



# The Groop Conference 2020

## Statistics and Feedback

### Volunteering is for Life - Not Just for COVID

Our conference opened to a huge online audience exploring how volunteering has changed since our Disrupt, Innovate, Change 2019 conference, how communities have responded to COVID19 and sharing how organisations are working towards Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI).

“Our volunteering team were on the Grop conference and found the content really interesting and thought-provoking, it was the best conference and gave us loads for our 2021 project list! Thank you.”

**Sue George**  
**Volunteering Development Manager**  
**British Heart Foundation**

“Good selection of speakers that inspired and shared ideas in a friendly manner. Just well done! Thank you!”

**Terry Kemp**  
**Shrewton Youth Club**

“I found it refreshing to step out of my Barnardos role and find out what was going on across the bigger picture.

It was a thought provoking event to get agenda items to look at that I could use.

Maria was inspiring. Her talk had that 'feel good factor' it energised me and my opportunities that I'm looking to take forward.”

**Jamie MacDonald**  
**Head of Volunteering**  
**Barnardos**

“The speakers talked with passion about what they were involved in, this made us all think about how we use volunteers and engage with them what they did to engage/help others. The shared Statistics are always good - again makes you think.

Overall the conference was a brilliant morning which was inspiring. Paul did a very good job of opening up and being master of ceremonies.

It was also great to find out through the group chat where people were dialling in from :). Thanks again for all your hard work in putting this on.”

**Heather Lewis**  
**Sports Chaplaincy UK**

“I found the range of experience and viewpoints shared and discussed very valuable.”

**Joe Edwards**  
**Independent Delegate**

“ The conference provided short, sharp presentations to keep audience engaged and cover as many topics as possible in the time.

Good range of advice, case studies, and insight with a good format, agenda and range of speakers.”

**Rebecca Calver**  
**Independent Delegate**

“From my perspective great to get other sports takes on what they have done in the volunteering space, the ECB example for me was the one which was my real take home.”

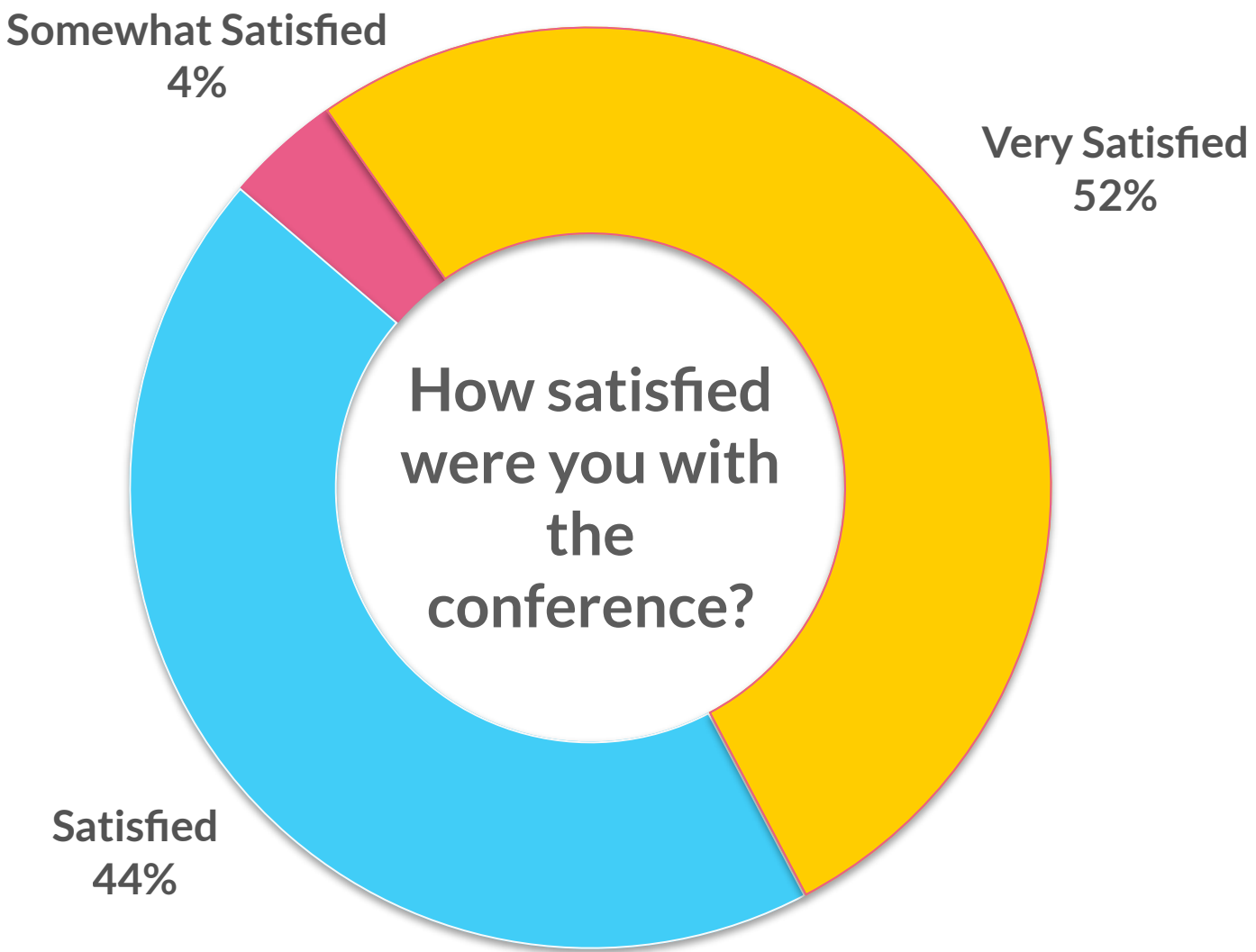
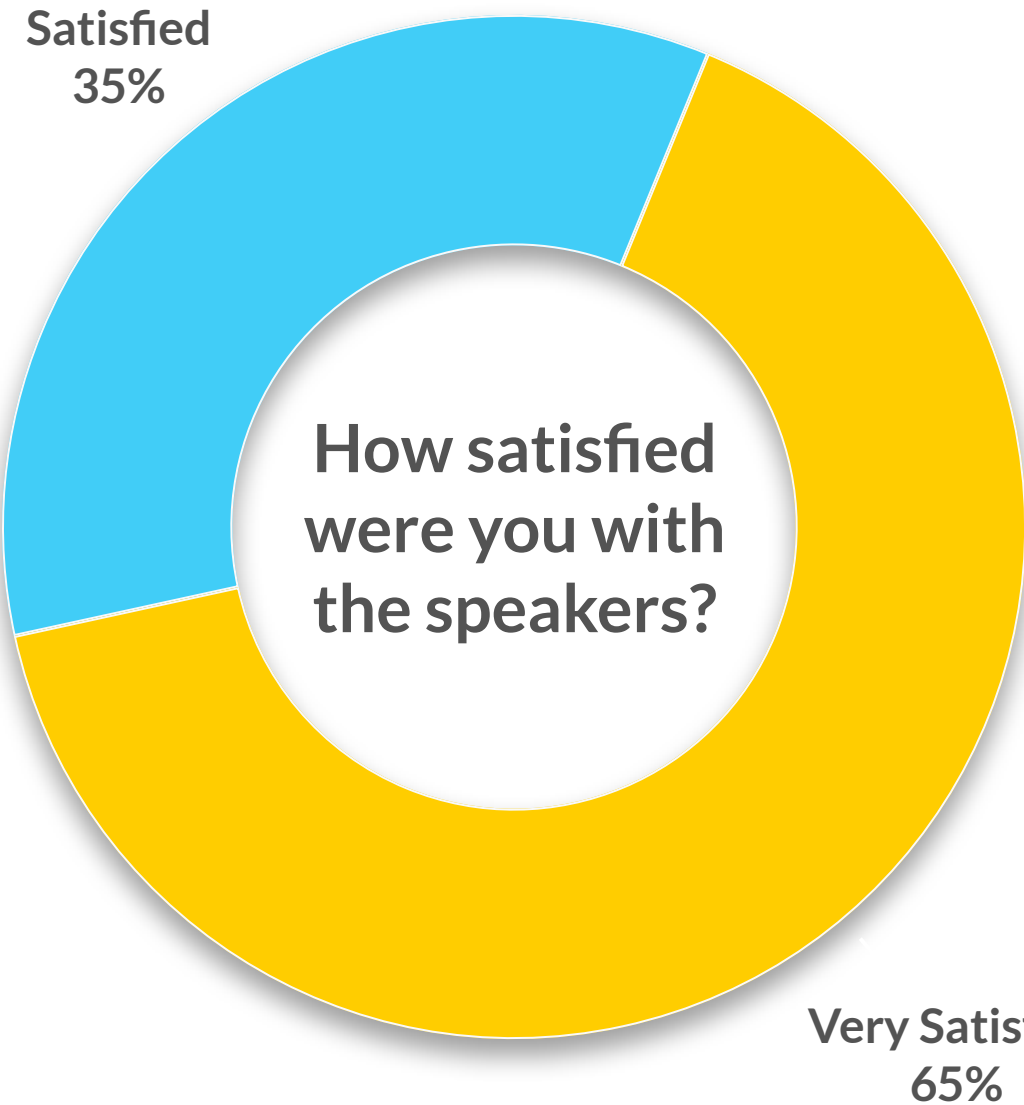
**Danielle Warnes**  
**FAW Trust**

“The Grop Conference provided a good variety of talks and viewpoints and they were also relevant to our current situation.”

**Rachel Stewart**  
**Dorothy House**

“People are wonderful - giving people the space to step up is so powerful. This is brilliant work. Thank you for sharing.”

**Alison Randle**  
**Independent Delegate**



“The variety of speakers was great and I particularly thought Maria and Rebecca were engaging and inspiring.

Thank you for putting on the conference and all the hard work that must have gone in to doing so.”

**Kalle Hogh**  
**Mencap**

“Eloquently put by Maria - the poem was very powerful and puts into words the challenge of BAME people - you (Maria) represent the amazing skills, experience and insight that you can bring - by just being seen as you. Hats off to you. Thank you for representing the BAME voice.

Thank you for a great event - lots of learning and inspirational speakers.”

**Sajedah Lakhi**  
**Groups and Volunteer Manager**  
**British Heart Foundation**

"I really liked the variety of different speakers from different industries, but still volunteer related!"

**Gayle Pink**  
Archery GB

"Great to hear real examples from organisations. Always encouraging to hear how communities come together and the power of volunteering, good to hear positivity at this time."

**Esther Douglas**  
Horton Housing

"Content has been so helpful today, really relevant and definitely given me food for thought at our Hospice!"

**Amy Moore**  
Independent Delegate



"A fantastic variety of speakers Really enjoyed this event. Thank you."

**Siobhan Hogg**  
Civil Service Sports Council

"It was a really well-structured event with varied content, really interactive, really accessible from home.

It was just really useful as a new member of the organisation to join in and get an idea of how organisations are coping through COVID."

**Liz Greenwood**  
GMCVO

"On behalf of UA92 PE Degree students & myself, thank you Groop, Why Sports and the speakers for a fantastic, educational and professionally delivered webinar."

**Catherine Cunningham**  
Independent Delegate



"Variety of speakers was excellent, I really like the structure with 3 speakers, then Q&A followed by a break. A fantastic day and look forward to Year 3!"

**Anneka O'Connor**  
Aura Leisure & Libraries

"A colleague and myself went to the Groop Conference and what it ended up doing was made us both want to go and help a different sector.

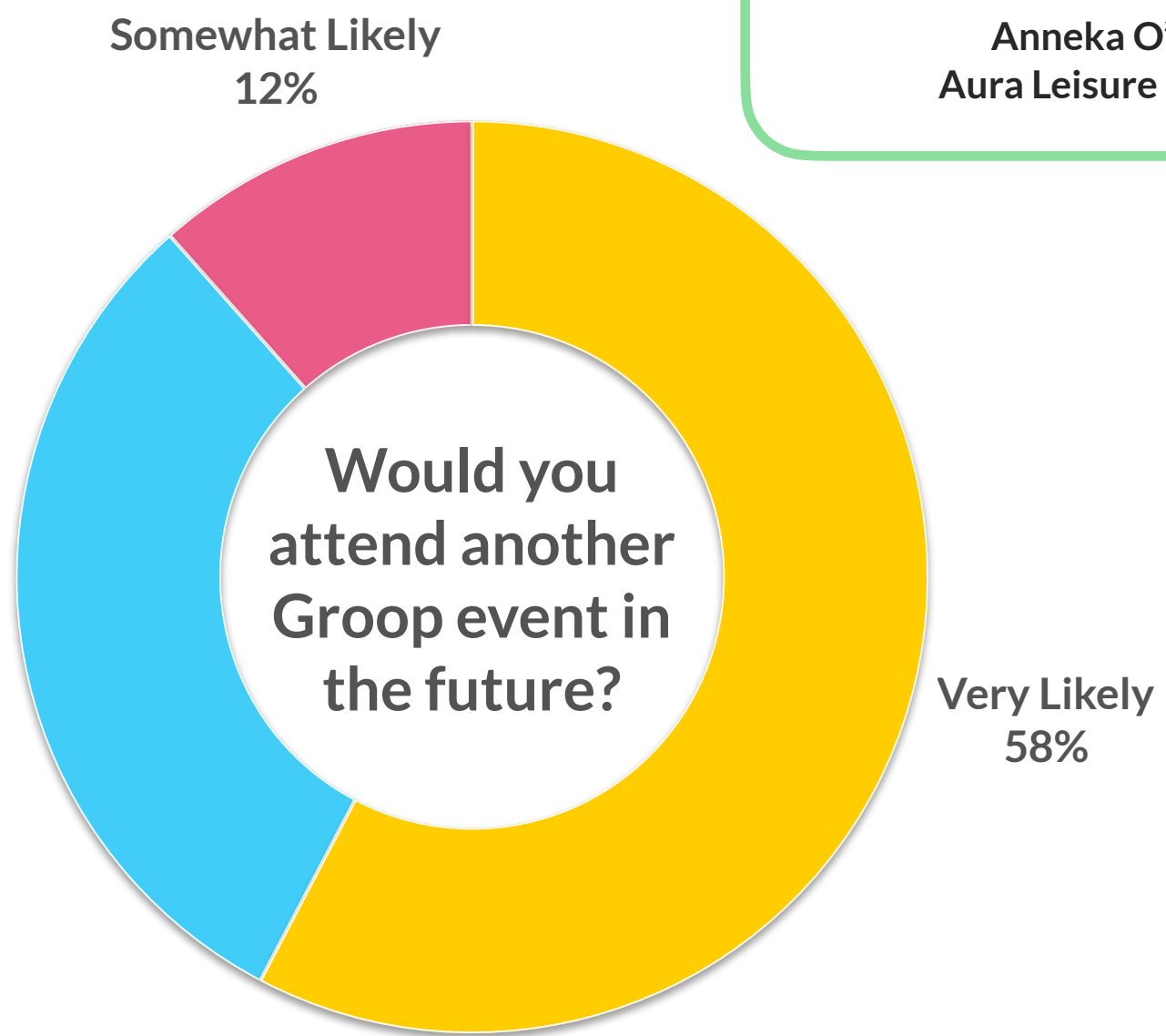
It opened our eyes up to something completely different and now we will be looking to volunteering to support other sports alongside working at our own..."

**Katy Cumming**  
Events and workforce team  
Sports Projects Co-Ordinator  
Archery GB

"The Groop conference on 'Volunteering for Life - not just for Covid' was well timed to inspire us as we hopefully emerge from this difficult and uncertain time.

I particularly enjoyed hearing from some speakers for the first time - in particular it was awesome to hear from Maria Imran about her volunteering with the Creative Youth Network and gave me some food for thought about our journey to engage more with younger volunteers."

**Rachel Stewart**  
Head of Volunteering  
Dorothy House Hospice





"Having recently been made redundant due to Covid-19, this has been a great opportunity to reconnect with my role and the sector, thank you."

**Rebecca Calver**  
Independent Delegate

"Blown away by Maria and her potential, words and wisdom!"

**Azul Strong Corcoran**

"Content has been so helpful today, really relevant and definitely given me food for thought at our Hospice!"

**Amy Moore**  
Independent Delegate

"It was a really useful and informative conference, which was a great platform for sharing learning and ideas. I certainly learnt a lot and was inspired by all of the great stuff that I heard about.

The Variety of speakers and topics was fantastic.

Thanks to all speakers and to everyone involved in putting this interesting conference together!"

**James Baughan**  
Community Services Development Officer  
Oxford City Council

"Thank you - the conference was really interesting and it was good to hear from speakers from different perspectives."

**Lisa Atamian**  
Senior Grants and Investments Officer  
London Borough of Hackney

"This event has inspired me when I was feeling pretty jaded to be honest in a newish role."

**Anonymous**

"Great conference by the Groop team. Fantastic line up of speakers who delivered great contact. Well done!"

**Alan Bennett**  
Programme Delivery Executive (Early Years Project)  
Scouts

"The variety of the presentations and the honesty of each guest speaker made the conference very interesting."

**Danielle Warnes**  
Independent Delegate

"What a great way to spend the morning - in a virtual world of reflection, insight and honesty on the what and where next for volunteering in a world currently shaped by Covid-19 yet thinking beyond to a time of with and after.

Thank you to all who contributed and who helped to make the virtual conference possible. Really appreciated."

**Suzi Wild**  
Community Liaison Office  
South and Vale Council

"Thank you all, it was very impressive how the webinar has been done and very informative."

**Sara Peskett**  
Independent Delegate

"It was a very useful morning, and particularly insightful to hear from a variety of speakers on current, important challenges facing our sector. Lots to take away, digest and discuss with my colleagues... In fact we're already putting some of the DEI learnings into practice.

Thanks to all the presenters and to Groop for this morning. Very inspiring, very current and given me lots to think about and discuss with my organisation. Thank You!"

**Brian Reeves**  
Volunteering Development Manager  
RSPCA

"Thank you to Groop and all of the speakers for such a very informative and inspirational morning."

**Neil Baxter**  
Independent Delegate

"The online Groop webinar, Volunteering Is For Life - Not Just For COVID, was a great opportunity to listen to some great people giving valuable insights into volunteer support. Such a great opportunity to pause and reflect on 2020 and how we can all make the volunteer experience even more impactful .. understanding what and how the pieces of their puzzles come together, and the power of simply saying "thank you" can be!

Incredibly powerful messages, not just if the people you collaborate with are volunteers."

**Jon Wyse**  
DiSE Manager  
Loughborough College  
Volunteer - British American Football

"Thanks to all speakers. So inspiring and informative."

**Jill Hillaby**  
Independent Delegate

"Thank you, great event and speakers, very interesting and relevant."

**Joanna Henderson**  
Independent Delegate

Thank you so much for today, this has been a fab event and really interesting."

**Jennie Pearson**  
Independent Delegate