

Volunteering in acute trusts in England



In England, around 3 million people currently volunteer for health, disability and welfare organisations, the same number as the combined NHS and social care workforce.

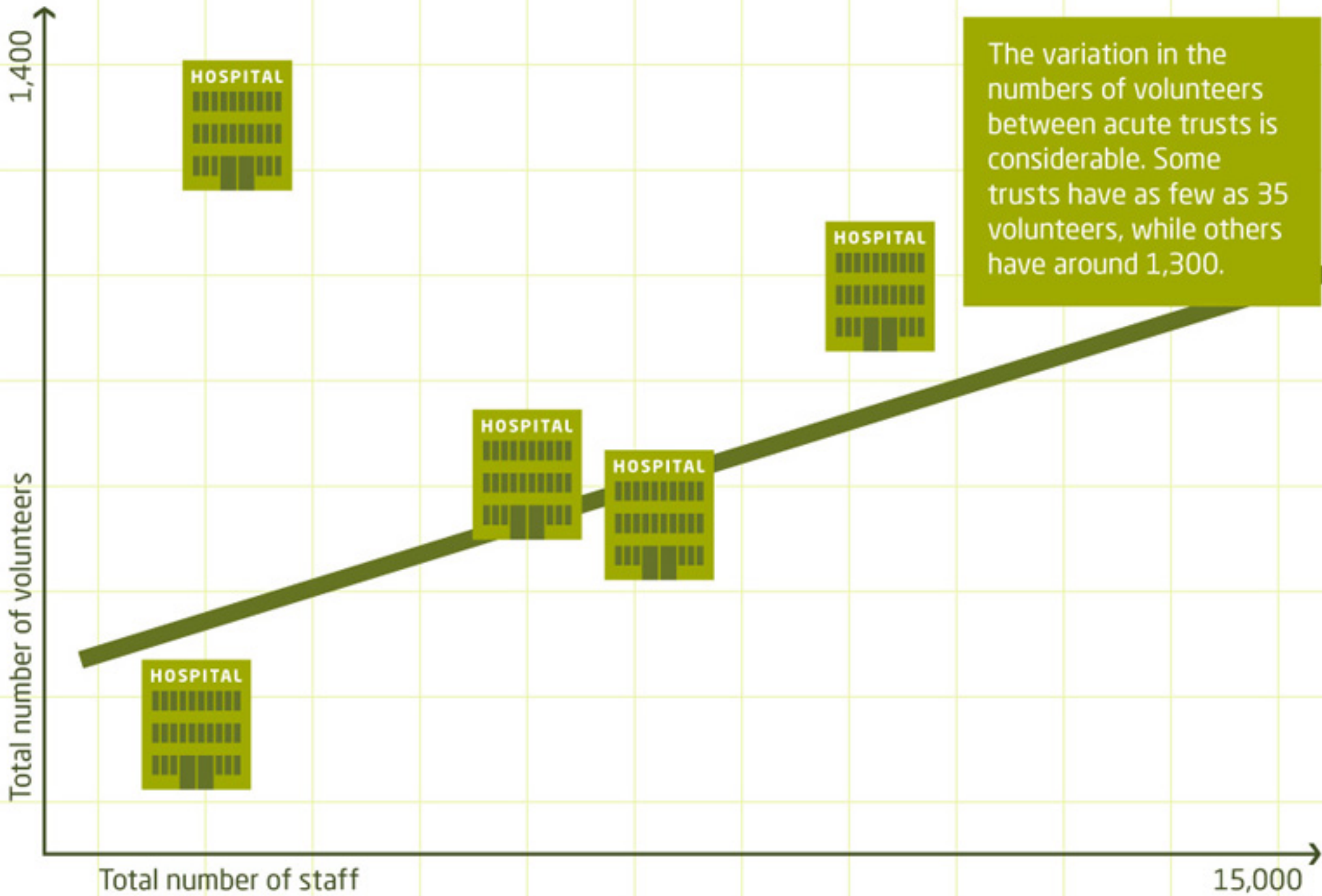
In our survey we looked at volunteering in acute trusts in England, where more than 78,000 volunteers contribute over 13 million hours of volunteering per year.





Volunteers fulfil a variety of different roles, from befriending, peer support, hospitality activities and entertainment to collecting survey data. Increasingly they are performing roles in many different hospital areas like theatres, accident and emergency and maternity units.







We estimate that for the average trust, the return on investment is likely to be at least 11 times the actual cost of supporting volunteering. So for every £1 invested, volunteers contribute a value of at least £11.

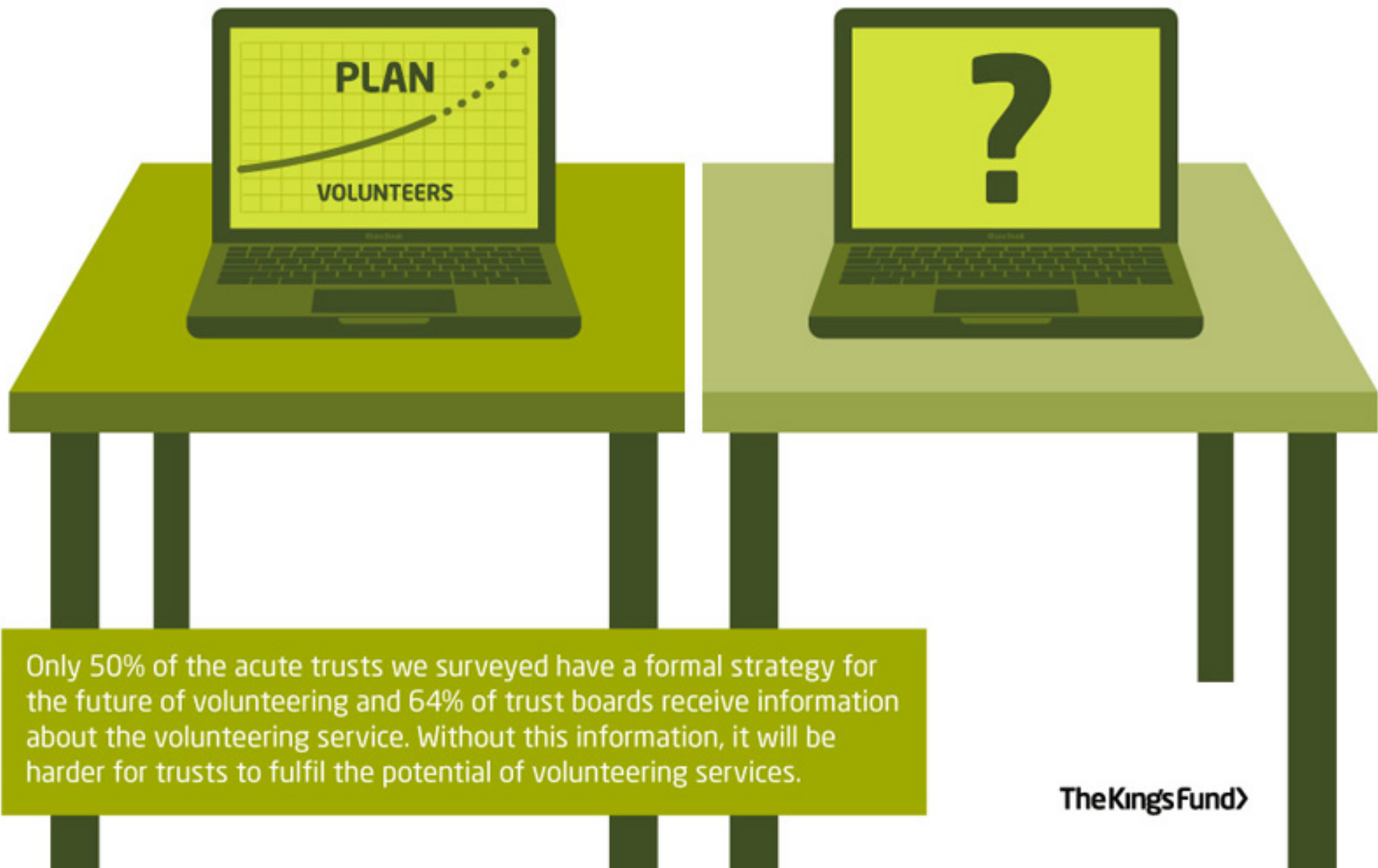


2013



2016

All our respondents thought that volunteering is a growth area; 87% expected volunteering to increase over the next three years, in most cases by more than 25%. No one thought it would decrease.



Only 50% of the acute trusts we surveyed have a formal strategy for the future of volunteering and 64% of trust boards receive information about the volunteering service. Without this information, it will be harder for trusts to fulfil the potential of volunteering services.