

# The State of the Sector

Second edition updated and revised

A report on voluntary and community activity in Wandsworth 2012



Cover photos - all part of Lifetimes' photo archive (from top): 1. Lifetimes training session 2. Lifetimes training session 3. Voluntary and Community Sector Forum 4. Volunteering Fair 2011 5. Lifetimes AGM

Back cover photos - all part of Lifetimes' photo archive (from top): 1. Roehampton Football Club 2. Lifetimes Volunteers 3. Volunteer Fair 4. Community Organising 5. NHS Commissioning event..

# Foreword

Wandsworth, March 2012



As the Chair of Trustees of Lifetimes, it is my pleasure to introduce the second edition of the State of the Sector report for the borough.

This updated version contains a refreshed version of our data about the voluntary and community sector as well as an in-depth look at how the sector works to tackle the underlying inequalities that face local communities and contribute to ill health and poverty.

In a climate of economic downturn and cuts in services, we want to use this report to show you how the voluntary and community sector continues to serve and how it steps up its level of activity even in the face of less funding and more demand. This truly gives the words 'something for nothing' a very different meaning to what we keep hearing about in the national debate. When people have nowhere else to go, they turn to the local church for shelter; when they can't afford to heat their own homes they go to a community centre for warmth, and when the answer is 'no' to getting the help they need from the state, they seek out others in the same situation to share the burden.

The tireless efforts of thousands of people giving their time to help others in Wandsworth is worth shouting about. We hope that by the time you put down this report, you will come away informed, inspired and with those shouts ringing in your ears.

Nathalie Gibson-Wilson

Chair of Trustees  
Lifetimes Charity

# Executive summary

Our updated research into the voluntary and community sector in Wandsworth reveals a number of new organisations and changes to the make up of the sector since the previous edition was compiled in 2009-2010, but also much continuity.

The majority of organisations continue to be small, unincorporated groups that work with and offer activities for local communities. Most organisations have existed since before 2002, with some significantly older organisations having been around for over 100 years. We recorded 15 organisations as having started up during 2011, which is likely to be an underestimation as we often do not hear of organisations until they have existed for some time.

The sector has a large proportion of faith organisations, organisations that work with children, families, youth and residents. Faith activities, leisure and sports and community based activity continue to dominate local civil society in Wandsworth.

Arguably the voluntary and community sector's most important role is its contribution to building a strong society, tackling inequality and discrimination and helping some of the most vulnerable people in society. In harder times, it becomes harder to find funding for that type of work, as evidenced by the decline in funding awarded to local organisations.

This study found that the voluntary sector specifically addresses and prevents some of the health inequalities that persist in the borough and that there is potential for more joint working. Many organisations are trying out new ways of working although, or perhaps because, times are difficult. Many organisations work in the most deprived areas of the borough, where health inequalities are most evident. The case studies in this report highlights some of their efforts to relieve, prevent and improve ill health and the underlying conditions that cause it.

# Acknowledgements

We are indebted to the many organisations and individuals who contributed information, photographs and other materials to this study and to the Big Lottery for their funding that enables us to carry out projects like this one.

We would particularly like to acknowledge the organisations that co-operated with us to produce the case studies for the qualitative chapter that looks at the contributions made by the voluntary and community sector towards tackling inequalities and ill health in Wandsworth. This is only a small sample of the myriad of projects and groups that make life better for local people and we hope that it will give a flavour of some of the work that does not receive much or any public sector funding and that often goes unnoticed:

Body Action Campaign  
Canerows and Plaits  
Imani Project at Battersea Mission  
Lavender Bridge Club  
Mercy Foundation Centre  
Paul's Cancer Support Centre  
Putney Vale Residents Association Mercy Foundation  
STORM  
Tooting Graveney Daycare Centre  
Urban Voice UK

Creating, maintaining and updating the data set that underpins this piece of research is a mammoth task. Lifetimes has undergone major changes during the last year with major cuts to staff and resources, in turn affecting our ability to spend time working with and for the sector to the extent that we would like. With these limitations placed on us, we felt it even more important that this piece of work should be completed. As far as we know, it is the most comprehensive source of information about the voluntary and community sector in Wandsworth. As such, it serves the worthy purpose of showing just how much activity there is out there and how the sector contributes to a better life for the local population.

Jo Lofgren & Clare Chamberlain  
Lifetimes

# Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Setting the scene .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1	About this report .....	5
1.2	About Lifetimes .....	5
1.3	A snapshot of the London Borough of Wandsworth .....	6
1.4	The voluntary sector tackling inequalities in Wandsworth .....	7
<b>2.</b>	<b>An overview of the voluntary and community sector in Wandsworth .....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1	Number of organisations .....	8
2.2	New and closed organisations .....	8
2.3	Types of organisations .....	9
2.4	Main focus of work .....	10
2.5	Main user groups .....	11
2.6	Age of organisations .....	12
2.7	Turnover of organisations .....	13
2.8	Location of organisations .....	13
<b>3.</b>	<b>Funding .....</b>	<b>16</b>
3.1	Local Authority .....	16
3.2	NHS .....	17
3.3	Charitable funding .....	18
<b>4.</b>	<b>Tackling health inequalities .....</b>	<b>19</b>
4.1	Geographic variations in health .....	20
4.2	Children and teenagers .....	22
4.3	Mental health and wellbeing .....	24
4.4	Alcohol .....	25
4.5	Under 75 mortality .....	26
4.6	Carers .....	27
4.7	Older people .....	28
<b>5.</b>	<b>Appendices .....</b>	<b>30</b>
5.1	Methodology .....	30
5.2	Assumptions and limitations .....	30
5.3	Data sources .....	32
5.4	References .....	33

# 1. Setting the scene

## 1.1 About this report

This report is the second edition of our research into the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in the London Borough of Wandsworth. We have updated our previous findings and conducted a fresh review of the organisations serving the borough. As with the previous version, we have tried to give you an overview of the scale and scope of the sector in quantitative terms, as well as a more qualitative, in-depth look at case studies to bring the statistics to life.

Our original motivation for creating the first State of the Sector report was the lack of an information resource about voluntary and community activity in the borough. Having created the first edition, we have made it our priority to try to keep this body of knowledge relevant and up to date and to monitor how the sector changes over time. The information in this report comes from several months' worth of desk research, structured interviews as well as hundreds of telephone calls and web checks with various organisations.

The first section of this report gives an overview of the type of organisations and community groups we have in Wandsworth, what they do, where they are based and what parts of the population they cater to. We have drawn comparisons and parallels with the findings from the previous edition where possible and appropriate and we have tried to keep the key data sets comparable.

The last two years have seen cuts in public funding that have affected local organisations to an extent not seen for many years. The effects on the sector and the coping mechanisms that organisations employ are varied and often entail a radical rethink of how they operate and what they can realistically continue to deliver. This changing climate makes for an interesting backdrop to our second edition; for the qualitative part of this study we have pitched information about the voluntary and community sector against the key inequalities in terms of health and disadvantage that have been identified in Wandsworth.

## 1.2 About Lifetimes

Lifetimes Charity is the new name of the organisation that used to be called Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency. Following a significant reduction in funding during 2011, the organisation rebranded, went through an internal reorganisation process and moved offices from our long standing base on Garratt Lane, to new premises in Wandsworth High Street. Our mission is to support and empower the voluntary and community sector.

Over the last year, we have radically had to rethink our services to make them sustainable in a climate where funding for support services to the voluntary sector is being withdrawn. Some of our advice and guidance for organisations has been transformed into an online information repository, and we no longer offer drop in services for people looking to volunteer. However, we continue to offer our members access to affordable or free training sessions and events throughout the year as well as opportunities to take part in current debates and decision making processes that affect people in Wandsworth. During 2011, our Voluntary Sector Forum drew in several hundred people from the sector to debate and discuss current issues and we look forward to continuing this work in the year ahead.



### 1.3 A snapshot of the London Borough of Wandsworth

Wandsworth Borough stretches from central London at Vauxhall out to Richmond Park in the west and all the way to Furzedown in the south. According to government estimates, the population of Wandsworth has risen from about 260,000 in the mid-1990s to almost 290,000 in 2010. In terms of ethnic composition, the data estimates for 2010 indicate that Wandsworth's population has remained very similar in percentage terms since the 2001 census with around 22% coming from a black, asian or minority ethnic background.<sup>1</sup>

St Mary's Park and Queenstown ward in the north east are the most populous overall, while Furzedown in the south and Shaftesbury in the east are the most densely populated (number of people per square kilometre). West Putney and Latchmere have the highest number of children aged 0-15, while Roehampton and East Putney have the highest number of people over the age of 65.<sup>2</sup>

On the economic side, Wandsworth is fairly prosperous in average terms with overall high levels of employment, qualifications and people in skilled professions. In real terms, the borough reveals stark contrasts between affluence and poverty. In 2011, Thamesfield ward in the north west of the borough had the lowest number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) with 1,5% of the economically active population claiming JSA. Roehampton in the far west has the highest number (9,7%), followed by Latchmere in the north east. This pattern is repeated for people who claim Incapacity Benefit and Income Support<sup>3</sup>. The latest child poverty figures that we could find were from HM Revenue and Customs data from 2009. They show that the areas with the highest number of children living in poverty then were Latchmere (over 45%) and Roehampton (just over 40%), whereas numbers were lowest in Northcote (about 7%).<sup>4</sup>



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In terms of community connectedness, social capital and participation in public life, the 2010 borough elections showed that Roehampton and West Hill in the far west of the borough had the lowest voter turnout (just over 50% of the population in Roehampton voted), closely followed by Queenstown in the east. Wandsworth Common and Nightingale ward had the highest turnout (with almost 70% turning out to vote in Wandsworth Common).

If we consider newspaper readership as an indication of social capital<sup>5</sup>, we can glean a few trends from the 2011 readership figures for the borough's main free newspaper, the Wandsworth Guardian. We should point out that the distribution areas and the volume of papers are not consistent across the borough, nor do the areas where readership is measured correspond to ward boundaries. However,

1 London Data Store: [http://data.london.gov.uk/datafiles/demographics/egpp\\_r2010\\_shlaa\\_all\\_boroughs.xls](http://data.london.gov.uk/datafiles/demographics/egpp_r2010_shlaa_all_boroughs.xls)

2 London Data Store: <http://data.london.gov.uk/datastore/package/ward-popproj-2010rnd-shlaa>

3 JSA totals from the Department for Work and Pensions. Source: NOMIS <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

4 The figures are arrived at by looking at the number of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits or tax credits and with a reported income of less than 60% of the national average income. Source: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cps-wards09.xls>

5 Robert Putnam of Harvard University suggests that newspaper readership, and particularly the decline thereof in favour of televised media, reduces the level of social capital in populations. Source: Robert Putnam (2000) *Bowling Alone: The collapse and revival of American community*, New York: Simon and Schuster.



where data exists, it shows that Tooting tops the table with 33.6% of the population reading the local paper (Tooting also has the highest circulation numbers). Roehampton has the lowest circulation numbers, but it also has more readers per issue (number of people sharing a newspaper). People aged 25-34 are the biggest group of readers and women are more likely than men to read the paper in all areas.<sup>6</sup>

## 1.4 The voluntary sector tackling inequalities in Wandsworth

The spread of voluntary and community organisations in the borough reveals significant variation. The most deprived areas in Wandsworth have at their disposal a very different set as well as number of organisations that provide support and activities. The area around Latchmere, which in overall terms is the most deprived ward in the borough, has the highest number of voluntary and community organisations (out of the approximately 900 groups we found based in Wandsworth, 28.9% are in the Battersea area). By contrast, Roehampton in the west (which also faces many challenges in terms of deprivation) has a comparatively much lower number of groups based in the surrounding area (18.7% of organisations are based in Roehampton and Putney)

In the previous edition of this report, we looked in-depth at how the VCS worked to fulfill the goals and aims in the Sustainable Community Strategy for Wandsworth - Our Wandsworth 2018. We showed that a large number of organisations' work corresponded directly to each of the goals identified in the Strategy. The idea was to enable the people whose job it is to monitor and take stock of progress toward achieving the strategy to also take into account organisations in the community that they may not have been aware of or in touch with.

In the last two years, increasing amounts of data about the local population has become available down to ward level covering areas such as health, education, crime, employment, poverty and even air quality and the number of trees on our streets. When Wandsworth Council and NHS Wandsworth pulled together the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) in 2010, and updated it in 2011, it was possible to see where the key health inequalities and priorities in the borough were.

These findings inspired us to focus the qualitative section of this report on organisations in Wandsworth that work to combat inequalities in areas and with people most affected. We have looked primarily at the priorities identified in the JSNA but also at information about educational attainment, unemployment figures, crime and poverty and we have tried to illustrate how voluntary and community organisations work consistently to combat these inequalities. Since the very first organisations were established in the borough, the battle against poverty and inequality has been the driving force for most voluntary and community activity. Read all about it in section 4 of this report.

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<sup>6</sup> The Joint Industry Committee for Regional Media Research <http://www.jicreg.co.uk/>

## 2. An overview of the voluntary and community sector in Wandsworth

### 2.1 Number of organisations

Our updated research shows that there are at least 964 voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations primarily offering services in Wandsworth. That figure includes 905 groups physically based in the borough, and 59 based outside the borough.

The first edition of this study found 899 VCS organisations<sup>7</sup>, which makes it seem like more organisations have emerged in the last two years. However, there is an important methodological difference that skews the numbers somewhat and that should be highlighted. The data set for the previous edition did not include groups that had their physical address outside the borough unless they were solely operating inside Wandsworth. We found 16 such groups. This time we have included groups that have their physical address outside of Wandsworth borough but that state that Wandsworth is their primary delivery area alongside a maximum of two other areas. We have included these 59 out of borough groups because they have a significant presence and proportion of their service offering in Wandsworth.

Another contributor to the higher number of organisations is the larger number of uniformed groups that were identified during our research, but that were not included in the first edition simply because we did not know they existed; from 86 groups in the previous report to 94 in this one.

We have counted large networks of meeting based organisations as one unit. For example, we have not counted the 480+ Neighbourhood Watch schemes that exist all around the borough as individual groups, nor the numerous local chapters and meetings of national organisations like Alcoholics Anonymous.

It is difficult to do justice to the amount of activity taking place on a daily basis; suffice it to say that in terms of numbers, the scale of voluntary activity is far greater than the number of registered charities and established voluntary and community groups.

### 2.2 New organisations and organisations closing down

To get a better idea of the turnover of voluntary and community organisations in Wandsworth over the last two years we compared the datasets underpinning the two editions of this study. We found over 200 organisations that were part of the first data set that were no longer around in the 2012 edition for a range of reasons (closures, relocations, mergers etc) We also found over 230 organisations that were new to the dataset. Some of these were organisations that have been around for some time that we have only recently come across, but just under a third are new additions to the borough that have started up in the last two to three years.

Among the newly registered charities in Wandsworth<sup>8</sup>, churches are among the most numerous. We found 40 places of worship (almost all of which are churches) with charitable status, compared to 12 in the previous edition of this report. As centres of community activity, they are long established in the borough, but in the last two years, more churches have become registered with the Charity Commission. It is usually not the church itself that is a registered charity - it is more likely to be

<sup>7</sup> The State of the Sector (2010), Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency.

<sup>8</sup> Organisations registered with the Charity Commission between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2011.

a committee running the voluntary and community side of the church's work or conducting charitable activities on behalf of the church in some other fashion.

In terms of the groups closing down, we have identified a number of common causes based on what our members tell us. Our sample is much smaller than the over 200 groups that ceased to operate in the borough during 2010 and 2011 as we can only monitor the reasons why organisations close down through our direct contacts with them. We closed 37 records of local organisations on our membership database during 2010 and 2011. 12 of these organisations closed due to lack of funding or because the project that they were set up to run has come to an end. 5 groups ceased to operate in the borough, but moved to another area and 9 records were closed because we failed to establish any kind of contact with the group despite a large number of different kinds of contact attempts over a period of time. Among the organisations that closed down due to a lack or discontinuation of funding are some organisations with a significant community presence that will be sorely missed, including the Children's Discovery Centre and Church Lane Day Centre in Tooting.



Lynwood Christian Fellowship, Tooting

### 2.3 Types of organisations

We found 542 organisations in Wandsworth with charitable status, which is over 100 more than in the previous edition of this report. About half of them are limited companies, a quarter are unincorporated groups or clubs or places of worship and just under a fifth are trusts. Among the 422 organisations that are not registered charities, a majority are small community groups and places of worship.

In terms of legal structure, most of the 964 voluntary and community organisations in our dataset are unincorporated groups or clubs. This category make up over half of the sector (probably more) and range from brownie groups and parent teacher associations (PTA) to community centres. Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) deserve a special mention as they fall under a separate registration process with HM Revenue and Customs.<sup>9</sup> However, that registration (as far as we understand) does not amount to a separate legal structure and sports clubs are included in the unincorporated group or club category for that reason.

Legal structures	
Limited company	266
Trust	102
Industrial & provident society	11
Unincorporated group or club	494
Not known	91
Total	964

Table: Legal structures of organisations

We found 266 organisations that are companies limited by guarantee, the most common form of incorporation for charities. There are also a couple of organisations that are incorporated by Royal Charter (the RSPCA and the Prince's Trust for example) that both have branches or affiliated organisations within Wandsworth. Wandsworth is also home to over 100 trusts, most of which are small bequests or grant providers for specific purposes or buildings. There are also a small number of Industrial & Provident Societies that are almost all housing co-operatives or providers.

<sup>9</sup> HM Revenue and Customs CASC Register <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/casc/b.htm>

## 2.4 Main focus of work

This section gives an overview of what voluntary and community organisations in Wandsworth do. We have sorted the organisations into a number of 'parent' categories to get an idea of the bigger picture. Under the categories with large numbers of organisations, we have also identified a number of sub-groups that will be elaborated on in the text below. Sorting organisations into single categories does not do justice to the fact that many, if not most, organisations operate for more than one purpose and definitely offer more than one type of activity. However, simplifying the areas of work allows us to see the broad patterns of community activity in the borough.

The categories with the largest numbers of organisations in Wandsworth are Faith (166), Leisure and sports (164), and Community (140).

Within the faith category, we have included places of worship and any organisation that primarily offers religious activities, but we have excluded organisations that have their foundation in a faith, but whose main activities focus on for example education or culture. Such organisations have been added to the category that most closely matches their main activity.

In the Faith category, we found places of worship including churches, mosques, synagogues and temples, reflecting the religious diversity that is evident in the borough. The majority of faith organisations are Church of England churches, but the category also includes several faith groups and places of worship that have established themselves as community hubs in their respective areas, including Tooting Islamic Centre, Battersea Central Methodist Mission, the Khalsa Centre and the New Testament Assembly in Tooting.

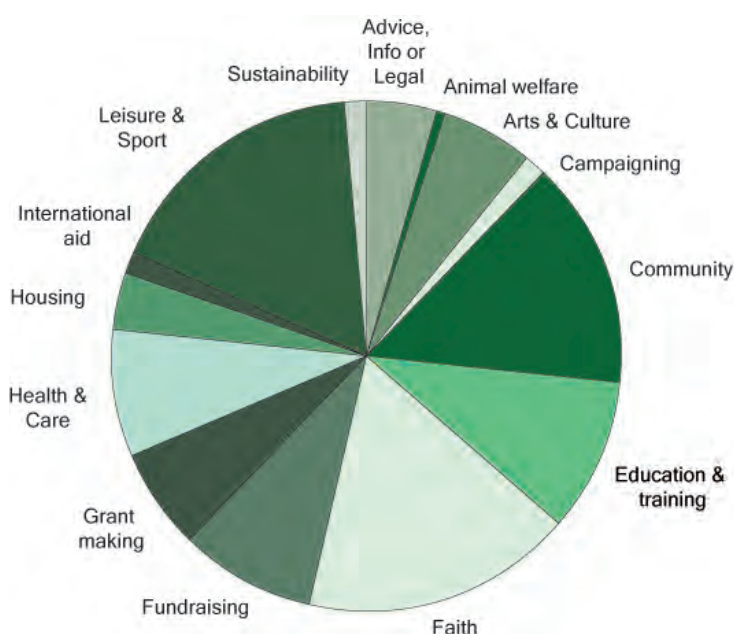


Figure: Main areas of work

Table: Organisations sorted into main focus of work

We also found faith groups that do not have their own places of worship and that share or rent space from others. In one church in Battersea, several Christian denominations in a variety of languages offer services on a rotational basis to cater to a multitude of small congregations.

Within the second largest category, Leisure and Sports, 93 out of 164 organisations are uniformed groups (including Scouts, Brownies and Sea Cadets). There is also a large number of sports clubs for everything from football and cricket to rowing and a small number of highly specialised groups, including a majorette troupe, a blind bowling club, a gay bridge club and a club for twins.

In the community category, there are 77 Residents Associations as well as a large number of community centres and facilities that offer physical spaces for local people to come together. This category also houses a range of diverse, community focused organisations such as Rotary Clubs and groups catering to specific Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) communities.



Roehampton Football Club, one of 164 leisure and sports groups in the borough.

93 organisations provide education and training, including almost 30 that offer childcare (particularly for under 5s) and about the same number that offer help and advice to give people skills or experience to get into employment.

85 organisations primarily dedicate themselves to raising funds for local causes, with the biggest sub-groups being Parent Teacher Associations and “Friends of” groups associated with different local venues.

The smallest categories are animal welfare with 5 organisations and sustainability with 11. However, among these small numbers of organisations are some significant local actors. For example, Wandsworth is home to one of the largest animal welfare organisations in London - Battersea Cats and Dogs Home. And in the sustainability category, the Transition Towns (Tooting and Wandsworth) have been gaining momentum in the last few years as they have started to transform local areas, energy consumption and food growing.

## 2.5 Main user groups

Similar to section 2.4, in this part of the report we have identified a number of categories to sort the main beneficiary or user groups associated with organisations. The categorisation of beneficiary or user groups presents some difficulties related to the complex and often multi tasking nature of voluntary and community organisations. For example, some organisations support disabled older people, while others help children with particular medical conditions or women who have suffered domestic abuse. We have tried to achieve a balance between these competing categories by aligning the organisations according to how they describe their activities and mission.

The categories most catered to by local organisations are faith communities (180), young people (176), the general public (151) and children and families (126).

The faith category again dominates in terms of numbers, with the work of 180 organisations directly benefitting different types of faith

Main user groups	No.	%
BAMER	40	4.1%
Carers	2	0.2%
Children and families	126	13.1%
Disabled	63	6.5%
Faith community	180	18.7%
General public	151	15.7%
Impoverished	20	2.1%
LGBT	2	0.2%
Older people	29	3%
Organisations	8	0.8%
Patients	19	2%
People with addictions	14	1.5%
Prisoners and ex-offenders	7	0.7%
Residents	112	11.6%
Young people	176	18.3%
Specialised group (profession)	3	0.3%
Survivors of abuse/crime	3	0.3%
Women	9	0.9%
Total	964	100%

Table: Main user groups



communities. Many of these organisations also cater to the wider public through a range of community activities, but their primary users and beneficiaries are the members of the faith group or congregation.

126 organisations work with children and families in the borough, a significant amount considering the further number that work specifically with young people. Out of the organisations working with children and families, 45 offer education or training, more than half of which offer childcare and activities for under 5s. 43 organisations raise funds for local schools, primarily operating as Parent Teacher Associations.

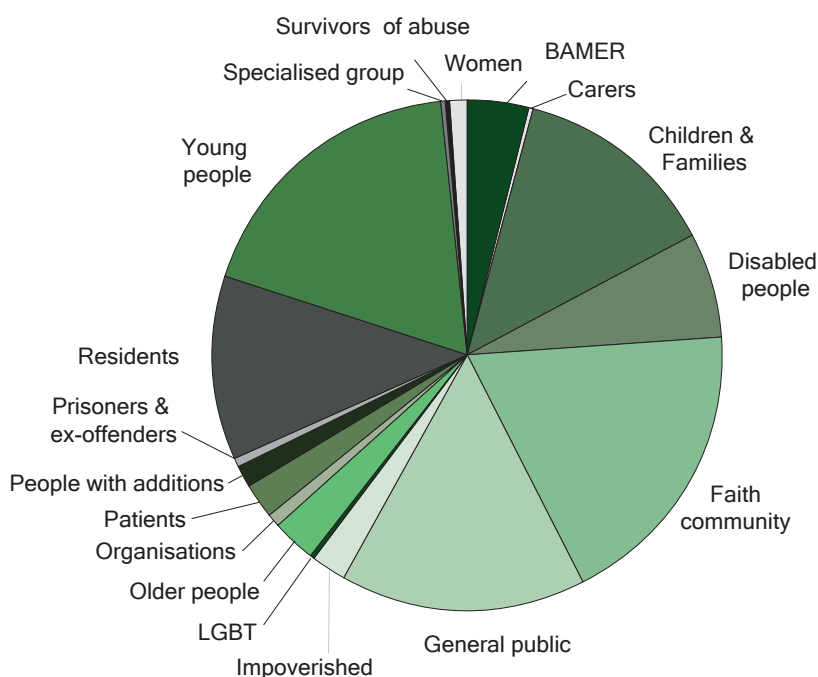


Figure: Main user groups

Within the second largest category (young people), uniformed groups and sports clubs make up more than half the category, followed by organisations that provide education and training (23), grants (16), art and culture activities (11) and employment support (8).

Surprisingly, organisations serving groups that often require specialised services or support, such as carers, women, survivors of crime, and the LGBT community, are few and far between. Similarly, the number of organisations supporting other organisations in the borough is low; 7 organisations provide grants, premises or fundraising support for specific types of organisations or organisations based in specific areas while 1 organisation supports charities with training and advice.

## 2.6 Age of organisations

To get an overview of the age of the organisations operating in our local area, we cross referenced information from a number of sources, including the date of charitable registration from the Charity Commission, organisations' individual websites, church directories, Guidestar, and the Lifetimes database. We found data for 657 organisations.

Almost half of the organisations in the borough have been around since before 2002. Among them are some very long standing groups, such as:

- Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators, working to preserve the open spaces of the commons for recreation and leisure since 1871.
- Miles Trust for Putney and Roehampton, giving grants to local voluntary and community organisations since 1913.
- Katherine Low Settlement, empowering families, youth and the elderly in Battersea since 1924.

Age of organisations	
<1 year	15
2-3 years	50
4-6 years	46
7-9 years	39
>9 years	471
No data	343
Total	964

Table: Age of organisations

- The Book Trust, encouraging people to appreciate and enjoy books since 1925.
- Wandsworth Football Club, organising matches and training across the borough since 1933.

We found 65 organisations have started up in the last three years, 15 of them during 2011. Among these new groups are:

- Wandsworth Independent Living Forum, giving advice and peer support to people with disabilities.
- Wandsworth Against Cuts, monitoring and campaigning around cuts to local services.
- Arts for Minds, an information site with arts and music events for people living with dementia.

## 2.7 Turnover of organisations

We found up to date information on the 2010 turnover figures for 365 organisations. This leaves a very large number of organisations for which we could find no data. For a number of registered charities, this was because they had not filed their 2010 accounts with the charity commission at the time of going to print. A second relatively small category of organisations are branches of a larger organisation, or chapters of national organisations that file accounts for their entire operation rather than individual branches.

The majority of groups for which we have no data do not publish information about their income because they are either small, informal or entirely voluntary community groups that do not have to publish such information. Included among these are over 40 Scout and Brownie units, over 70 Residents Associations and hundreds of micro projects. The number of organisations in the £0 - £10 000 category in the borough is therefore likely to be much higher than the 114 groups for which we could find official, filed accounts. This assumption is substantiated by the number of organisations that are neither registered charities, nor incorporated in any way and that classify themselves as 'clubs' or 'community group' when registering with Lifetimes (see unincorporated clubs or groups in the table in section 2.3 above) and they make up a significant proportion of the borough's voluntary and community sector.

Among the organisations for which we do have data, 31 turn over more than £1 million. Three of the biggest are Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) that turns over more than £50 million annually, the Careers Development Group and the Royal Hospital for Neuro Disability (both based in Putney) with turnovers of over £30 million.

Turnover of organisations	
> £1m	31
£500 001 - £1m	26
£250 001 - £500 000	24
£100 001 - £250 000	45
£10 001 - £100 000	125
£0 - £10 000	114
No data	599
Total	964

Table: 2010 turnover of organisations

## 2.8 Location of organisations

We have mapped all the organisations in our dataset (see next page) according to their postal addresses as far as this is possible. It may seem like a straightforward exercise, but placing organisations at an address in the borough is not always possible, nor is it the best way to illustrate where they offer their services or activities. For example, a large proportion of the organisations in our dataset are open to people from across the whole of the borough, and sometimes beyond.

It is also common for an organisation to have an address in one part of the borough, but to spread its activities across a range of venues. Also, an organisation's registered address is in some cases the home address of an individual, which is especially common for very small groups and groups that



cannot afford or do not need offices or premises. In cases where there are clear discrepancies between an organisation's registered address and its working area, we have allocated it to the area where it predominantly works.

From the map, we can see a higher concentration of activity in Battersea and a lower number of groups in west Wandsworth and Balham. Battersea is home to a wide array of community focused organisations working along Battersea Park Road, York Road and the estates surrounding Clapham Junction.

Tooting is home to about a quarter of the borough's organisations, including many health and care organisations and numerous faith

organisations serving its large South Asian population. Balham has a relatively high number of organisations catering to people with disabilities, as well as fundraising or grant making organisations.

Central Wandsworth has just under a fifth of the borough's voluntary and community groups, with a concentration of organisations along Garratt Lane that runs from Wandsworth Town all the way to Tooting Broadway. Putney and Roehampton in the west have a lower number of organisations, but a relatively high number of Residents Associations and faith organisations. As seen in previous sections, the western part of the borough is also home to some of the oldest charities and to some of the largest organisations in terms of turnover.

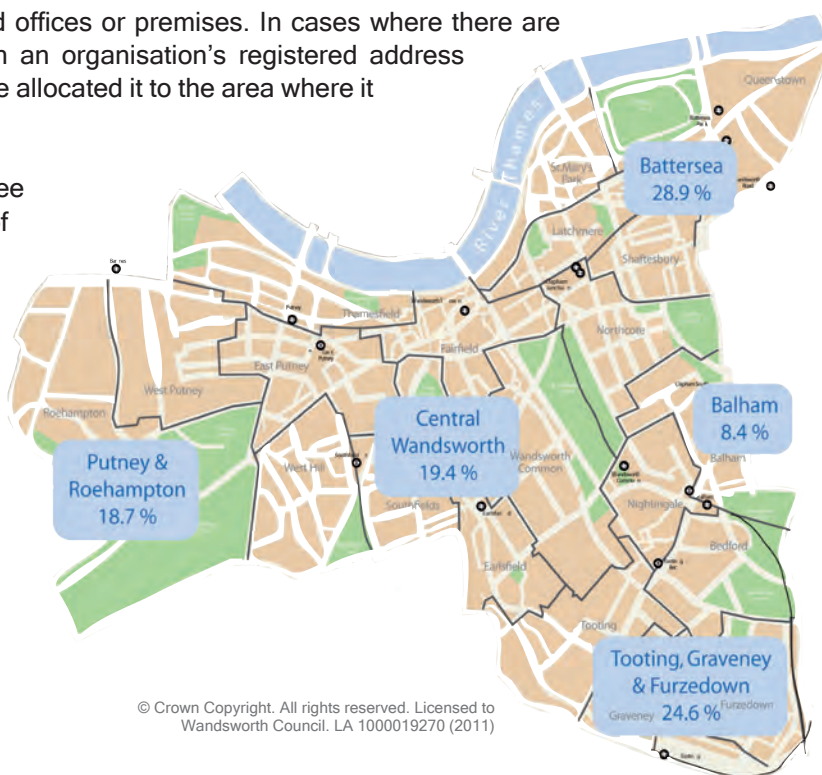


Figure: Location of organisation based on contact address

## Putney Vale Residents Association

Working in partnership to improve Putney Vale Estate

The residents association on Putney Vale Estate (PVRA) works for the benefit of its residents by liaising with Wandsworth Council, NHS Wandsworth, and other service providers.

There are about 1200 residents in Putney Vale Estate living in 370 dwellings which include maisonettes, houses and flats. They are occupied by leaseholders, sub-letters and council tenants.



Putney Vale Residents Association

Key issues facing people on the estate include a lack of community involvement, isolation amongst older residents, and antisocial behaviour and a lack of opportunities for young people.

PVRA is run on a voluntary basis with 7 committee members, one of whom chairs the community garden committee. Another sub-group looks after the interests of older people, who inhabit about 25% of the dwellings on the estate and who often experience feelings of isolation.

PVRA now works closely with the local area housing office raising concerns from residents regarding repairs, antisocial behaviour, fly-tipping etc. They have worked hard to build a relationship with a number of local service providers to bring services to the estate. For example, by working with Sure Start through the local Eastwood Centre, there are now services for the many families with children under 5 years of age on the estate, including sessions with a local health visitor. Also, by working with the local community development worker from NHS Wandsworth, there are now regular monthly sessions for the over 60's which residents are encouraged to attend.



PVRA are proud of the fact that by gathering the support of residents through a petition, they were able to get Wandsworth Borough Council to refurbish the original community club room on the estate which should open for community use in summer 2012. They hope that this will increase community involvement on the estate.

## 3. Funding

The picture in Wandsworth in terms of funding remains similar to the national one in the sense that the largest source of funding for the voluntary and community sector continues to be the public sector (predominantly the Local Authority, Wandsworth Borough Council). The highest proportion of income from the public sector is received by social care organisations, while the majority of organisations do not receive any income from statutory sources.



Meet the Funders event at Lifetimes

Cuts in funding have affected organisations across the whole borough, with a number of groups closing down during 2011 and others reducing the amount of activity or level of support that they offer. Increasingly, organisations have started to charge for the services that they can no longer attract grant or contract funding for but still wish to continue providing.

We have also seen a number of mergers during the last few years, with larger organisations absorbing smaller or similar local voluntary organisations. For example, Odyssey Care has become a subsidiary of Brandon Care (supporting people with learning disabilities) while Hestia (a housing support organisation) now incorporating the Age Activity Centre and Wandsworth Women's Aid.

### 3.1 Local Authority

The funds from Wandsworth Borough Council to voluntary and community organisations has risen in the last few years, from approximately £25 million in 2008, to over £30 million in 2011. The value of Adult Social Services contracts with voluntary sector organisations increased by more than £5.5 million between 2010 and 2011, while cuts of almost £5 million of voluntary sector funding took place across most other departments. The value of Children's Services contracts with the voluntary sector and Sure Start funding has dropped by over £1 million, while the Housing Department has seen a reduction in its contracts as well as its support for tenant management organisations and housing co-operatives of over £840 000.<sup>10</sup>

In terms of how the funds are distributed among organisations, we have been unable to obtain data on the number of recipients of grants and the number of contract holders. We know that between 2005 and 2009, the number of organisations in receipt of some type of Local Authority funding went from 350 to 222.<sup>11</sup>

Service	2010	2011
Economic Development	£2,921,963	£1,166,805
London Councils payment	£981,354	£517,035
Children's Services	£8,003,627	£6,729,062
Housing	£3,656,180	£2,812,187
Leisure and Amenities	£317,989	£301,910
Policy Unit	£1,080,626	£372,910
Adult Social Services	£4,804,980	£10,479,086
Technical Services	£306,150	£308,011
Mandatory Rate Relief	£6,869,750	£7,855,457
Discretionary Rate Relief	£840,759	£187,530

Table: Local Authority contracts and grants (financial year)

<sup>10</sup> Annual Report of the Economic Development Office in relation to the voluntary sector. Appendix 1 to Committee paper no. 11-76.

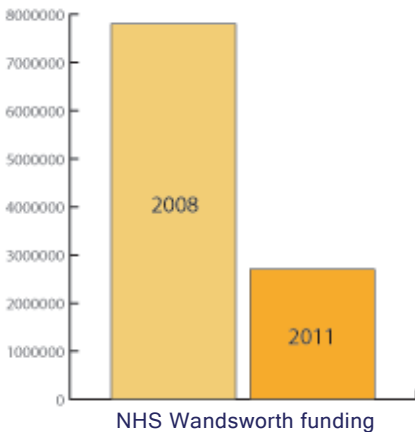
<sup>11</sup> The State of the Sector (2010), Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency.

Apart from implementing wide ranging spending cuts, the Council has taken steps to promote the government's Big Society agenda and it has been able to allocate some funding to this task as a result of changes to the London Councils Grant Scheme. In 2011, London Councils repatriated a large amount of the funding from this scheme back to the individual contributing boroughs. The funds that were returned to Wandsworth were used to create new funding streams locally.<sup>12</sup> Wandsworth Council divided the amount into three pots. First, a Big Society Fund of £169,000 was set up to encourage more volunteering in the borough. Second, a Transition Fund was established to help organisations that had lost funding from the London Councils Grant Scheme to bridge the funding gap, worth £200,000. The remainder, £123,000 was retained by the Local Authority as a saving.

The first two rounds of applications to the Big Society Fund allocated £119,205 to local organisations, of which 36% went to organisations serving Latchmere and Roehampton, the two most deprived areas in the borough. During 2012, approximately £250,000 will be available from this fund.<sup>13</sup> The establishment of the Big Society Fund is a change in direction for the Local Authority in the sense that in previous years, funding has been diverted away from grants and towards contracts. The purpose of the Big Society Fund is to encourage more local volunteering and it is primarily aimed at very small, unformed or informal groups of local residents taking local action. The coalition government's Big Society Agenda, translated into the Wandsworth challenge, is clearly a key driver for this change in direction.<sup>14</sup>

### 3.2 NHS

Our data on NHS funding is not as detailed as that from the Local Authority, primarily because we were unable to find information about the value of all voluntary sector grants and contracts from all departments from 2009 and 2010. However, we have the data from our previous report (2008/09 figures) as well as new data from the Policy Unit at Wandsworth Council on NHS spending on the voluntary sector in 2011/12 compiled for the Health and Wellbeing Partnership. When we put the two sums next to each other we see a significant drop in funding to the voluntary sector from the NHS. In 2008 the value of NHS Wandsworth contracts totalled £5.1m with a further £2.7m allocated via grants - making the total spend £7.8m. In 2011, the total sum of grants and contracts dropped to £2.7m.



Participants at a consultation meeting with the NHS

It is worth noting that the current changes to the NHS and the transfer of commissioning powers to Clinical Commissioning Groups could lead to future changes not just in amounts of funding flowing to voluntary and community sector organisations in the health area, but also to the way in which the health services work with the sector in overall terms. The new structures and relationships are still being built and the money spent on the voluntary sector during this interim period may not be indicative of future patterns of commissioning and grant funding.

<sup>12</sup> Committee paper no. 11-98. Report on the use of the repatriated funds from the London Borough Grants Scheme

<sup>13</sup> Committee Paper No. 12-218. <http://ww3.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s23036/12-218%20-%20Aspirations.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Wandsworth Challenge. [http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200135/get\\_involved/1095/wandsworth\\_challenge](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200135/get_involved/1095/wandsworth_challenge)



### 3.3 Charitable funding

We enquired with a number of charitable trusts and foundations regarding their grant allocation to the London borough of Wandsworth during 2010 and 2011 and managed to find information for 5 funding streams that disburse over £100,000 each into the borough annually - see table below

Out of these funders, the Big Lottery Fund has increased its allocation of grants to Wandsworth by almost 40% over the last two years (notably through its Reaching Communities funding stream), while all the other funders have reduced the amount of funding to organisations in the borough.

Grant provider	2010	2011
Big Lottery Fund	£765,313	£1,077,903
City Bridge Trust	£392,867	£279,500
Comic Relief	£115,000	£110,000
Sir Walter St John's Educational Charity	£104,707	£101,115
London Community Foundation	£186,136	£106,079

Table: Grants allocated to Wandsworth

The end of the Grassroots Grant scheme largely explains the reduction from the London Community Foundation. However, funding from the Foundation should be increasing by about £50,000 in 2012 with the introduction of a new grants scheme (managed on behalf of the Local Authority) called the Wandsworth Community Fund that will fund projects in the seven most deprived wards in the Borough.

#### Mercy Foundation Centre

Bringing the community together to learn new skills

Mercy Foundation Centre



The Mercy Foundation Centre is a venue for the community located on Kambala Estate near Clapham Junction. It is run and funded by Victoria Rodney with the help of community members who can offer skills such as teaching and IT training. The centre provides learning opportunities through IT, online courses, GCSE revision classes, a children's reading club, an employment workshop and social activities.

Local amenities have come and gone on Kambala and when the Mercy Foundation Centre opened, there was a general belief

locally that it would not last, or that there was a catch to attending and taking part in learning and activities. When people saw that the services offered were completely free and that they could drop in whenever they wanted, it became a popular and accessible place to learn. Now, mothers drop in after taking their children to nursery or school and young people with IT skills come by to mentor others and to help elderly people with their coursework.

In practice the centre provides far more than just a centre for IT training. The residents on Kambala Estate face a number of challenges including poverty, gang activity, alcohol and drug misuse, mental health issues, and many lack self confidence.

Annette, a service user who has attended the centre for some time said that when she first came to the centre she had never used a PC and could hardly write. She has now completed several online courses and is about to embark on GCSE English and Maths. She is also helping a local Somali woman to get books from the library and is reading with her. She says that the centre always has a good atmosphere and that gang culture just does not permeate.

# 4. Tackling health inequalities

Wandsworth is a borough of stark contrasts in socioeconomic terms as alluded to in section 1 of this report. Many different inequalities affect how local people live out their lives, including health, income, employment, education, housing, crime, access to services and people’s general living environment. In this section, we will outline some of the broad patterns and trends showing some of the ways in which the voluntary sector works to tackle inequalities.

In this section, we will look particularly at work done to address health inequalities and priorities in light of the major changes happening to the National Health Service, and because we believe that the health of the population is one of the most basic tests of how we are performing as a society in human development terms. Understanding how deprivation and inequalities impact on local residents and wanting to do something to improve the situation is also one of the key reasons why voluntary and community organisations exists and why local people start up new organisations.

The Local Authority and the NHS in Wandsworth have been gathering data and assessing health and care outcomes and needs for a number of years to produce a so called Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for the borough. The data is used to identify local priorities that will be specifically targeted for improvement (see table). The needs assessments and clinical data that underpin the JSNA are available via a section on Wandsworth Council’s website called the Observatory.<sup>15</sup> We have used the JSNA priorities in the table on the right as a starting point for analysing voluntary and community activity to improve health and wellbeing in the borough.

Ten case studies are included in this section. They constitute a very small sample from a large and diverse sector that we cannot possibly do justice to in this report, but that we would like to see celebrated and valued in every way possible.

For every case study, there are almost 100 more organisations that work every day to improve lives in different ways. We hope that these small tastings of community activity will inspire readers to seek out organisations and build relationships with groups that work to achieve the same or similar aims as themselves. We also hope that public sector partners will take note in practical terms of the wealth of organisations that strive towards better health and wellbeing in Wandsworth and find ways of including these organisations in their ongoing work.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Priorities
Geographical variations in ill-health
Obesity in children
High rates of teenage conceptions
Chlamydia and other STI diagnoses
Wellbeing and mental health
Alcohol related admissions
Under 75 mortality
Personal needs and assistance for carers
Maintaining independence
Hospital admissions for falls
Winter deaths

Table: JSNA 2010 priorities

<sup>15</sup> All health statistics pertaining to Wandsworth in this section, including in the purple call out boxes come from the Wandsworth JSNA web pages [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/observatory](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/observatory) unless otherwise referenced.

## 4.1 Geographic variations in health

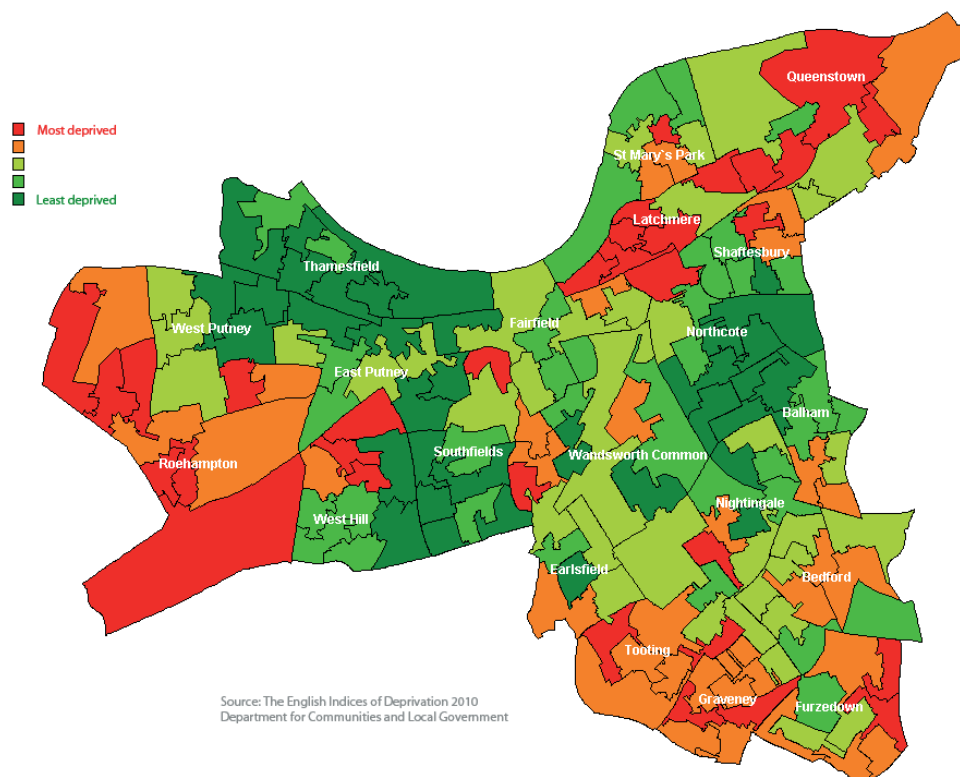
It is a fact that people living in areas with high levels of deprivation suffer more ill health. This is the case in Wandsworth as well as in the whole country. The 2010 Marmot Review into health inequalities in England showed that people living in the poorest neighbourhoods die on average seven years earlier than people living in well off areas and that they also suffer from disabilities for an average 17 more years than people in richest areas.

*So, people in poorer areas not only die sooner, but they will also spend more of their shorter lives with a disability [...] These serious health inequalities do not arise by chance, and they cannot be attributed simply to genetic makeup, 'bad', unhealthy behaviour, or difficulties in access to medical care, important as those factors may be. Social and economic differences in health status reflect, and are caused by, social and economic inequalities in society.<sup>16</sup>*

Data on how different aspects of deprivation affect communities in the borough is available from the English Indices of Deprivation, compiled by the Department for Communities and Local Government (see map)<sup>17</sup>.

The patterns on the map show that the far west of the borough, along with the very south and the north east are the most deprived in overall terms, while the centre of the borough is relatively less deprived and three large areas of dark green in the north west, west central and east of the borough have the lowest levels of deprivation.

We applied a post code search to the main areas highlighted in red to get an understanding of the volume and types of voluntary activity going on in those areas.<sup>18</sup>



Map showing relative levels of deprivation across Wandsworth borough.

16 Fair Society, Healthy Lives: Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post-2010. The Marmot Review, 2010, exec summary p.10. [www.ucl.ac.uk/marmotreview](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/marmotreview)

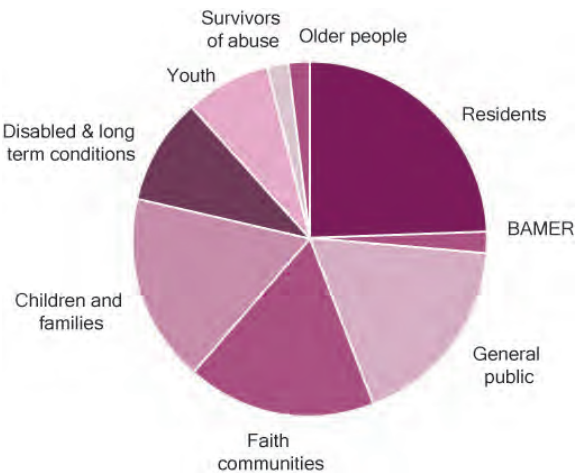
17 For details of how deprivation scores have been calculated, please consult the Department for Communities and Local Government's dedicated web pages on the English Indices of Deprivation at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/indices2010>

18 The post codes and deprivation zones may not match exactly, but it is as close as we can get to overlaying the location of VCS groups..



West

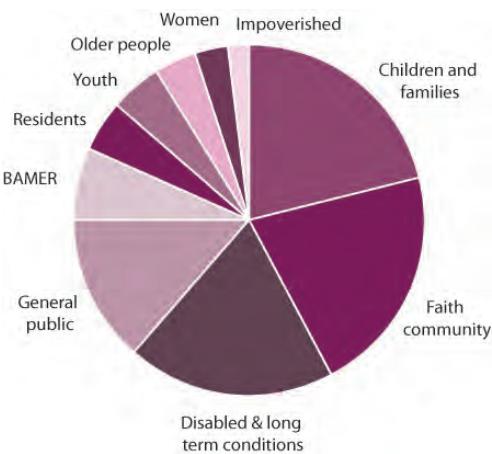
In the far west (post codes beginning with SW15 3, 4 and 5, and SW19 5), around 50 organisations work in the most deprived areas, predominantly with children and families, residents, faith communities and the general public. A surprisingly small number work with older people, youth and BAMER communities. The work that the organisations in the west do focuses on community and faith based activities, education and training and sport and leisure. There are a further small number of groups (such as parent teacher organisations) that raise funds for local causes.



Graph: Main groups catered to in SW15 3, 4 & 5 and SW19 5

South

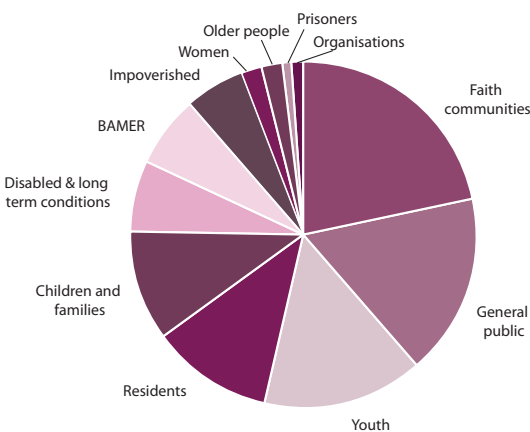
In the most deprived parts of southern Wandsworth (post codes starting with SW16 1 and 6, and SW17 0 and 9), there are over 100 organisations, double the amount in west Wandsworth. They predominantly serve children and families, faith communities, people with disabilities and long term conditions, and the general public. The main focus of their work is faith activities, health and care services and education and training, but there are also 11 groups that raise funds for local causes. Compared to west Wandsworth, the south has a high proportion of health and care organisations, culture and arts provision and advice and legal help.



Graph: Main users catered to in SW16 1 and 6, and SW17 0 and 9.

North East

The 107 organisations in the most deprived areas of north east of Wandsworth (post codes starting with SW11 2, 4 and 5, and SW8 4 and 5) cater to a wider spectrum of the local population than the organisations in the west and south of the borough. Like in the other two parts, faith communities are among the most numerous, along with activities for the general public. Youth provision is higher in this part of the borough (16 organisations), while provision for children and families is slightly lower. There is a high proportion of education and training providers, arts and culture organisations, places of worship and community centres but, like in the west, there are very few organisations providing legal advice and information.



Graph: Main users catered to in SW11 2, 4 and 5, and SW8 4 and 5.

## Body Action Campaign

Harnessing talents among young people



Body Action Campaign is a small Tooting based charity working with children and young people. They have had great success over the last 15 years working with disadvantaged young people that often come from overcrowded estates with a high incidence of alcohol and drug misuse. Many are 'latchkey kids' (children who spend a lot of time alone in their homes) from single parent families. Many are refugees and asylum seekers who face a whole new cultural experience just by living in London. They are often surrounded by bullying, violence and vandalism, with nothing to do and nowhere to go.

Body Action Campaign believes that every child has their own special talent and aims to nurture that talent and raise children's standards and expectations. BAC teaches filming, animation, music, rapping, dance and puppetry to children aged between 7-16 years of age. Last year they worked with 527 children, with a team of 4 core volunteers, 13 new volunteers, 8 junior peer trainers and 32 parents/carers assisting. There are no paid members of staff but specialist trainers are employed for specific workshops.

Body Action Campaign works with a variety of after school clubs, children's groups and with families on local estates. There is a real sense of collaboration as the children work as a team to create, plan and produce each project. They are also respected and trusted by the volunteers who always listen to their ideas, which is something they may not have experienced often in the past.

Local police believe that Body Action Campaign has really helped to make the whole area safer. Parents and carers tell the co-ordinators that the estates are much nicer places to live in now that many families know each other through working on their projects.

## 4.2 Children and teenagers

126 organisations in Wandsworth work with or provide activities for children and families, while 176 work primarily with young people (over 90 of which are uniformed groups). Together, these two categories make up almost a third of the organisations covered in this report. They offer a wide variety of help, support, fun, learning and skills for life usually on a very local level.

This large sub section of the voluntary and community sector is and has been working to improve children's and families' lives in the borough for some time; is the potential that they represent fully utilised in plans, projects and campaigns to combat childhood obesity in collaboration with schools and public sector agencies?

### Obesity

In terms of tackling childhood obesity, over 100 organisations offer opportunities for outdoor activities such as scouting and a variety of sports from boxing to gymnastics. 10 organisations work directly in the health and care areas to achieve better health outcomes for children (for example the Mini Cooking club that teaches families to cook and eat nutritious and healthy food).

A number of the borough's youth clubs run football and other sporting activities that are open to all. Several community based support organisations promote healthy lifestyles in children as part of their wider work, like Women of Wandsworth who have successfully campaigned for free outdoor spaces for children to learn and play.

The combined prevalence  
of overweight and obesity in  
children in Year 6:

**35.4%**

45 organisations provide childcare or specialised learning opportunities for children and their parents. Wandsworth Primary Play Association has played a key role bringing voluntary sector child care providers together for a number of years in the borough.

### Teenage pregnancy and STIs

176 voluntary and community groups catering to young people operate throughout the borough. A majority of them are scouting groups that offer around 1400 young people *a structured programme of activities, to enable them to become valued members of society*.<sup>19</sup>

In terms of tackling teenage pregnancy and STIs, a very small number of organisations work with this issue head on. Among the ones that include sexual health and pregnancy in their aims and mission are:

- Urban Voice UK (see case study)
- Halo that works to distribute condoms at clubs and bars.
- Kate Management Academy in Clapham Junction.
- Th@w's advice and support services for young people in Wandsworth.
- Some youth clubs offer free condoms and advice.

It is also worth noting that many local faith organisations support their members and congregations to make choices that prevent the spread of STIs and pregnancy outside of marriage.

The underlying factors that influence teenage pregnancy, such as having better opportunities in life and getting a good education are often the focus of voluntary sector work. 23 organisations provide education and training for young people, while 11 provide arts and creative opportunities, often for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

<sup>19</sup> [www.scoutinginwandsworth.co.uk](http://www.scoutinginwandsworth.co.uk)

## Urban Voice UK

Skills and qualifications for young people



Urban Voice

At Urban Voice we enable young people to live fully to their potential and to freely express their natural gifts and talents. Together, we are creating a great community of support through music and creativity to engage people across cultures and communities because it is entertaining, it is educating and it is empowering. Based in Battersea with 2 part time staff and an army of trainers, facilitators and volunteers, we work with 100-150 young people aged 16-30 each year.

We know first hand the benefits that creativity can have for marginalised groups, helping to integrate people back into society. Urban Voice provides specialist music and creative programmes combined with empowerment education and training. We deliver events, workshops, and career support, like the 14 week Music+ programme which includes a BTEC Level 2 qualification, or our 12 week enterprise training course, the Business! We also facilitate a dinner discussion forum, Get Real, which is run for young people by young people. A lot of our training work is one to one with participants and we also deliver the national Project Talent UK programme, an intensive creative and training project that leads to industry employment.

Urban Voice believes that the best way for young people to learn is by doing, so we offer real 'job' experiences to young people looking to access the creative industries. More importantly, personal empowerment is built into all Urban Voice training programmes to enable participants to take the next step no matter what they want to pursue in life. This is of real benefit in helping to build aspirations and self esteem, tackle teenage pregnancy rates and crime as well as unemployment.



## Canerows and Plaits

Improving mental health



Canerows and Plaits (CaP) is a user-led group working to improve the lives of people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds with mental health problems. They are based at Sound Minds in Battersea, an award winning mental health arts charity and social enterprise that is also user-led.

CaP's members have experienced the mental health system from the inside and use their personal knowledge to help others. They make ward visits to listen, talk and offer advice to patients, but also to collect views and feed them back to NHS managers on issues such as food, staff attitudes and safety for patients. Their work has resulted in changes to food and to the introduction of welcome packs, including toiletries, on some wards.

The team covers 4 hospital wards per week, making 155 visits and engaging with patients on 707 occasions in the last year. The views of patients were summed up in a comment from an independent evaluation of the first year of the project: "I think they bring a bit of light into the place".

The training for Ward Visitors is Open College Network accredited and it has been designed by the users themselves. It teaches skills like how to interact with patients and staff, while retaining an emphasis on ordinary human kindness. On completion, trainees start visiting wards as paid employees, with support and supervision from CaP. This provides valuable experience that can lead to a career in social care. 10 former patients have now completed the course.

CaP also works to fight stigma around mental health by organising regular arts-based events with Sound Minds and works on an ongoing basis on a small budget to enable people to have a say about mental health services.

A substantial number of organisations work with the particular groups of young people that are at higher risk of becoming teenage parents (Black Caribbean, mixed Black and mixed Asian children, children in care or leaving care, young offenders and LGBT youth). The knowledge and access they provide could be very valuable even though their work is not primarily focused on sexual health or pregnancy. Many of the borough's youth, BAMER and LGBT projects as well as several churches, mosques and temples would fit that bill.

### 4.3 Mental health and wellbeing

We found 16 organisations in our dataset that specialise in mental health services, and a further 9 that offer emotional support and promote mental wellbeing as a secondary activity or through their wider work. Many more organisations work to connect communities, combat isolation and offer social opportunities to local people, thus helping to prevent depression and loneliness. Among the specialised organisations are groups that provide:

- Advocacy and advice
- Arts and creative projects
- Gardening
- Befriending
- Help getting back into employment
- Outreach for young people from BAMER backgrounds
- Counselling and helplines
- Support for people with dementia and their carers.

Mental ill health is more common in deprived areas and among men and BAMER communities. Wandsworth has high prevalence of all types of common mental disorder.

Many of these organisations are well linked in with public sector mental health services, such as Thrive that runs gardening initiatives in Battersea Park. Others operate on a self-help basis, such as the Lane Community on Garratt Lane for that started up to enable people who had previously attended a mental health resource centre to come together during the day.

The Community Empowerment Network in Battersea runs a mental health network of BAMER groups and faith organisations that works with some of the population groups where mental ill health is most prevalent. That work has resulted in a partnership with the NHS to deliver psychological therapies in community settings, opening the door to exploring how other key services could be offered closer to and in partnership with the people that need them.

#### 4.4 Alcohol

15 organisations work directly to target alcohol misuse and to help people with addictions to turn their lives around. The most prolific is Alcoholics Anonymous that runs 31+ meetings in community settings in Wandsworth. Several organisations combine preventative work aimed at the general public with more complex work with individuals suffering from addictions.

Estimates suggest that 40,000 Wandsworth residents aged 16-64 are putting their health at risk or have already experienced health problems as a result of drinking.

Some of them are larger operations that work in several locations (Cranstoun, Turning Points), while others target very specific groups or areas, such as Battersea Alcohol Service and Robertson Street Project.

### Imani Project

Empowering women affected by domestic violence



Imani Project

Imani was established in 1995 and is based at Battersea Central Methodist Mission on York Road. Due to funding difficulties, the project was forced to close, but it was started up again in 2011 because of demand for its services and thanks to support from Battersea Mission.

Imani is a unique and inclusive community for isolated and vulnerable women who have experienced domestic violence. To those that attend each week, the Project is a refuge of encouragement and support, where women and children make the shift from victims to survivors in a safe environment where confidence and self-esteem can be built back up and new skills can be developed.

Imani also reaches out to young people and children affected by domestic violence in Wandsworth and it has a consistent track record of working with people from all ethnic backgrounds, religions and ages, reflecting the local population on the surrounding estates.

At Imani, women and children take part in a range of activities, including creative writing, music and art workshops, trips and outings, Zumba and fitness, jewellery making, aromatherapy and basic IT skills. The combination of learning a new skill, taking up a new hobby and spending time with other women in the same situation provides a unique opportunity to rebuild lives and confidence.

The Imani Project is a small organisation with one part-time Community Development Worker and one volunteer to run activities and support clients. It is an example of an organisation that operates on a financial shoe-string to do solid work with some of the most vulnerable people in Wandsworth.

## Paul's Cancer Support Centre

Prevention and support in the community



Paul's Cancer Support Centre provides support, information, therapies and self help approaches for people with cancer and their relatives. We also provide home visits for those too unwell to visit us and we do cancer awareness work in the community. Every year, 400 people receive intensive help and support; nearly 1500 access services like information, benefits advice, cancer awareness sessions and wellbeing events. A further 9500 people use publications, audio downloads and the centre's website.

Cancer turns people's lives upside down. It often leads to loss of income, impaired mobility, fatigue and inability to work. It has a big emotional impact, changes family relationships, and means that people live with a great degree of uncertainty about the future. More people live for years following their initial cancer diagnosis and they often suffer from side effects from the treatments or from the disease. People living with cancer need community based support to alleviate stress and get information and advice, especially when they no longer have regular hospital visits. This is where Paul's Cancer Support Centre steps in. After initially providing information and support, we enable people to find their own strength and resourcefulness; people gain in resilience to deal with the impacts of illness and the issues they have to face.

In deprived areas of Wandsworth, cancer awareness is low and more people die because they are diagnosed too late. Paul's is working with the NHS on two projects to help disadvantaged populations recognise the signs and symptoms of cancer, encouraging people to visit their GP at an early stage and taking screening. One of these projects is called Cancer Champions, where volunteers in Roehampton talk with members of the public about the signs and symptoms of lung cancer. Paul's is also developing partnerships with local BAMER groups to deliver cancer awareness sessions in community based locations.

Most organisations tend to work with people that face multiple, complex challenges including alcohol and/or substance misuse, homelessness, mental health, domestic violence and a history of criminal offences.

### 4.5 Under 75 mortality

An unusually high number of people in Wandsworth die before they reach the age of 75 and they die mainly of cancers and cardiovascular diseases. The voluntary and community sector contributes to prevention in a number of ways, predominantly by promoting healthy lifestyles and by increasing awareness of risk factors and symptoms within the local population.

The sector plays a crucial role in preventing ill-health through keeping fit activities and sporting, healthy eating advice and cooking skills.

Nearly 40% of deaths among people under the age of 75 were from cancer and 25% were from circulatory disease.

There are a number of local branches of national organisations that work to prevent and provide support around specific conditions, such as high blood pressure, stroke, diabetes, and cancer.

Organisations play a key role in health promotion by offering activities for specific cultural and language groups. In more deprived areas of the borough, a number of organisations provide free or affordable opportunities for physical activity and a range of culturally sensitive healthy lifestyle activities. Several organisations are working in partnership with the NHS to raise awareness of symptoms and to encourage people to make use of screening.



## 4.6 Carers

The number of voluntary and community groups catering specifically to carers in Wandsworth appears relatively small given the number of carers in the borough. Many organisations that provide information and advice or that help people with different medical conditions also extend their services to carers.

There are estimated to be over 19,000 Carers in Wandsworth.

Specific support groups, respite assistance, social activities and hands on, targeted help specifically for carers seems less common. We found such support available from the Alzheimers Society South West London Office, Age UK Wandsworth, the Young Carers Project at Katherine Low Settlement, Wandsworth Carers Centre, the Black Carers Group, Wandsworth Care Alliance and Rethink.

This list is by no means exhaustive. There are at least a further 7 organisations that cater to carers as part of their work with a particular client group, such as people who have suffered a stroke, people with learning disabilities, mental ill-health and different long-term conditions and illnesses like sickle cell and Parkinsons. Several organisations providing support and activities for families and children also include carers in their client group.

### S.T.O.R.M

Empowering communities in Battersea

STORM stands for Support, Trust, Opportunity, Rebuilding and Motivation. Set up by Marie Hanson in Battersea, the aim of the organisation is to empower single parents and families living in the local community who are on benefits or on a low income to break out of their current cycle and achieve their full potential. Members face multiple issues relating to for example poor health, crime, unemployment and educational attainment.



S.T.O.R.M

STORM looks holistically at the ever changing needs of local women and families to enable them to make positive changes in their lives. That work has now expanded to working with young people in the surrounding area, providing and putting in place opportunities for them to change their lives.

STORM was formed in 2004 with just 4 members and has grown to over 1000 members accessing services, including over 300 young people. Currently, 30-40 people use their services on a weekly basis. There are two members of staff and a voluntary support/employment advisor who helps people back into work and facilitates voluntary/apprenticeship placements for young people through the organisation's weekly Job Shop. There are also 2 permanent crèche workers who support mothers attending accredited classes and workshops and a number of regular volunteers who help out at the Job Shop and at the evening youth club.

STORM has made some remarkable achievements in the last couple of years. Since June 2010, 58 women have been supported into employment, enabling them to take their families out of poverty. 196 members have attended different types of classes (all of which provide on site crèche services for parents) ranging from basic skills in literacy and numeracy to parenting and therapy classes. Out of the 84 who sat examinations (funded by Wandsworth Lifelong Learning) in 2011, 79 passed, which was fantastic.



## Lavender Bridge Club

Keeping minds active and people together



There has been a bridge club at York Gardens Library since 1990. Between 80 and 100 people attend each of the twice weekly sessions, the vast majority of whom are over 70 years old. The aim of the club is to provide consistent and reliable sessions of the game of bridge for local people to improve their playing skills and have a good time. The club is co-ordinated by a number of volunteers, led by Andrew Stimson.

Because of the excellent facilities at York Gardens Library, the club can accommodate people with disabilities. People of all abilities can play here and the environment is tolerant of slow play, something which can be difficult at conventional bridge venues.

For some older people the social aspects of playing bridge are very important. At Lavender Bridge Club, partners are provided for those who come alone and the regular sessions help prevent isolation and allow friendships to develop. Participants get a hot meal on Wednesdays and cakes, cheese and biscuits on Fridays. For many people, these are the only times in the week that they leave their houses.

"This is a great day out for people - they really enjoy it. People come early and have a cup of tea and a chat. They are able to socialise with friends, have a good meal, and follow their passion for playing Bridge. The game is known for its ability to reduce the likelihood of developing dementia; research suggests that it may be by as much as 75%" says Andrew.

"We really are doing a lot of good and saving the government a lot of money in terms of care" says Andrew. "Coming to the Club enriches and prolongs people's lives and keeps them social and mentally active."

## 4.7 Older people

In Wandsworth, there are over 40 venues run by voluntary and community organisations and churches where people over 65 can go to socialise, share a meal, meet new people and take up new hobbies or learn skills. During the cold winter months, many older people also attend day centres to warm up when they cannot afford to heat their own homes.

Many of these places are specialised day centres that cater to people with different levels of care needs as well as to older people that share a specific ethnicity or language. Many care organisations also help older people stay in their homes and live independently for as long as possible. For example, the multi lingual team at Mushkil Aasaan supports people in their homes with all kinds of personalised help.

Voluntary and community day centres like Hestia Age Activity Centre, the Furzedown Project, Regenerate-RISE, Tooting Graveney Daycare Centre, Solace Community Care and many others have worked within the community for a long time and understand the needs of local older people well. The same thing can be said of the many churches that run activities and lunch clubs for older people, such as Balham Baptist Church and St Michael's.

The voluntary groups that work with older people in Wandsworth are far more than service providers to local people. They are often the closest thing to family that many people have. They reach out to older people to invite them to get involved in some form of voluntary activity or to attend day activities following a bereavement. Enabling people to form new social bonds and keep busy at such difficult times can help prevent isolation and depression.

The leisure activities and learning opportunities available to older people in the borough (offered by organisations like Age UK Wandsworth, U3A, Lavender Bridge Club and 50+ Restart) include mind sports, bowling, yoga, various courses, gardening and volunteering.

Keeping fit and staying active helps prevent loss of mobility and spending time alone, which in turn prevents falls and combats isolation. Regularly attending activities also means that other people keep track of a person's whereabouts and overall health. At the same time, the voluntary work done by older people puts many hundreds of hours into local organisations.

## Tooting Graveney Day Care Centre

Active lives and social gatherings for older people



Tooting Graveney Day Care Centre

Tooting Graveney Day Care Centre started over 24 years ago as a place to socialise for retired Afro Caribbean people living in the surrounding area. There was a real need to combat loneliness and isolation faced by many local older people and the activities quickly became popular, which led to the centre expanding its work to provide more activities and opportunities to socialise and share a meal.

The Centre is open two days per week and is run by volunteer Nathalie Gibson-Wilson with a team of eleven trustees, a driver, a cook, a travel escort, exercise trainers and a computer trainer. About 100 people attend every month, the majority of whom are over 70 years old. They can take part in exercise classes and knitting circles, play dominoes and have a hot meal. There are also arts and crafts classes such as basket making to encourage manual dexterity and strength, and computer classes to enable people to stay in touch with distant relatives and friends by learning to use e-mail and internet.

Several of the Centre's visitors are housebound and often have no family close by. Many are at risk of isolation and depression and find it difficult to cook a hot meal, or just don't want to cook for one. Others seek out the centre to escape the cold during the winter months when they can't afford to heat their own homes. They also come along because of a general lack of basic human contact and care.

Tooting Graveney Day Care sits at the centre of a strong social network that looks after its members and visitors. For example, people who cannot get to the centre on their own are collected and dropped home in a minibus. If someone does not come along to the centre as planned, Nathalie will call them to make sure that they are okay.

## 5. Appendices

### 5.1 Methodology

We assembled the data for this report through three main activities:

- Desk research
- E-mail enquiries and telephone interviews
- Field visits

#### Desk research

We created a spreadsheet of organisational records using a range of categories that form the parameters of the analysis in this report. We populated the spreadsheet with:

- Active records from the Lifetimes Database.
- Records of organisations registered with the Charity Commission as operating in Wandsworth.
- All records showing on the data sheet used to create the first edition of this report and not showing on this new dataset were also checked for activity and included if appropriate.

Duplicates were removed and records were checked against other directories and websites to remove inaccurate or out of date records.

#### E-mail enquiries and telephone interviews

We then did a further research exercise to try to source groups that may not already have been included. Using the internet we checked for signs of activity by searching Google for example for bridge clubs, choirs, amateur dramatic societies and noting information highlighted on local social networking sites and local area websites and then following these up with telephone calls or e-mail correspondence. We re-investigated unformed groups in the borough, contacting various representatives for up to date details of the number and location of groups. We also contacted some organisations providing funding streams for organisations running services in Wandsworth to highlight any organisations unknown to us that are being funded.

### 5.2 Assumptions and Limitations

#### Organisations based outside Wandsworth

Organisations based out of Wandsworth borough but delivering all or most of their services in locations in the borough were included in the dataset. Organisations based outside the borough but not delivering all or most of their services in locations in Wandsworth were excluded. Those records sourced from the Charity Commission were filtered as described above before inclusion in the dataset.

## National/International Organisations

We included in our database organisations whose head office is in Wandsworth borough even if their services are primarily being delivered outside of Wandsworth, for instance international aid agencies. We also included national organisations that have a branch or hold meetings in the borough.

## Location of organisations and services

In gathering data for the report we found that it is common for an organisation to have an address in one part of the borough, but to spread its activities across a range of venues. Also, an organisation's registered address is in some cases the home address of an individual, which is especially common for very small groups, groups that cannot afford or do not need offices or premises or for groups sourced from the Charity Commission who have sited the address of a Trustee as their registered address. In cases where there are clear discrepancies between an organisation's registered address and its working area, we have allocated it to the area where it predominantly works.

## Counting organisations

We have counted large networks of meeting based organisations as one unit. For example, we have not counted the 480+ Neighbourhood Watch schemes that exist all around the borough as individual groups, nor the numerous local chapters and meetings of national organisations like Alcoholics Anonymous. For example, the 31 meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous taking place across the borough show as one record, not 31. Where we found community centres or churches that had a number of projects or groups running as part of its activities, we only included them as separate records in the data sheet if the projects or groups were hosted by the organisation, rather than organised by it.

## Age of organisations

To establish the age of organisations, we cross referenced information from a number of sources including organisations' individual websites, church directories, Guidestar, the Lifetimes database and the Charity Commission. Many organisations have been in operation long before registering with for example the Charity Commission. In all cases where more than one date was encountered, we used the earliest dated record.

## Legal Structures

We have cross referenced information from the Charity Commission with the Companies House register of UK companies to determine the number of incorporated charitable organisations.

## Field Visits

We visited the majority of the organisations that agreed to be featured as case studies in this report. We interviewed and photographed the co-ordinators and often some of the clients or service users. We asked representatives to highlight the key issues facing their clients and how their services make an impact. For some organisations we were unable to arrange site visits and so asked the co-ordinators to provide written material and photographs by e-mail.

### Accuracy of the data source

Data taken from Lifetimes' Database will never be 100% accurate with over 900 records to monitor and with organisations moving premises and changing staff and services on a rolling basis. We endeavor to keep in touch with groups at least every 18 months and we have taken steps to check our records for accuracy, but we have been unable to get in touch with and get a response from all 964 organisations in our dataset.

We are aware that there are probably many more voluntary organisations active in the borough that we have lacked the capacity to map and include.

During the period of time that we have been researching and writing this report a number of groups have been winding up their services and have closed, and a number of mergers and take-over's have taken place or are in the process of taking place. We have worked from the data set as it was in November 2011.

We cannot take responsibility for the accuracy of records held on external databases such as the Charity Commission, Guidestar or Companies House although we have taken steps to cross reference information for accuracy.

## 5.3 Data Sources

The following VCS databases, directories and listings and reports were analysed and cross-referenced to compile our data set.

- The Charity Commission online database
- Life-times database
- State of the Sector 2010 data source
- Companies House online database
- Wandsworth Volunteer Centre database
- Local websites and online directories (e.g. balham.com, church directories, Alcoholics Anonymous online list of meetings, Stitch 'n' Bitch website, Wandsworth Primary Play Association, store locators for charity shops, local uniformed group websites (e.g. [www.air-cadets-squadron-finder.org](http://www.air-cadets-squadron-finder.org))
- Guidestar online database
- Information from organisations funding groups in Wandsworth, both public sector and charitable
- Individual organisations' websites
- National umbrella organisations' websites
- Information from Wandsworth Borough Council departments regarding residents' associations and neighbourhood watch associations
- Information such as e-bulletins and circulars sent to Lifetimes regarding voluntary activity in Wandsworth (e.g. Project Dirt circulars)

## 5.4 References

The August Riots in England: Understanding the involvement of young people. Cabinet Office 2011  
[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/The%20August%20Riots%20in%20England%20\(pdf,%201mb\).pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/The%20August%20Riots%20in%20England%20(pdf,%201mb).pdf)

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<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

Fair Society, Healthy Lives: Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post-2010. The Marmot Review, 2010.  
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HM Revenue and Customs CASC Register  
<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/casc/b.htm>

HM Revenue and Customs ward data on tax credits  
<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cps-wards09.xls>

The Joint Industry Committee for Regional Media Research  
<http://www.jicreg.co.uk>

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment web pages  
<http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/observatory> The Kingham Review into the Clapham Junction riots  
<http://www3.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=15102>

London Data Store  
[http://data.london.gov.uk/datafiles/demographics/egpp\\_r2010\\_shlaa\\_all\\_boroughs.xls](http://data.london.gov.uk/datafiles/demographics/egpp_r2010_shlaa_all_boroughs.xls)

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Wandsworth Borough Council committee paper no. 11-98.

Wandsworth Borough Council committee paper no. 12-218.

Wandsworth Challenge web pages  
[http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200135/get\\_involved/1095/wandsworth\\_challenge](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200135/get_involved/1095/wandsworth_challenge)

Scouting Wandsworth  
[www.scoutinginwandsworth.co.uk](http://www.scoutinginwandsworth.co.uk)





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