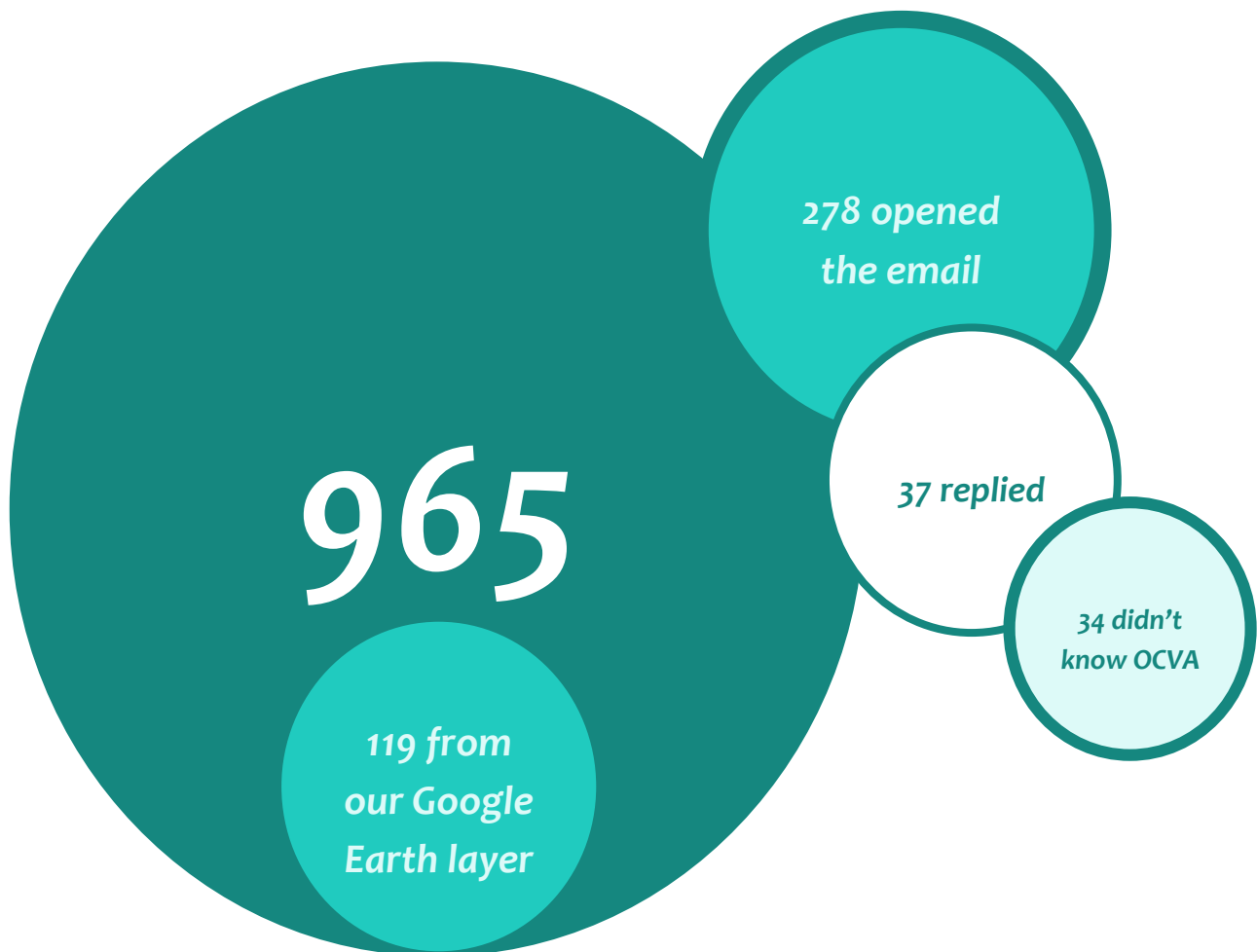




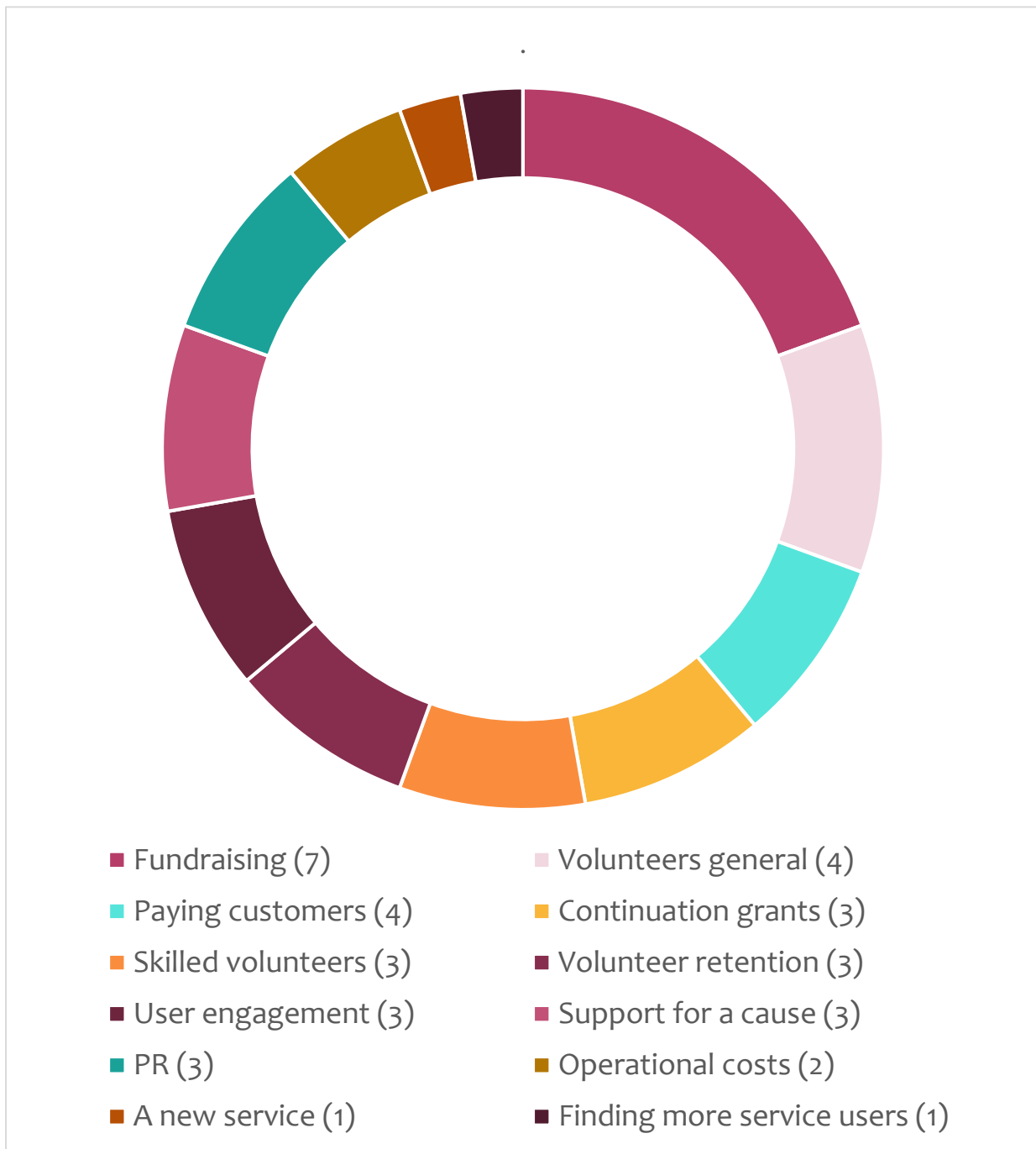
State of the Sector Report 2015-16

This State of the Sector report was conducted online between February 24th and March 31st 2015. We invited known active voluntary, community and charity groups in Oxfordshire (3,126) but not OCVA members (2,476) and kept to those contactable by email (965).

At least 119 had no prior contact with OCVA. These were identified using a Google Earth data overlay. They were then invited to participate using publicly available contact details.



Your top key challenge for 2015-16

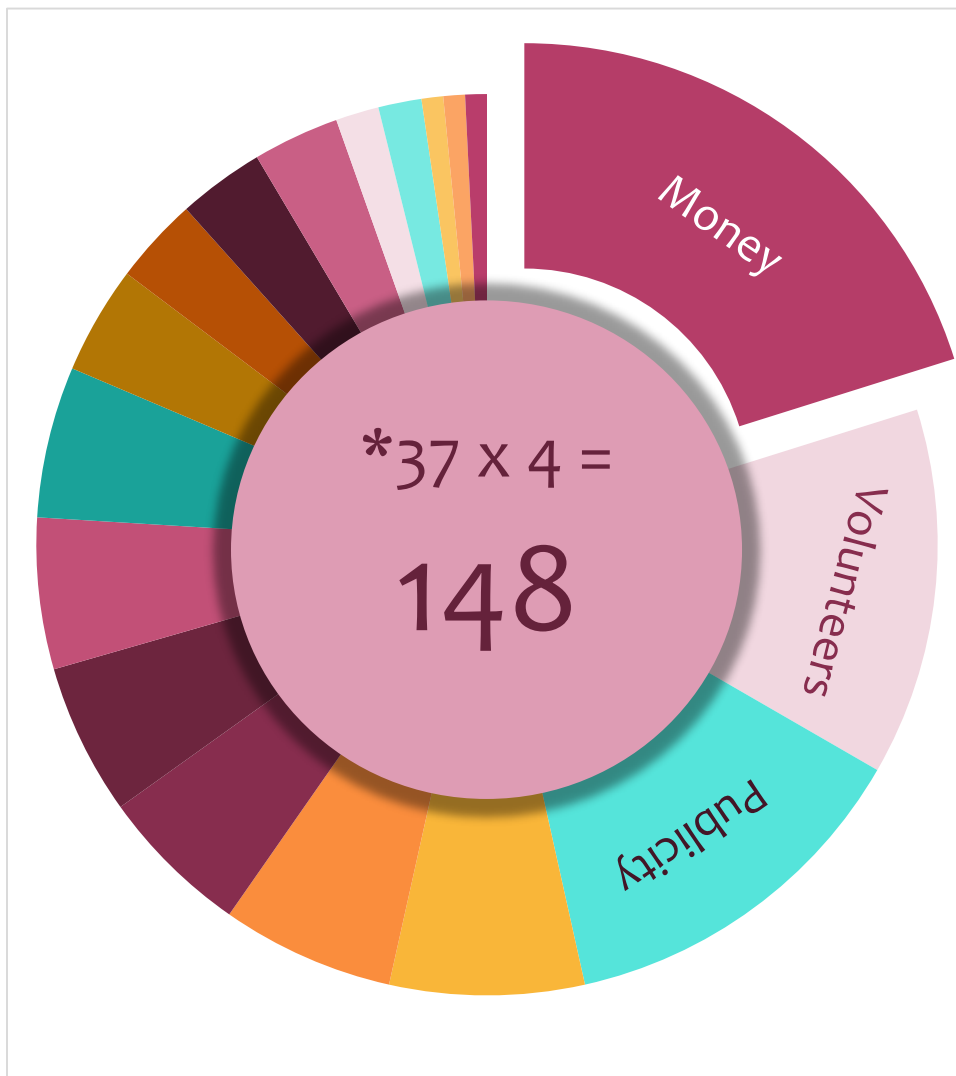


What you all said

“ Last year was financially our worst... We need people to understand the finality of [some options]... We seem to ‘fall between the gaps’ in terms of criteria for funding... Make enough turnover... Consistently recruiting [volunteers] is time consuming – so retention immediately affects staff time... Capable volunteers who have certain skill sets... [Some of] the cost has been raised [it’s now a matter of persuasion]... There is so much competition for good volunteers with plenty of time available... [It was funding but that’s covered so now it’s] volunteers... Our starter grant has now expired... We are a church so that already brings about a unique set of challenges... Running at a loss... ”

148 further challenges for 2015-16

*We asked you what your next four challenges were.
Broad areas are as follows.



Money	26
Volunteers (general, skilled, managing, retention...)	17
Publicity, PR, online presence	17
Specific cause or work	9
Maintenance, operational, premises, building compliance	8
Stakeholder engagement	7
Paid staff, CPD, retention	7
Engagement / outreach	7
Unmet needs / planning / strategic	7
Sales and products profit	5
Membership	4
Quality assurance in relation to using volunteers	4
Unknown / uncategorized	4
Research	2
De-duplication of effort	2
Loss of evidence for funding due to higher-level changes	1
Honouring contracts	1
Programme content	1

These further challenges include...

“ [Further priorities] will depend upon the success of this years’ fundraising... to find key members for our committee with the skills we need and who are prepared to work for nothing... obtaining funding for running costs... building repairs... refurbishment... investment in and recruitment [/retention] of additional paid staff... fees for specialist professionals... volunteers losing faith and patience where changes have been suggested... volunteer retention is a constant problem... increasing volunteer numbers whilst maintaining quality... [we want to] write a business plan [but that will need a volunteer]... time for staff training... profitability... influencing commissioning... too many of us work alone providing overlapping services/facilities... running at a deficit... upgrade our website... improving mobile reception in the parish... to improve the energy efficiency of the building dependen[ds] on funding... capacity to sustain... meeting demand [for visitors] ”

Sources and credits

Report compiled by OCVA (Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action) using data from:

- Online survey
- Google
- OCVA sector database

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