

Rising to the Challenge

Support Cambridgeshire Annual Survey Results 2019

Barriers Faced

We know that charities and community groups will be key to bringing our communities together and to making them sustainable and resilient. But those small organisations who we at Support Cambridgeshire work with can not be relied on to simply be there whatever happens. They need to be nurtured and grown and that is our job.



Small but mighty

The Majority of groups we work with are very small

50%

Have an income
below £50,000 a year

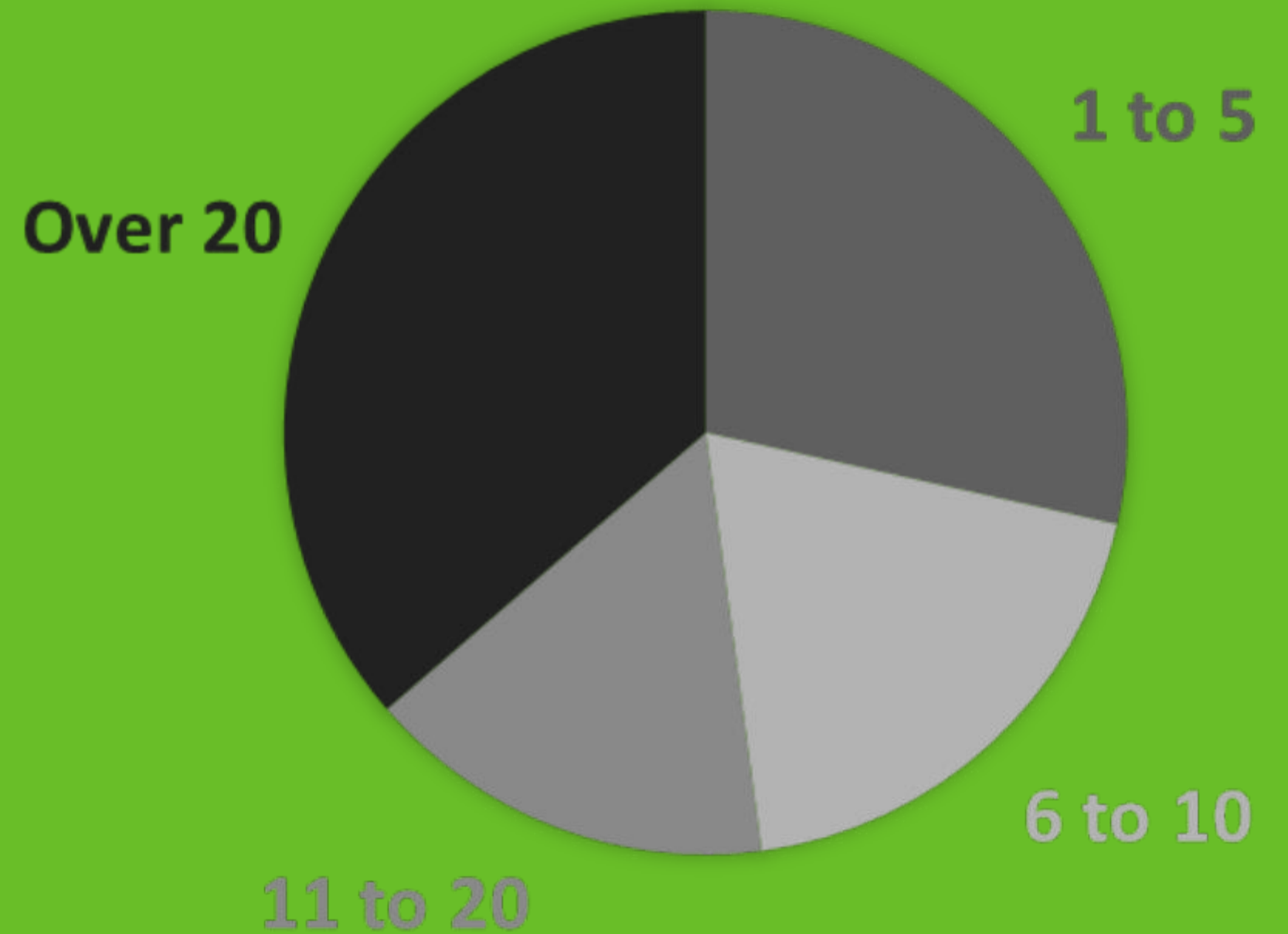
66%

Have five or fewer
paid staff members

Volunteers are important

91% of organisations used volunteers other than their management committee

We know from national data that volunteer levels have remained fairly static over recent years. We also know volunteering is changing, this includes the desire to dip in and out of volunteering. This needs to be reflected in how volunteers are recruited and the opportunities provided given the issues with recruitment highlighted by groups.



Training

Those who have provided training in the past 12 months

- Trustees 37%
- Staff 45%
- Volunteers 50%

Trustees, volunteers and staff have different needs

When you separate the requirements for trustees, staff and volunteers you get different training requirements. It is noticeable that there is not one course that is in the top 10 most popular of all three categories, this reflects the very different training needs of these groups.

Bigger groups are better able to pay for training

When we look at the data broken down by income we see that the training offered to volunteers or trustees is broadly similar, but that the bigger the group the more likely they are to train staff and the more likely they are to pay for this.

Trustees and volunteers more likely to get free training

We can see that groups are more likely to invest in paid for training for staff and are more likely to look for free training, (or possibly provide their own) for volunteers and trustees.

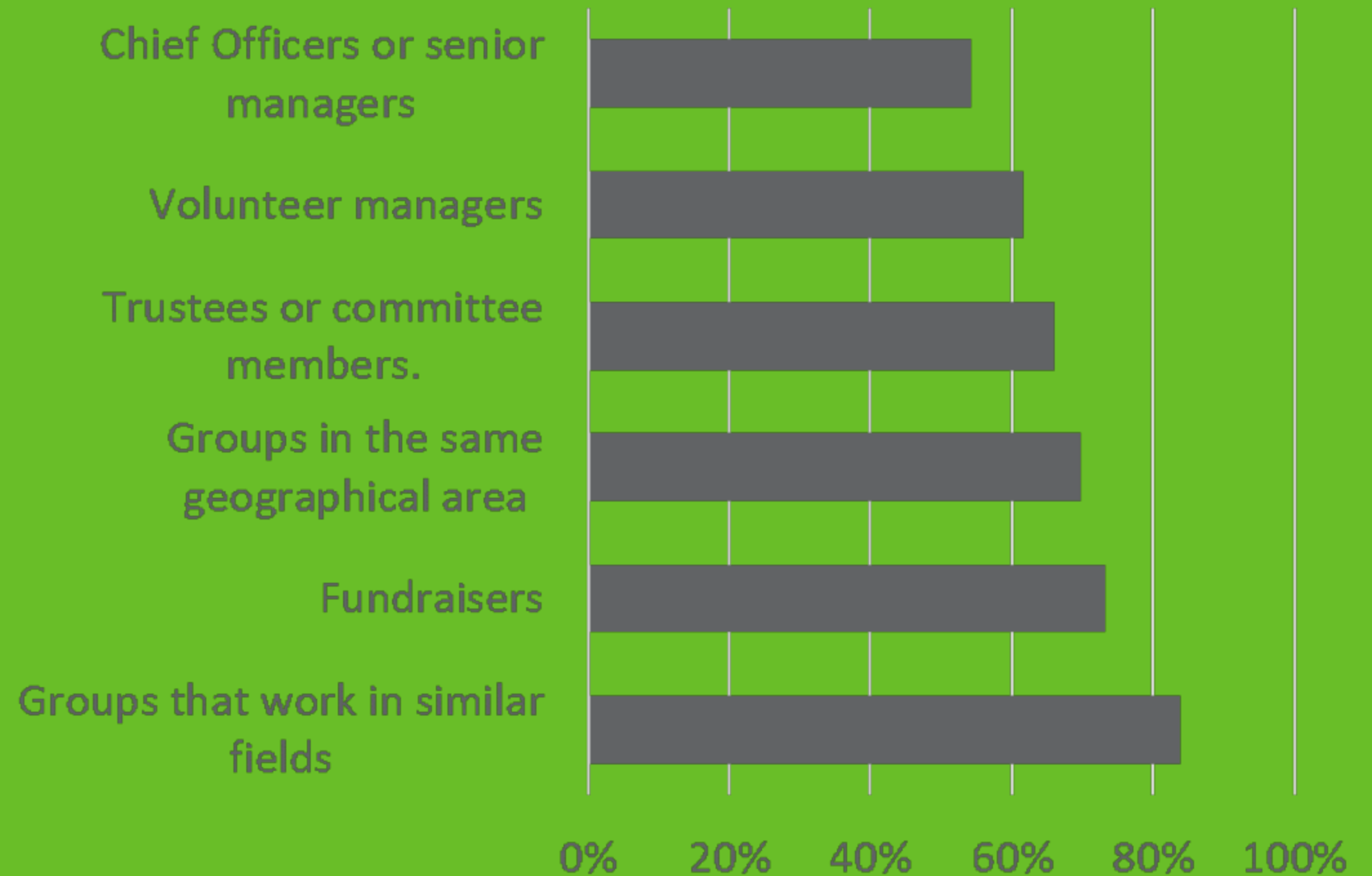
The issue of who benefits from the work of voluntary and community groups is key to understanding the drive and determination of the sector in Cambridgeshire.



Networking

Is very or slightly important

People learn from one another, and we know that groups and individuals enjoy and appreciate opportunities to network with others working in areas that are similar.



Representation

A key part of what Support Cambridgeshire does is to represent and champion the sector. By attending meetings we are able to ensure that the sectors role is recognised in decision and policy making.

89%

Important that sector was represented.

91%

Important to promote the work that the sector does.

90%

Important to celebrate the work of the sector.



Government at all levels continues to recognise the power and importance of communities; they recognise the many benefits of enabling communities to find their own solutions to their issues. This means we will see a growing need for new community organisations and small charities. These organisations need somewhere to turn to when things go wrong, when they are unsure, when they lack confidence – This is what great infrastructure is there for, and what Support Cambridgeshire partners are known for.

From the forward of 'Rising to the Challenge'



What we see

We see small groups that are striving to provide services despite facing barriers.

- We see groups that recognise the importance of training but are on the whole looking to providers to offer free training, especially to trustees and volunteers.
- We see differing training needs for volunteers, trustees and staff.
- We see a clear desire for groups to share their experience and to connect with, and network with others.
- We see groups that recognise the importance of having Support Cambridgeshire representing them at meetings and promoting and celebrating the sector.

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Results from 'Rising to the Challenge' - 2019 Annual Survey