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Social impact report 2019

reuse
NETWORK

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Join the conversation

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Registered Charity No. 1090824

What is reuse?

To reuse an item is simply to use it again or more than once either in its original form or after washing or minor repairs, for the same or an alternative purpose.

Waste hierarchy



At Reuse Network, we believe no one should be without a bed to sleep on, a cooker to cook on or a sofa to sit on. We are working across sectors to make this vision a reality, giving our member charities the support they need to reach vulnerable people in need through reuse.

Reuse and recycling are often interchangeably used, but for us and our members, reuse has an environmental, social and socio-economic value.

There are many reasons to reuse, especially in today's climate where resources are limited and demand for household and electrical items has increased. Reducing waste through reuse not only prevents essential items from going to landfill, but also provides low income households with household and electrical items at affordable prices.

Reuse is near the top of the waste hierarchy, second only to prevention of waste.

What is reuse?

But it doesn't stop there – the activity of reuse creates employment, training and volunteering opportunities for those most marginalised in our society, whether because someone is experiencing long-term unemployment, an ex-offender, or experiencing mental health problems.



Working with reuse provides people with the skills and confidence they need to progress in life, whilst helping others access items they may not have otherwise had access to.

Reuse Network supports reuse charities and social enterprises across the UK to help them alleviate poverty, reduce waste and tackle climate change.

We are driving the message of reuse across the UK, creating a sustainable, supportive network that strives to help the poorest in our society build a brighter and better future for themselves.

How we support our members

We provide relevant information, advice and guidance on standards, best practice and regulatory compliance, and we represent our members at local and national levels to various stakeholders.

In addition we support them by:

- holding the only conference in the UK dedicated to not-for-profit reuse organisations
- running a series of regional networking events across the UK
- featuring a national service finder of reuse charities and social enterprises on our website to facilitate public donation and queries
- providing members with an exclusive space to find resources and start discussions
- offering quality management audits and approval
- managing opportunities to buy from selected service providers and product suppliers
- providing a licenced product weight protocol list for over 200 furniture and electrical items
- managing national partnerships between major retailers, reuse charities and social enterprises

Our commercial partners

In 2019, through major commercial retail partnerships managed by Reuse Network, we supplied our members across the UK with 86,000 furniture and electrical items. This in turn:



69,000

helped 69,000 households in the UK



£9.1 million

saved low-income households more than £9.1 million



3,500

prevented 3,500 tonnes of products from being wasted



3,200

Saved 3,200 tonnes of CO² emissions

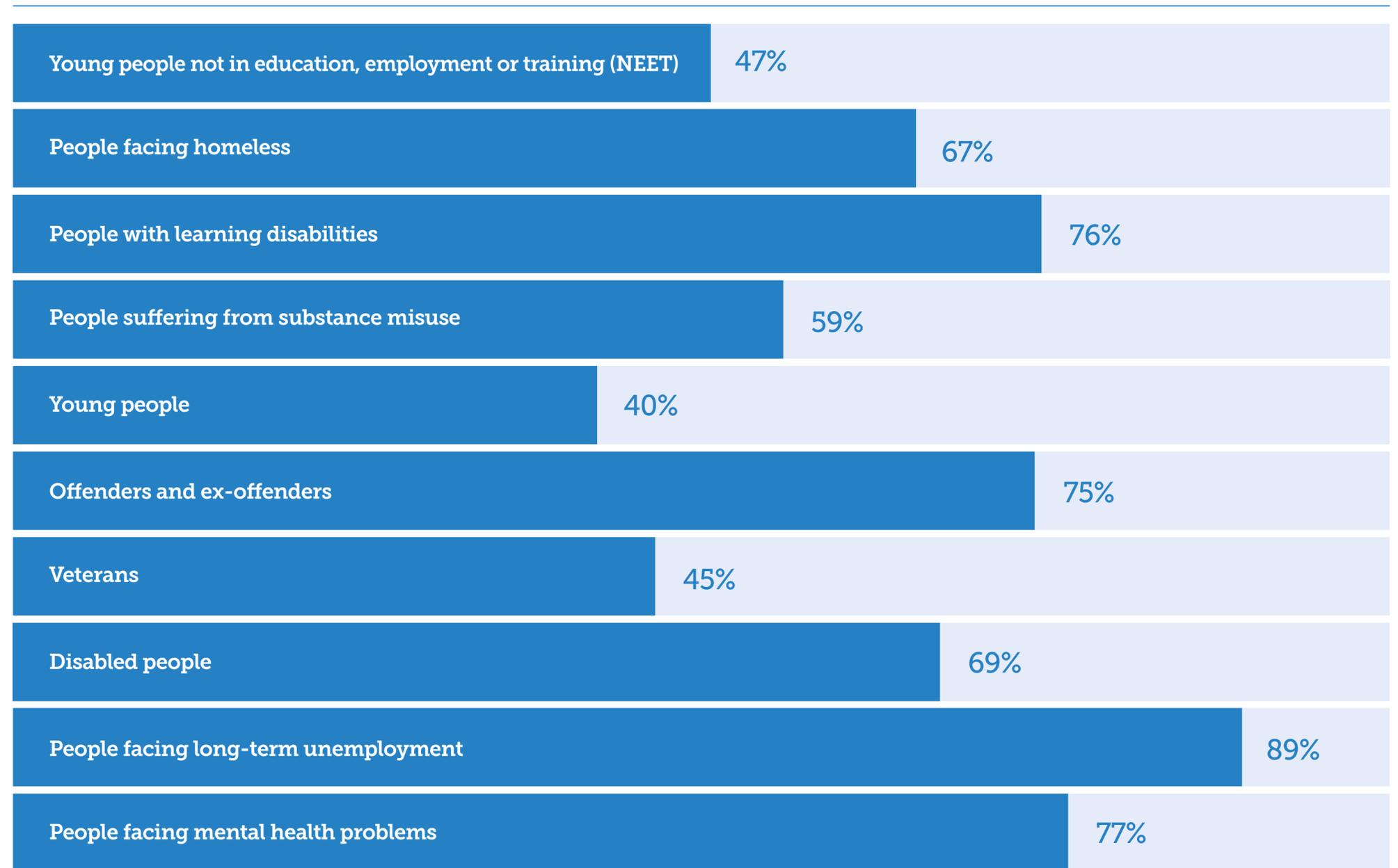


Network

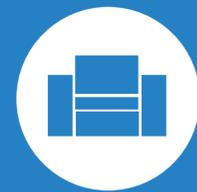
Who our members are

Our members are located throughout Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, England and the Channel Islands. They support people in their local communities through a whole host of activities. In addition to reusing household furniture and electrical items, many of our members run food banks, community cafés, and other complementary activities, as well as providing volunteering and employment opportunities.

The people our members support:



Our members' reuse activities



97%
reuse household furniture



82%
reuse electrical items



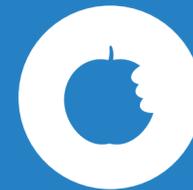
56%
reuse office furniture



44%
reuse textiles



30%
reuse IT equipment



19%
run food banks



23%
provide starter packs



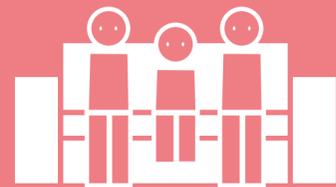
18%
reuse paint



Community

The challenges faced today

We are working across sectors giving our member charities the support, information, connections and goods they need to reach vulnerable people in need in their local communities.



14.3 million
people in the UK are living in poverty. That's 8.3 million adults, 4.6 million children and 1.4 million pension-age adults.



22%
of the UK population are in poverty and 34% of children. One in ten of the UK population live in persistent poverty.



68%
of people living in workless families are in poverty compared to 9% of families where all adults work full-time.



8.8 million
people in the UK are turning to credit to pay for their everyday essentials.

How our members support communities

In 2019, the reuse sector reused 3.7 million furniture and electrical items. This in turn:



1.6 million
helped 1.6 million households
in the UK.



£468 million
saved low-income households
over £468 million.



56,000
supported 56,000 people
through volunteering, training
and work placements.



4,900
employed 4,900 people through
full-time and part-time work.



Environment

The challenges faced today

We are building meaningful connections to divert millions of usable household items from landfill and into low-income households.



19%
of bulky waste are electrical appliances or electronic equipment



32%
of bulky waste is reusable in its state, that increases to 51% if items required slight repair are taken into account



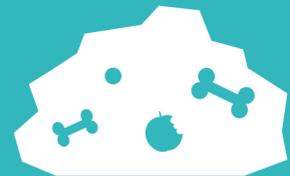
1.6 million
tonnes of bulky waste items are thrown out every year in the UK. More than half of these items could be reused



42%
of bulky waste is furniture

How our members support the environment

In 2019, the reuse sector reused 3.7 million furniture and electrical items.
This in turn:



125,000

diverted 125,000 tonnes of
household items from waste.



135,850

saved 135,850 tonnes of CO²
emissions

Thank you

To Reuse Network members across the UK, our commercial partners, the general public and Reuse Network staff for making the great work we do possible each year. We wouldn't be able to do it without you and we are grateful for your continued support.

For any queries, please contact:

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