

Membership Survey 2017



Community Development
& Health Network

BACKGROUND

Community Development and Health Network (CDHN) is a regional network organisation, with over 2000 members. Together, we work to bring an end to the unfair and unjust health inequalities which exist in our society.

Health inequalities are the unfair and avoidable differences in the health of the population. Where we are born, live, work and age shapes our health and these factors are known as the wider determinants of health. The wider determinants of health are health protecting and promoting or damaging to health. There is an unequal distribution between the determinants which protect and promote health and those which damage health.

People living in disadvantaged areas and minorities are more likely to be exposed to health damaging determinants and to fewer of the determinants which protect and promote health. People living in more affluent areas have a greater exposure to the determinants which protect and promote health and less exposure to those which damage health.

This means people from poorer backgrounds and minorities in Northern Ireland live shorter lives and live more years with chronic illness and/or disability. The wider determinants of health are unequally distributed because of an imbalance in power, wealth and resources.

Through our work communities, practitioners and decision makers are supported to recognise and utilise assets, to work together to develop solutions and take action to improve lives, health and wellbeing.

There are three principles to our work;

- By putting people and communities at the heart of all systems and policies, we ensure society becomes a place which protects and promotes health and equality.
- We connect communities, practitioners, academics and policy makers, to share their knowledge, experience and expertise.
- Through inclusive and collaborative decision making we can reshape the circumstances in which we are born, live, work and age, leading to improved health and wellbeing within a fairer, more equal society.

The survey

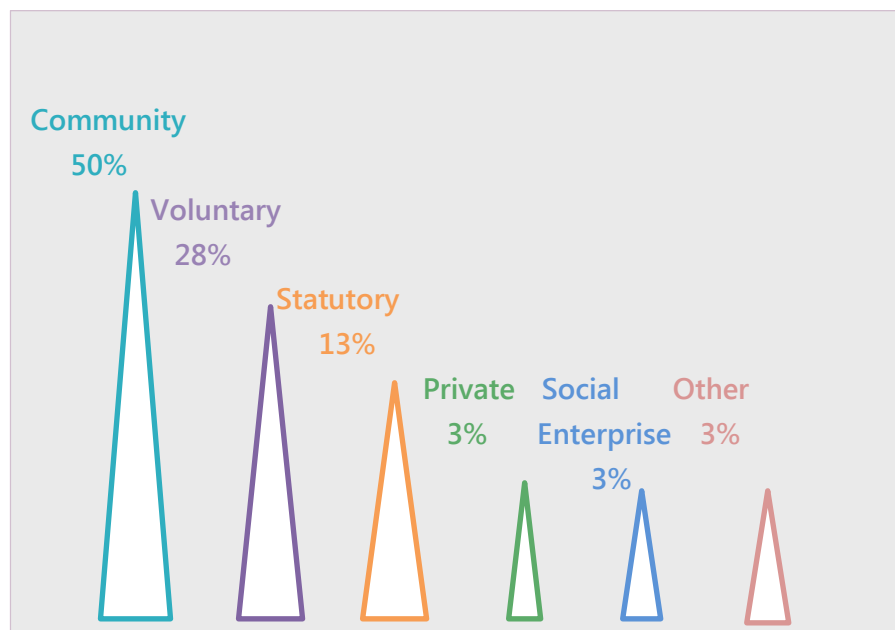
We surveyed our members in December 2016- January 2017, via an online survey.

We were keen to find out what our members thought of our services over the past two years and what support/services they would like from us going forward.

Who responded?

We had a total of 118 responses, 71% were female and 29% male.

The breakdown of respondents by sector



Directors had the highest rate of response (28%) followed by officer (18%), and administrator with the lowest response rate (3%).

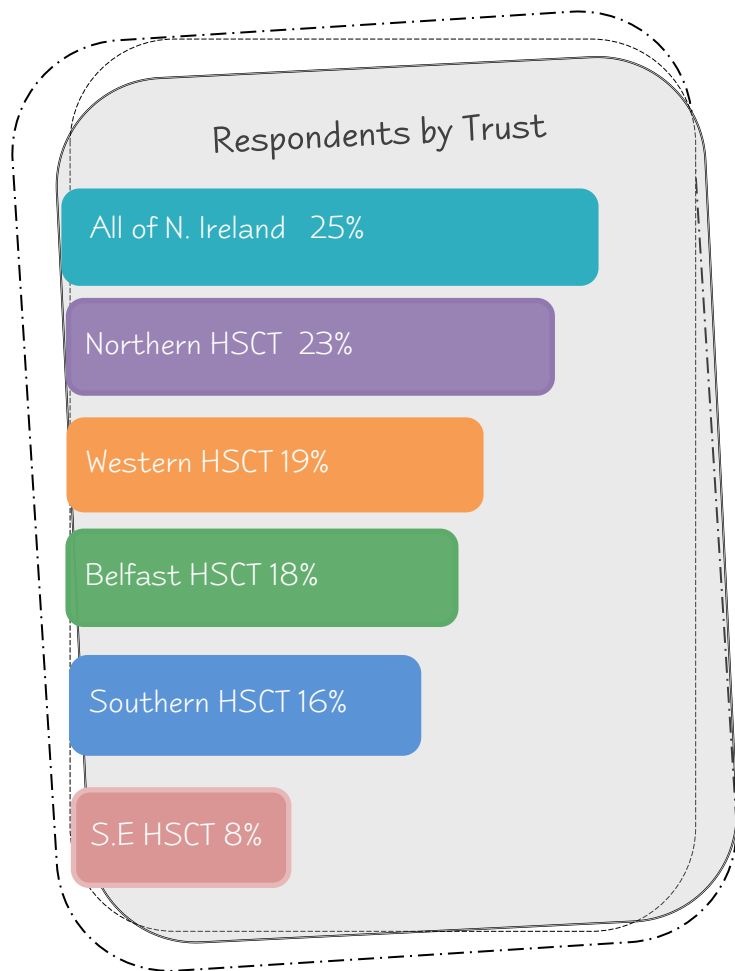
Just over half the respondents (51%) work in small organisations, with less than 10 employees, while just over a quarter (27%) work in organisations with 30 employees or less.

What locations do they work?

Respondents by Council district

25% of respondents work across N. Ireland





Our Work

CDHN have four key areas of work:

- Building the Community Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP)
- Training & Facilitation
- Networking & Events
- Policy

We also carry out a range of other work including evaluation, project and programme support, provision and sharing of information, through factsheets, newsletters and our website. We are also an Inspiring Impact organisation, supporting our members to understand, measure and share the impact they make.

Through the survey CDHN sought to understand the difference our work makes to members, how they viewed the worked we have carried out in the four key areas and what they would like from CDHN going forward.

What difference does CDHN make?

79%

Agree that CDHN is N. Ireland's leading organisation for tackling health inequalities

72%

Agree that CDHN helps members to understand the political and policy environment of community development

66%

Agree that membership of CDHN provides a platform to drive change

54%

Agree that CDHN has supported them to understand the strengths of their community

71%

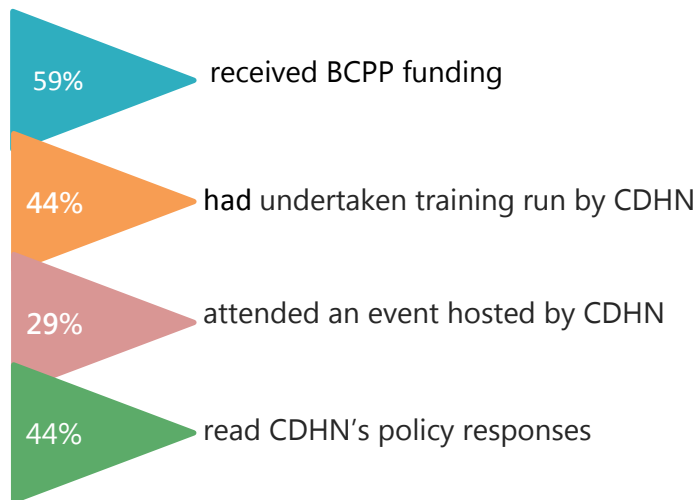
Agree that CDHN helps members understand the political and policy environment of health inequalities

61%

Agree that CDHN has supported them to understand where their community can improve

Review of activity

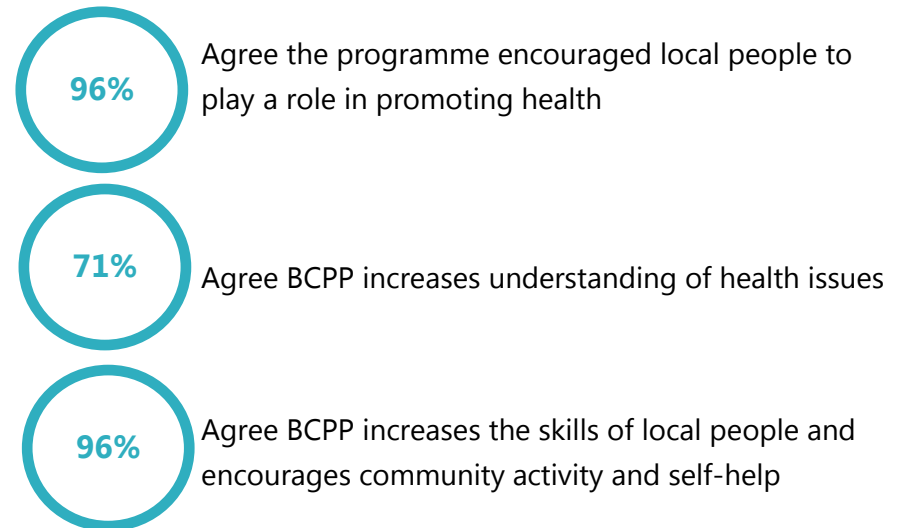
The following illustrates the number of respondents who had engaged with CDHN in the key areas of work.



How we did

The next section examines how well our members thought we did in carrying out our work.

Building the Community Pharmacy Partnership



CDHN have produced two further reports relating to BCPP:

- **Impact report** - which shows the difference BCPP is making in communities and pharmacy
- **Review of support** - this follows an in-depth review of the support provided by CDHN to applicants and funded projects.

Training

Top three attended courses:

- Finance and evaluation training
- Pathways to Health
- Community Development

“Bringing together representatives from local government and community organisations to increase the awareness of the importance of community development.”

“Maybe the groupwork training could be evolved to the next level to look at outcomes based session planning for staff, volunteers, and peer supporters.”

“Training was excellent, good well informed facilitators on the day and useful handouts to refer to after event.”

“The use of expert speakers worked well. The development of customised training to meet identified needs could be improved.”

“CDHN training and information events are my main source of continued professional development. My organisation has no bespoke training budget. Without CDHN events my practice would be poorer. I have been attending events for several years and am constantly impressed by the standard of the training the commitment to CD principles and the deep understanding of the root causes of health and life inequalities. Alongside the formal part of the training has been the networking with others on the course. If I could suggest one improvement it might be to make greater use of the relationship that form on the training events.”

“Nothing, the staff were knowledgeable, experienced trainers and facilitators.”

Networking and events



Agreed that the networking events were useful.



All events organised by CDHN contribute to the participants increased knowledge on what impacts on health. They also enable participants to build their knowledge base through networking and through information delivered, empowering them to improve health and well-being in their local community.



More notice of the events and option to video conference to reduce travel costs/time

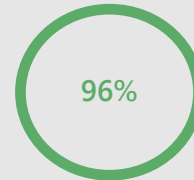


As previously mentioned I cannot fault the CDHN events. I am consistently impressed. In particular I appreciate the affirmative approach to working class communities. One possible area of growth would be the engagement of non-paid service users and community reps.

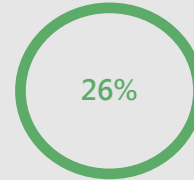


The events I attended were excellent. The main improvement would be to give them a higher profile and attract wider audiences.

Policy



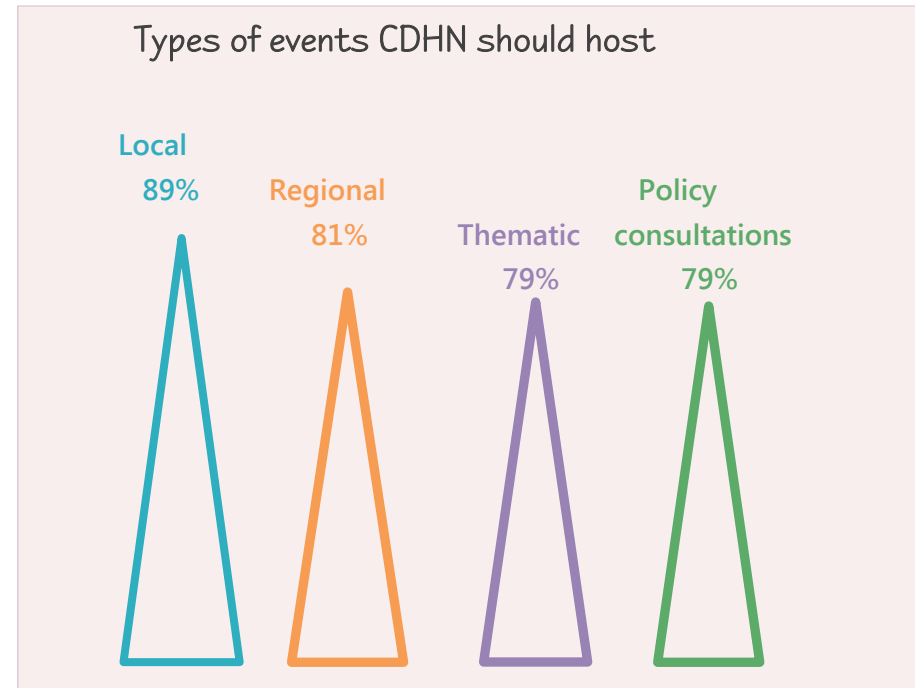
Agreed the policy responses were useful in their work



Had read CDHN's manifesto

Going forward

We asked what you would like to see from CDHN going forward, this is what you told us.



Policy Support

- ✓ 100% rated short, easy to read policy summaries beneficial
- ✓ 92% rated consultation workshops useful
- ✓ 88% rated one to one support useful
- ✓ 87% rated recommended reading lists as useful

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