



SUMMARY SOCIAL ACCOUNTS

September 2007 - August 2008

Voluntary Sector Training (VST) exists to support the development of a strong, effective, and diverse voluntary and community sector in Essex by offering high quality, accessible and relevant training.

What we did in 07/08

- ☑ **95 courses covering 62 different subjects**
- ☑ **1173 participants from 264 organisations from across Essex**
- ☑ **Attendees from both small, local groups and large charities**
- ☑ **6000 brochures, 6 newsletters and 1000 flyers distributed**
- ☑ **Subsidised course fee of £30 - £35 per person**
- ☑ **44 different venues used around Essex**
- ☑ **Topics from mentoring, to quality assurance and tendering**
- ☑ **Courses attended by mental health support organisations, housing associations, women’s refuges, children’s charities, museum volunteers, respite care associations....and many more**

“Best training I think I have ever attended. Did exactly what is said on the tin. Excellent.”

“An excellent, relevant and useful course delivered by a first class, top rate trainer.”

“Gave me lots to think about and take back to my trustees and other staff.”

Our courses

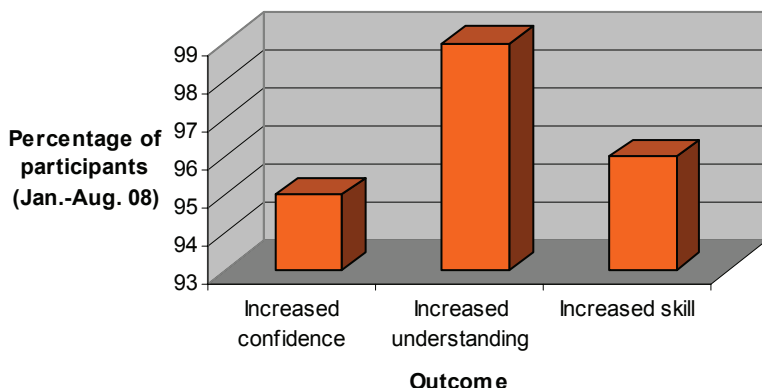
Quality

During the year 97% of participants rated the trainer as excellent, very good or good, and 97% of those asked also rated the course content in these categories. As well as receiving high quality training, participants have also been benefiting from the networking that has resulted from VST’s courses. Many potential new partnerships have even been identified.

Outcomes for participants

95%, 99% and 96% of participants reported increased confidence, understanding and skills as a result of the training they received. Follow-up feedback from a small sample of participants suggested these outcomes were sustained for many months after training was received.

Individual outcomes of VST training courses



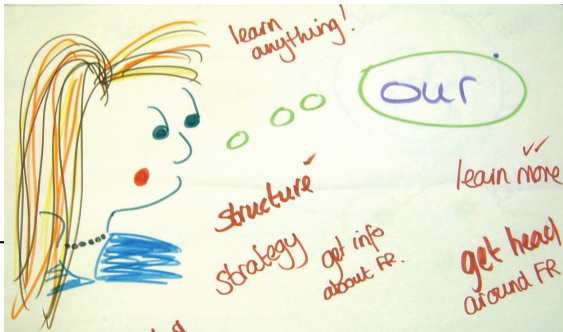
Outcomes for organisations

87% of participants giving follow-up information after training reported increases in their organisation’s effectiveness as a result of the training. 83%, 72% and 68% reported increases in their organisation’s professionalism, quality and sustainability respectively.

Our economic impact

VST found that courses similar to theirs, delivered by other providers, cost £150-£300 per day. This suggests that VST saves each course participant an average of £192.50 per course. This means attending organisations (sending an average of four staff on VST's courses during the year) save £770 per year and the voluntary and community sector in Essex (which sent 1173 participants on VST's courses during the year) saved over £225,000.

To realise this saving, however, attending commercially priced training would have to be the only alternative to attending VST's training. The data collected suggests this is not the case and, instead, organisations may access the limited opportunities for other subsidised training in the region or would not access training in the absence of VST's provision. VST, therefore, makes training accessible to small organisations to which it would otherwise be unavailable.



In addition, in 2007/08, VST used more suppliers from Essex (66% of all suppliers) and from the voluntary and community sector (35% of all suppliers), helping VST to ensure the money they spend remains in the local and/or social economy.

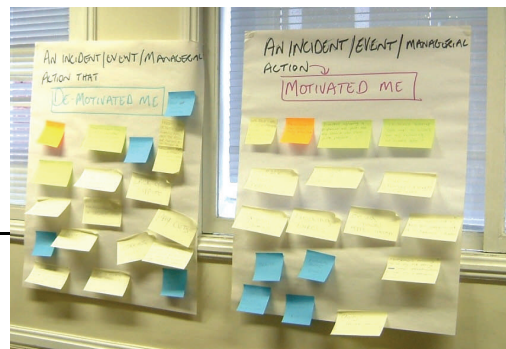
Our environmental impact

Throughout the year VST located courses as near as possible to participants, making it easier for them and helping to reduce the emissions they produced by travelling to the training. Delegates do still have to travel reasonable distances to reach VST's training (most travel for 30-60 minutes) but VST is faced with a tricky balance in attempting to minimise their environmental impact whilst ensuring courses are held in areas not usually reached by training. This is due to both the limited availability of inter-district public transport in Essex, and to the limited funding available meaning that VST is not able to run each course in different areas around the county every year.

Measuring our outcomes

VST have made significant changes to the way in which they collect information on the outcomes of their activities for their stakeholders. Over the year VST have also consulted regularly with course participants and have attended numerous fora and networks that have allowed them to confer with a wide variety of VCS organisations about the sector's training needs.

Over the coming year, improvements will continue to be made to the data collection process, and more stakeholders will be consulted about what they want VST to achieve.



And finally...

VST would like to thank everyone who has given feedback over the past year, allowing them, their funders, and other stakeholders to see more clearly the results achieved by their work.



This summary, and our full social accounting report, were prepared by The Social Enterprise People. To see the full report, please contact admin@voluntarysectortraining.org.uk