

YOUNG PEOPLE & VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering Experiences in Deprived Communities

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Key Terms

- Young People - 12-18 years
- Volunteering - Broadly defined
- Deprived - Index of multiple deprivation
- Experience - Socially and culturally situated

Literature review

- Dominant Paradigm (Rochester, 2013)
 - ▣ Narrow focus

- Instrumental motivations (Dean, 2014)
 - ▣ Employment centric
 - ▣ Extra- to co-curricular
(Holdsworth & Brewis, 2013)

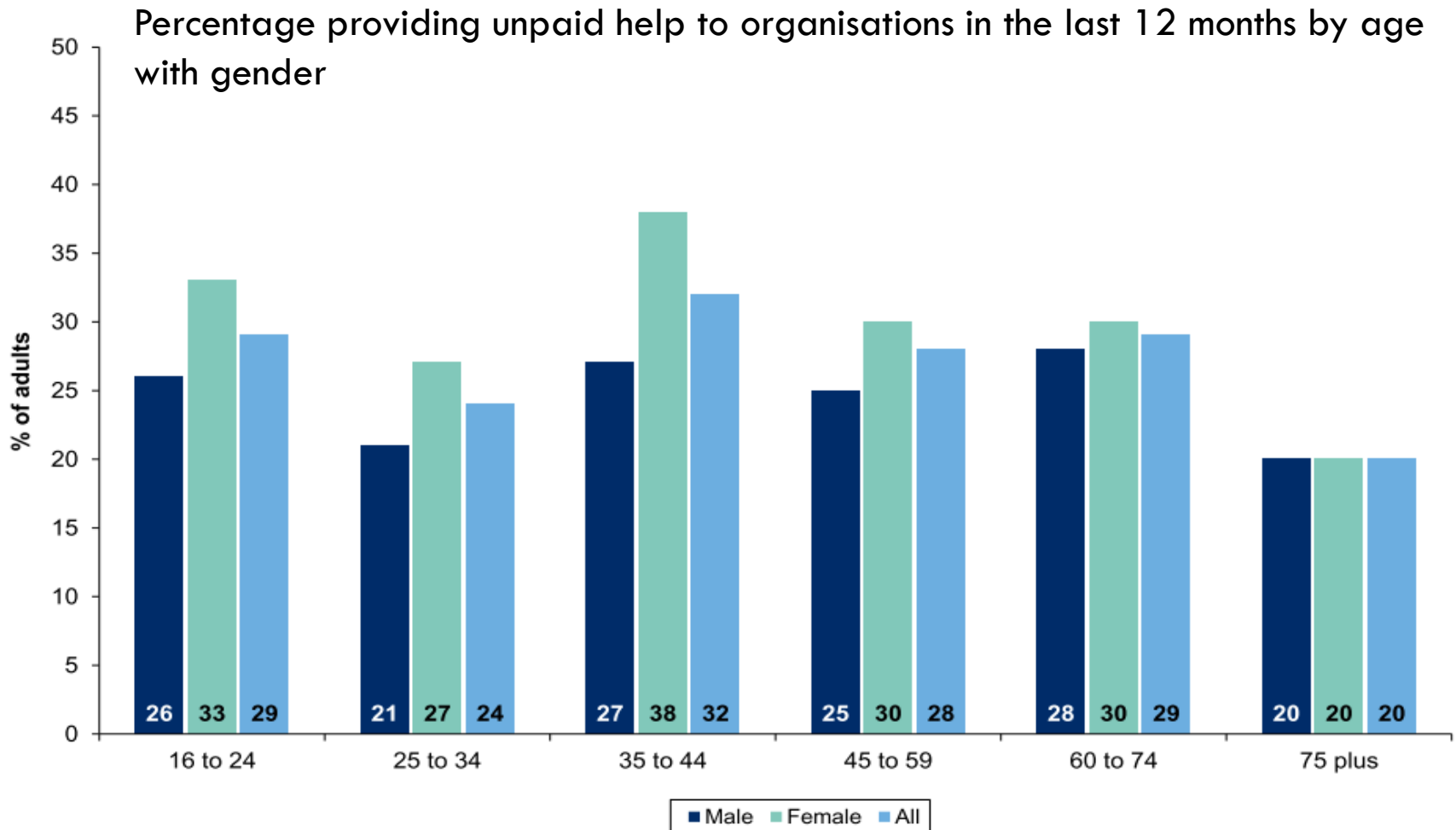


Volunteering in Scotland

- National interventional to localised infrastructural approach (Woolvin & Hardill, 2013)
 - 'spatially sensitive voluntary action support' (*ibid*: 277)
- Geographically specific volunteering rates
 - Urban < rural
 - Deprived < less deprived



Formal volunteering rates



Source: taken from Scottish Household Survey (Scottish Government, 2014)

Young People in Scotland Survey

- 45% formal volunteering rates among 11-18 year olds
- Routes to participation:
 - ▣ Parent/guardian; Teacher; Friend
- Perceptions of volunteering:
 - ▣ Helping people; Good citizen; Skills/experience
- Future influences:
 - ▣ Volunteer with friends; Improve career prospects; Improve skills

Volunteer
Scotland



Research Rationale & Questions

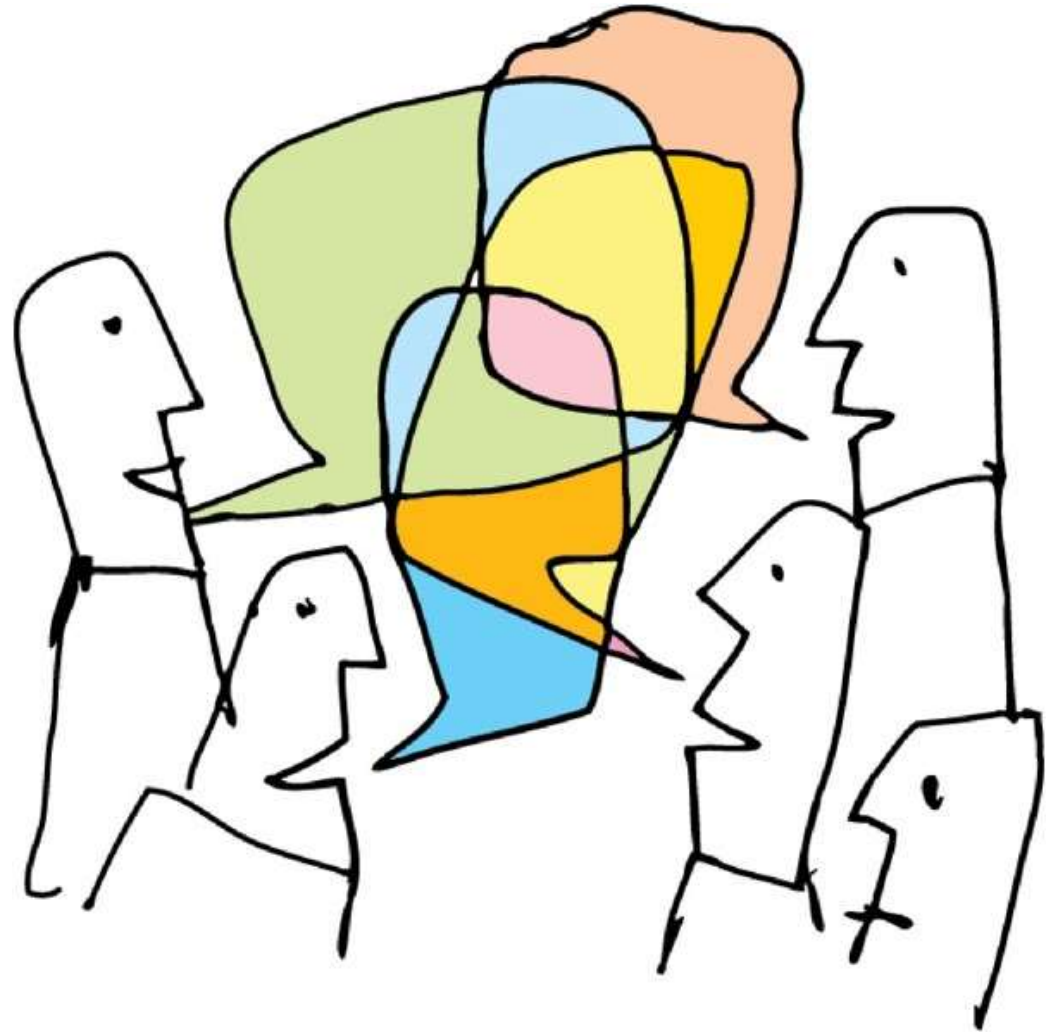
- Pilot focuses on deprived urban areas
 - ▣ Low rates = missing out on benefits?
- Formal vs. Informal
 - ▣ Culture of volunteering

1. Understandings
2. Participation
3. Benefits
4. Barriers



Methodology

- Qualitative
- Young people
 - ▣ Focus group
 - ▣ Photo-activity
 - ▣ Photo-elicitation interview
- Adults
 - ▣ Semi-structured interview



Preliminary Analysis



1. Routes to participation
 - i. Accidental or unintentional
 - ii. Family and social networks
 - iii. Compulsory involvement

2. Sustained participation

3. Perceptions of volunteering

1. Routes to Participation

- Accidental or unintentional routes
 - ▣ I got **tricked** into my first ever meeting and I think that's enough for now (Thomas)
 - ▣ the only thing they say to us is “Yous are getting to go to the dancing for free and long as yous come down and help with fundraising and yous” like at the beginning it was just to help with **fundraising** and then we started coming along and they were like “Do you want to come along to the **meetings?**” (Aoibheann)

1. Routes to Participation

- Family and social networks
 - ▣ from my understanding the parent **almost stopped** the young person from volunteering (Susan)
 - ▣ they have *not* got an idea on the impact that they're having on their community [...] quite often parents are outstanced at what their young people, and how active their young people are and they're all, and I don't mean this, but there always seems to be this **negativity towards the young person** (Harriet)

1. Routes to Participation

□ Family and social networks

JD Did your parents signpost you towards, kind of, Bokington Youth?

Michelle No

Donna Not really

Aoibeahnn Towards the dancing they did

Sarah Yeah my Mum said to me, 'cos she does the thing up in the hall on the Thursdays and the dancers come in after her so

1. Routes to Participation

- Compulsory involvement

Martin Oh no, I get sent here [laughter]

JD Oh right

Martin Umm, aye, it's been made, Job Scotland
[...]

JD So **does it feel like volunteering?** If
you're sent here?

Martin **Not really no**

JD What does it feel like?

Martin Working [pause]

2. Sustained Participation

- Accruable benefits

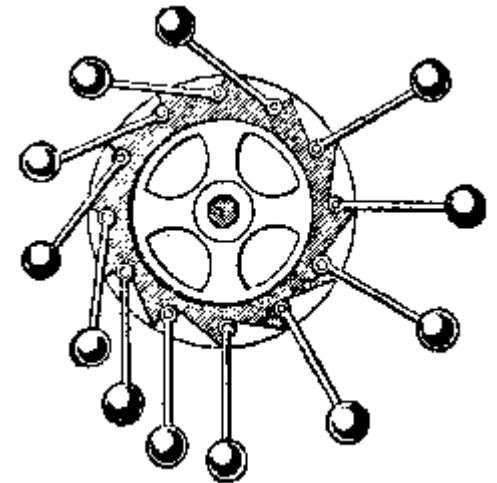
- ▣ Ok, right ok, it's like, we'll come along as a **favour**, try it out, alright it's not too bad, nice bit of **socialising** and then you actually **realise what it can do** and it does **make you come back** more and more (Thomas)

- Social aspects



2. Sustained Participation

- Support
 - ▣ there's **only one of me** [...] it would take more people to support more people (Susan)
- Over-bearing support?
 - ▣ she'd been in **the cycle of perpetual volunteering** [...] she'd gone from volunteering opportunity to the next to the next [...] she just couldn't break the cycle into employment (Susan)



3. Perspectives on Volunteering

□ Employability

- ▣ they're like "Well, you know, I've volunteered to find a job and now I have a job why would I want to volunteer again?" (Susan)
- ▣ I would say that it's very very few young people that go into adult life from Youth in Charge and, that continue volunteering (Harriet)

3. Perspectives on Volunteering

- Would you continue volunteering if you had a job?

Blair Hopefully

[...]

Cait If you had **time**

Blair If you had time yeah

Thomas Again it can be hard on
myself, um, trying to **juggle**
volunteering, studies and work



3. Perspectives on Volunteering

□ Recognition

- It **shouldn't need to be all big and formal** and the “Oh you got a certificate, yay!” [laughs] So it should be casual, like thanks (Sarah)
- You would get young people that would be very negative to the recognition [...] “I just do this, so **why am I gettin' this fuss?**” [...] I would say that they just feel a bit stupid and it's a bit of **peer pressure** (Harriet)



Conclusion

- Unintentional participation
- Importance of social networks
- Parental/home influence
 - ▣ Lack of knowledge/experience of volunteering
 - ▣ Other issues meaning volunteering not a priority
- Possible informal approach

Needs more research!



Thank you

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