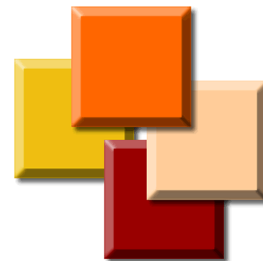


Voluntary Sector Training

training for the voluntary sector, by the voluntary sector



How we've made a difference in 2008-09

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. This is how we made a difference in 2008-09.

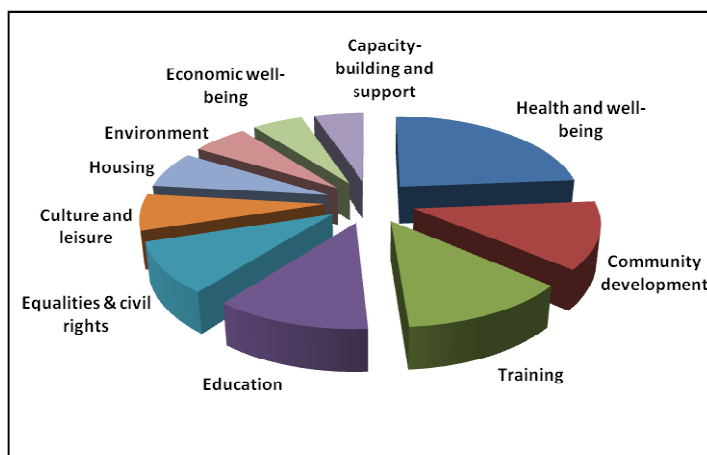
Who we have helped

In 2008-09 we helped develop 1156 people from 294 different organisations across Essex. One of our aims for this year was to provide training to smaller organisations, which we achieved with over 41% of participants coming from organisations with less than 10 employees.

Our training is relevant to all voluntary organisations, with participants coming from a diverse range of interest groups (see chart opposite) and benefitting from the core training we provide.

Affordability and accessibility are two of our key values, which is why we have increased our geographic spread to include 12 districts and 45 different venues, bringing training closer to those who need it.

Range of groups we helped



How we have helped

Knowledge and skills

Making people and organisations more effective is at the heart of our work. In 2008-09 **91% of participants** said that VST training increased their knowledge and understanding and enabled them to do their job to a higher standard. 89% of the people we trained learnt new skills, which has led to an increase in their ability to do their job more efficiently.



Organisational development

The most highly rated aspect of our training was that we fill a 'gap' in the organisation's capacity, providing their staff with training that they couldn't get internally. Following our training course more than two thirds of participants felt that their organisations:

- were more professional
- provided better services
- were more efficient

99% would recommend VST training

These positive effects mean that VST training is having sustained medium-long term impact on the work that local third sector organisations are able to undertake.

Fundraising

We provide training on fundraising for a range of skill levels, which have enabled 70% to improve the efficiency of their fundraising. With statutory funding ever more competitive our courses have given 80% of participants the skills and confidence to make a successful bid.

“When charities look carefully at funds available for training, the VST courses are invaluable.”

Find cost effective training in your area in Essex
on www.voluntarysectortraining.org.uk

Why our training has helped

Quality

Providing top-quality training is a central part of the work we do and with 98% of participants rating our training as good or excellent, we have delivered on this promise. Our presenters are highly skilled and have a wealth of knowledge on the subjects that they teach, so it's no surprise that most delegates (98%) regarded the quality of the presenter as the best thing about our training courses.

“High quality training from tried and tested trainers.”

Value

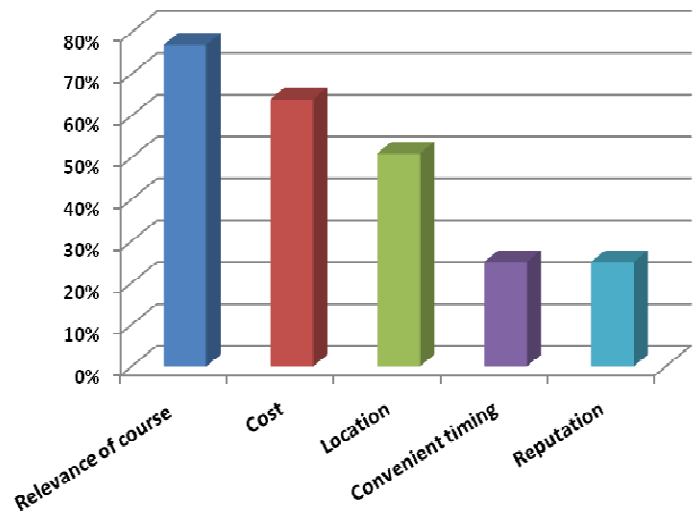
Since the economic downturn reducing costs, especially on training, has become ever more vital which is why we focus on providing quality training at affordable rates. Our training saved our delegates between **£50 and £100 per day**, helping all organisations to make valuable savings during a difficult time.

The most important effect of providing affordable courses, is that without them **44% of people would not have had the training.**

Affordability was one of the key reasons for choosing a VST training course over other providers, with 94% of participants rating them as good value for money.

“Excellent quality of training provided for an affordable cost.”

Reasons for choosing VST



Networking

Our events provide a valuable place to network with other local organisations and share best practice and work closer together. Making these connections can be invaluable to an organisation, with more than 79% benefitting from networking over the last year.

“The real X factor is the networking with people from other local voluntary sector organisations, which has been invaluable to us.”



Local training for everyone

In 2008-09 we reduced the travelling time for delegates, with almost half (49%) of delegates travelling less than 30 minutes to our training, up from 37% the previous year.

We now serve 12 districts in 45 different venues, bringing training closer to those who need it. This helps to reduce the travel time and expense, making training more affordable for smaller organisations.

The flexibility and range of choices of venue made our courses popular with third sector organisations in Essex, and was a central reason for a number of organisations choosing VST over other suppliers.

“Great courses, they are local and inexpensive.”

This is from an independent report, produced by specialist third sector consultants Action Planning. The full report can be downloaded from www.voluntarysectortraining.org.uk/impact2008-09.pdf

