

# State of the Sector in Northumberland 2018

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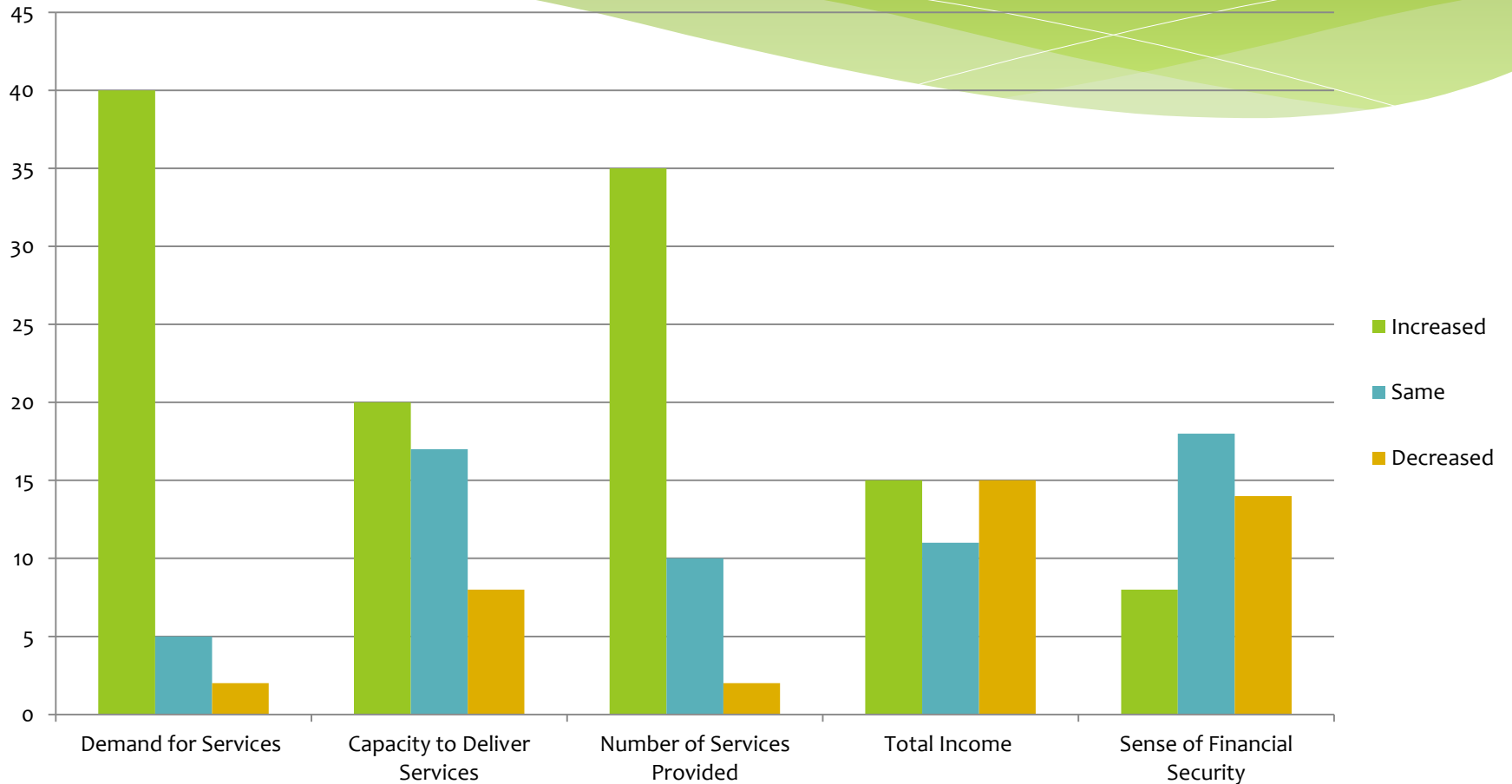
# Method of data collection

- \* 3 workshops held at VCS network meetings in the west, south east and north of the county
- \* 47 attendees in total, 32 organisations with paid staff and 15 volunteer-led
- \* Results compared with the findings of recent State of the Sector surveys that had taken place across the country

# Changes in services

- \* Demand for services
- \* Capacity to deliver services.
- \* Number of services provided
- \* Total Income
- \* Sense of financial security

# Results



# Future Challenges - organisation

- \* Funding
- \* Recruiting and keeping staff and volunteers with the right skills in particular trustees
- \* Ensuring sustainability of organisation
- \* Securing contracts and competition
- \* Improving communication between sectors
- \* Genuine collaboration

# Future Challenges - beneficiaries

- \* Affordability
- \* Access to services
- \* Reduced levels of services and support
- \* Awareness of support available
- \* Social Isolation
- \* Impact of austerity and welfare reform

# Future Challenges - VCS

- \* Access to funding
- \* Impact of national and local policy
- \* Increased pressure on resources
- \* Recruiting volunteers
- \* Increased demands on services – expectations on VCS
- \* Cooperative and collaborative working as equal partners

# Support from the VCS Assembly

- \* Promoting and raising the profile of the VCS
- \* A challenging voice
- \* Improving partnership working and communication with the VCS and public sector
- \* Training and support to VCS to operate successfully - networks



# Key findings

- \* Many organisations face challenges in securing funding and future sustainability when increased demand and strain on resources
- \* Recruiting and keeping volunteers and with the right skills is a challenge
- \* Recognition of the importance of working collaboratively across sectors in meeting needs in service planning and delivery
- \* Unclear about the impact of national and local policy on the sector- Brexit, Devolution
- \* Findings consistent with VCS across the country

# VCS Support Services Commission

- \* Support Northumberland VCS organisations capacity to operate safely and legally
- \* Improve the confidence and ability of Northumberland VCS organisations to secure funding
- \* Ensure communications with the voluntary, public and private sectors keep organisations fully informed of key issues and opportunities
- \* Manage the Northumberland VCS Assembly and promote awareness of VCS issues with Northumberland County Council

# What are we doing?

- \* Preparing for opportunities for VCS partnership working
- \* Report to HWB Board on VCS contribution to strategic plan and wider aims
- \* Working collaboratively across sectors e.g. social prescribing, planned workstream activities
- \* Safeguarding training for volunteers and staff

# What are we doing?

- \* Email forum for VCS and social media training
- \* Quality Assurance for social prescribing – health checks for VCS organisations
- \* Northumberland Funding Guide
- \* Working with regional partners – VONNE, Community Foundation