

Children & Young People's Network SEQ January 2017

Analysis Report

Summary – members found most value in the e-bulletin and the Networking opportunities of Network Meetings. Strategic Engagement is hampered by lack of resources (both time and staff). Of all methods of communicating information e-mail is the most popular (over social media) but information on bigger issues and consultation is better done face to face. Organisations do not feel sufficiently valued by the LA.

Response rate: 10/167 = 6% of these 40% are Commissioned Services and 60% Non-commissioned

Any evaluation of the responses must bear in mind the very small sample size, although it is a reasonably representative sample.

Collection: SEQ was sent out by email and distributed at a meeting. 60% responses were collected at the meeting vs 40% via email. A personal approach at a specified time seems to be more efficient.

Value of Network Services: The e-bulletin was the most valuable service to all but 1 of the respondents. With the other services of variable value but NW meetings and opportunities to feed into strategy and consultations being more valued than the reps reports and website.

E-Bulletin – 50% found the bulletin valuable, 30% useful and 20% moderately useful to the work of their organisation. Of the content network and local news and information on meetings, conferences and events were the most highly valued. All agreed that **once a month was the ideal frequency** for the bulletin.

Conveying info between bulletins:

- **Twitter Feed** – only 1 person had signed up to the twitter feed – groups either did not know (or forgot) it was there or did not use twitter.
- **E-mail – most expressed a preference for this option.**

Website. Most (50%) either did not find this useful or had not used it. Only 1 found it valuable and 2 useful. Most use had been to find copies of the e-bulletin online. Comments were 'it looks very good' and 'Looks good but I don't have a use for it in my current role.'

Network Meetings – 50% found these valuable (30%) – Useful (20%). The opportunity to network with other members was the most valued aspect (60%) and an opportunity to have a say on what is important for the sector. Both these were more valuable than the actual topic covered. **Attendance** was primarily determined by suitable timings and availability of staff to attend.

All who responded to the question agreed that 4 meetings per year, with a specific topic, worked best. The most popular suggestions for possible improvements/alternatives were meetings involving the wider voluntary sector and conference style meetings, with a speaker.

Reps Reports, these were seen as moderately useful (30%) to not useful (20%) members finding they did not have time to read the reports or engage. Members felt that information that was summarised or explained more clearly and more information on meetings given in advance would be useful.

- 30% of members felt they did not have the time or resources to engage with strategy development. But
- 30 % felt that we had valuable input into strategy and our views made a difference.

I think this difference may be a reflection of organisation size, commissioned or non-commissioned.

For bigger issues members felt that face to face briefings to the sector and more times to feed into consultations would be useful.

Is the Sector Valued? Responses indicate that the sector still feels undervalued by the LA. Suggestions for improvement of relations were:

- Commissioners seen to be taking an interest
- Funding structure that benefited VCS organisations.

Training – members were invited to list any training they needed but were unable to access. There were no responses to this section but verbally members expressed a need for support in

- policy development – especially safeguarding (and here specifically social media)
- Support/ training on partnership working (with other VCS organisations) and joint funding bids

