

CHANGING THE WAY WE WORK:

**THE TRENDS AND DRIVERS AFFECTING
CHARITIES AND VOLUNTEERING**

**ALEX FARROW
DIRECTOR OF INFLUENCING & ENGAGEMENT**

@ALEXJAMESFARROW

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**NCV
O**
**CHAMPIONING
VOLUNTARY
ACTION**

We're the membership community for charities, voluntary organisations and community groups in England. Together we champion voluntary action.

We've been here for over 100 years. We have over 17,000 members, made up of all causes, shapes and sizes. From big charities to local sports clubs.

Our members are at the heart of everything we do. We exist to make your life easier – so you can focus on changing people's lives and making our communities stronger and more resilient.

Search for NCVO membership

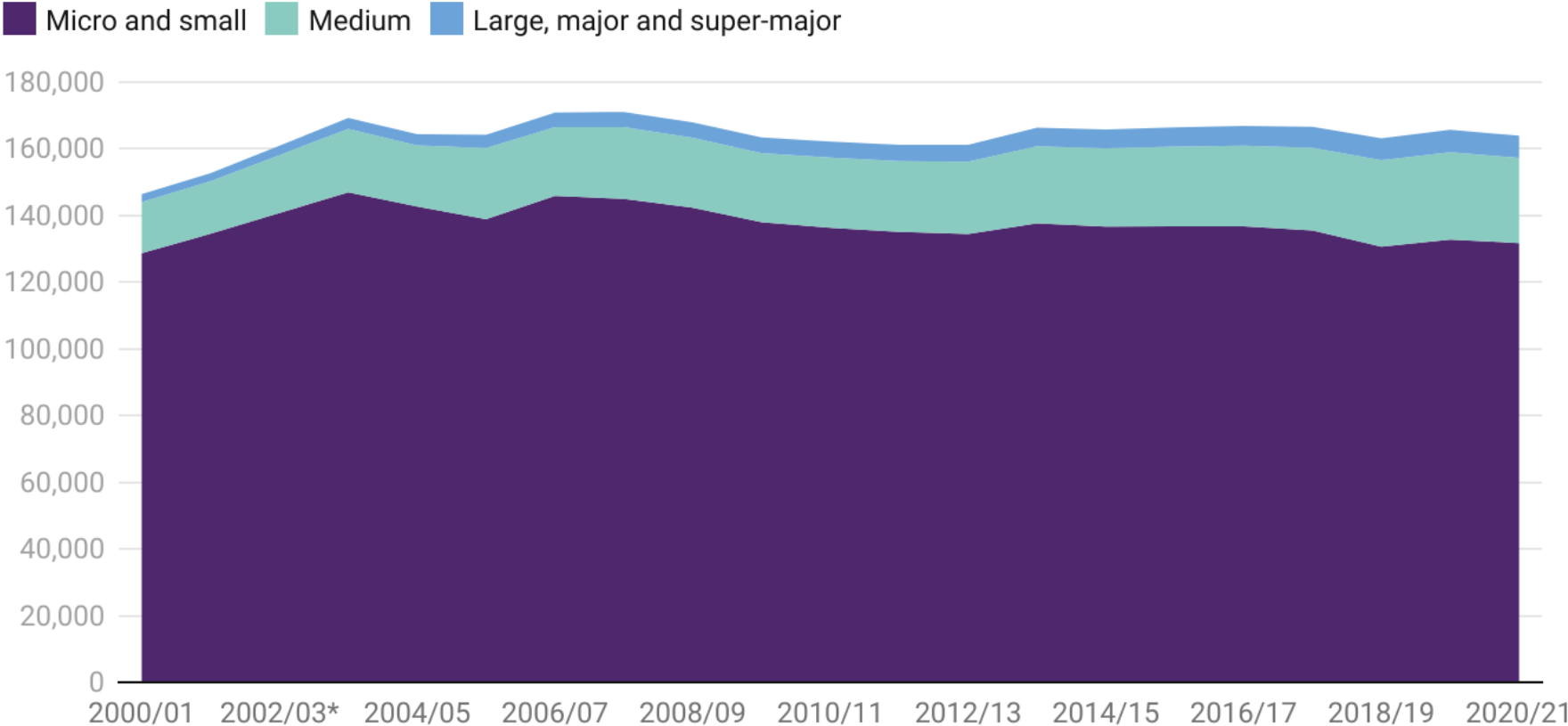
- Visit www.ncvo.org.uk/join
- Email membership@ncvo.org.uk



BACK TO THE BASICS

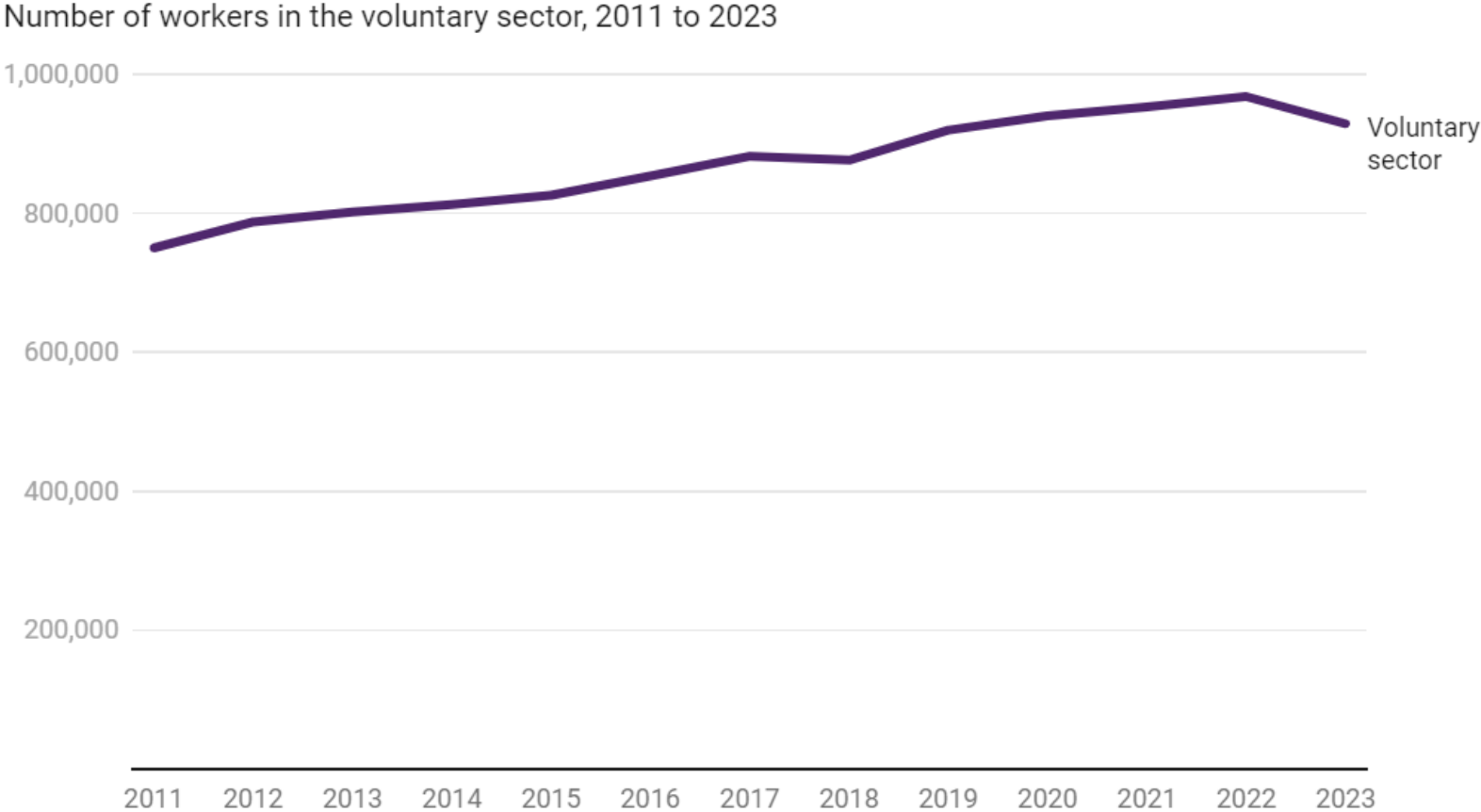
THE NUMBER OF CHARITIES IS DECLINING

Number of voluntary organisations by size, 2000/01 to 2020/21



Source: NCVO/TSRC, Charity Commission • Created with Datawrapper

THE SECTOR EMPLOYS MORE PEOPLE THAN ALL THE MAJOR SUPERMARKETS COMBINED



Source: Labour Force Survey, NCV0 • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)



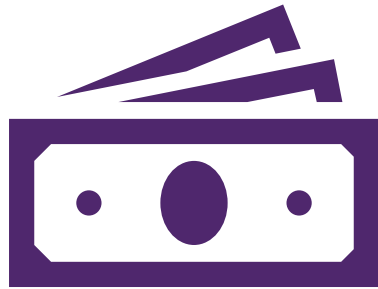
CHARITIES ARE A VITAL PART OF CIVIL SOCIETY, WHICH HAS FIVE KEY STRENGTHS.

- **Service delivery:** deliver valued, cost effective, quality services
- **Innovation:** meeting new needs, communities, and addressing problems
- **Advocacy:** voice and advocacy for issues, people, and places
- **Expression and development:** express and share their interests, values and identities
- **Community building:** creates relationships that foster trust and growth

Do we want more or fewer charities?

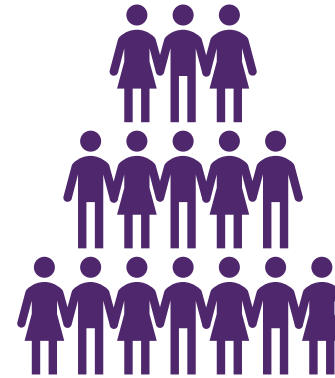
HOW WE GIVE...

...IS CHANGING



Money

How do we give our money, individually and collectively?

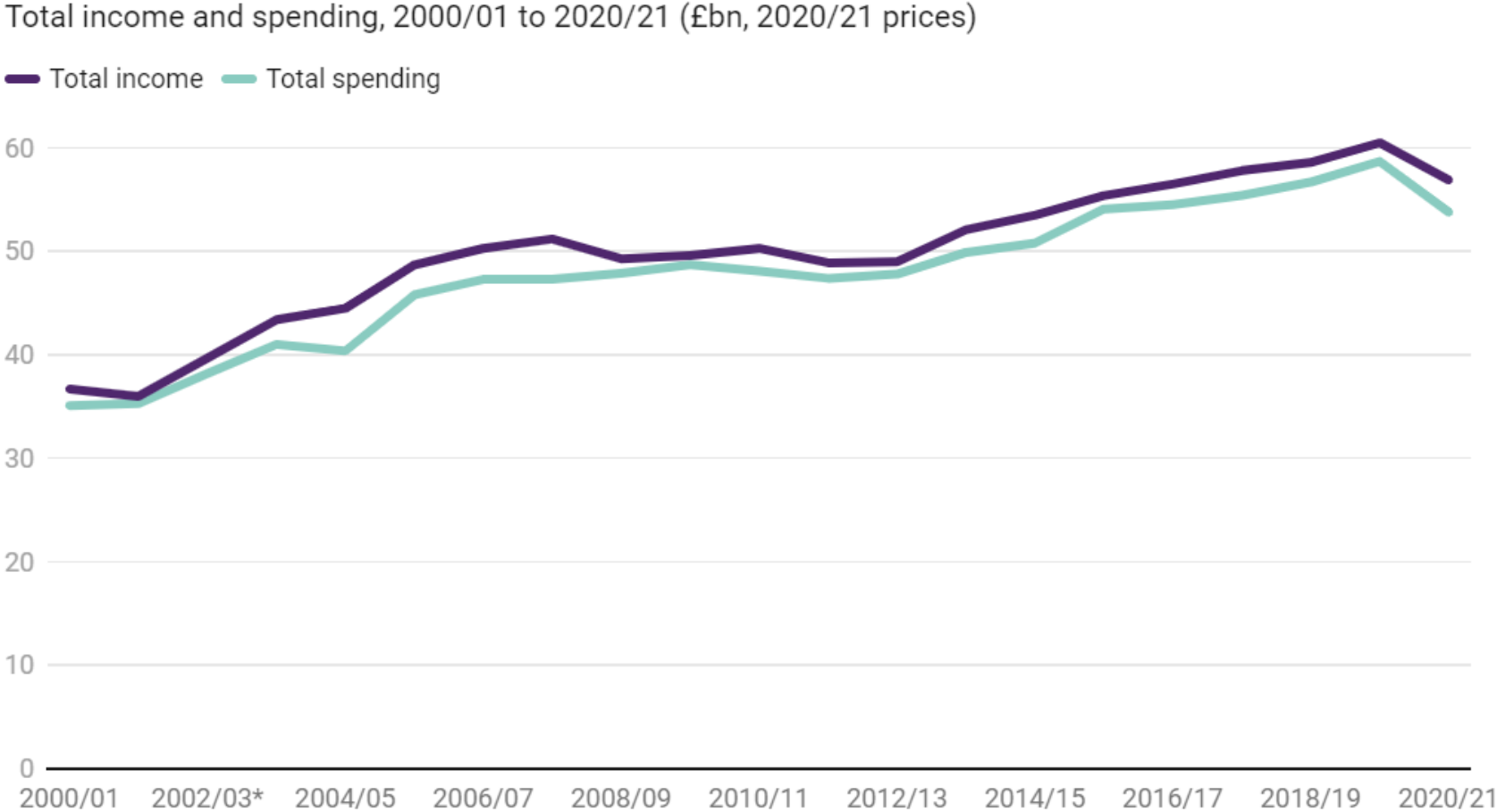


Time

How do we give time through volunteering?

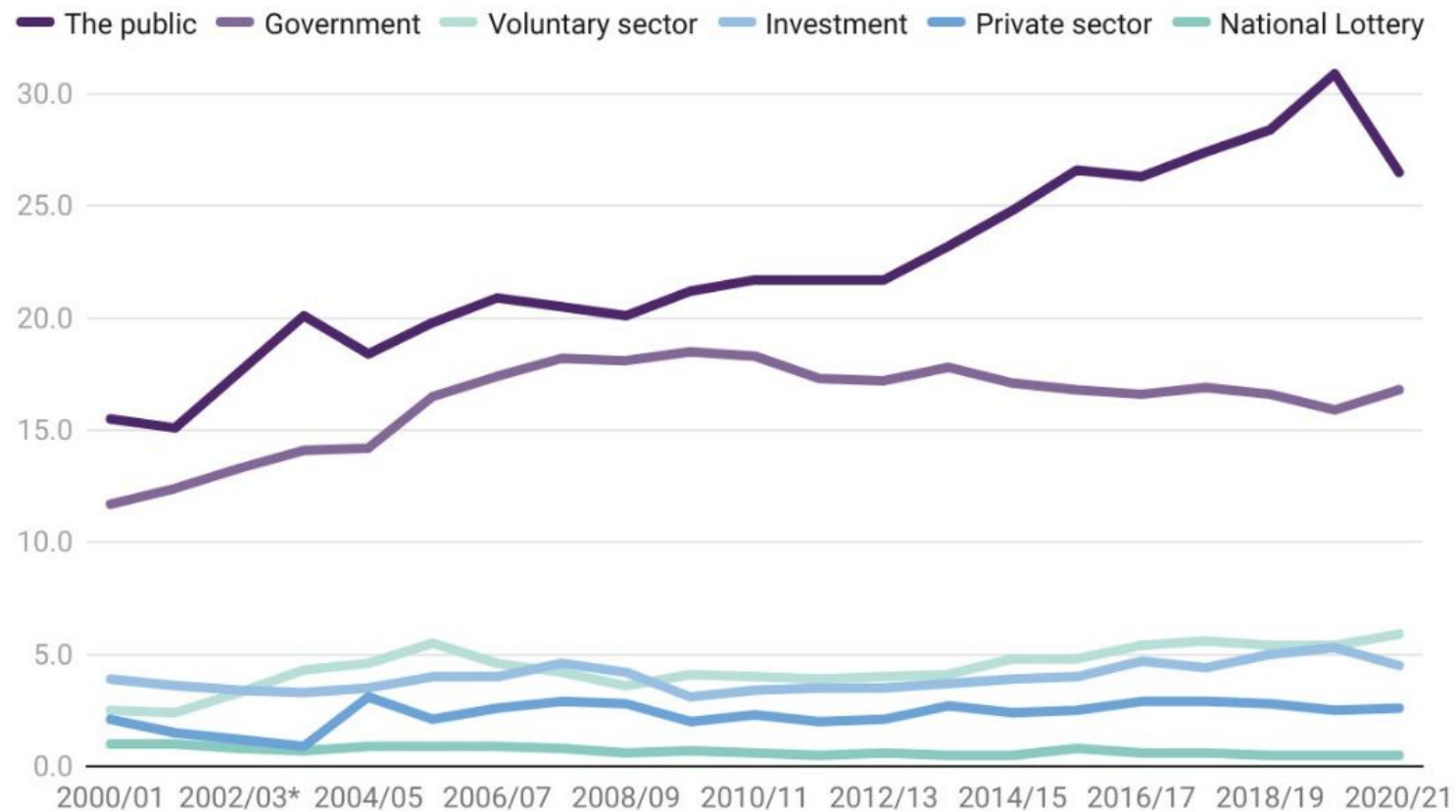
MONEY

INCOME FALLS TO £56.9BN



Income from the public and investment have fallen, while income from the government has risen.

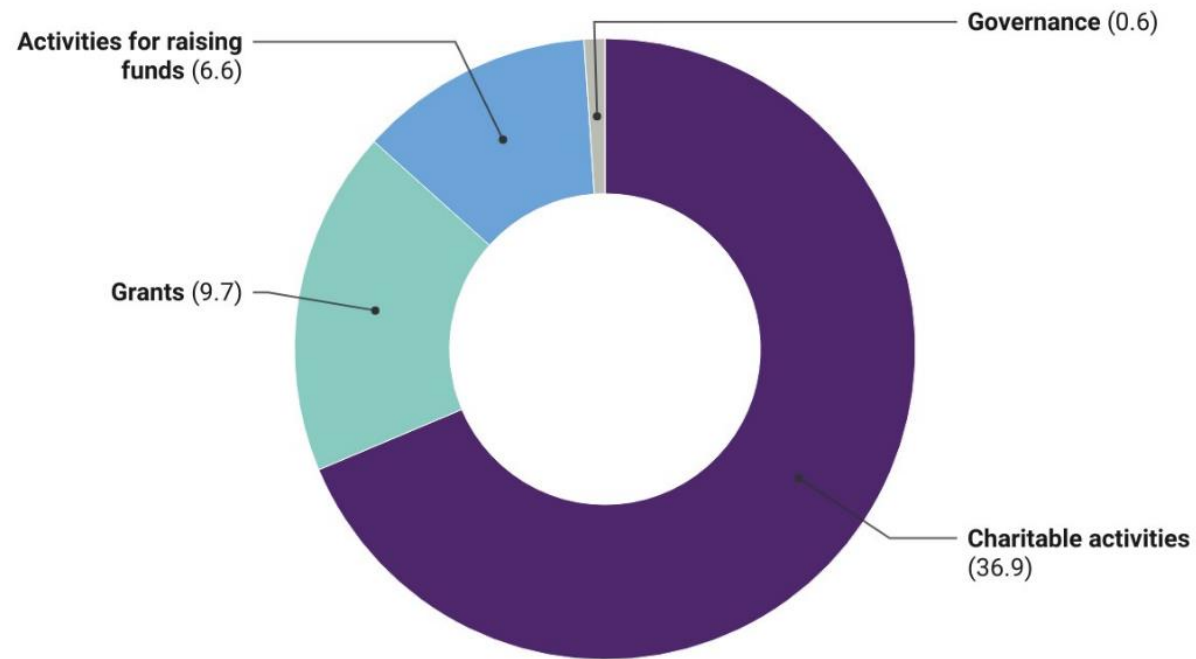
Voluntary sector income sources over time, 2000/01 to 2020/21 (£bn, 2020/21 prices)



Source: NCVO/TSRC, Charity Commission • Created with Datawrapper

Most voluntary sector spending is on charitable activities

Voluntary sector spending by type, 2020/21 (£bn)



Source: NCVO/TSRC, Charity Commission • Created with Datawrapper

IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON CHARITIES

A SERIES OF ROLLING AND INTERCONNECTED CRISIS

Demand up

Operational
costs rising

Donations
falling

Value of
income
declining

Staff costs flat
or up

BALANCING SUPPORT, GENEROSITY AND RISK



£100m support announced by the Chancellor in March



Risk of organisational **closures** and access to services



Need to robust **strategy**, governance, and leadership



Orgs needing to **fundraise** in new or different ways



Loss of bespoke **infrastructure** supporting small charities

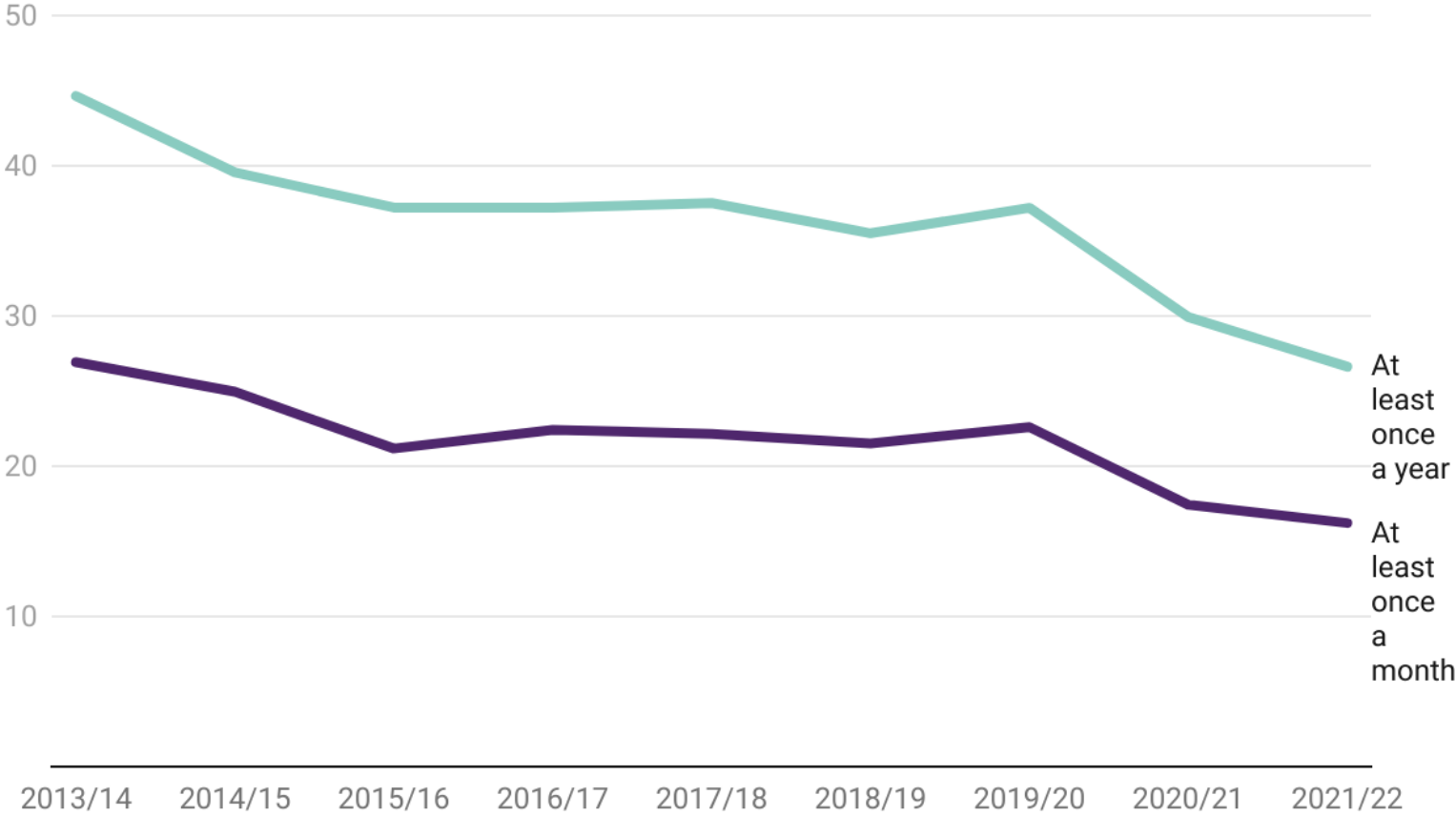


Less public sector income, **no contract uplifts** and risk to local commissioning

TIME

VOLUNTEERING RATES HIT LOWEST LEVEL

Formal volunteering rates, 2013/14-2021/22



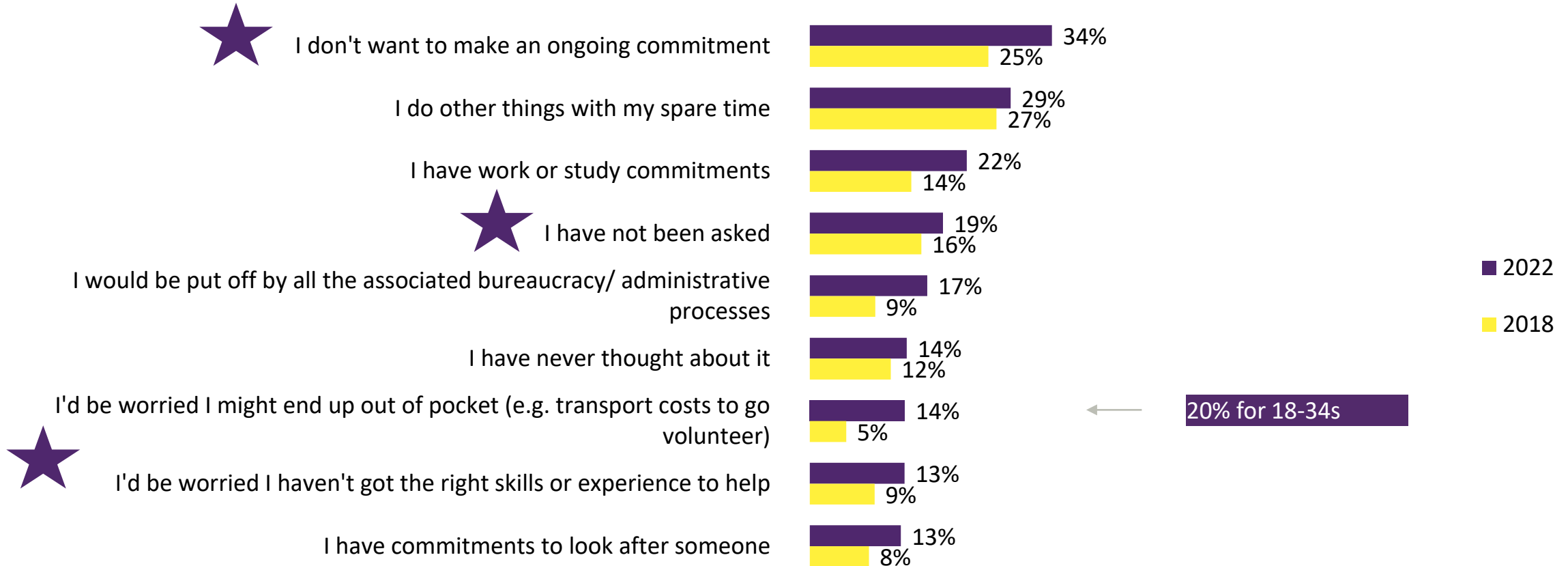
Source: Community Life Survey, 2021/22 • Created with Datawrapper



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

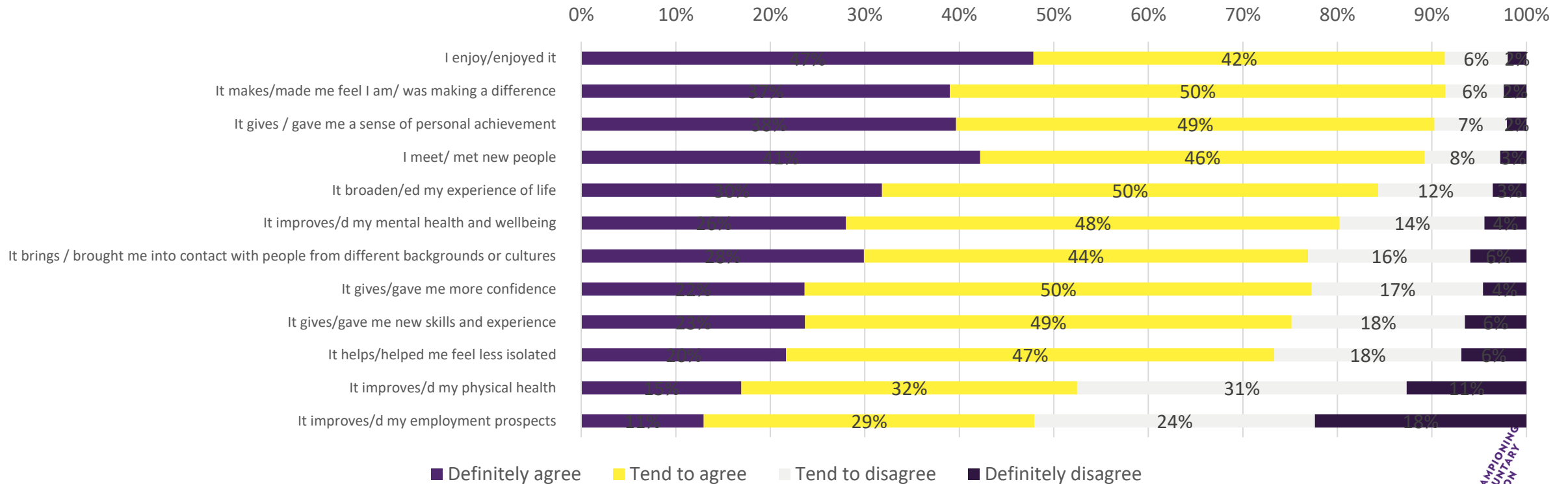
- Raised profile of volunteering through the pandemic
- **Fewer people** are volunteering than previously
- People aren't volunteering as much in formal ways
- More people volunteering informally
- Volunteering is impacted by covid and the economic crisis
- **Livelihood** to volunteer is down compared to 2018
- **Satisfaction** is very high but falling
- Inequality in experience linked to economic status

BARRIERS TO VOLUNTEERING



PEOPLE VOLUNTEER BECAUSE THEY ENJOY IT, MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND MEET NEW PEOPLE

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about giving unpaid help to this group, club or organisation?

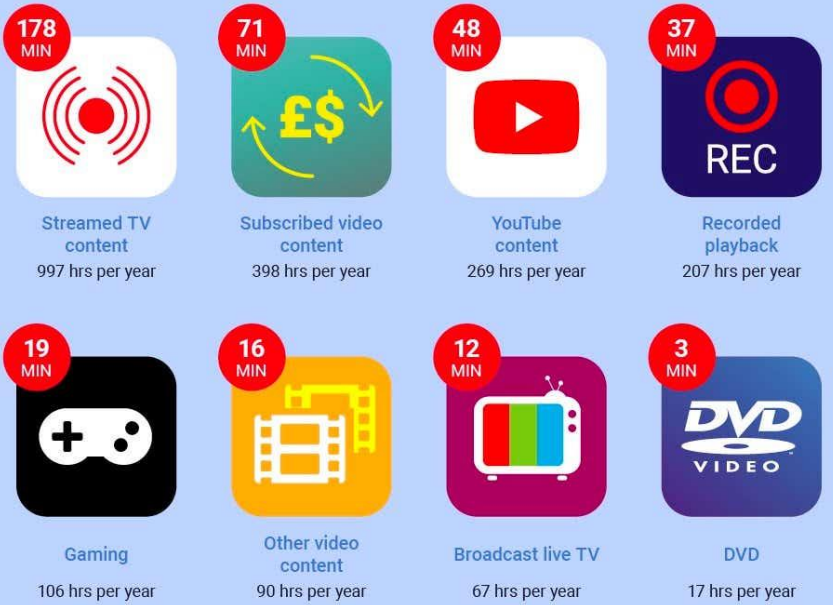


What are people doing with all their time?

WHERE'S OUR TIME GOING?

SCREEN TIME REPORT

Average UK adult daily screen time per platform



Read the full report at [uswitch.com](https://www.uswitch.com)



NETFLIX

SOME PROVOCATIONS FOR US TO CONSIDER

- How do we balance the wants and needs of individual volunteers with that of our organisations (and those who rely on our work)?
- How do we compete for what people can give in a noisy, time-poor world?
- Are our asks of people too small?
- To what extent can we rely on cohorts of volunteers to behave in similar ways?

RELATIONSHIPS



WHAT DO THE NEXT DECADES OF POLICY MAKING INCLUDE?

Ageing population
(and declining
growth)

Health and social
care

Rise of
automation and
technology

A new educational
requirement for
the next century

Mental health and
wellbeing

Quality of life and
pride in place

Achieving net zero

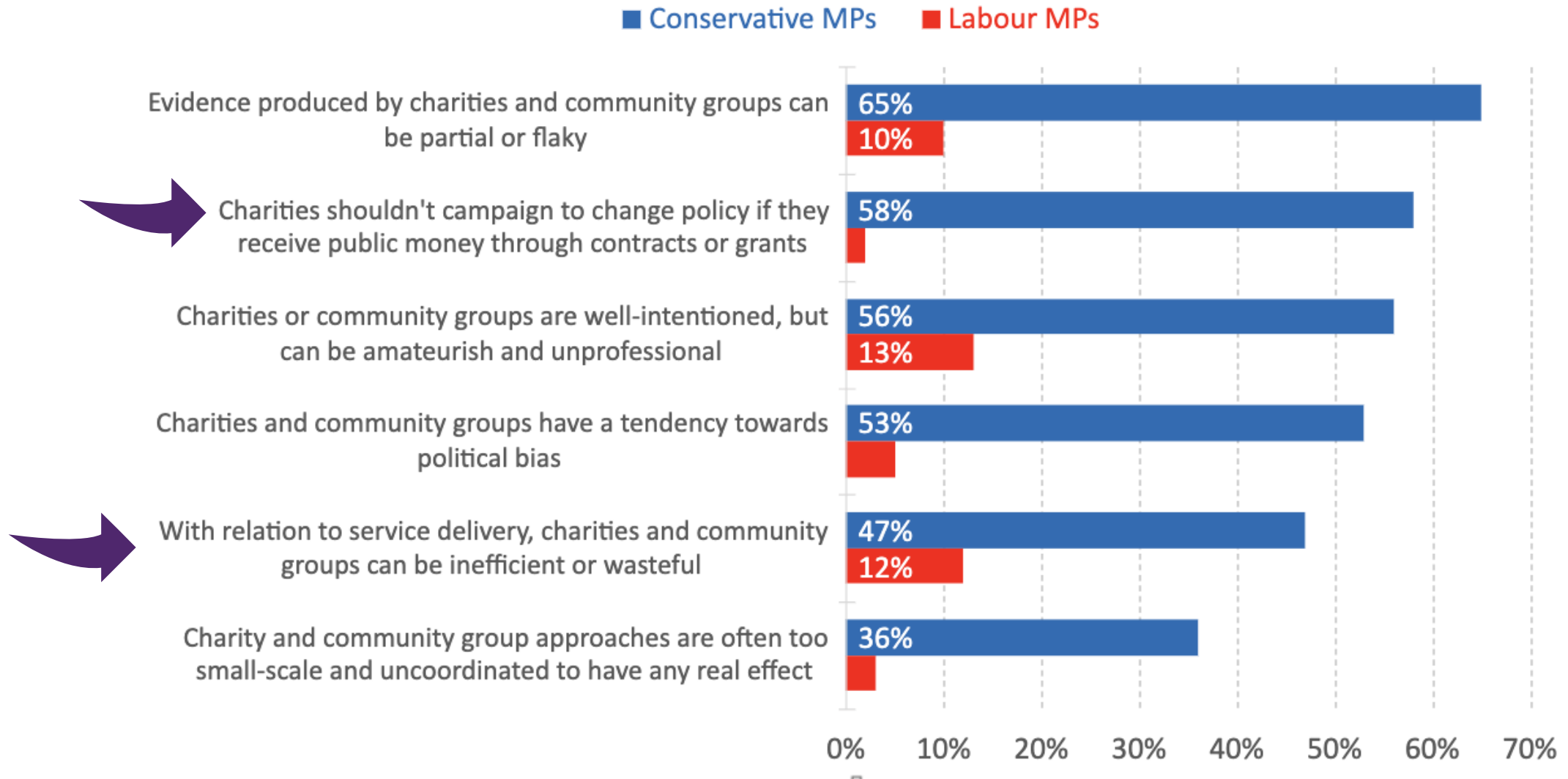
Safety, security
and peace

**What are the problems that the government
and voluntary sector see ahead?**

CAN A DUAL ROLE BE BALANCED?



MPS' PERCEPTIONS OF CHARITIES & COMMUNITY GROUPS



Final thought:

**This settlement of collaboration can break – by
design or default.**



Questions and discussion

FIVE THEMES FOR 2023

1. The ongoing impact of cost of living
2. Supporting staff, trustees and volunteers
3. Keeping up the pace on equity, diversity and inclusion
4. Adapting to political change
5. Responding to new laws and regulations

KEEPING UP THE PACE ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- A remaining challenge for many organisations and communities
- Risk of being dragged into culture wars (eg Oxfam & National Trust)
- Advocate for equity as a sector
- Use new Census data to enrich your understanding
- Reach new groups in society

ADAPTING TO POLITICAL CHANGE

- Some political stability...maybe.
- Constructive engagement with the current government
- Political parties are planning for the next election
- Limited vision/engagement with Labour so far
- Concerns over civic space restrictions (eg Public Order Act)
- Supporting charities to stay lawful but use their voice/platform

RESPONDING TO NEW LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- New guidance on charities investments due – CC14
- Social media guidance being developed
- Importance and visibility of CC9 as we head into a (potential long) election
- Range of new laws will impact charities big & small