

# The role of the Third Sector in Government and Policy



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Presentation to:  
***ESRC Seminar Series - The Third Sector and Criminal Justice***  
Leeds  
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# Overview

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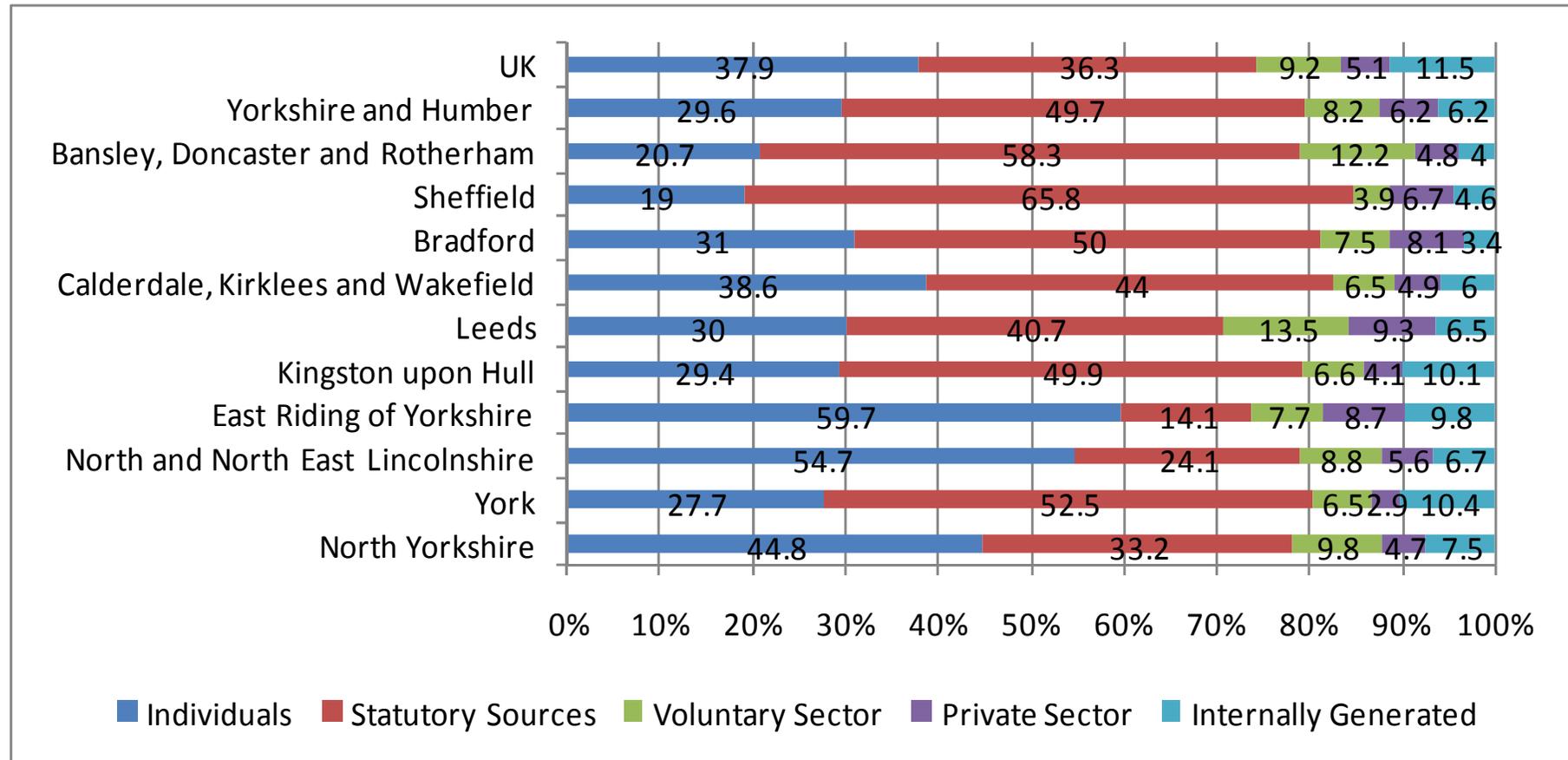
- ❑ Third Sector: terminology, scope and scale
- ❑ State-Sector Relationships
- ❑ Big Society and evidence from Yorkshire and Humber
- ❑ Conclusion: implications for criminal justice

# Third Sector: terminology, scope and scale

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- Terminology
  - VCS (sector and organisations)
  - Third Sector (what it is not)
  - Civil Society (all encompassing)
  - Social enterprise (a noun or a verb)
  - ... and Big Society (changed state-society relations)
- Scope and scale of civil society organisations
  - Estimated 900,000 civil society organisations in the UK
  - From General Charities (171,100) to Unincorporated organisations (600,000)
- Locating 'criminal justice' organisations
  - 4,033 law and advocacy charities
  - 3,963 housing charities

# Who funds the third sector



## Income sources of general charities in Yorkshire and Humber, 2006/07

Source: Guidestar Data Services/ Northern Rock Foundation Third Sector Trends study

# State - Sector Relationships

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## Key Reports

- ❑ **1948** Beveridge Report 1948 *Voluntary Action: A Report on Methods of Social Advance*
- ❑ **1978** Wolfenden Committee Report (*The Future of Voluntary Organisations*)
- ❑ **1996** Deakin Commission (*Meeting the Challenge of Change: Voluntary Action into the 21st Century*)
- ❑ **2002** HM Treasury (Cross Cutting Review on The Role of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Public Service Delivery)
- ❑ Further New Labour Interest
  - **2003**: Building civic renewal (capacity building focus)
  - **2004**: Firm Foundations (community capacity building), ChangeUp (a modern infrastructure) and Futurebuilders (social investment)
  - **2006**: Partnership in public services action plan and establishment of Office of the Third Sector
  - **2007** reports on third sector and regeneration (OTS), local government (CLG) and commissioning (Audit Commission)
- ❑ **2010** Prominent position of the Third Sector and Big Society in General Election Party Manifestos

# State - Sector relationships

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Some reflections:

- Growing interest in the sector as a deliverer of services
  - because the sector reaches hard-to-reach groups in innovative ways?
  - because the sector is cheaper?
  - because the sector achieves better outcomes?
  - because of reputational gains for state and sector?

# General Election 2010: continuity or disjuncture

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- ❑ Common issues state and/or sector to confront:
  - Role of the third sector in the delivery of public services to grow
  - ... but rationalisation, contraction and merger with cuts falling hardest on medium sized charities
  - Reworking of funding models for the sector (e.g. social investment and social impact bonds)
  - Closer to citizen/consumer: civil engagement, co-production, empowerment and localism
  - Demonstrating outcomes and impact: to funders and to users
- ❑ But impact of cuts is uneven: by locality and types of organisation

# Big Society

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## □ Rationales

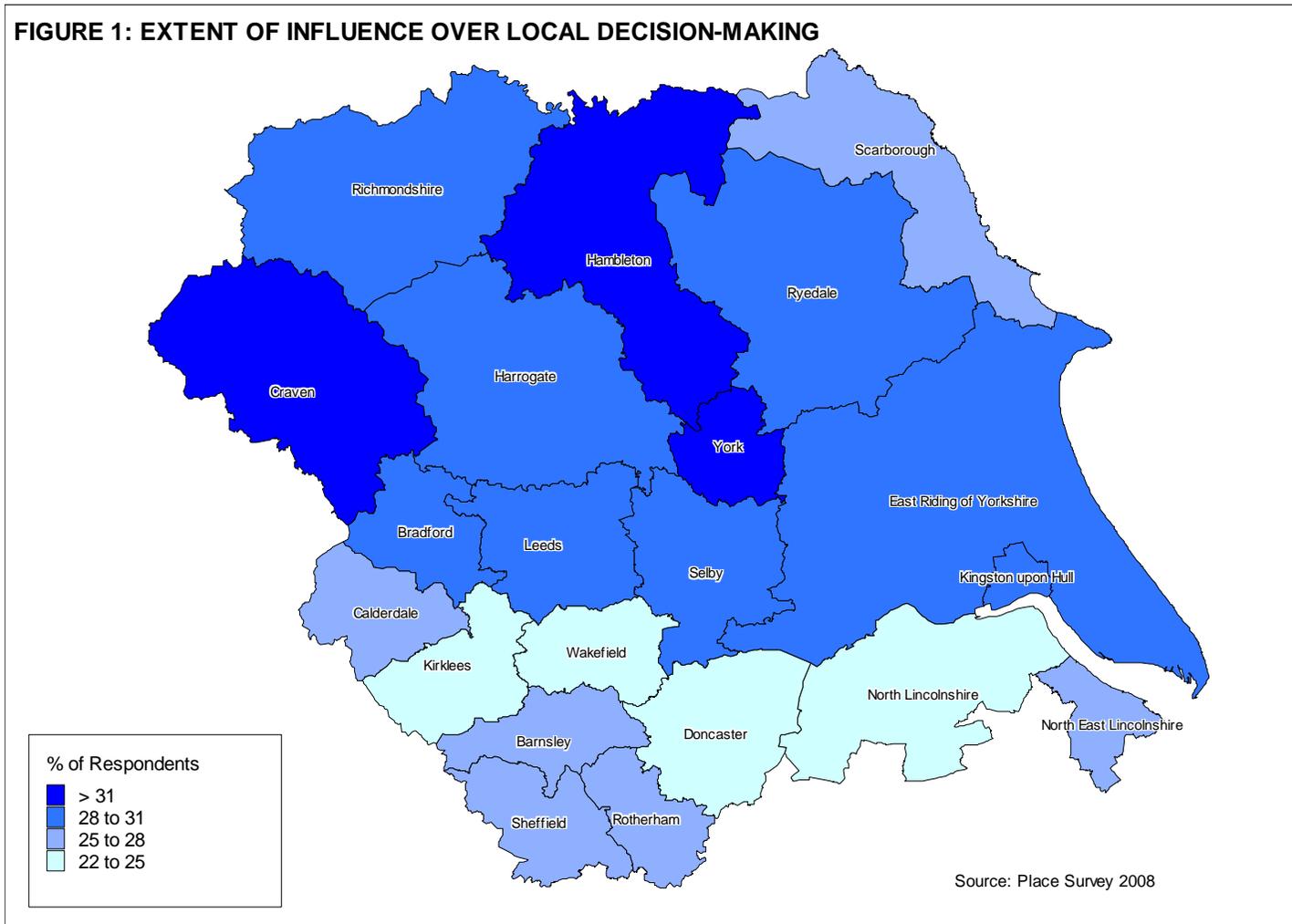
- reworking of state-society relations: the big government Leviathan critique
- strong emphasis on social action, social entrepreneurship
- shifting responsibility from state to society

## □ Themes of *Building a Stronger Civil Society*

- *Empowering Communities*
- *Promoting social action and giving*
- *Opening up public services*

# A Big Society in Yorkshire and Humber?

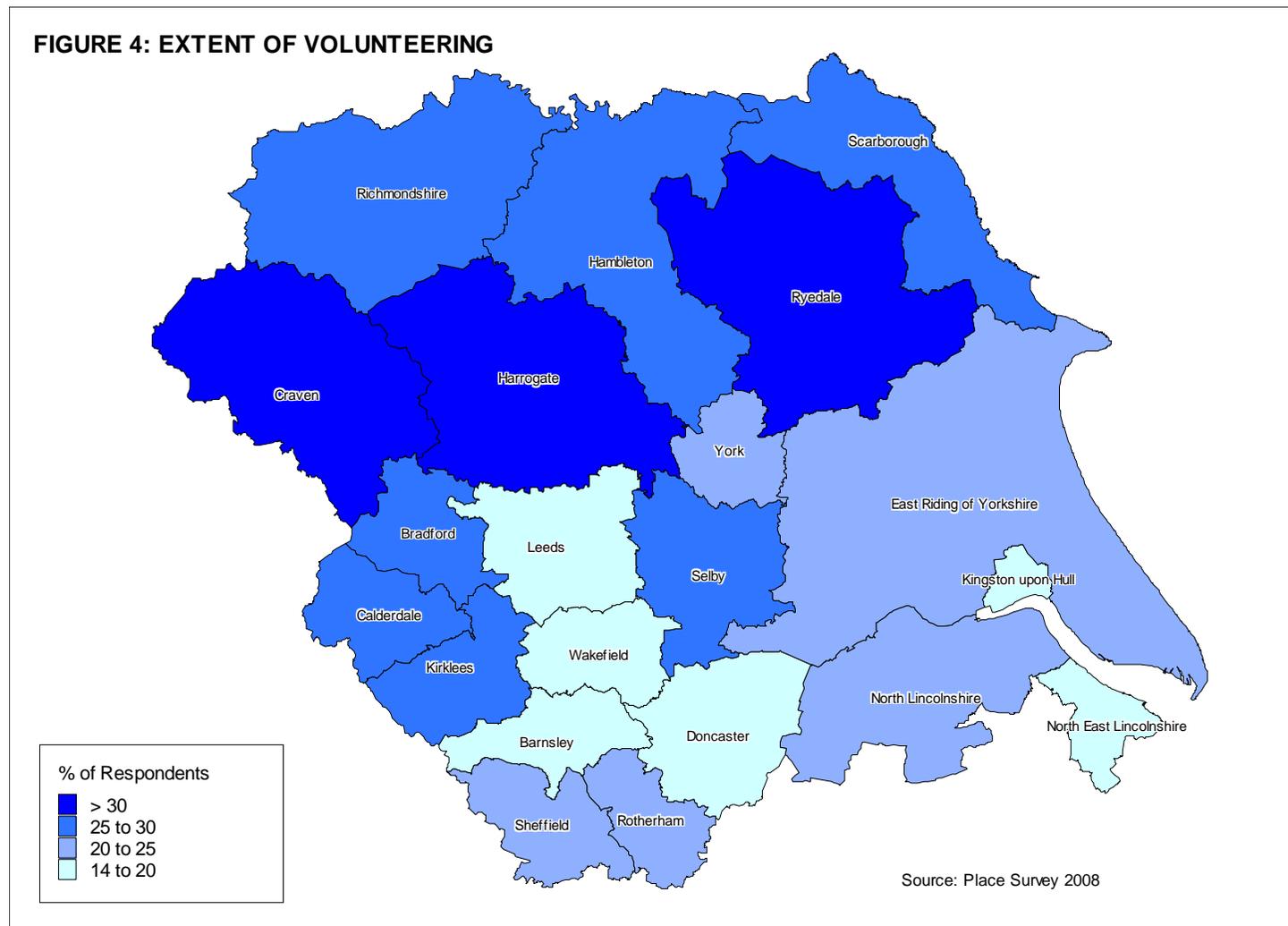
## 1. Power and empowerment



# A Big Society in Yorkshire and Humber?

## 2. Participation and involvement

FIGURE 4: EXTENT OF VOLUNTEERING

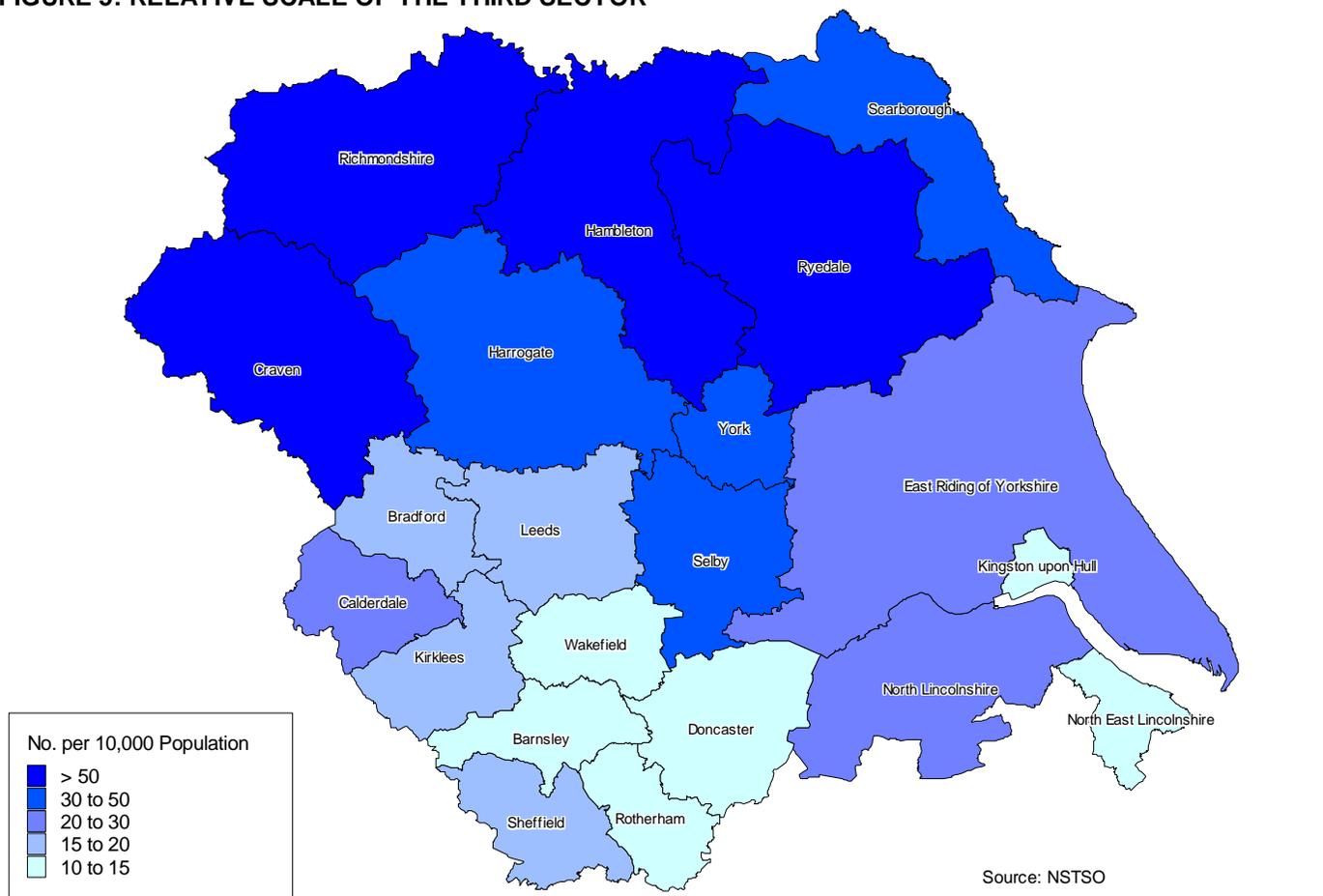


Source: Place Survey 2008

# A Big Society in Yorkshire and Humber?

## 3. Civil Society Organisations

FIGURE 5: RELATIVE SCALE OF THE THIRD SECTOR



# Conclusion: Big Society, criminal justice and the third sector

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- ❑ Different models of funding the sector
  - 'social impact bonds' and 'social investment' but only where there are monetary/monetised returns
- ❑ Criminal justice activities cross-cut the sector
  - from projects to organisations
  - Community service orders
  - the experience of NOMS
- ❑ Challenges and problems
  - an ambitious agenda with few funding certainties
  - moving beyond the civic core
  - resources matter: civic ties are only one part of the solution

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