



# The Furlonteer Report

The changing  
landscape  
of volunteering  
post Covid-19

**3,200,000  
#sourdough  
hashtags and  
counting...**

# Enter the Furlonteer

In 2019 a national survey of more than 10,000 people was conducted by YouGov for NCVO. It provides the most detailed analysis of volunteering for a decade. But in 2020, the volunteer landscape changed drastically. Following the COVID19 pandemic in the UK, over 8.7 million employees were put on the government furlough scheme\*, in less than a week 250,000 people signed up to volunteer and help the NHS. Furlonteer was created in response to recognising a need in the changing landscape and in less than 4 weeks **4,000 individuals** signed up to Furlonteer including **800+ charities**. We have sampled the data of over 3000 Furlonteers to give an idea of the changing landscape of volunteering in the UK.



**Furlonteers (as of 1st April 2020)**

**76% on furlough**

**24% made redundant**

\* 8.7million employees furloughed on the government retention scheme as of 31st May  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmrc-coronavirus-covid-19-statistics>

**We want  
to help**



# Time well spent

Including flexible hours, Furlunteers have offered to share an excess of over 43,483 hours per week. On average this calculates to Furlunteers giving 14 hours a week of their free time. This is an incredible 7 times higher than the pre-COVID19 national monthly average of 8 hours a month\*. Over 30 percent of Furlunteers upon signing up, offer to share over 20 hours a week to support charities.



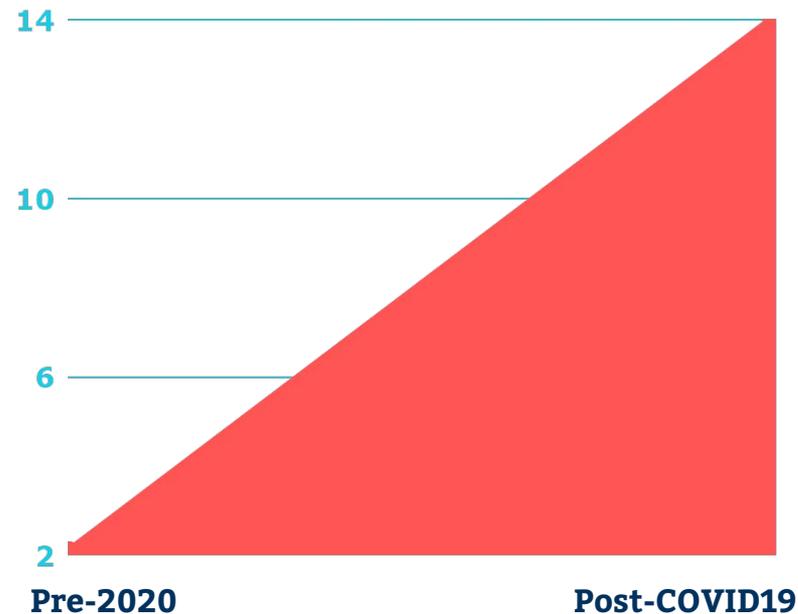
## Hours offered by Furlunteers

# 43,483

## Hours per week

\*The average (median) hours of volunteering undertaken (as of 2019, Pre-covid19) per month is 8 hours:  
[https://www.ncvo.org.uk/images/documents/policy\\_and\\_research/volunteering/Volunteer-experience\\_Full-Report.pdf](https://www.ncvo.org.uk/images/documents/policy_and_research/volunteering/Volunteer-experience_Full-Report.pdf)

## Volunteered hours per week



Young, and  
furloughed out



**“On the eve of the crisis, sectors that are shut down as a result of social distancing measures employed nearly a third (30%) of all employees under the age of 25 (25% of young men and 36% of young women). This compares to just one in eight (13%) of workers aged 25 and over. (These figures all exclude full-time students with part-time jobs)”**

Institute of Fiscal Studies, <https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/14791>

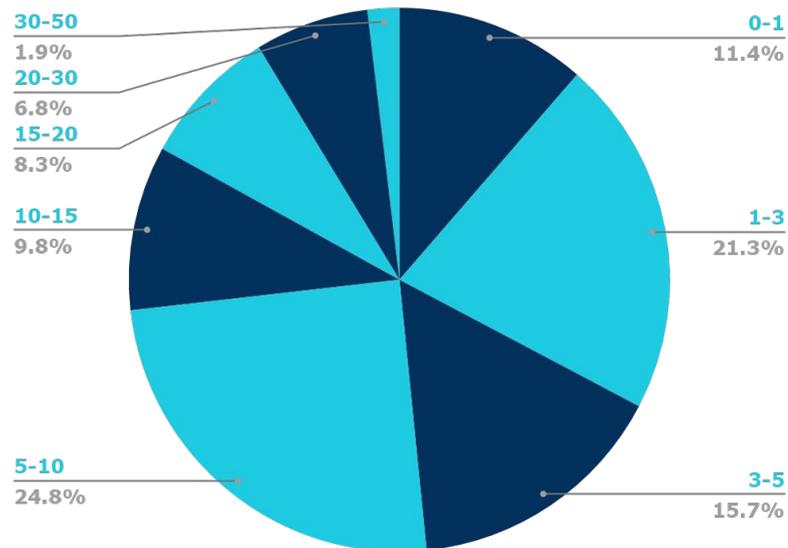
# #Furloughlife

With a combined total of over 27,908 years of experience\* Furlonteers bring an average of 9 years experience, with a minimum of 1 year experience to an incredible 50 years at the upper end. 24.8% of Furlonteers bring 5-10 years of experience in their field. Furlonteers are experienced individuals who want to share their skills with charities in this time of need. Over 73% of Furlonteers are estimated to be between 22 and 32 years old, based on their years of experience. The government to date (June 2020\*) is yet to report on the age of people on furlough. However looking at the analysis from the Institute of Fiscal Studies paired with the average years of experience of Furlonteers, it is clear to see that younger employees are being affected by the crisis.



\*Data sample April - May 2020 Furlonteer Data Sample 3308 Furlonteers

## Furlonteer's years of experience



# Positivity in isolation

In the Volunteer Experience Report from 2019, one key driver for volunteers was feeling less isolated.



**The age groups most likely to agree that their volunteering helped them feel less isolated\***

**77% 18-24 year olds**

**76% 25-34 year olds**

The majority of Furlongteers are estimated to be in these age brackets. Since the UK has been in lockdown and millions of individuals were placed on furlough, people are more isolated than ever, and many Furlongteers have fed back how important being part of something has been to them.

\*[https://www.ncvo.org.uk/images/documents/policy\\_and\\_research/volunteering/Volunteer-experience\\_Full-Report.pdf](https://www.ncvo.org.uk/images/documents/policy_and_research/volunteering/Volunteer-experience_Full-Report.pdf)



**“As I look to the future, I appreciate that it can be unnerving but that is a motivator for volunteering and channelling any negative energy into something really positive”**

Furlongteer Q&A  
with Yasemin Gumushan

# Gender equality in the age of Covid-19



**“Young women are disproportionately likely to work in the sectors that have been worst affected by the lockdown and are facing financial difficulties as a result. 36 per cent of young women, compared to 25 per cent of young men”**

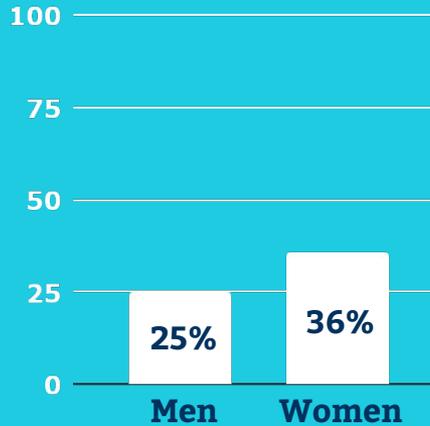
Young Womens Trust: Undervalued and Underpaid Report  
[https://www.youngwomenstrust.org/assets/0001/3589/Ignored\\_\\_Undervalued\\_and\\_Underpaid\\_Report.pdf](https://www.youngwomenstrust.org/assets/0001/3589/Ignored__Undervalued_and_Underpaid_Report.pdf)

# Gender equality in the age of Covid-19

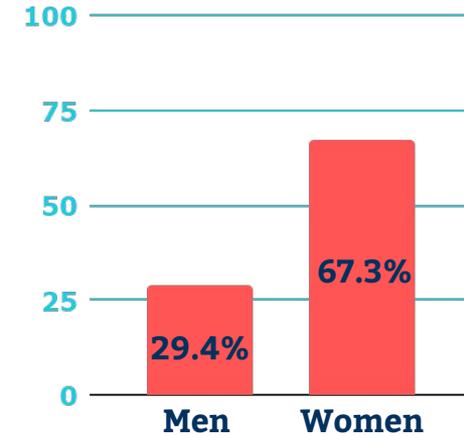
Signing up to Furlonteer, there has been more women than men sign up to volunteer, with just over 67% of Furlonteers being female. This is over 15% more women than reported in the National Survey on Volunteer Experience 2019, which shows a fairly even divide of men and women volunteering. The government is yet to cover the data of age and gender of employees on the claims for the job retention scheme\*, but reports from The Women's Trust show that "Young women are disproportionately likely to work in the sectors that have been worst affected by the lockdown and are facing financial difficulties as a result. 36 per cent of young women, compared to 25 per cent of young men"\*. This report is supported and uses data from the Institute of Fiscal Studies which reports that "Women were about one third more likely to work in a sector that is now shut down than men: one in six (17% of) female employees were in such sectors, compared to one in seven (13% of) male employees"\*.

As younger women are considered to be affected more in their work sectors, it is unsurprising that women make up the majority of Furlonteers.

## Facing financial difficulties as a result of lockdown



## Furlonteer gender split



\*HMRC intends to broaden the coverage of these statistics to include additional analysis such as the age and gender of employees included in claims for CJRS support\*. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/891249/Coronavirus\\_Job\\_Retention\\_Scheme\\_Statistics\\_June\\_2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/891249/Coronavirus_Job_Retention_Scheme_Statistics_June_2020.pdf)

\*Young Women's Trust: Undervalued and Underpaid Report [https://www.youngwomenstrust.org/assets/0001/3589/ignored\\_\\_Undervalued\\_and\\_Underpaid\\_Report.pdf](https://www.youngwomenstrust.org/assets/0001/3589/ignored__Undervalued_and_Underpaid_Report.pdf)

\*Institute of Fiscal Studies <https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/14791>

# The geography of Furlonteer



**As well as supporting UK charities that help individuals in the UK, Furlonteers are also helping charities like Children of Rwanda, a charity that is based in Scotland supporting children in east Africa. Furlonteer is indeed reaching all corners of the globe.**

# The geography of Furlonteer

The latest government figures show that over 2 million individuals have been furloughed in London and the South East\*, and in correlation with this the majority of Furlonteers are based in and around the capital. But like the large charities are based UK wide, so too are Furlonteers who are located all across the UK; from Lands End to Aberdeen and Northern Island. With over 8.7million individuals in the UK on furlough - Furlonteers are from all over the UK, predominantly high density population areas like Manchester, Leeds and Essex. People on furlough have signed up outside of the UK too, across Europe and all over the world, including an individual in Shanghai.

As well as supporting UK charities that help individuals in the UK, Furlonteers are also helping charities like Children of Rwanda, a charity that is based in Scotland supporting children in central Africa. Furlonteer is indeed reaching all corners of the globe.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Official Statistics 11 June 2020  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/891249/Coronavirus\\_Job\\_Retention\\_Scheme\\_Statistics\\_June\\_2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/891249/Coronavirus_Job_Retention_Scheme_Statistics_June_2020.pdf)

## United Kingdom and global locations of Furlonteers



**Communication  
is a superpower**



**20%**

**Increase in administrative skills shared  
Vs. pre-COVID19 volunteer numbers**

**Furlunteers bring an incredible range of skills, from head chefs, to dog walkers, data scientists, musicians, solicitors and zoo workers, however 2020 has also seen a vast change in the landscape of volunteering skills being shared.**

# Furlonteer Skills

2020 has seen a vast change in the landscape of volunteering, this includes the types of skills shared. Administration, communication and marketing skills came out on top for our Furlonteer's skills sets. Although this correlates with the volunteer data gathered in the Volunteer Experience Report from 2019. This year we have seen **67.26% of Furlonteers sharing administrative skills** which is over a 20% increase in this skill set compared with volunteers pre-COVID19\*. The demand for remote Furlonteers is high with 95% of volunteer roles needed by charities being fulfilled online, with the vast majority of roles having a digital focus.

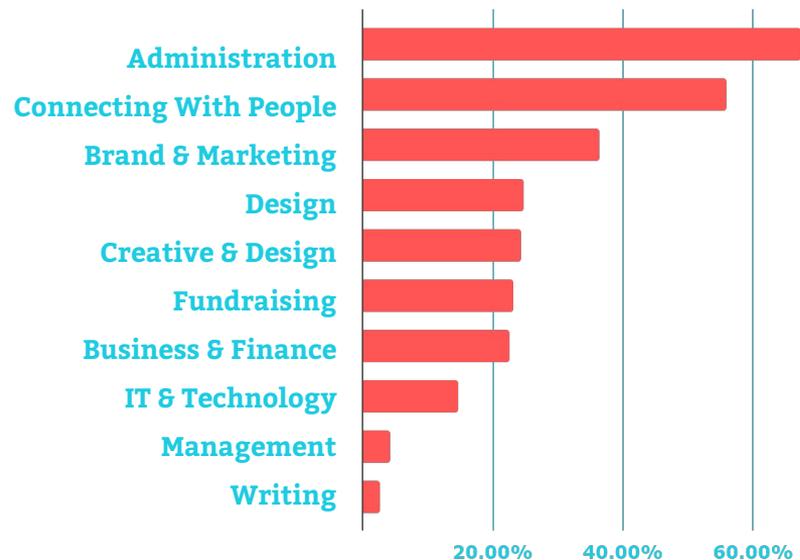
There is an incredible increase of online volunteering compared to 2019 when it was reported by NCVO's .gov survey that "volunteering most often involves a mix of online and offline activities (57%)".



**95%** Remote volunteering

\*[https://www.ncvo.org.uk/images/documents/policy\\_and\\_research/volunteering/Volunteer-experience\\_Full-Report.pdf](https://www.ncvo.org.uk/images/documents/policy_and_research/volunteering/Volunteer-experience_Full-Report.pdf)

## Top ten skills shared by Furlonteers



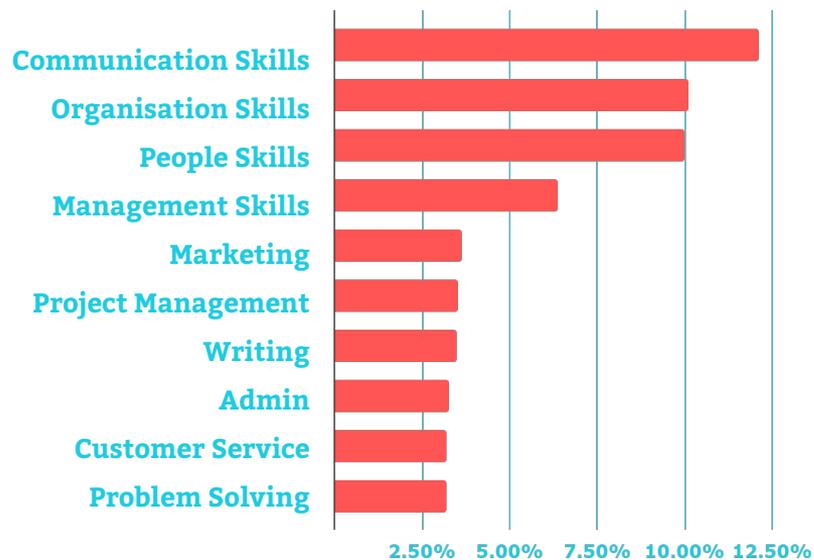
# Furlough power

The UK's volunteer landscape has changed drastically this year due to Covid19 and the charity sector is in higher demand of online support/roles. The vast majority of Furlonteers come with highly transferable skills that can be shared while volunteering remotely and that is just one of the reasons Furlonteer has fulfilled every charity volunteer role.

**For every role a charity needs Furlonteers are sharing their superpowers from communication to problem solving. Charities are in need of Furlonteers and the skills they have to share.**



## Top 10 Furlonteer SUPERPOWERS



**Charities need  
more help than  
ever**



**Fundraising**  
**Digital Marketing**  
**Social Media**

**Top 3 positions requested by  
Furlonteer charities**

**“UK charities are facing a £10.1 billion funding gap over the next six months as a result of COVID 19, with incomes expected to drop by £6.7 billion at the same time as demand for their support rises by the equivalent of £3.4 billion”**

Analysis from Pro Bono Economics (PBE)

<https://www.probonoeconomics.com/news/charities-facing-%C2%A3101-billion-funding-gap-over-next-six-months>

# Digitising at speed

Of the 191 skills that Furlonteers bring to charities, the top skill shared by Furlonteers is administration skills with 67% of individuals highlighting it as a core skill they have. The charities that signed up to Furlonteer have responded with high positivity for the skills Furlonteers bring them.

In this current climate as many brands have had to digitise at speed, charities cannot utilise their previous methods of fundraising due to social distancing. Online donations have become a priority for many charities and this is just one element that is impacting charities. With an increasing demand for their services and support, the third sector is expected to have a devastating income drop in a time when they need more help than ever.



**“A charity like ours is very small but reaches a large number of people. This means that we cannot achieve all our goals as time and money are a constant barrier to promotion. We cannot afford to buy in the expertise that our involvement with Furlonteering has given us - a social media expert, for example, would be an expense we do not have the budget for. If you give your time to a small charity with big aims you will undoubtedly be highly valued and appreciated for your skills and time”**

Sara Wilcox - CEO  
Pathways Through Dementia



## Furlonteer Charity Facts

Fundraising, digital marketing and social media roles have been the top three positions that charities are in urgent need of from Furlontees. In less than a month over 672 unique roles were requested by charities, from fundraisers to cooks, videographers and solicitors. Our Furlontees jointly bring over 13,146 invaluable skills, it is no surprise that Furlonteer fulfills every charity role.

The majority of charities are looking for more than one Furlonteer to support them, with 37% of charities in April - May 2020 requiring multiple roles varying from 2 to 11 volunteer placements and some charities have required an unlimited number of volunteers.

With over 100 new sign ups to Furlonteer everyday and over 1000 charities (and growing), it is clear that there is a demand for volunteers in the charity sector and that's why Furlontees are here to help in this crisis.



**1000+**  
Charities and rising

**37%**  
Requiring  
multiple roles  
From 2-11  
volunteer placements

**672**  
Unique roles

from fundraisers to cooks,  
videographers and solicitors

**13,146**  
Invaluable skills

**100** New sign ups to Furlonteer everyday

# Furlonteer will continue to support and help charities in every way we can

Since this data was gathered, charities signed up to Furlonteer now exceed 1000+ and Furlonteers 5000+

## Thanks to the following reports and analysis that have helped us gain a better understanding of the changing landscape of volunteering due to Covid-19:

- Analysis from Pro Bono Economics (PBE)
- NCVO Volunteer Experience Report 2019
- HMRC Job Retention Scheme Covid - 19 Statistics
- Institute of Fiscal Studies
- Young Womens Trust: Undervalued and Underpaid Report
- Furlonteer data and charity data used in this report is non-personal any individuals or charities identified have given permission for their images and quotes to be shared publicly via Furlonteer

**This report was:** Written by Stella Norris, Designed by Adam Thurland and Statistical Analysis by Michael Lindsay Bayley

**Contact us:** [hello@furlonteer.com](mailto:hello@furlonteer.com)

**Find out more:** [www.furlonteer.com](http://www.furlonteer.com)



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