



**“We are here
to serve”**

**A report documenting
faith based volunteering in
Wandsworth**

Eido Research

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research

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Executive Summary

This report documents the activities and services provided by religious groups and faith-based organisations across Wandsworth. At a time of budget cuts, changes to benefits and rising housing costs across the UK, **over £3 billion worth of time and resources is contributed nationally each year by religious organisations to support those in need.**¹ Eido Research carried out a survey of 95 religious leaders in Wandsworth to understand how their organisations sought to meet various social needs in the borough.

Findings

90%
of organisations
volunteer to help
their community

The study found that over 90% of organisations volunteer to help their community, with a total contribution of 430 projects serving 70,000 beneficiaries. This occurred through 340 paid staff activities, 3,500 volunteer roles and 270,000 hours per year. The minimum financial value of these services to the community was at least £3 million. Critically this occurred predominantly through volunteer time (75% of all hours contributed).

430
projects serving
70,000
beneficiaries

Most common activities

The most common activities were community groups, many of which targeted lonely elderly or specific social projects in the community. In total, organisations contributed 130,000 hours (equivalent to 75 full-time staff), to run 230 different community groups, which led to nearly 28,000 people being served.

Equivalent to
160
full time staff
members

The next three most popular activities: Training/coaching and counselling, providing food and housing, and groups for children and youth, all had between 40 and 100 projects each and between 35,000 and 70,000 hours invested (equivalent to between 20 and 40 full-time staff).

Paid roles and volunteer services

The majority of activities are supported by both paid and volunteer roles. It was clear some activities required a majority paid workforce, such as healthcare (100% paid) or mentoring (97% paid), however the majority of other activities were volunteer-driven in terms of time contributed.

Total financial
value at least
£3
million

Time versus effectiveness

Unsurprisingly, there was a strong relationship between the number of hours invested by an organisation and the number of people that they served. However, it was clear that some social needs, namely around social action for financial crisis, mental health, homelessness and/or refugees, were more time-intensive.

Partnership – a key opportunity

Partnership is evidently very important for volunteering in Wandsworth, with 93% organisations partnering in some way, and around 64% want closer partnerships with one or more other organisations. This presents one of the key opportunities from the research, as there are still many services with little partnership.

Opportunities

How could volunteers more effectively meet community needs?

- 1. Establish a community transformation board:** Better support, central planning and strategic thinking could bring about even greater impact through volunteering in Wandsworth. The results show that while there is a great range of activities provided, activities relating to community life are given much more time than social inclusion, social action or healthcare. These activities may be more difficult for a religious organisation to set up and run, but they could be the areas where volunteers are needed the most. The first key challenge is whether resources could be better applied to support the religious groups, enabling them to meet critical needs more effectively. As Justin Welby said, in reference to new housing needs: *“Local community transformation boards could be tasked with overseeing issues to ensure that responsibility is taken collectively. They would ensure that private developers, public sector providers and voluntary groups are all lined up to facilitate its success”.*²
- 2. Provide more professional support to volunteers:** Can the public sector provide more professional support to volunteers? Staff are sometimes able to add professional best practice, skills and experience that equip and empower many more volunteers than would be available without them. Through conversation and further research it would be possible to identify barriers to volunteering and ensure that religious groups have access to the expertise available to equip their volunteers.
- 3. Greater partnership between religious groups:** Greater partnership between religious groups themselves will help bring communities closer together. Furthermore, as local religious groups partner together it becomes less daunting for them to look at addressing some of the more significant problems in society. Appendix 2 contains a list of all the religious leaders who were willing to share their information, we hope that the information provided will be widely used to establish even stronger relationships between religious groups in the borough.

Overall, the time and energy deployed by volunteer services in Wandsworth is impressive. This is reflected in the numbers of projects and partnerships which are being run across the borough. To reach those communities that are in greatest need, this will continue to require creativity and commitment from all faith-groups as well as other agencies. Therefore, it is our hope that this research will focus and equip decision-makers across Wandsworth to consider how volunteer services can continue to thrive whilst maximising their impact and effectiveness.

¹ Cinnamon Network, Cinnamon Faith Action Audit, 2015, <http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Final-National-Report.pdf>, (accessed 1 July 2018).

² Justin Welby, *Reimagining Britain: Foundations for Hope*, 2018, Bloomsbury, London.

Introduction

The Wandsworth Faith Based Network came together to encourage faith-based volunteering in Wandsworth. There are three steps to their strategy:

- To measure the current levels of faith-based volunteering in the borough;
- To bring together a community of organisations to grow the effectiveness of volunteering; and
- To produce strategic tools that will help volunteering grow within the borough.

This report signifies the completion of the first stage of this work.

The report aims to serve local public-sector bodies, religious institutions, and the community as a whole, to gain a clearer understanding of what work is being done in Wandsworth and how the community might be better served. It summarises key findings from our research and asks the key question: “How could time and resources be allocated even more effectively?”

Our hope is that the results of this report will contribute to new conversations between religious groups and other agencies, leading to the creation of effective new partnerships, with greater impact for those who need it most.

Raising awareness of the social impact of religious organisations

Currently, the UK population is largely unaware of the social impact had by religious organisations in the nation (see article on the *Church*). However, the most recent national “*Cinnamon Faith Action Audit*” found that

churches and faith groups give over £3 billion worth of time and resources annually to support those most in need through social action projects. Therefore if government officials are to effectively manage budget cuts with minimal impact to the welfare of the most deprived communities, it is vital to grow in this understanding. It is our opinion that although it is not the responsibility of the religious groups to fill this gap, religious based volunteering is one of the key components to the solution to this problem.

‘The Cinnamon Network™ began emerging in 2010 in response to growing social need, public sector reform, increasing recognition of the role of voluntary organisations, and the economic cuts’. The Cinnamon Network have vast experience in measuring volunteering efforts which is why they were chosen as a partner organisation for this work. Their survey was selected to form the basis of this research. The research itself was carried out by Eido Research Limited™, a Wandsworth-based research organisation who specialise in measuring the impact that faith-groups and local charities are having on the community.

In addition to questions on voluntary activities, Eido interviewers also researched faith leader’s experiences with Hate Crime and their desire to partner together, both in regular meetings and also in a potential project to befriend lonely elderly in the community. These projects are each written up separately and will be available on www.eidoresearch.com as they are published.



Methodology

Between October 2017 and January 2018, 95 religious leaders were interviewed face-to-face in the London Borough of Wandsworth.

Sampling technique

There is no master list of religious institutions, so interviewers employed a “snowball” sampling technique, where each respondent was asked for introductions to all the leaders of religious groups that they personally knew. Religious organisations were also tracked through online searches and council directories. Once the list had reached 150 there seemed to be a natural point at which none of the sources that were pursued yielded any further contacts. Inevitably, there will be some groups that remain unknown to us currently. However, the religious groups that were contacted reflect a similar proportion to the religious affiliation represented in the 2011 Census by the Office for National Statistics.

	Percentage of individuals living in Wandsworth (2011 Census, ONS)	Percentage (Institutions) interviewed in the research
Christian	81%	87%
Buddhist	1%	1%
Hindu	3%	2%
Jewish	1%	1%
Muslim	12%	5%
Sikh	0.3%	2%
Other Religion	1%	1%

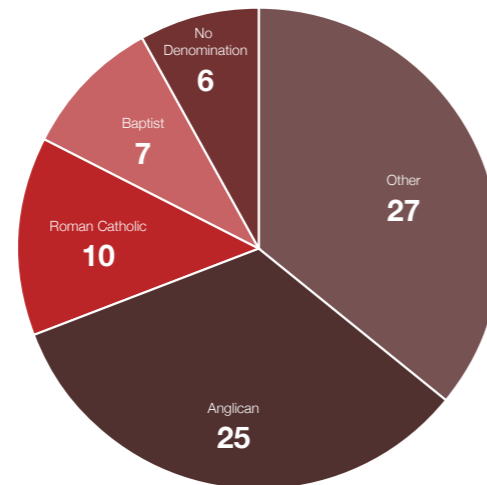
Table 1: Which religions were represented?

Response rates

This simple check has many deficiencies, but it does indicate that the sampling was not overly biased. There are slightly fewer Muslim groups represented than the proportion of individuals in the population and we observed that it was generally easier to locate and interview Christian organisations. However, because of this, all groups were contacted several times to arrange interviews, and interviewers travelled to meet the respondent at a time and place that suited them.

Using this method, Eido Research achieved 100% response rates from most minority religious organisations (all those approached were interviewed, except some of the Muslim groups). There was also a diverse range of Christian denominations included. More of some denominations were surveyed than others e.g. Anglican. However this reflects the higher proportion of Anglican churches in the area.

Number of organisations in each denomination



Interview procedure

Each interview was completed face to face and the interviewers filled out a computer questionnaire while talking to the religious leader. Leaders were asked a range of questions on the type of activities that their group were involved with, the numbers of volunteers and staff time spent and the numbers of people served. Leaders were also asked about whether they partnered with other local organisations, and whether they wanted to grow these partnerships. In many cases, leaders did not have figures to hand but emailed the interviewer their responses after the interview. However, several interviews were only partially completed as leaders were not always able to locate accurate numbers.

Researchers are therefore aware that the number of hours reported by religious organisations is, in some cases, very much lower than the number actually contributed.

By way of example, one institution that was interviewed has a staff team of over 10 and a large membership. They reported many activities being done to serve the community but were unable to supply figures for the number of volunteers or staff time used on each individual activity. The result was that the activities themselves have been added to the counts, but that in our analysis no hours were added.

This happened on several occasions with religious groups either not responding to follow up emails after the interviews, or with them not providing suitable estimates for the activities.

In addition, researchers were careful to check that hours spent on activities were not over-counted. Several activities were excluded from the analysis because the hours allocated to it were implausibly large (for example each volunteer putting in 12 hours a day, 365 days a year in a homeless shelter, which although physically possible, would be unlikely and was probably an error in the data).

Researchers are confident that the numbers published here accurately represent the activities for which figures were provided by respondents, but therefore stress that the totals are significantly below the true number of hours put in, were complete information to be available.

Financial values

Financial values are calculated by multiplying the total number of hours reported (volunteer hours plus paid hours) by the London living wage (£10.20) plus an additional £1 in recognition of management time and administrative expense.

Activities included

Only activities that serve the local community (and not those conducted for religious purposes) are included in these statistics. Organisations were able to give information on religious services or prayer meetings but these were excluded from the analysis in this report.

Cinnamon methodology

This research was conducted in partnership between Eido Research and Cinnamon. The questionnaire, and methodology for many of the calculations were provided by Cinnamon. Further information on the definitions and methodology used in the Cinnamon survey, including how hours are aggregated can be found in the methodology section of any of their published Faith Action Audits.

Summary

In summary, the Eido Research team are pleased to have engaged with a wide range of faith groups, reflecting the community at large, and to have received such high response rates. Despite the general undercount of activity, the numbers published in this report are both impressive, and reflective of the organisations who took part fully.

We are very grateful to the religious communities in Wandsworth for their participation.



Volunteer activities: an analysis



Overview

95 of the 150 groups responded to the survey and 86 of the groups interviewed actively volunteer to help their community.

90% of the leaders interviewed were from religious places of worship whilst the other 10% from faith-based charities.

The table below summarises the **overall contribution of the projects.**

Wandsworth summary	
Total number of faith groups	86
Total number of volunteer hours per year	200,000
Total volunteer roles per year	3,500
Total paid roles per year	340
Total paid hours per year	68,000
Total number of people served per year	70,000
Total number of projects done	430
Total financial value	at least £3.02 million

Total hours are
the equivalent of
160
full-time staff

The total number of hours (volunteer + paid) is the equivalent of 160 full-time staff.

Where activities were solely for religious purposes, for example prayer groups or Bible studies, they were not counted below or in the following analyses. We included all other activities that served the wider needs of the community.

1) What activities are provided

Breakdown of projects by type of activity

The following table shows the contribution to 25 different types of activity, by number of projects and total time contributed:

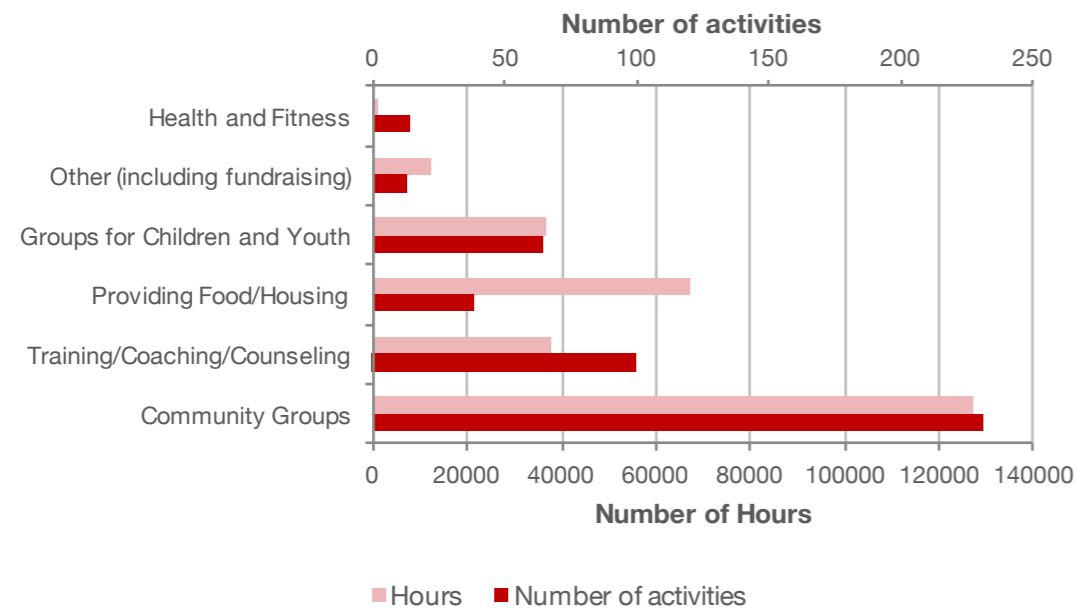
Group of activity	Type of activity	No. Projects*	Total hours	Hours / project
Providing food / housing	Accommodation	1	210	210
	Alms	11	4,100	370
	Facilities	3	10,000	3,300
	Foodbank	9	17,000	1,900
	Night Shelter	6	3,700	620
	Providing meals	8	32,000	4,000
Community groups	Befriending	43	17,000	400
	Community Activity	166	98,000	590
	Community Group	22	12,000	550
Groups for children & youth	Children & Youth	17	8,100	480
	Family Support	11	1,300	120
	Playgroup	36	27,000	750
Health & fitness	Fitness Activity	12	890	74
	Healthcare	2	140	70
Training / coaching / counselling	Counselling/ Advice	14	700	50
	Debt Advice	2	530	270
	Drop in Centre	10	6,900	690
	Job Club	4	2,900	730
	Mentoring	2	140	70
	Personal Support	33	21,000	640
	Training education	35	5,600	160
Other	Fundraising for community	13	12,000	920

*These figures differ from the high-level numbers in the summary table above, as the latter were calculated using Cinnamon's method whereas the detail above was calculated by Eido at survey level, which has led to a slight discrepancy in final totals.



These are grouped into five main categories or types of activity: providing food/housing, community groups, groups for children and youth, training / coaching / counselling, and other. The number of activities and time contributed for each group is shown below:

Number of activities & hours contributed to different categories



It is clear that **there are more projects and hours invested in community groups than any other category**, with 230 projects and 130,000 hours invested (equivalent to 75 full-time staff). However training/coaching/counselling, providing food/housing and groups for children and youth all have between 40 and 100 projects each, and between 35,000 and 70,000 hours invested (equivalent to between 20 and 40 full-time staff).

In terms of the number of hours invested in each project, many more hours were spent on activities providing food and housing per project than the other categories. Specifically this related to facilities, foodbank and providing meals.

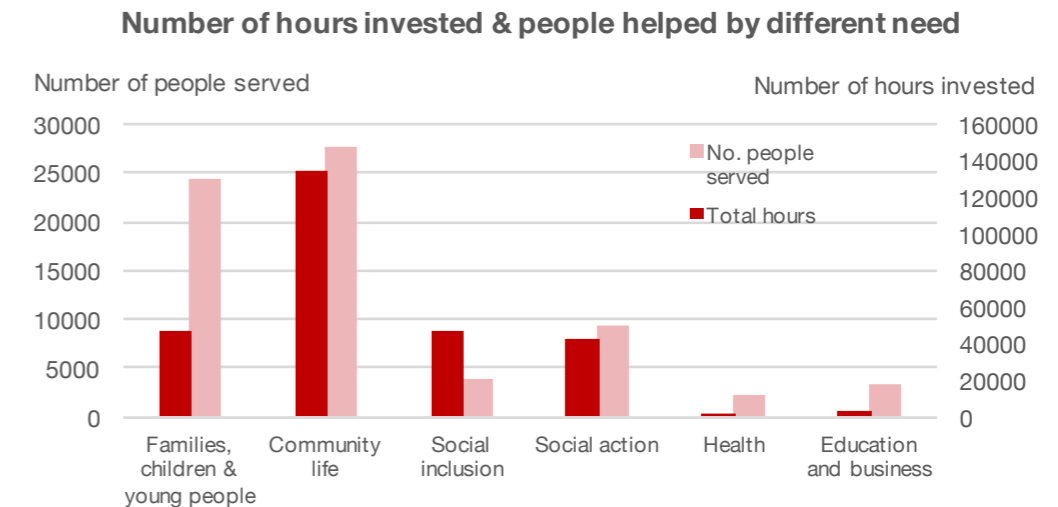
230 projects and 130,000 hours invested in community groups



2) What is the impact?

Having understood some of the patterns in terms of how volunteer efforts are invested in different activities in Wandsworth, this section looks at what the impact of those activities are. We examine the number of people served according to different categories of need, and then investigate the effect of paid versus voluntary work.

Breakdown of projects by group of need



There are many needs where around or above 3,000 people are served, including all categories of families, children and young people, helping the aged and vulnerable, and those in financial crisis. **The number of people served through 'community life' was by far the greatest, at nearly 28,000 individuals.**

The graph shows that 'community life' as a need certainly receives the largest share of hours and has the largest number of people served, but families, children and young people, also help over 20,000 individuals.

The number of hours invested tends to match up with the number of people served. In fact, across all needs categories, there is a strong correlation between total hours and number of people served. **Social inclusion as a group of needs is an exception however, with many fewer people served relative to time invested.** This degree of time intensity is to be expected however, given the complex problems being addressed for example helping the elderly and vulnerable people.

More specifically as can be seen in the graph above, the numbers show how a relatively large number of families, children, and young people, are served compared to hours invested. This is understandable as they are activities that can address large numbers at one time.

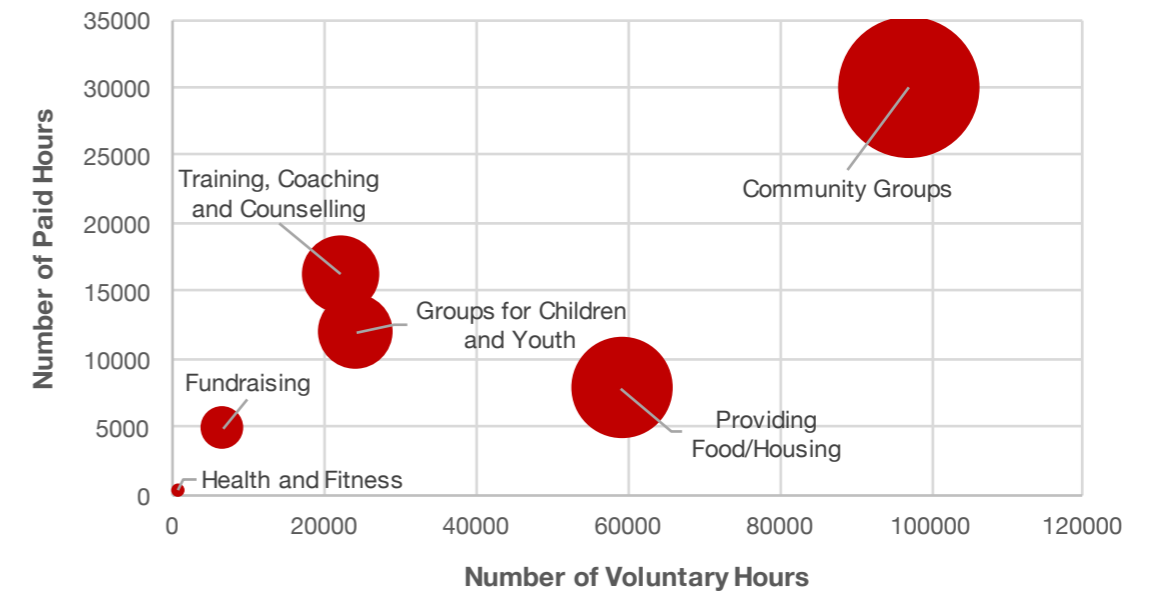
It is important to note that the hours to people served ratio does not capture the depth and impact of support that projects give to individuals; it only captures the breadth of how many are affected by the programmes. Thus investing many hours in helping a few individuals is not necessarily a bad use of time, as the impact may be deep and long-lasting compared to serving many individuals through another programme that has no lasting impact.

Breakdown of Paid versus voluntary work

The table below shows the number of volunteer hours and paid hours for each activity surveyed.

Group of activity	Activity	Volunteer hours	Paid hours	Percentage volunteer hours
Providing food / housing	Accommodation	180	25	88%
	Alms	4,100	14	100%
	Facilities	7,800	2,200	78%
	Foodbank	14,000	3,000	82%
	Night shelter	3,100	660	82%
	Providing meals	30,000	2,000	94%
Community groups	Befriending	13,000	4,500	74%
	Community activity	73,000	25,000	74%
	Community group	11,000	480	96%
Groups for children & youth	Children & youth	5,000	3,100	62%
	Family support	1,200	120	91%
	Playgroup	18,000	8,800	67%
Health & fitness	Fitness activity	660	230	74%
	Healthcare	0	140	0%
Training / coaching / counselling	Counselling / advice	490	210	70%
	Debt advice	320	210	60%
	Drop in centre	6,000	2,000	75%
	Job Club	2,100	770	73%
	Mentoring	4	140	3%
	Personal support	8,500	12,000	41%
	Training education	4,700	900	84%
Other	Fundraising	6,700	4,900	58%

The graph below represents this data as circles for each of the activities. How far they are along the horizontal axis reflects how many volunteer hours were contributed, how far up the vertical axis reflects how many paid hours, and the size of the bubble reflects the total hours contributed.



The graph shows that the majority of activities are supported by both volunteer and paid roles to some degree. Training, coaching and teaching has the highest proportion of paid hours. However, providing food and housing has the highest proportion of voluntary hours. This might be indicative of the skill-sets required to adequately meet the needs in these areas.

Some activities required a majority paid workforce, for example healthcare (100% paid staff), and mentoring (97%). However the majority were predominantly volunteer time-driven, with an average of 75% volunteers hours amongst the rest of the activities.

Considering the number of people served and the percentage of volunteer labour, there seems to be a relationship between the number of paid staff and the number of people being served.

Looking at the pattern according to religious group, all of the religious groups contributed voluntary time across a number of different activities.

Buddhist groups contributed significant voluntary time to training and education; Hindu groups to fitness and community activities; Muslim to debt advice, fundraising, job club, playgroup, community groups, and alms; Jewish to training and education; and Sikh to providing meals. Christian groups contributed significant time to most of the activities.

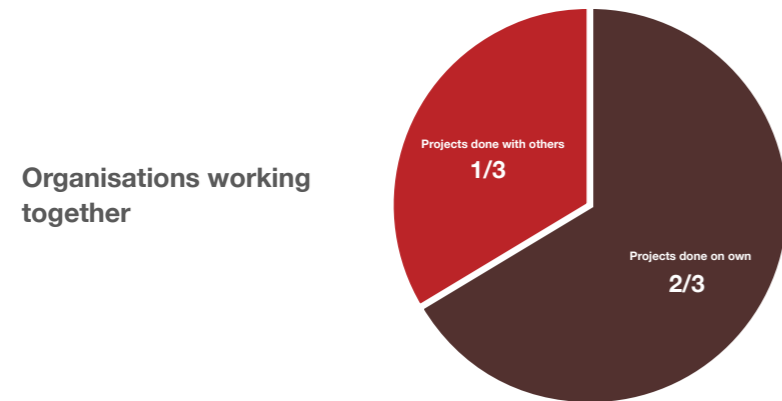
By contrast in terms of paid staff time, outside Christian groups only Hindu groups contributed to community activities, and Sikh to counselling and advice.



3) How important is partnership?

The following section examines the partnerships between various organisations and projects they run. It shows the degree of partnership across organisations, then analyses this by time spent on projects and finally investigates what type of projects are run in partnership.

Extent of partnership between organisations



2/3 projects in total were carried out on their own, compared with 1/3 with others. Per organisation, this was an average of 3.5 projects carried out on their own, and 1.8 with others.

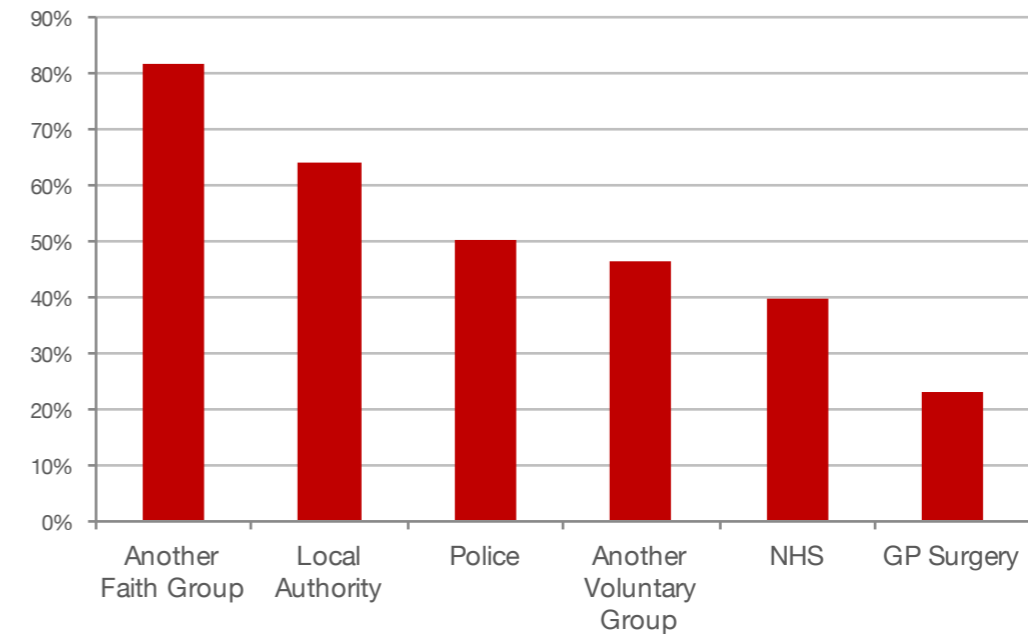
93% of organisations work with another in some way.

Breaking this down:

- 81% partnered with another faith group
- 64% of organisations partnered with the local authority
- 50% with the police
- 40% with the NHS
- 23% with GPs

The graph on page 17 clearly shows that despite only 33% of projects carried out in partnership, overall organisations in Wandsworth partner with many other institutions. Partnership is particularly high with other faith groups and with the Local Authority. 60 organisations say they partner with the Local Authority in some way, asking the question of what is available through that partnership? Partnership is also between 20% and 50% with the police, NHS and doctors, which raises the question of whether all parties are getting the best out of those interactions.

Percentage of Organisations who Partner with Others



Desire for greater partnership

Whilst organisations in Wandsworth partner to a large degree with others, the survey also showed that **a large proportion of organisations were keen for closer partnerships with other organisations,** specifically:

- 42% said they would like closer partnership with another faith group,
- 42% with GPs,
- 41% with the local authority,
- 38% with the NHS, and
- 38% with the police

Overall, **64% want a closer relationship with another organisation.** There is a need to work out how to facilitate this interest, given the number of critical issues that need to be addressed in partnership (see following table).

On the other hand, there was still 36% of leaders who were not keen on closer partnership with anyone.

Levels of Partnership by activity

Analysing the survey data by number of hours for each project working in partnership, we can see which specific activities were mainly addressed in partnership, and which not. The following table shows the number of hours spent on each activity in partnership, and not, and the percentage partnership time.

Group of Activity	Activity	Partnership time (hours)	Not part. time (hours)	% time as partnership
Providing Food / Housing	Accommodation	210	-	100%
	Alms	1,600	2,500	39%
	Facilities	10,000	-	100%
	Foodbank	15,000	2,000	88%
	Night Shelter	3,700	-	100%
	Providing meals	3,100	29,000	10%
Community Groups	Befriending	5,100	12,000	29%
	Community Activity	29,000	70,000	29%
	Community Group	2,200	9,500	19%
Groups for Children & Youth	Children & Youth	1,800	6,300	22%
	Family Support	140	1,200	11%
	Playgroup	160	27,000	1%
Health & Fitness	Fitness Activity	410	480	46%
	Healthcare	140	-	100%
Training / Coaching / Counselling	Counselling/ Advice	90	610	13%
	Debt Advice	530	-	100%
	Drop in Centre	2,000	5,200	87%
	Job Club	350	2,500	12%
	Mentoring	140	4	97%
	Personal Support	16,000	4,900	77%
	Training education	3,400	2,200	61%
Other	Fundraising	1,000	11,000	9%
Total / average		100,000	170,000	50% (avg)

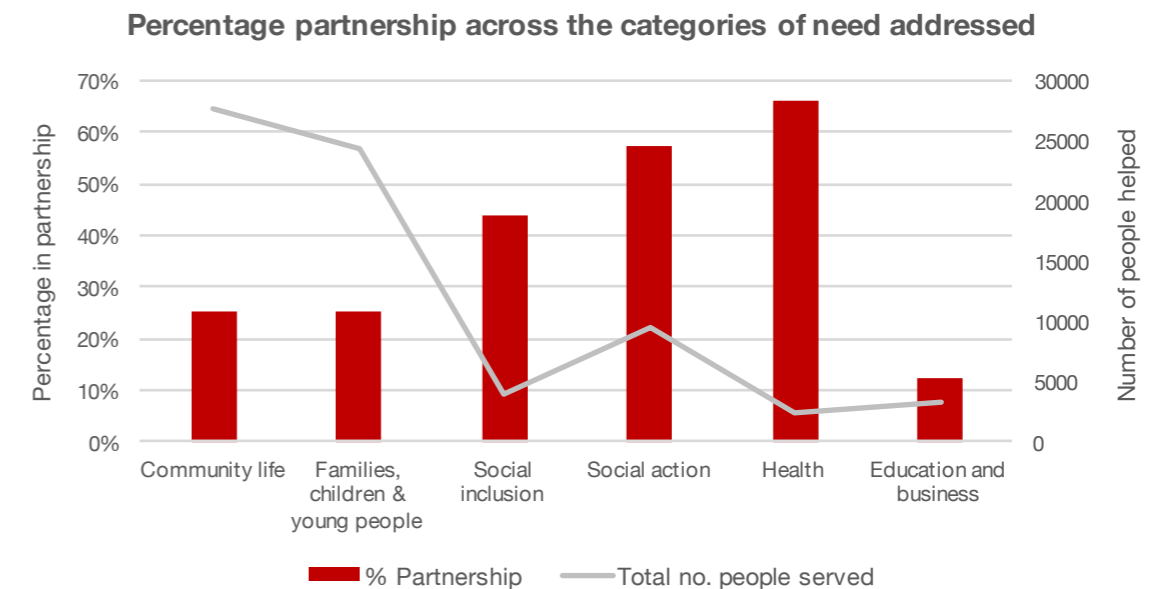
The previous table shows that **there is a large range of degree of partnership, for different activities**. Some are entirely carried out in partnership, for example accommodation, facilities, night shelter, and healthcare. This is probably because each of those activities requires partnership with a local authority to deliver the service. Very few are delivered entirely by one organisation, with the exception of playgroup and fundraising which both had less than 10% time in partnership.

According to the activity groups, **the children and youth activities were on average carried out less in partnership than the others**, probably because of the sensitive nature of running these groups. **Overall, the average degree of partnership for an activity was 50%.**

Investigating whether there is a relationship between types of need and degree of partnership, the graph below shows the percentage partnership for the six main groups of needs (with number of people served also shown):

The six main categories (along the horizontal axis) are all addressed through different proportions of time in partnership, but it is clear that **social action needs are addressed more in partnership**. This is specifically because homelessness and refugees issues were both addressed by 90% of time invested in partnership, as complex issues that likely require multiple agencies involved.

What is clear from investigating the hours spent in partnership that while there are some areas that already show strong partnership, for example social action and health, there are others where there is opportunity to encourage partnership further. This might not always be possible given the logistics of running the service e.g. children's groups, but certainly **for community life there is much greater potential for partnership (currently only at 25%)**.



What do you wish the community could know about your organisation?

46% of respondents wanted the local community to know that their organisation was there for them. “We’re open! I wish there were more ways which we could publicize our events”, said one faith group leader. “We’re here and we care”, added another. Indeed, in many regards, this desire for their community to know that their organisation existed, was part of a larger desire to serve and transform lives. “We’re here to serve, to help and we’re just here for them”, said one charity leader. “We’re here for anybody and everybody and no issue is too big or too small”, added another. “It’s important to come and visit us - we’re open and we’re happy and welcoming! If people knew about us and what we believe in there may be less hate crime (fear of the unknown).”

Following this initial desire to be known, was the sentiment that everyone was welcome. Here again 46% of respondents gave an answer along these lines. “We’re an open, diverse and welcoming community of local people committed to seeing our neighbourhood flourish”, said one leader. “The church exists to serve others. We’re not a member’s club!”, added another. “A place that is safe and open to all”, said a third. Indeed, there was often an emphasis on making sure that groups who may have often felt isolated or rejected by faith groups in the past, felt welcomed and included. “We’re open to anyone - we want to love everyone. We’d be very willing for anyone to come in, we don’t think you have to be a certain way/person to come to church. Jesus loved everyone and we want to extend that love to everyone”.

Finally, a large number of responses (25%) wanted their community to know that they were focused on bringing positive transformation to the area. “We do things for the community because we do it for the community - no ulterior motive. No hidden agenda”, said one faith group.



“We’re an open, diverse and welcoming community of local people committed to seeing our neighborhood flourish”

Conclusion

A Significant Contribution

This study has shown that, just as in the rest of the UK, churches and faith groups in Wandsworth contribute significantly to address various social needs in the borough. 90% of the groups surveyed provide volunteer services (in addition to their religious services), with over 270,000 hours given to the community from paid staff and volunteers adding a minimum of £3.02 million in financial value and serving 70,000 local residents.

Building Community

In terms of needs addressed nearly 28,000 people in Wandsworth are served by religious organisations community building activities. Due to the numbers of people suffering from loneliness in modern society, the importance of these activities should not be overlooked. However, more complex social issues such as homelessness and serving refugee communities are extremely time intensive. Many such activities could benefit from increased volunteer activity.

Strategic oversight

Better support, central planning and strategic thinking could bring about even greater impact through volunteering in Wandsworth. In his book, ‘Reimagining Britain: Foundations for Hope’, Justin Welby suggests that ‘local community transformation boards’ could be set up to oversee local issues. “They would ensure that private developers, public sector providers and voluntary groups are all lined up to facilitate success”.

Boosting effectiveness through paid staff expertise

The majority of activities are ‘volunteer-driven’ in terms of proportion of time contributed. However, the relationship between the proportion of paid staff time and the number of people helped suggests that paid staff boost the effectiveness of volunteers in many activities. Whilst conclusions from the research can only go so far, if the public sector, or organisations with professional expertise in projects, were to partner increasingly with volunteers in religious groups, these patterns suggest that Wandsworth residents could be served more effectively.

Expanding Partnerships

Partnership is strong across the borough with 93% of organisations partnering in some way with another organisation. Given the degree of partnership with public authorities, we ask whether the public is getting the most value from these interactions. Are the council, the NHS, doctors and the police- and indeed the religious institutions- making the most out of these relationships and the increased effectiveness that could come through them?

Engaging Opportunities

There is also a clear opportunity for more here as 66% of projects are still run on their own. Specifically there is a large range across the activities, with many of those addressing community life lacking much partnership activity. Given the huge amount of time and resource invested in meeting 'community life' needs, there is potentially an opportunity here to meet some of those needs through partnership and free up resource from these organisations for more time-intensive activities such as providing food and housing.

Pursuing relationships between religious groups

66% of projects are run on their own and many of these individually run projects address 'community life'. There is potentially an opportunity here that if more of these projects were run through partnership, resources could be freed up for more time-intensive activities such as providing food and housing.

Partnerships across religions were still uncommon and it was interesting that the response rates from Muslim groups were slightly lower than others in carrying out the survey. If this is indicative of other opportunities to 'speak out', this could be a concern for the public-sector organisations who aim to form relationships and represent all people groups living in the borough. Perhaps Muslim voices are under-represented elsewhere too? We recommend that organisations make a particular effort to engage across religions and sectors whenever possible because this in itself serves society, breaking down divisions and bringing neighbours closer together.

Moving Forward

The research shows that there is an enthusiasm across a good proportion of the organisations (64%) for greater partnership. This should be explored further in terms of strategy and efficiency.

As a result of the research, a group of religious organisations in Balham have decided to partner together to care for lonely elderly in the area together. We hope that this will prove a successful pilot for many other projects and that the people of Wandsworth will benefit significantly from this work. Strategic gains for meeting specific needs.

“Coordinated partnership between faith groups could provide strategic gains for meeting specific needs”

Epilogue

Early outcomes

As a result of this work, 10 Balham churches have already partnered together to make a coordinated effort to target lonely elderly people in the area. They have co-funded a feasibility study to establish what is already being provided locally and highlight where the most difference can be made. New volunteers will then be trained and begin serving in this vital area of need

A message of thanks to our funders and participants

We would firstly like to thank the 95 religious organisations who took the time to provide us with the information in this report. Thank you for all you contribute to our community, and for so kindly sharing your information with us. Secondly, we offer our special thanks to Allia and the Wandsworth Council for funding this research and making the project possible. Finally, we would like to thank Charlie Arbuthnot for bringing together this group of individuals and organisations who have achieved this project and putting many hours of his own time into achieving this work. We hope that this report is a stepping-stone that enables increased partnership, cohesion and ultimately, increased wellbeing and community togetherness throughout the Borough of Wandsworth.



Appendix 1: List of nationally recognised projects

In addition to the projects described above, Christian organisations often contributed some of their volunteer hours to larger faith-based organisations who work throughout the UK. These hours have not been included as part of this report (except for 'Street Pastors' and 'Trussell Trust FoodBank' who provided Wandsworth specific figures)

The following table shows a list of nationally recognised organisations that Wandsworth religious groups contribute voluntary time.

List of Recognised Christian Projects	Number of Groups Involved
CAP Debt Help	24
CAP Job Clubs	5
CAP Life Skills	4
CAP Release Groups	6
Christmas lunch on Jesus	1
Community Money Advice	1
Hope Into Action	2
Housing Justice Night Shelter	6
Kids Matter	1
Parish Nursing	1
Resurgo Spear	1
Street Angels	2
Street Pastors	19
TLG Early Intervention	1
Trussell Trust FoodBank	30
Who let the Dads out?	1
Word 4 Weapons	2

Appendix 2: List of contacts

Here is a list of all the organisations who consented to share their information with the borough to facilitate increased partnership.

Organisation	Postcode	Contact Email	Projects
Church of the Ascension	SW12 8EN	office@ascensionbalham.org	Toddler Group, Spiritual workout - soulfit, Night shelter, Love Balham, Elderly work - holiday at home, Minikid house -Nursing home, Chaplaincy to Ronald Gibson House, Queen Elizabeth House,
Earlsfield Baptist Church	SW18 3NZ	gavincarpenter.ebc@gmail.com	Foodbank, Aiki-robics, Coffee morning, Parent-toddler group, Over 6s club, Girls Brigade, Craft activity, Film club
Life Tabernacle Church	SW114HY	admin@lifetablondon.com	Drama - estate and in church, Open air concert, Over 6s, Youth club - Wednesday nights LCYC, Youth Club - Friday nights, Love in a Box, New life Saturday School, Monkey Music,
Khalasa Centre Gurdwra	SW17 7TW	contact@khalasacenter.co.uk	Springfield Hospital - disabled day, Tooting broadway food offering, English lessons, Music lessons, Punjabi classes, Children's sports day, Daily lunch, Surgery for immigration,
Regenerate RISE	SW151DA	jackiemclaughlan@regenerate-rise.co.uk	Lunch for the elderly, Kings and queens, Bingo, Quizzes, Discussions and talks, Outings, Church outings, Saturday café,
St Michael's Southfields	SW18 5TT	steve@stmikes-ststeves.org.uk	Religious1, Assylum seeking families, Religious1, Community choir, Religious1, Network for au pairs, Community lunch for the vulnerable isolated community, Community football club
St Anselm's RC Church	SW178BS	tomg87@hotmail.co.uk	Mums and toddlers group, Caring kitchen, Bereavement group, Parish shop, Religious1, Over 6s, Soup and sandwiches, Coffee mornings,
St Anne's Church, Wandsworth	SW182RS	vicar@pepperpotchurch.org.uk	Religious1, Religious1, Religious1, BEST - prison visiting services looking out for foreign nationals - financially too, Community matters - regular Sunday lunches for the elderly, every 6 weeks, Homestart - contact Carol, Glassdoor and sponsored sleep in., Messy church/toddler group,
Fresh Ground London, Church of the Nazarene	SW11 1EQ	michelle.freshgroundlondon@gmail.com	Youth work, Stay and Play, Community Gospel Choir, Carol Service, Pancake Parlour, Fitness class, Café

Organisation	Postcode	Contact Email	Projects
Yahweh Christian Fellowship	SW170JD	bishopnoel@ycfinternational.co.uk	Counselling service - open to all, Mentoring scheme, Senior citizens club, Prayer surgery?, Food program, Family matters for young parents and children, Friday night with....
St Nicholas Tooting	SW17 9PP	abi@stnicholastooting.org.uk	Over 6s group, Mums/parents and Toddlers, Dads and toddlers group, Brunch at the listening rooms, Children's holiday club, Book table, Holiday at home,
New Testament Assembly	SW177BU	ffbnta1@gmail.com	Isaiah 58 foodbank, Christmas Hamper, Summer activities week for children, DMD, Family therapy, Strengthening families, Marriage and relationship ministry,
Mitcham Lane Baptist Church	SW16 6NT	admin@mlbc.org.uk	Local schools - visits, Local schools mentoring, Christmas concerts and nativities and Easter service, CAP debt help, CAP money course, Holiday at home, Mens breakfast,
Gatton Mosque Youth group	SW17 0EZ	info@gattonmosque.co.uk	Youth group, Playgroup, Self confidence and drama workshops, Kick boxing and self defence, Jewellery making and DIY calsses, Horse riding,
St Mary's, Putney	SW15 1SN	laura.fawcett@parishofputney.co.uk	Glassdoor, Afterservice lunch, Toddler group, Thursday toddler, Senior social, Charity - fundraising
St Mary Magdalen	SW17 7HP	info@smmwandsworth.org.uk	Wandsworth Prison Bible study, Springfield hospital, Ronald Gibson house, Brownies, Rainbows and Guides and Rangers, Magdalene Players - drama, Jumble sale
St James' Church	SW16 6NT	admin_stjameschurch@btinternet.com	Parent and toddler, Open youth club, After school childrens clubs, Friendship circle, Holiday at home, The Well
Putney and Roehampton Methodist Churches	SW15 6SN	geoffrey.farrar@methodist.org.uk	Supporting prison chaplaincy, Meditation - mental wellbeing, Over 6s lunch club, Parent and toddler group, Foot clinic, Men in sheds,
Our Lady and St Peter	SW19 6AD	wimolsp@gmail.com	Annual Christmas fair, Christmas carol service, Christmas meal, International meal, Pilates class, Music evening
Holy Ghost Balham	SW12 8QJ	office@hgbalham.com	Youth group, Mother and toddler group, Tuesday friends, Visiting schemes, Counselling, Christmas lunch
All Saints and Holy Trinity	SW19 6SP	vicar@wandsworthparish.co.uk	Trinity Tots, After school group, Annual BBQ, Civic Services, Wandsworth Town Centre Partnership, Events with National Opera Studio,
Summerstown Mission Evangelical Church	SW17 0BY	peterbines@virginmedia.com	Over 55's - COM club, Youth group 9-16s, Minis and minders, Messy church, Harvest supper, Carol supper

Organisation	Postcode	Contact Email	Projects
East Hill Baptist Church	SW182HD	info@easthillbaptist.org	Community toddler group - minis and minders, Religious1, Community breakfast, Young adults on Friday night, Religious, Ladies support group - Tuesday fellowship
Balham SDA Church	SW17 8AD	errol.anderson1966@gmail.com	Supporting foodbanks, Distribution of clothes, Hospital visitation - singing at St George's, Health Expo - offering health advice and support, Senior club
Icthus Southcroft Church	SW166NU	southcroftchurchadmin@gmail.com	Gospel Club, Crofta coffee - drop in, Jam - youth club, Community table - homelessness project, Christmas Lunch
Kairos Centre	SW154JA	michael.ohalloran@psmsg.org.uk	Christmas party for Senior Citizens, Roehampton forum, Local Wandsworth Council training, Kingston NHS Trust, Francis Taylor Foundation,
Ransom Pentecostal African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church	SW111BP	info@ransom.amezionuk.org	Art exhibition, Summer school, Career guidance programme, Youth excursions and dinners/sports days, Youth meetings - topical issues
Redeemed Christian Church of God	SW19 8TB	rccglwp@hotmail.com	Clean streets, Visit 2 elderly homes, Elderly help - gardening etc summer projects, Counselling, Marriage counselling,
St Margaret's Church ,Putney	SW155HU	jpaine860@btinternet.com	Tea and social, Hire of church halls - playgroup, pilates, brownies, Brownies, Ashmead Care Home visits, Christmas fair - tree festival,
St Michael's, Battersea	SW116SP	vicar@stmichaelsbattersea.org	St Michael's day centre - regenerate Rise, Brownies, Choirs and orchestras, Local schools - concerts and plays, Battersea Welcomes Refugees,
The Boathouse Church Putney	SW15 1LY	ben@theboathousechurch.co.uk	First Aid Course, Boathouse sessions, Art and photography day, Junior Jivers, Carols in the pub,
Balham Baptist Church	SW128QX	steve@balhambaptist.co.uk	Mother and toddler group, Drop in centre for the elderly, Exercise class for the elderly, Christmas meal for the elderly,
Balham Community Church	SW12 8JL	office@balhamcommunitychurch.com	Prepare and enrich, Street party, Small conference, Outreach at homeless hostel Nightingale Sq.
Community Church Putney	SW15 2LL	office@communitychurchputney.com	Mental health outreach, Half term kids club, Youth club,
Clapham Baptist Church	SW8 3JL	pastor@claphambaptist.com	Fundraising for Ace of Clubs, Girl guides, Table tennis club, Hebe foundation
St Augustine's and Holy Trinity	SW170EF and SW177RH	ap.davey@btinternet.com	Carer and baby group, Homeless support café, Local care home visit, Community fun day
Sacred Heart RC Church, and Our Lady Mt Carmel Church	SW11 3DS	gerryosdb@aol.com	Youth mentoring, Care of the elderly - home visits, Phillipino chaplaincy, Race nights/Christmas dance - community events,

Organisation	Postcode	Contact Email	Projects
St Michael's Day Centre	SW116SP	antonyvanderwalt@regenerate-rise.co.uk	Lunch every day, Bingo weekly, Daily activity, Pastoral work,
West Hill Baptist Church	SW181PU	andrewottley@hotmail.com	Community lunch - Lunch and listen, Lyle House, MacMillan Coffee Morning, Foodbank reserves for anyone in need.
Holy Trinity Roehampton	SW15 4LA	mckinneyja@hotmail.com	6 plus café, Jacob's Well, Older people's Christmas lunch, ROAM - roehampton outdoor activities movement,
Wandsworth Quakers	SW18 2PT	susiepaskins@gmail.com	School visits, Adult visits - walks and talks, MacMillan Coffee afternoon, Open house,
Welsh Chapel Clapham	SW11 1PQ	info@welshchapelclapham.com	Local choir, Playgroup, London welsh male rugby choir,
Be Enriched	SW179NQ	kemi@be-enriched.org	Two canteens - Tooting and Battersea, Cooking force, Battersea Arts Centre - food waste,
CraftedLondon	SW185TT	hello@craftedlondon.co.uk	Kids art workshops, Birthday parties, Parent and toddler groups,
Salvation Army Balham	SW129AH	ailsa.flinders@salvationarmy.org.uk	Charity Shop, Saturday fellowship evening, Cheeky monkey
Tooting URC	SW179NQ		Tooting Tots, Graveney Canteen - see Be Enriched, Sun Project,
Christ Church, Balham	SW12 8JA	jules@christchurchbalham.org.uk	Balham Boppers, Dangerous Club, Ignite Extra,
Christ Church and St Stephen's	SW11 2PN		War memorial community event, Host Community christmas tea party with school, Homeless interaction,
Radha Krishna Temple	SW129AL	prey111@hotmail.com	Saturday breakfast and tea, Connected with home office and immigration -, School visits,
Ascension, Lavender Hill	SW11 5TU	icyalh@googlemail.com	Weekly drop in centre - Lavender Circle, Concert with the hospital
New Testament Church of God	SW18 2RS	nctgwandsworth@gmail.com	Coffee morning, Gospel concerts,
St Joseph's Catholic Church, Roehampton	SW15 4LE		Elderly Christmas lunch, Visit to the hospital,
St Andrew's URC Balham	SW120LZ	bob.allen@sky.com	Craft group, Coffee morning, 0,
Wandsworth Foodbank	SW11 1EJ	dan@wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk	Foodbank,
St Barnabus Southfields	SW185EP	iantattum@gmail.com	Annual Harvest Festival, Glassdoor, Mums and Toddlers Friday, Over 6s - Monday club, Riversdale school, Southfields academy, Assemblies, Rock concert, Resident theatre groups - Cygnate players, Southfields Theatre group, Wandsworth Symphony Orchestra, Asmina Collective,

Organisation	Postcode	Contact Email	Projects
Trinity Road Chapel	SW17 7HW	trinityroadchapel.org	Café, Parent toddler group, Children's groups, Shaping up, Care home ministry, School's Assemblies/ Lessons/Visits, Prison team visits, Lunch club, Bible holiday club, Bellevue summer fair, Railway club,
Tooting Junction Baptist Church	SW17 9LD	admin@tjbc.org.uk	Toddlers group, Friends and neighbours, Walking for health, Class for meditation, Sports club, Film club, Pastoral visits, Spires, Crafts for seniors, Festivals and BBQs for the community, Building cultural intelligence,
St Simon's, Putney	SW15 6LU	stsimonputney@aol.com	Foodbank, Night shelter, Refugee project, OAP senior citizens social group, Mother and toddler group,
St Mary and St John the Divine	SW12 9BS	vicar@stmarybalham.org.uk	Balham lights - Christmas festival, Spires, Mary's little lambs, South London Refugee association, Brownies and Guides
Battersea Mosque	SW11 2PF	info@icecbattersea.org.uk	Involvement with local redevelopment group, Providing food to public
St Andrew's Earlsfield	SW18 3QF	vicar@standrewsearlsfield.org	5 Churches youth group, Community café,
Jegatheswaram Temple	SW17 9NJ	sunmoonlondon@gmail.com	Elderly community group, Yoga,
Street Pastors Wandsworth	Baptist Church	wandsworth@streetpastors.org.uk	Schools pastors ministry, Street pastoring,
The Wimbledon Synagogue	SW19 5QD	jaslek@btinternet.com	School Visits, Drop in Shelter
St Thomas a Beckett	SW181NT	becket.westhill@btinternet.com	Mother and Toddler group, Senior citizens group,
The Buddhapadipa Temple, London	SW19 5HJ	buddhapadipa@live.com	School visits, Counselling,
Christ Church Earlsfield	SW18 5JU	andy@ccearlsfield.org	Mentoring,
Sikh Gurdwara South London	SW18 5SP	info@sgsl.org.uk	Meals after service - Weds and Sat,
St Gregory's Catholic Church	SW18 4EH		St Vincent de Paul,
St Mark's Battersea Rise	SW11 1EJ	office@smbro.org.uk	Night shelter, Mediation Service, Rise and Shine, Men behaving Dadly, Parenting course, Marriage course, Marriage prep course, CAP money course, Prison Sycamore Tree course, Spear in Prison, Prison Alpha, One stop shop, Future's skills, Spear, CAP release, Cheer - lunch for single parents, Infuse youth café, Church on Wednesday, Christmas lunch, CAP debt help,
Salvation Army	SW18 1TJ	katy.shubotham@salvationarmy.org.uk	Over 6s lunch club, Homeless drop in, Employment plus, Computer skills, Lunch drop in, Food bank, Charity shop, Family drop in week, Jumble sales, HIV testing,

Organisation	Postcode	Contact Email	Projects
St Alban's Church	SW166RR	g.vevers@pobroadband.co.uk	Hob nobs - club for the elderly, Visit to a care home weekly., Youth centre - furzedown youth centre, Playhouse - parent and toddler group, Coffee mornings for mums and toddlers, Christmas lunch, Holiday at home, Holiday mission - holiday club Summer and Autumn, MacMillan Coffee Morning, Messy Church,
St Paul's Wimbledon Park	SW196EW	stpaulsparkside@gmail.com	Parkside Forum, Space in community centre for community - playgroup, Lunch club - 55+, Community café, Group for older people 55-6+, Church choir -community youth, Church choir -community adults, Garden Party, Bonfire party, Christmas fayre
St Barnabas Clapham Common	SW4 9SW	vicar@stbcc.co.uk	Glassdoor night shelter, Battersea Welcomes Refugees, Early years parenting courses, Parenting teenagers event - Care for the family, Harvest collection for Ace of Clubs, Toddler group, Friday night youth club, Thursday fellowship, Marriage Prep, Let's stick together,
Everyday Church Southfields	SW15 5RH	sid.rall@everyday.org.uk	Twiglets, Twins group, Operation Christmas Child, Love all serve all, Bright lights party, Ace of Clubs, Go club - over 6s, Easter funday,
South West London Vineyard	SW15 3BD	mike@swlv.org.uk	Toddlers group, Job club, Free lunch after church, English language classes, Counselling sessions, Fuel bank and families, Acts 435, CAB advice
Anchor Church	SW184DU	pastornigel19@yahoo.co.uk;cazslibret@hotmail.co.uk	Family Time, Friday café, Light party, Neighbourhood, Lunchtime club at Swaffield Primary, Community Lunch, Facilitated knife crime days, Minibus trips,
Upper Tooting Methodist Church	SW177AL	patrickkandeh@yahoo.co.uk	Monday fellowship,
St Boniface RC Church, Tooting	SW17 9PG	parishpriest@stbonifacetooth.org.uk	Samaritans, Good counsel network, One Trust, Bereavement Support, SPUC, Justice and Peace, Caritas, Coffee mornings, 5+ club, Saint Vincent De Paul, Senior Citizens Group, Nitter natter, Alcoholic Anonymous, Youth Ministry, Mary's Meal,
St Luke's Church	SW128RQ	lorenzo.fernandez@mac.com;katherine.smith42@btopenworld.com	Freedom group, Tea party for the elderly, Christmas lunch for the retired people, Pastoral visitng, Reading Group, Pray and play, Playgroup, Kids craft activities, Youth pizza and movie night, Summer BBQ, Night shelter, Christmas fair,
St Peter's, Battersea	SW112EZ	helen@spb.church	Little chefs, Life, Excercies class, Youth club, Over 6s, Youth Climbing, 3 annual festive events, Visits to sheltered housing, Visits to old peoples' home, School assemblies, Night Shelter, School trips to the building site,
West Side Church	SW18 2QQ	chris@11bg.com	Mums and toddlers, Prison work, Jigsaw, Youth group, Knitting group, Friendship group, School visits - Knight school, School choir, Assemblies Swaffield and Allfarthing, Peer mentoring, Readers, Holiday club,

Organisation	Postcode	Contact Email	Projects
Mushkil Aasaan	SW177EW	mushkilaasaan@btconnect.com	Consultation event with the Tooting neighbourhood - Tooting transition group, WCEN meetings here, Systemic therapy course, Foodival, Young womens (professional womens group), Older women's faithgroup, Older womens social group, Mental health and therapeutic work group with WCEN, Women who have become Muslim, Arabic lessons - 3 classes,
St Paul's, Furzedown	SW16 1SP	semclarke@btinternet.com	Midsommer concert, Coffee morning, Furzedown flower festival, End of summer holiday party, Table top sales,
Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK	SW185QL	farooqatab@pressahmadiyya.com	Careers fair, Charity fundraising, Interfaith football tournaments, Church/parish social days,
Balham Vineyard Church	SW177AP	admin@balhamvineyard.org	Job club, Bags of Blessings, Bike HUB, Love Balham



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