3%

Source: Guidestar

Employees working for third sector organisations	Bedfordshire	Nationally
Total number of employees working for third sector organisations (full-time equivalents)	4,546	640,198
Per capita number of employees working for third sector organisations (per 1,000 people)	11.43	12.69

Source: Guidestar

Trustees / directors of third sector organisations	Bedfordshire	Nationally
Total number of trustees / directors of third sector organisations	7,217	772,173
Per capita number of trustees / directors of third sector organisations (per 1,000 people)	18.15	15.31

Source: Guidestar

PLEASE NOTE - New figures for the number of volunteers in your area will be available from the Audit Commission website in March. See <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/performance/ni-placesurvey.asp>.



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Technical Details

Methodology

The National Survey of Third Sector Organisations was conducted amongst third sector organisations (TSOs) across 149 upper tier local authorities in England from September to December 2008.

In total 104,391 TSOs across all 149 single and two-tier authorities in England were invited to participate in the survey. Initially pre-notice letters were mailed to all selected organisations (along with a link enabling them to access the survey online). Paper questionnaires were then mailed to all selected organisations shortly afterwards. Thank you/reminder postcards and reminder questionnaires were also sent out to organisations, with telephone reminders conducted with a sample of non-responding organisations. TSOs were able to complete the survey either online or on paper throughout the fieldwork period.

Data from the survey have been weighted within each local authority to ensure results are representative of the make up of TSOs in that authority (according to organisational type).

Sampling

A database of TSOs drawing on the list of registered charities and registers of Community Interest Companies, Companies Limited by Guarantee and Industrial and Provident Societies in England, was supplied by Guidestar UK.

Calculations were conducted to obtain the ideal number of TSOs required to be asked to complete the survey to achieve robustness. In some areas a census survey was conducted (i.e. all TSOs were asked to take part), and in others a random stratified sample of TSOs was constructed, using organisation type (registered charity, CIC, CLG or IPS) as the main stratifier. Registered charities were further stratified according to income.

Fieldwork Dates

Pre-notice letters mailed to all selected organisations	15th September 2008
First full mailout of questionnaires	22nd September 2008
Thank you/reminder postcard sent to all organisations	6th October 2008
First reminder mailout of questionnaires	27th October 2008
Second reminder mailout of questionnaires	3rd December
Telephone reminders (conducted with small proportion of selected organisations)	12th November - 25th November

Technical Glossary

Response Rate - This is the proportion of TSOs who responded to the survey, out of the total number invited to take part (shown as a %).

Target percentage point increase (indicative) - This is the target improvement (in percentage point terms and indicative only) that local authorities must achieve over the next two years to meet the NI 7 target.

Target score (indicative) - This score combines the current NI 7 score with the target improvement, giving an indication of the of the minimum NI 7 score the local authority will require in the next wave of the survey in 2010 in order to achieve statistically significant improvement and thereby hit the NI 7 target in that area. This assumes that all conditions will remain the same (survey population and response rate) and is therefore indicative only.

Indicator question - This is the question in the survey (Q23) from which the score for NI 7 is calculated. NI 7 comprises the "very positive influence" and "positive influence" responses.