

---

September 2017

## Contents

Executive summary	1
1. Understanding Sandwell's voluntary and community sector	2
2. How does Sandwell's voluntary and community sector support children, young people and families?	3
3. In what activities are Sandwell's CYP-focused organisations involved?	3
4. How specialised are Sandwell's CYP-focused organisations?	5
5. Do Sandwell's CYP-focused organisations engage with specific groups?	6
5.1. Gender and sexuality	6
5.2. Disabilities and health conditions	6
5.3. Ethnicity, linguistic communities and recently arrived communities	7
6. How are Sandwell's CYP-focused organisations constituted?	9
6.1. The independence of Sandwell's CYP-focused organisations	9
7. How well-resourced are Sandwell's CYP-focused organisations?	11
7.1. Human resource	11
7.2. Financial income	12
8. Where do Sandwell's CYP-focused organisations deliver their services?	14
8.1. Ward-level analysis	14

## Executive summary

Sandwell has a vibrant and diverse Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) providing both independent and commissioned services across a wide range of domains, to an equally wide range of beneficiaries.

Using the Sandwell VCS database we identify 297 organisations whose principal beneficiaries are children, young people and young adults; we term these Sandwell's CYP-focused organisation.

These CYP-focused organisation support people all around the borough of Sandwell. They are most likely (and more likely than other Sandwell voluntary and community organisations) to be involved in arts, culture, sport and recreation, and in education, employment and training, and they engage with a wide and inclusive range of service.

Our analysis shows that Sandwell's CYP-focused organisations are generally specialists in terms of the specific age-based cohorts of children, young people or young adults they works with. Though a few CYP-focused organisations are seen to work with all age-based cohorts, those that do are generally the largest and most capable organisations.

Sandwell's has a real "mixed economy" of CYP-focused organisations. Around half of organisations are independent, stand-alone local groups. Around 30 per cent of CYP-focused organisations are either autonomous members of larger networks, or local branches of larger organisations. The presence of a high proportion of networked organisations and local branches of larger organisations is positive in that it can allow Sandwell to call upon insights and resources from beyond its own borders to help address local issues. The mixed economy of provision also presents some challenges however, and it is important always to ensure the knowledge and expertise of specialist local groups is incorporated into the design and delivery of local interventions.

When we look at the human and financial resources that Sandwell's CYP-focused organisation can draw upon we find a mixed economy picture once again. The CYP-focused cohort (as with the voluntary and community sector more generally) is polarised between a small number of large organisations, and a large number of very small organisations. Though their size may be diminutive, it is important to remember that size is more a measure of capacity than one of capability. When we explore the capability of CYP-focused organisation, and compare it with the local voluntary sector in general, we find a higher level of full-time equivalent staff, fewer volunteers and a higher incidence of organisations holding some form of quality accreditation.

The voluntary and community sector is already playing a vital role in supporting children, young people and families in Sandwell with support at both universal and targeted levels. Ensuring that this role can continue and develop means investing in focused ways, and in line with identified patterns of local need, to build links between organisations who are designing and delivering services, and to resource those processes of design and delivery effectively.

## 1. Understanding Sandwell's voluntary and community sector

SCVO maintain a public database of voluntary and community sector organisations operating in Sandwell: <https://sandwellvcs.info/>. This rich and actively managed data set offers the best available insight into the scale and scope of voluntary and community sector activity in Sandwell, together with some insights into the capability of the sector.

The Sandwell VCS database lists 977 active voluntary and community organisations at 20th September 2017. The data demonstrates that voluntary and community organisations play a part in every facet of life in Sandwell; from arts, culture and recreation, to animal welfare. The organisations that make up Sandwell's voluntary and community sector are equally varied. Small, highly specialised organisations with expertise to match are found alongside large national providers, and in the middle a wealth of more generalist community organisations who can act as integrative gateways to the particular communities they serve. More than one-in-five of the organisations listed in our database describe their principal contribution, not in terms of narrowly-defined services, but in terms of their role as voluntary, community anchors in the communities they serve.

Figure 1, below, shows the percentage of organisations on our VCS database who tell us they are active in the following areas:

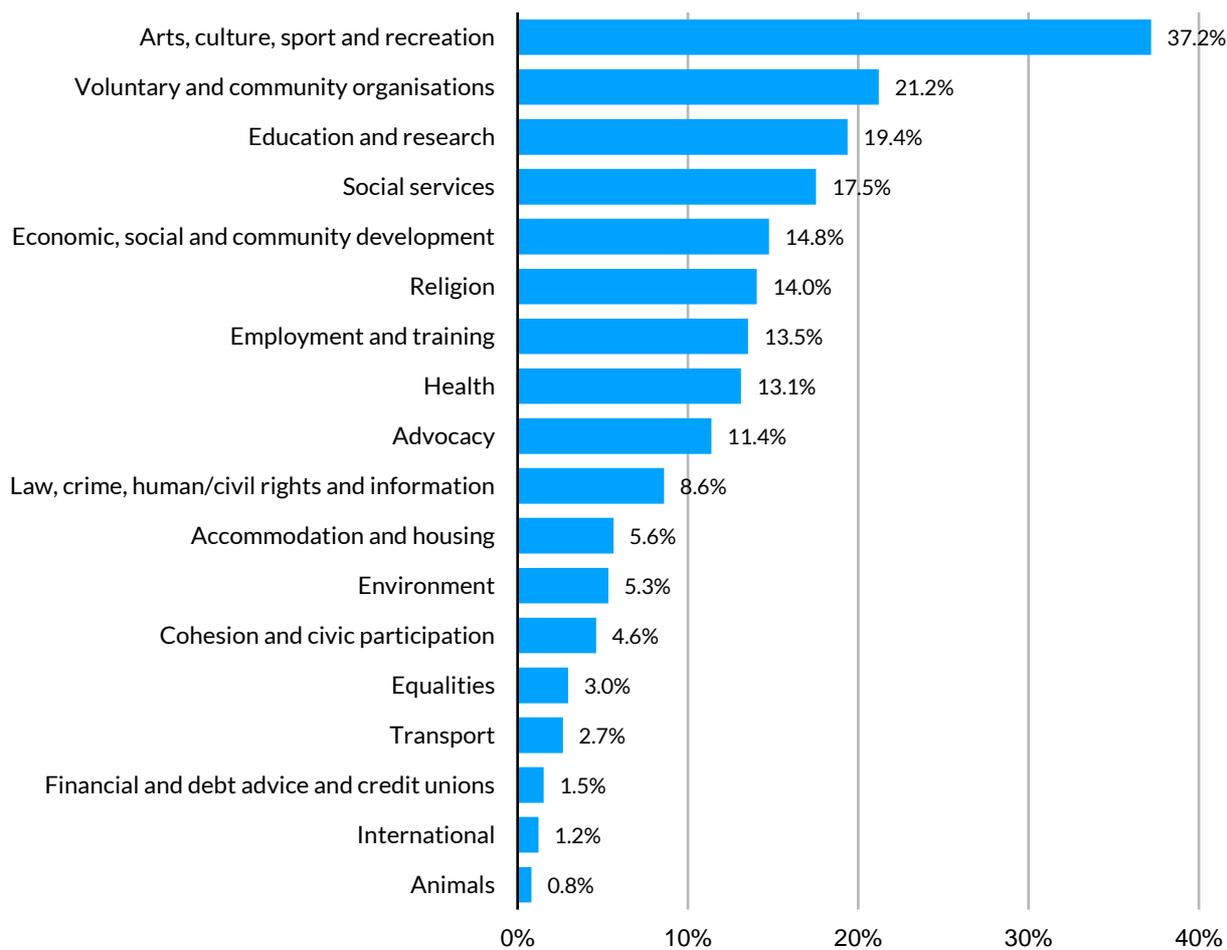


Figure 1. Activities in which Sandwell VCS organisation report being involved

## 2. How does Sandwell’s voluntary and community sector support children, young people and families?

Of the 977 voluntary and community organisations currently active in Sandwell, 297 organisations - almost 30% of voluntary and community sector organisations in our database - tell us that children and young people are the main beneficiaries of the services they offer<sup>1</sup>. For the purpose of this report we will refer to this group as “CYP-focused organisations”.

Table 1 shows the number of CYP-focused organisations in Sandwell who tell us that children, young people and young adults in the following five categories are their main beneficiaries<sup>2</sup>.

Main beneficiaries include:	Number of organisations	Percentage of all Sandwell VCS organisations
Children under 5 yrs	61	6.2%
Children aged 5-11 yrs	168	17.2%
Young people aged 12-16 yrs	208	21.3%
Young people aged 17-18 yrs	196	20.1%
Young adults aged 19-25 yrs	176	18.0%

Table 1

Reported main beneficiaries for CYP-focused organisations

## 3. In what activities are Sandwell’s CYP-focused organisations involved?

If we compare the activities in which all Sandwell voluntary and community organisations are involved (shown in Figure 1, above) with the same analysis for CYP-focused organisation we find the following differences. CYP-focused organisations are;

- Significantly more likely to be involved in arts, culture, sport and recreation
- Significantly more likely to be involved in employment and training
- More likely to be involved in education and research
- More likely to be involved in advocacy
- More likely to be involved in housing

---

<sup>1</sup> The technical note at the end of this report details how we identified this cohort of 297 organisations.

<sup>2</sup> Double counting, where organisations work with more than one beneficiary group, means that the number of organisations identified here sums to more than 297.

- Less likely to be involved in environmental issues
- Less likely to be involved in religion

Figure 2, below, offers a comparative illustration of reported activities for all Sandwell voluntary and community organisations and for CYP-focused organisations.

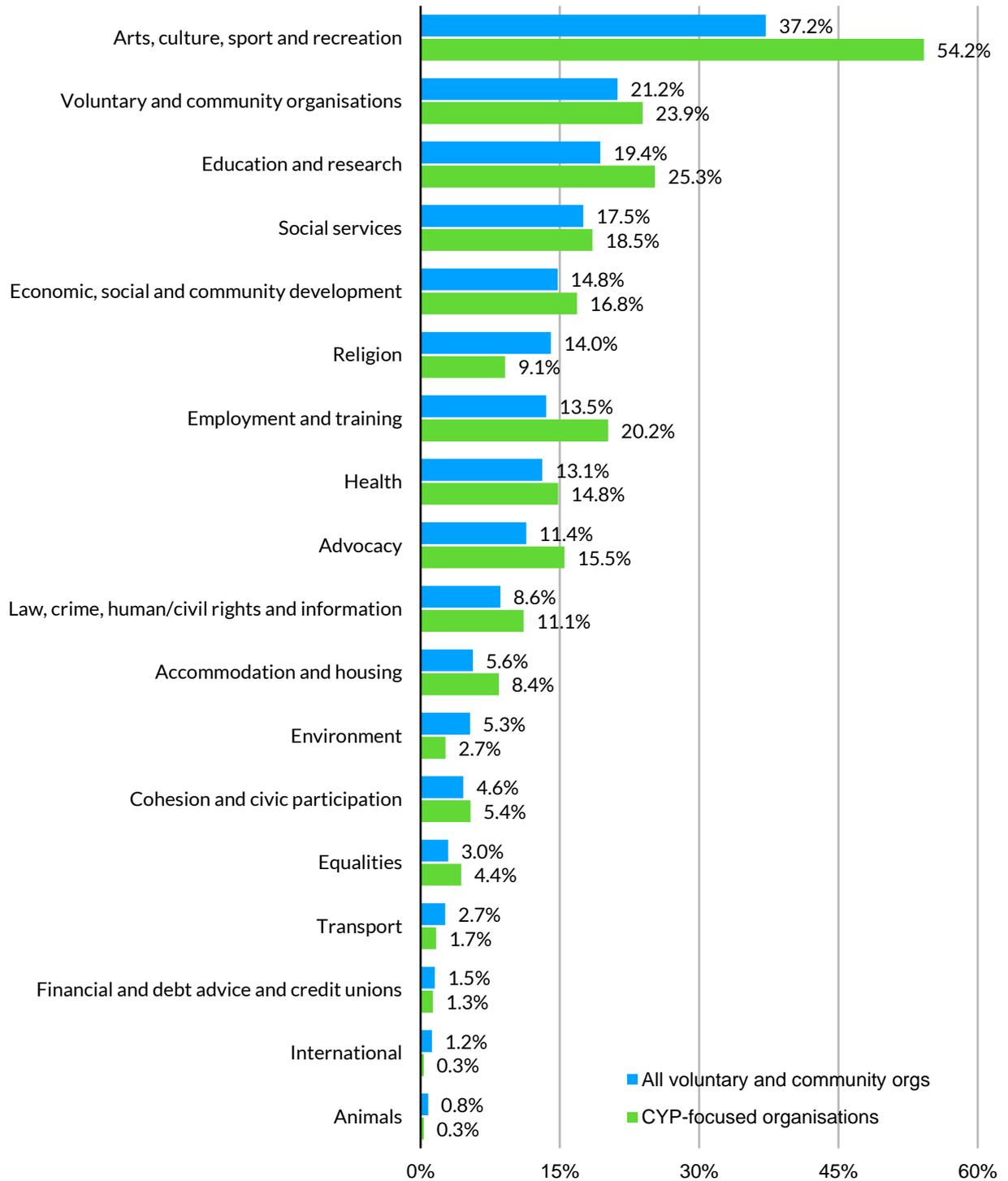


Figure 2. Activities in which Sandwell VCS, and CYP-focused organisation report being involved

#### 4. How specialised are Sandwell's CYP-focused organisations?

The Sandwell VCS database invites organisations working with children and young people to describe who the principal beneficiaries of their services are in terms of five different groups of beneficiaries:

- Children under 5 years
- Children aged 5-11 years
- Young people aged 12-16 years
- Young people aged 17-18 years
- Young adults aged 19-25 years

In times of increasingly competitive funding it would be rational for organisations to claim they were able to work with as many of these different groups of beneficiaries as possible, in order to increase their appeal to potential funders. To understand if this was the case with Sandwell's CYP-focused organisations, and to offer some proxy for the degree of specialisation on the part of organisations, we analysed the number of CYP beneficiary groups that each of the 297 identified CYP-focused organisations worked with. The findings were heartening.

As table 2, below, illustrates, almost 23 per cent of Sandwell's CYP-focused organisations were focused on serving just one of the five CYP beneficiary groups; indicating their clear specialisation in this area. Parsing the data reveals that these organisations tend to be focused on either the youngest or oldest beneficiary groups; providing services such as child care or further education respectively.

Only 11 per cent of organisations reported that they worked with beneficiaries across all five of the categories. Parsing the data again we found that the majority of organisations were larger organisations who could genuinely demonstrate the capacity to work with these each of these beneficiary groups.

In the middle of the dataset we find a normal distribution with the majority of organisations working with around three of the beneficiary groups; most often school-age children.

Number of CYP beneficiary groups worked with:	Number of organisations	Percentage of CYP-organisations
Work with one CYP beneficiary group	68	22.9%
Work with two CYP beneficiary group	56	18.9%
Work with three CYP beneficiary group	96	32.3%
Work with four CYP beneficiary group	44	14.8%
Work with five CYP beneficiary group	33	11.1%

Table 2 Number of beneficiaries groups that CYP-focused organisations work with

## 5. Do Sandwell’s CYP-focused organisations engage with specific groups?

The Sandwell VCS database asks organisations to state if they work with certain clients groups in terms of gender and sexuality, ethnicity, religion and linguistic communities. This data calls for careful processing and careful interpretations as, as a casual parse shows, the majority of organisations err on the inclusive side to suggest that they work with all groups of people equally. This may well be an accurate picture of the values of Sandwell’s voluntary and community sector, but our particular interest here is in identifying whether Sandwell has CYP-focused organisations which can work with specific client groups whose needs diverge from the mainstream.

### 5.1. Gender and sexuality

Through careful analysis we were able to identify 52 CYP-focused organisations who told us they worked with young women to the exclusions of other gender groups, and 14 organisations who told us they worked with young men to the exclusion of other genders. We were also able to identify 44 organisation who told us they worked with transgender people however this was not to the exclusion of other genders; this seems like a large number (representing almost 15 per cent of CYP-focused organisations) and so should be treated with some caution before citing more widely.

We were able to identify 46 organisation who told us they worked with LGBT people however, again, this was not to the exclusion of other groups and so we would not suggest that all 46 were “expert” as working with this client group.

Target beneficiary groups by gender and sexuality:	Number of organisations	Percentage of CYP-organisations
Women	52	17.5%
Men	14	4.7%
Transgender people	44*	14.8%
Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual people	46*	15.5%

Table 3

### 5.2. Disabilities and health conditions

Table 4, below, shows the number of organisations who indicated that they had particular expertise in working with children and young people who lived with a some form of disability or experienced a specific health condition.

Target beneficiary groups by disability health condition:	Number of organisations	Percentage of CYP-organisations
People who have disabilities (unspecified)	42	14.1%
People who have physical disabilities	64	21.5%
People who have sensory disabilities	53	17.8%
People who have learning disabilities	69	23.2%
People who have mental health problems	59	19.9%
People who have specific medical conditions	47	15.8%

Table 4 CYP-focused organisations work with beneficiaries by disability and health condition

### 5.3. Ethnicity, linguistic communities and recently arrived communities

As with data on gender and sexuality, the data on support for specific ethnic groups needs care in handling and interpreting as most organisations suggest that they work equally with people from all ethnic backgrounds. We were able to analyse the data and identify 47 organisations who told us that they worked with specifically with people from a specific ethnic background, beyond this the data should be treated with some caution.

Target beneficiary groups by ethnic heritage:	Number of organisations	Percentage of CYP-organisations
White people	4	1.3%
Black or Black British people	13	4.4%
All Asian or Asian British people	10	3.4%
All Mixed people	2	0.7%
All Chinese and other ethnic groups	1	0.3%
Members of a specified ethnic group	47	15.8%

Table 5 CYP-focused organisations work with beneficiaries by ethnic heritage

The data on linguistic communities served is potentially more useful in understanding the capability of Sandwell's CYP-focused organisations to support the borough's diverse communities. As well as support for speakers of British Sign Language and a range of European languages (French, German, Italian etc.) the data shows that Sandwell organisations can also support a wide range of community languages.

With respect to communities most recently arrived communities from central and eastern Europe we were able to identify a number of organisations who could support speakers of Polish and Russian, however there are a number of important central and eastern European languages such as Hungarian, Czech and Albanian which the Sandwell VCS database does not currently capture. Nor does the database currently capture Turkish.

Linguistic communities served:	Number of organisations	Percentage of CYP-organisations
Afghan	3	1.0%
Arabic	7	2.4%
Bengali	6	2.0%
Chinese	1	0.3%
Greek	0	0.0%
Gujerati	6	2.0%
Hindi	10	3.4%
Mirpuri	9	3.0%
Patois	2	0.7%
Polish	8	2.7%
Punjabi	16	5.4%
Russian	3	1.0%
Somali	3	1.0%
Swaheli	2	0.7%
Sylheli	1	0.3%
Tamil	0	0.0%
Urdu	15	5.1%

Table 6 CYP-focused organisations work with beneficiaries by linguistic community

## 6. How are Sandwell's CYP-focused organisations constituted?

Table 7, below, shows that 38 per cent of CYP-focused organisations are registered as charities and so fall within the regulatory purview of the Charity Commission. If we compare this with the same analysis for all of the 977 voluntary and community organisations in the Sandwell VCS database, shown in table 8, we see CYP-focused organisations were slightly more likely than the average to be registered as charities.

The CYP-focused organisation cohort includes a high proportion of organisations, 51 per cent, which are not registered as charities. This compares to 40 per cent for all voluntary and community organisations in the Sandwell VCS database. Whilst charitable registration is not necessarily appropriate for every voluntary and community organisation, and alternatives forms of constituting are increasingly common, it does offer the benefits of a recognised regulatory framework and safeguards. Given this we parsed the data on CYP-focused organisation to try to identify why charitable registration was not more common. On the basis of this analysis we would suggest that that the high level of non-registered organisations is attributable in large part to the number of small sports clubs within the CYP-focused cohort whose incomes do not reach the threshold which requires charitable registration.

Charitable registration status for CYP-focused organisations:	Number of organisations	Percentage of CYP organisations
Registered charities	114	38.4%
Not registered as charities	152	51.2%
Registration status unknown	31	10.4%

Table 7 Charitable registration status of CYP-focused organisations

Charitable registration status for all voluntary and community organisations:	Number of organisations	Percentage of all organisations
Registered charities	310	31.7%
Not registered as charities	392	40.1%
Registration status unknown	275	28.1%

Table 8 Charitable registration status of all voluntary and community organisations

### 6.1. The independence of Sandwell's CYP-focused organisations

Moving on to explore the organisational status of CYP-focused organisations compared to voluntary and community organisations in Sandwell generally we find, as shown in tables 9 and 10, that majority of organisations in both cases are independent local organisations.

Autonomous organisations, constituted independently but regulated as members of a larger network of similar organisations constitute almost 27 per cent of CYP-focused organisation but only 16 per cent of all voluntary and community organisations.

When we look at instances of organisations which are local offices of larger organisations (eg. Local branches of large national charities) we find that of the 15 instances captured in the Sandwell VCS database, nine - some 60 per cent - are active within the CYP-focused space. Whilst these numbers are small in absolute terms and in terms of the percentages of the populations of both CYP-focused and other organisations, it is likely that these organisation are the ones having the most focused impact on tackling critical CYP issues.

Organisation status for CYP-focused organisations:	Number of organisations	Percentage of CYP organisations
Independent organisations	166	55.9%
Autonomous organisations, part of a larger network	80	26.9%
Local office of a larger organisations	9	3.0%
Unknown	42	14.1%

Table 9 Organisational status of CYP-focused organisations

Organisation status for all voluntary and community organisations:	Number of organisations	Percentage of all organisations
Independent organisations	558	57.1%
Autonomous organisations, part of a larger network	155	15.9%
Local office of a larger organisations	15	1.5%
Unknown	249	25.5%

Table 10 Organisational status of all voluntary and community organisations

The higher than average proportions of network organisations and branch offices of larger organisations in Sandwell is reflective, we would suggest, of the scale of the CYP challenge in the borough. The presence of these organisation, with their ability to draw on the resources and capability of a wider network or a larger parent organisation is to be welcomed. Whilst these larger organisations may make for good public service delivery partners with the capability to manage large contracts, we should be mindful of the benefits which come from co-opting the skills and local knowledge of smaller local organisations too.

## 7. How well-resourced are Sandwell’s CYP-focused organisations?

Resources are a perennial concern for all voluntary and community sector organisations. In this section we explore how Sandwell’s CYP-focused organisations fare in terms of human and financial resources.

### 7.1. Human resource

When it comes to human resource, both in terms of staffing and volunteers organisations in the voluntary and community sector are small. On average the CYP-focused organisations identified from the Sandwell VCS database have 15 service delivery staff (or 11 full-time equivalents) and 15 volunteers. These crude averages, however, disguise the reality that the cohort is characterised by a very large number of organisations with very few staff, and a small number of organisations with very many staff.

A frequency analysis of the CYP service delivery workforce, captured in table 11 below, shows that majority of organisation - almost 61 per cent of the 297 organisations we identified - have no service delivery staff, and almost 90 per cent of organisations have 12 or fewer staff.

Number of service delivery staff ( <i>n</i> )	Count of organisations with <i>n</i> staff	Cumulative percentage of CYP-focused organisations
0	181	60.9%
1	16	66.3%
2	12	70.4%
3	10	73.7%
4	11	77.4%
5	6	79.5%
6	8	82.2%
7	6	84.2%
8	6	86.2%
9	3	87.2%
10	6	89.2%
11	2	89.9%
12	0	89.9%

Table 11 Frequency analysis of service delivery staff count in CYP-focused organisations

Comparable analysis for all voluntary and community organisation in the Sandwell VCS database reveals a similar preponderance of micro organisations. In this case of 55 per cent of organisation have no staff, almost 80 per cent of organisation have twelve or fewer staff.

Comparing the average number of service delivery staff, full-time equivalents and volunteers in CYP-focused organisation and the voluntary and community sector as a whole is instructive. The average number of service delivery staff is, at 14, similar to that found in CYP-focused organisation however the full-time equivalent figure is significantly lower at 6, and the average number of volunteers is significantly higher at 21. This indicates that though CYP-focused workforce is small, it is also more professionalised; with fewer volunteers and a higher proportion of full-time workers. Analysis of the possession of some form of organisational quality mark supports this contention; demonstrating the CYP-focused organisations are more likely to possess some form of quality mark than organisations in the voluntary and community sector in general.

## 7.2. Financial income

Turning to analyse financial resource of CYP-focused organisations we find, not unsurprisingly given the cohorts workforce profile and activity profile, that organisation tend to either have very modest incomes - with more than 1/3 of organisations bringing in less than £100k per annum in their last financial year - or incomes commensurate with their role as significant providers of service. A summary of the data is show in table 12, below

Whilst we have not been able to perform a time-series analysis of changing incomes we would anticipate, based on our knowledge of the sector and funding, that there the polarisation between a large number of low-income groups and a small number of high-income groups will have become more marked over recent years.

Total income for CYP-focused organisations:	Number of organisations	Percentage of CYP organisations
£0-5k	49	16.5%
£5k-15k	35	11.8%
£15k-50k	15	5.1%
£50k-100k	9	3.0%
£100k-250k	4	1.3%
£250k-500k	11	3.7%
£500- 1m	7	2.4%
£1m-2m	4	1.3%
£2m-3m	2	0.7%
More than £3m	25	8.4%
Unknown	136	45.8%

Table 12

Income for CYP-focused organisations in their last financial year

Table 13, below illustrates the sources of financial income for CYP-focused organisations. Comparative analysis shows that sources of income for CYP-focused are not significantly difference from the voluntary and community sector as a whole.

Income sources:	Number of organisations reporting income from these sources	Percentage of CYP organisations
Grants from local statutory organisations	81	27.3%
Contracts with local statutory organisations	79	26.6%
Commercial Trading Activities	0	0.0%
Grants from regional statutory organisations	0	0.0%
Contracts with regional statutory organisations	2	0.7%
Grants from national statutory organisations	22	7.4%
Contracts with national statutory organisation	21	7.1%
Grants from local non-statutory organisations	9	3.0%
Contracts with local non-statutory organisations	14	4.7%
Grants from regional and national non-statutory organisations	6	2.0%
Contracts with regional and national non-statutory organisations	17	5.7%
Public donations	25	8.4%
Service user contributions	18	6.1%
Private donations	39	13.1%
Earned income through non-contractual activities	91	30.6%

Table 13 Income sources for CYP-focused organisations in their last financial year

## 8. Where do Sandwell’s CYP-focused organisations deliver their services?

A geographical analysis of the locations of CYP-focused organisations is captured below in figure 3.

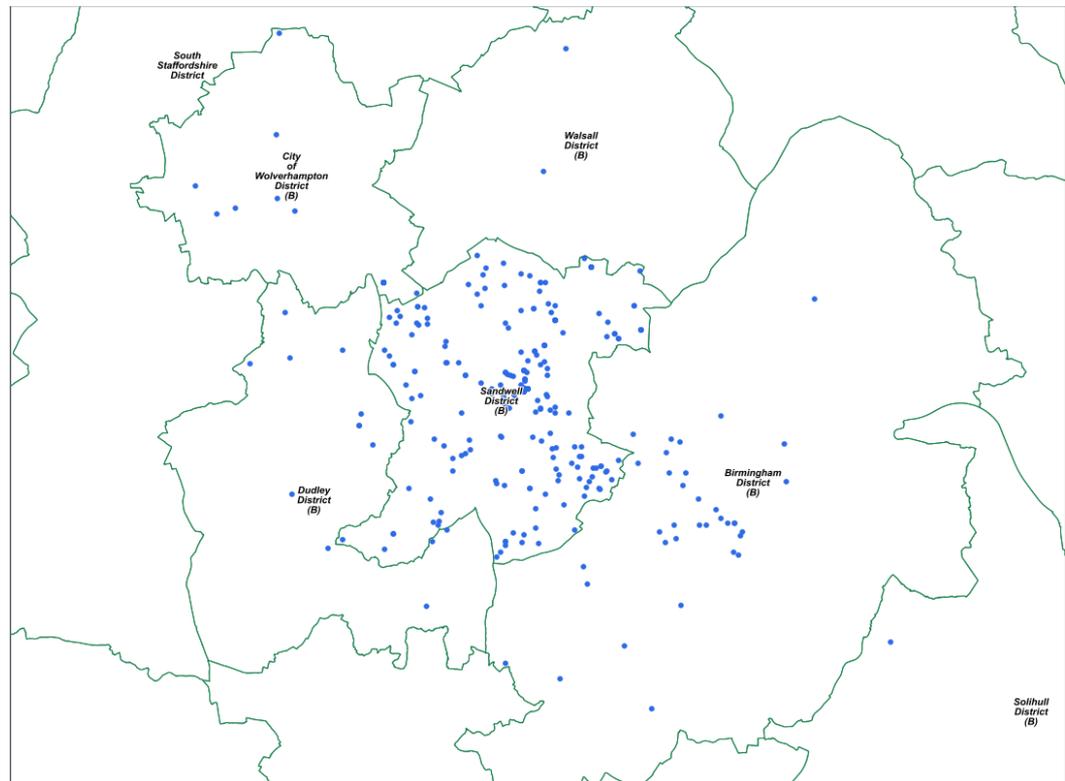


Figure 3. Locations of CYP-focused organisations delivering services in Sandwell

As figure 3 indicates, the majority of service providers deliver their services from within Sandwell itself, with a significant minority being delivered from West Birmingham and a smaller minority delivered in the neighbouring districts of Wolverhampton, Dudley and Walsall. Only a handful of services were found to be delivered from locations beyond that shown in figure 3.

### 8.1. Ward-level analysis

As well as identifying the location of organisations, the Sandwell VCS database also asks organisations to identify in which of Sandwell’s 24 electoral wards they are active in delivering services. Analysis of this data, shown in table 14, below, indicates that 42 per cent of CYP-focused organisations operate across all Sandwell wards, with lower percentages operating across the West Midlands region, the Black Country sub-region, multiple English regions and England respectively.

Geographical extent of operations:	Number of organisations operating in these areas	Percentage of CYP organisations
------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------

Operates in every Sandwell Ward	126	42.4%
The Black Country sub-region	44	14.8%
The West Midlands region	87	29.3%
Multiple English regions	16	5.4%
England	4	1.3%

Table 14 Geographical extent of service delivery for CYP-focused organisations

Given that a less than half of CYP-focused organisations report that they provide services across all of Sandwell's 42 wards, it is prudent to examine where services are delivered on a ward-by-ward basis to identify any marked instances of under-provision.

Table 15, below, illustrates the count and percentage of CYP-focused organisations who tell us they are working in each Sandwell ward. Based on the benchmark that 42.4 per cent of CYP-focused organisations deliver across all wards we assess over- or under-representation of services on a ward-by-ward basis.

This analysis reveals, not unsurprisingly, that there are instances of relative over-representation in of Sandwell's main towns and centres of population; West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Oldbury, and Smethwick. The analysis finds that there are no ward-level areas with significant under-representation of services from CYP-focused organisations.

Sandwell ward	Number of organisations operating in ward	Percentage of CYP organisations	Percentage over/under representation
West Bromwich Central	163	54.9%	12.5%
Wednesbury South	152	51.2%	8.8%
Tividale	143	48.1%	5.7%
Oldbury	138	46.5%	4.0%
Smethwick	138	46.5%	4.0%
Great Barr with Yew Tree	134	45.1%	2.7%
Rowley	128	43.1%	0.7%
Great Bridge	127	42.8%	0.3%
Charlemont	125	42.1%	-0.3%
Greets Green and Lyng	125	42.1%	-0.3%
Langley	125	42.1%	-0.3%
Soho and Victoria	125	42.1%	-0.3%
Abbey	124	41.8%	-0.7%
Blackheath	124	41.8%	-0.7%

Cradley Heath and Old Hill	124	41.8%	-0.7%
Friar Park	124	41.8%	-0.7%
Hateley Heath	124	41.8%	-0.7%
Newton	124	41.8%	-0.7%
Princes End	124	41.8%	-0.7%
St Pauls	124	41.8%	-0.7%
Tipton Green	124	41.8%	-0.7%
Bristnall	123	41.4%	-1.0%
Old Warley	123	41.4%	-1.0%
Wednesbury North	123	41.4%	-1.0%

Table 15 Geographical extent of service delivery for CYP-focused organisations

Though ward-level analysis is better than no geographical analysis at all, the reality of Sandwell's need is more complex than ward-level analysis can reveal. Figure 4, below, presents data for Sandwell from the most recent release of English Indices of Deprivation, 2015. The data, which shows income deprivation affecting children, is mapped by census-based lower-level super output area with ward boundaries overlaid. This presentation demonstrates that whilst some wards, such as Soho and Victoria (marked "A"), are severely and universally deprived, the majority of Sandwell's wards, such as Rowley (marked "B"), exhibit pockets of severe deprivation in close proximity to areas which are much less deprived. Ensuring that services respond to these complex patterns of need is vital if they are to be effective.

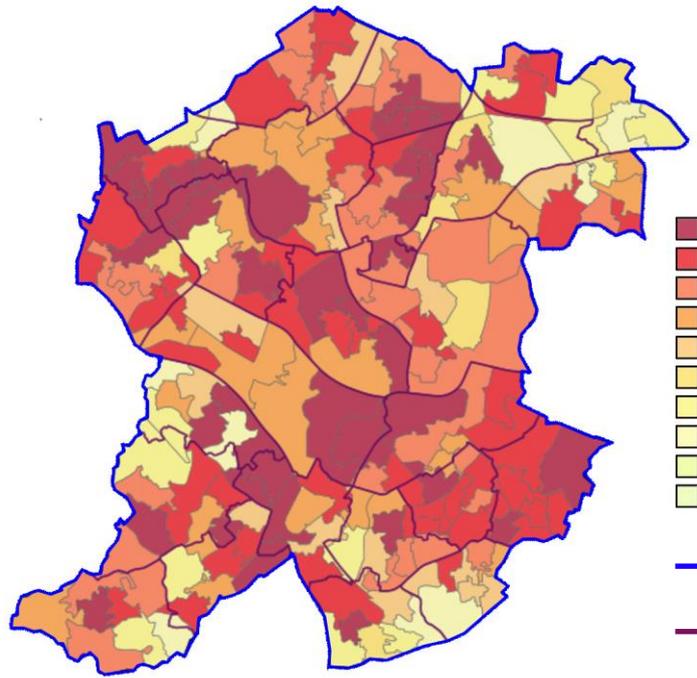


Figure 4. Map of Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDACI) by lower-level super output area (LSOA) across Sandwell, from the English Indices of Deprivation, 2015