## 

**London voluntary and community sector (VCS) funding cuts (a working document)**

**Update: April 2012 - March 2013**

This is one of a series of working documents attempting to keep a record of VCS funding cuts and service closures in London from April 2010. It is meant to complement London Voluntary Service Council (LVSC)’s annual survey (the Big Squeeze) of the effect of the recession and subsequent economic climate on Londoners and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations that support them.

It provides a breakdown of national, regional, sub-regional and borough funding cuts in London and also provides information according to service users and service areas. Please use the Table of Contents to click on to the area you are interested in.

It is not intended to be a complete record of all the VCS funding changes in the capital and figures may be estimates or subsequently revised, when decisions change. Sources used to obtain information include telephone surveys with VCS organisations and local authorities, reports from local papers, research and surveys by VCS organisations and others and requests for information in the LVSC News e-bulletin. We have tried to provide references, where possible.

We hope to provide regular updates throughout 2012 and 2013 so that we can continue to monitor funding changes, identify trends, analyse where gaps are developing and provide evidence of increasing or changing needs amongst VCS service users.

For more information or to amend or add to entries, please e-mail policy@lvsc.org.uk

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# National research

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| **Organisation** | **Report** | **Findings** |
| Lancaster University, Trust for London & Northern Rock Foundation | [Measuring the impact of public spending cuts on the provision of services to prevent violence against women and girls](http://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/VAWG%20Full%20report.pdf)  February 2012 | [LVSC only heard of this report in 2012-13] 31% of the funding to the domestic violence and sexual abuse sector from local authorities was cut between 2010/11 to 2011/12, a reduction from £7.8 million to £5.4 million. Organisations with smaller budgets from the local authorities had larger percentage budget cuts than those in receipt of larger ones: among those with local authority funding of less than £20,000 the average cut was 70% as compared with 29% for those receiving over £100,000, between 2010/11 and 2011/12.  230 women, just under 9% of those seeking refuge, were turned away by Women's Aid on a typical day in 2011 due to lack of space.  The number of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVA) has been reduced: in 2011 among eight major IDVA service providers supporting 13,180 clients, two faced funding cuts of 100%, three cuts of 50%, three of 40% and two of 25%.  IMKAAN, who run services for women from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, report the closing of two of their six specialist refuges and cuts to local authority funding for two more.  RESPECT services working to reform male perpetrators of domestic violence suffered budget cuts so that between 2010 and 2011, 78% of services reduced the number of clients they were able to assist. |
| The Afiyah Trust | [Living in the Margins](http://livinginthemargins.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/interim_report.pdf)  March 2012 | [LVSC only heard of this report in 2012-13]. This is an interim report on the impact of local government social care budget cuts on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. Afull report is expected to be published in Summer 2012.  The overall funding trend was down for BAME voluntary and community sector organisations, with the biggest cuts occurring in the Greater London area – 74% of London local authorities that responded reported cuts. In England around £3m was cut to the BAME voluntary and community sector in social care funding in 2010/2011 – £1.5 million of this was in London alone.  One in five local authorities said that they did not collect data on BAME voluntary and community sector organisations’ funding. |
| Professor Marjorie Mayo, Gerald Koessl, Matthew Scott & Imogen Slater  Goldsmith's University London | [Accessing social justice in disadvantaged communities: dilemmas for Law Centres in the context of public service modernisation](http://www.gold.ac.uk/media/Accessing%20Social%20Justice%20Report.pdf)  March 2012 | The research demonstrated the value placed on Law Centres and the ethos and values that underpin them. The challenges and dilemmas that public service modernisation had been posing had emerged powerfully in the research. But so had the determination of those engaged in developing alternative responses, re-examining ways of providing services most effectively whilst holding onto the Law Centres’ underlying ethos, developing more efficient ways of managing their operations without losing their commitment to team work, increasing the use of voluntary effort without exploiting unpaid labour, using new technologies without undermining the importance of personal face-to-face support for clients, working collaboratively in partnership with other organisations and agencies rather than increasing competition between them. |
| Charity Finance Directors Group, Institute of Fundraising and Price Waterhouse Coopers | [Managing in a Downturn](http://www.cfg.org.uk/Policy/have-your-say/surveys/closed-surveys/2012/april/~/media/Files/News/27547%20-%20A4%20Portrait%20-%20FINAL.ashx)  April 2012 | The report reveals that charities were seeing a reduction in income from all sources while demand for services continued to grow**.** 20%of charities were now considering a merger, an increase from 12% in March 2011. Two-thirds of these were worried about the outlook for their charity. The results suggest that merger is seen as a reaction to the climate as opposed to an opportunity.  93% of fundraisers said the fundraising climate had got tougher in the past 12 months.  49% of charities in London reported a direct decrease in funding due to the impact of the spending cuts. |
| NCB | [Beyond the Cuts](http://www.ncb.org.uk/media/705870/beyond_the_cuts.pdf)  April 2012 | Estimates from charity accounts from 2008 – 9 suggest that children & young people’s charities face public funding cuts of £405million over the five years from 2011-12 to 2015-16. Compared to the VCS as a whole children’s charities would see a greater proportion of their funding cut (8.2% compared with 7.7%).  A survey of children’s charities indicated most were reducing staff levels or reducing the level and/or range of services to cope with the cuts. Just over a quarter thought they would be ‘likely’ or ‘very likely’ to close in the next year. |
| Victim Support | [Consultation response on funding victim support services](http://www.victimsupport.org/About-us/News/2012/04/~/media/Files/Publications/VS%20Consultation%20Response%200412%20lo%20res)  April 2012 | This response criticises the proposed commissioning model plans to change funding of victims of crime services. It claims the plan to break up the national infrastructure that supports victims and witnesses will waste over £21million each year on new bureaucracy and red tape, creating a patchy service for both victims and witnesses across the country.  It will also reduce the amount of fundraising that the voluntary sector generates, diverting millions of pounds into the profits of the private sector and increasing the risk of leaks of victims’ personal information, losing victims’ confidence and their willingness to participate in the criminal justice system. |
| Lloyds TSB Foundation and Lloyds Banking Group | Research into funding the Third Sector  (no electronic version available)  April 2012 | This research suggests that individuals’ willingness to volunteer will increase throughout the downturn with 56% of charities experiencing an increase in public interest. Despite this, 28% of charities say they do not have the capacity to meet this additional demand.  87% of charities polled said investment in their core costs is the area they require most funding support with 60% reporting a year on year decrease in income. While 79% said that central Government was not adequately supporting them in the current funding landscape.  There was concern at the particularly vulnerable position of smaller charities in the wake of a reduction of statutory support, suggesting an inherent bias towards bigger charities within the Government’s Big Society strategy. |
| Charity Finance | [Charity 250 Index analysis](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/12213/top_charities_buck_sector_trend_with_income_rise)  April 2012 | The Charity 250 Index comprises the 101st to 350th largest charities placed according to income over the last three years. The minimum income requirement to be included in this group increased from £13million to £17milllion using figures from 2009-10 accounts. The annual aggregated income of the 100 largest UK had also risen by £356million.  The two biggest fallers in the Index were trust funders that rely on investment income: the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation had a reduction in three-year average income from £27million to £18million. The Henry Smith Charity saw a reduction in three-year average income from £20million to 317million.  . |
| Charity Finance Group | [2012 Salary Survey](http://www.cfg.org.uk/Policy/have-your-say/surveys/closed-surveys/2012/april/~/media/Files/Policy/Have%20your%20Say/4330Q%20CFG%20Salary%20Survey%202012%20EXECUTIVE%20SUMMARY.ashx)  April 2012 | This survey showed that salaries in the largest charities (over £25million income) had increased by 10% on average. In small and medium organisations salaries had remained static or fallen slightly. There had been a widening of the pay gap between small and large charities. |
| New Philanthropy Capital & Zurich Insurance | [When the Going gets Tough](http://www.philanthropycapital.org/downloads/pdf/PR_When_the_going_gets_tough.pdf)  May 2012 | This research on the top 750 charities in England and Wales, with over 100 respondents, highlights that 65% were cutting frontline services and 73% were making staff redundant. 9% even risked closing down entirely in the following year.  Three quarters were drafting in more volunteers, nearly half were collaborating more with other charities and 70% were confident in their skills and capacity to bid for public service contracts.  However, 90% of charities surveyed admitted they now faced a riskier future because of the current commissioning environment. 62% were using, or planned to use, their reserves to keep going. |
| Action for Children, The Children’s Society and NSPCC | [In the Eye of the Storm: Britain’s forgotten Children & Families](http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/policy-research/policy-priorities/in-the-eye-of-the-storm-britains-forgotten-children-and-families)  June 2012 | This report shows that tax and benefit changes between 2010 and 2015 will have an overall negative impact on all types of vulnerable family analysed. The negative impact will be greater for families with more vulnerability.  The impact of overall public service cuts is estimated to have an overall cut in cash terms of between £1,000 and £2,400 on a vulnerable family per year by 2015. Combining tax and benefit measures with public service cuts estimates that families with five or more vulnerabilities will lose £3,000 per year by 2015 (a decrease in total living standards of around 7%).  The research suggests that between 2010 and 2015 there will be a significant increase in the number of vulnerable families with:  120,000 more workless families  25,000 more families with a mother suffering from depression  100,000 more families living on a low income (below 60% median income)  25,000 more families in material deprivation  40,000 more families living in poor quality or overcrowded housing.  The number of children living in extremely vulnerable families (six or seven different risk factors) is set to almost double from fewer than 50,000 to 96,000. |
| British Red Cross | [Taking Stock: assessing the value of preventative services](http://www.scribd.com/doc/96155047/Investing-to-Save-an-economic-analysis-of-British-Red-Cross-health-and-social-care-services) and [survey](http://www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/News/2012/June/Dangerous-cuts-are-putting-vulnerable-people-at-risk)  June 2012 | A survey of GPs and the general public conducted by British Red Cross found that:  88% of GPs say patients are being put at risk due to a lack of social care support  88% of GPs and 80% of the public say a lack of investment or cuts to social care are driving down standards  85% of GPs and 82% of the public think support for people with lower needs is being cut due to a lack of funding  Meanwhile an independent economic analysis of the Red Cross’ health and social care services showed that home-based support can save the NHS up to £10,000 per patient. |
| Demos & Scope | [Destination Unknown:](http://www.demos.co.uk/files/Destination_Unknown_Summer_2012_-_web.pdf?1340294386)  [Summer 2012](http://www.demos.co.uk/files/Destination_Unknown_Summer_2012_-_web.pdf?1340294386)  June 2012 | Over the eight months after which welfare reforms were introduced the six disabled households studied were worse off by between £70 and over £1200. The total loss of income to the six households studied between April 2011 and June 2012 was between £146 and £2,067.  Over the course of the update the disabled  households had become more socially isolated, losing their opportunities to engage in civic and community life, and gradually reducing their lives to the very basics of survival – often within the confines of their homes |
| Directory of Social Change | [Dr Catherine’s surgery: funding](http://www.dsc.org.uk/PolicyandResearch/Reserch/DrCatherinesSurgery)  July 2012 | The Directory of Social Change estimates that if 70,000 VCS jobs were lost between December 2010 and December 2011, this would be equivalent to £1billion of cuts to the sector. Their research suggests that in 2012-13 there was £3.9 billion of funding from trusts and foundations, £2.3billion from the government and £850 million from the private sector. |
| NAVCA | [Quarterly survey of members](http://www.navca.org.uk/news/view-article/quarterly-survey-results-published)  July 2012 | Members of NAVCA (local and regional infrastructure organisations) surveyed were pessimistic about the financial situation; 73% of members thought their own situation would get worse and 71% thought that the financial position of the local voluntary and community sector would get worse over the following 12 months.  42% expected to reduce services in the following 12 months and 29% to reduce staff numbers and 65% to reduce reserves in the following three months.  Collaboration by NAVCA members was increasing; 60% of members said that they expected to collaborate more with other local support and development organisations in the following 12 months).  The biggest issues facing NAVCA members over the following three months were increased workload, increasing earned income and local commissioning. |
| Third Sector & Birdsong Charity Consulting | [Charity Pulse](http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/news/1138900/)  July 2012 | Only 29% of respondents thought morale in the charity sector was high compared with 43% in 2011, the biggest fall since the survey began in 2007. 62% said there had been redundancies in their charities, the same level as in 2011 and 2010. 56% would recommend their charity as an employer, down from 70% in 2011.  Overall, 46% of the Charity Pulse survey respondents believed their charity operated efficiently. When asked whether they thought efficiency had improved since the downturn began, however, only 28% felt that it had. The data shows that these charities that were felt to have improved efficiency were more likely to have over 100 staff and be located outside London. Staff working in London, however, were more likely to be happy with their manager than the national average. |
| NAVCA | [Funding local voluntary and community action](http://www.navca.org.uk/downloads/generate/3234)  August 2012 | By collating local ‘state of the sector’ reports, the authors of this report concluded that:  the majority of local charities and community groups had suffered cuts, although some areas, particularly the most deprived, were suffering more than others.  local charities and community groups were facing increased demand for their services and a significant proportion said they were unable to meet these demands.  children and young people’s organisations were consistently reported as being particularly affected by cuts in funding. In many areas, organisations that work with the most deprived communities had also faced significant cuts or were likely to do so in the near future.  The report also includes findings from a survey of NAVCA members showing:  total income of NAVCA members was down by 19% between 2011 and 2012.  40% of NAVCA members had made or were making redundancies.  there was an increased involvement of volunteers, partly to make up for lost capacity but also because NAVCA members were restructuring the way they work.  NAVCA Members were making considerable efforts to maintain services by exploring the possibility of new sources of funding, restructuring, merging, forming partnerships or adapting services. |
| Lloyds TSB Foundation | [Report on grant-making January – June 2012](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/fundraising/news/content/13170/lloyds_tsb_foundation_increases_spending_the_first_half_of_the_year)  August 2012 | Between January and June 2012 Lloyds TSB Foundation increased the number of charities it supported from 402 in the same period in 2011 to 508 (an increase of 26%). It also increased the funding invested, although to not such a great extent, from 10.9million to £11.2million (an increase of 2.8%) |
| Charities Aid Foundation | [Analysis of income of amateur sports clubs](https://www.cafonline.org/media-office/press-releases/2012/sports-clubs-income-slump.aspx) 2004-11  August 2012 | Analysis by CAF reveals that the income of local sports clubs and charities has fallen by 15% in real-terms since 2004 – the year before the Olympics was awarded to London.  This reduction has hit grassroots clubs and charities with incomes below £100,000 a year hardest. Larger sports organisations, with annual incomes of more than £100,000 have fared better, with a 3% real-terms increase in funding since 2004. |
| Skills Third Sector, Third Sector Research Centre and NCVO | [Analysis of Labour Force survey January – March 2012](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/news/people-hr-employment/tentative-rise-voluntary-sector-employment)  August 2012 | Analysis of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) shows that during the first three months of 2012 the number of paid employees in the VCS increased by approximately 20,000, representing an increase of 2.6% on the previous quarter and equating to a total of 779,000 paid employees.  This follows on from employment levels experiencing a slight recovery during the final quarter of 2011, according to earlier analysis, with 36,000 employees entering the VCS’s paid workforce between October and December 2011.  The number of paid staff is still 5,000 lower than it was 12 months ago and remains significantly less than the all-time high of 806,000 employees in mid-2010. In addition to this, the latest figures indicate that the majority of the recent increase has been among male employees, with certain parts of the sector more affected than others, in particular social care, which has seen a marked decline in staff numbers over the past year. There has also been a considerable increase in the number of employees employed on a temporary basis in the VCS. |
| Volunteering England | [Survey of volunteer centres](http://www.volunteering.org.uk/aboutus/news-releases/2346-drop-in-local-authority-funding-to-over-half-of-volunteer-centres)  September 2012 | A survey of Volunteer Centres in England found that over half that receive funding from the local authority had it cut in the past year. 52% had experienced cuts of up to 80%, with half of those losing at least a fifth of local authority funding. The average cut was 25%.  Only 5% received more money than they did in 2011/12, and 42% received the same amount.  These results follow on from the finding of the Annual Return of Volunteer Centres for 2010/11 which found that funding from local government across the network declined on average by 12% between 2009-10 and 2010-11 |
| National Housing Federation | [Press release](http://www.housing.org.uk/media/news/homeless_families_in_bbs_rise.aspx)  September 2012 | National Housing Federation research found that between January and March 2011 there were 2,750 families nationwide living in bed & breakfasts. Over the same period in 2012 this had risen to 3,960, an increase of 44%. This came after 2011 and 2012 also saw consecutive rises in the overall numbers of homeless – the first rise in seven years – pushing homelessness up 26% in two years. The problem was particularly acute in inner London. |
| Children England | [Perfect Storms](http://www.childrenengland.org.uk/upload/Perfect%20Storms%20-%20FINAL.pdf)  September 2012 | This report looked at the contribution made by public sector contracts to the voluntary and community sector business model, some of the problems associated with commissioning and the interaction between local charitable and statutory sector services.  It raises the question of whether a close relationship between the VCS and statutory sector is necessarily a good thing and suggests that the most distinctive social and economic contribution that the VCS can offer is that of the more ‘traditional’ independent charitable model ‐ acting as independent voices and representatives of the most vulnerable in their communities, and operating independently from the state, generating income, jobs and capacity through fundraising, volunteering, gifts and trading. In other words, the sector’s unique capacity to complement, rather than compete for, public services. |
| Women's Resource Centre | [Factsheet: Women and the Cuts 2012](http://thewomensresourcecentre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/women-and-the-cuts.pdf)  October 2012 | This found that 95% of women's organisations faced funding cuts or a funding crisis in 2011-12. 25% said that further cuts would result in closure. Smaller women's organisations faced larger cuts in local authority funding proportionally.  31% of local authority funding to the domestic violence and sexual abuse sector was cut between 2010-11 and 2011-12 (a £2.4million cut). |
| The Trussell Trust | [Press release](http://www.trusselltrust.org/resources/documents/Press/Foodbanks-feed-100,000-in-6-months.pdf)  October 2012 | Almost 110,000 people have received emergency food from UK foodbanks between April and September 2012 compared with 128,697 in total in 2011-12 and 61,468 in 2010-11  There are 38 [foodbank projects in London](http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/young-people-starving-themselves-to-pay-bills-in-london-8220152.html) compared with 270 in total (14% of total). More than 15,500 Londoners used food banks in London, around 1,000 more than the previous years, with 6,400 of these being children. |
| Wriglesworth Research & Foresters | [Press report](http://news.cision.com/foresters-uk/r/foresters-uk-says-that-the-big-society-still-exists,c9254315) November 2012 | A poll of more than 3,300 UK adults found that 34% of those surveyed donated money to local charities in September, compared with 26% in March. Those involved with local charities increased 3% to 23%.  The researchers attributed the increase to London Olympics and Paralympics. A third of people surveyed said that, following these events, they were more willing to volunteer.  89% of those surveyed said they donated to charity in 2012. But the economic downturn continued to affect giving, with 65% citing financial reasons for not giving in September compared with 60% in March.  People surveyed said the total amount they would give to charity would be less this year (£69), compared with 2011 (£72). However, they plan to increase donations to an average of £78 for 2013. |
| Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) | [Trustees report 2011-12](https://www.cafonline.org/PDF/TrusteesReport_2012_1127A.pdf)  November 2012 | Giving from major donors to Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) increased by 20% to reach a total of £122.9million in 2011-12. Overall, donations to charities through CAF rose to £401million, up from £378million the previous year.  CAF found that donations and pledges from the top 100 philanthropists in the UK (independent of CAF) increased by £220million to £1.89billion, from £1.67billion in 2010 -11  Companies gave £71.5million to charities through CAF Company Accounts and fundraising accounts – an increase of £6million from 2010 -11.  Almost six in every ten adults in the UK donated to charitable causes, according to CAF's annual survey. This equates to 29.5million adults giving in a typical month. The proportion of people giving also increased slightly over 2010 -11, from 56% to 58%, which continued the upward trend since 2008 -09. |
| Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) | [Press report](https://www.cafonline.org/media-office/press-releases/2012/2611-charities-deficit.aspx)  November 2012 | Charities of all types with incomes of up to £1million a year reported total deficits of £306million in their financial year ending in 2011, compared with an overall surplus of £325million in the 2007 financial year. The 2011 figure was a huge increase on 2010, when small and medium-sized charities reported an overall loss of £20milllion. Charities with incomes up to £1million represent around 80% of Britain's registered charities. |
| Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) | [Press release](https://www.cafonline.org/media-office/press-releases/2012/0912-charities-fear-closure.aspx)  December 2012 | Research specialists Research Now surveyed 252 senior workers in charities of all sizes.  17% said it was likely that their charity may face closure in the next 12 months  40% worry that their charity may have to close if the economic situation does not improve  49% say they have had to use reserves to cover income shortfalls over the last year  26% say they had cut front-line services  25% say they had made staff cuts  90% believe generating more income is going to be their greatest challenge  85% believe that “given the current economic situation I am concerned for the future of UK charities”  81% believe that the current economic climate is causing the charity sector to be in crisis  80% believe that the economic situation is the biggest current threat to the future of UK charities and their own charity  73% believe that charities are unable to fulfil their full philanthropic goals, due to reductions in government funding and/or donations  68% believe that the economic downturn has affected the services their charity provides  45% believe that their charity will have to scale back its work over the next 12 months  35% say that they can see the economic situation improving in the next 12 months. |
| CGAP, Pears Foundation & Cass Business School | [Family Foundation Giving Trends Report 2012](http://www.cgap.org.uk/uploads/reports/FFGT_2012.pdf) November 2012 | The total giving of the largest 100 UK family foundations was £1.33billion in 2010 -11. There was an overall real fall of 1.8% in giving. However, there was a substantial 6.2% real rise if the results of the giant Wellcome Trust were excluded from the group.  The value of family foundations’ assets were  worth £29.7billion in 2010 -11, representing a real annual fall of 3.5%.The giving of the largest family foundations has not yet returned to pre‑recession levels.Asset value in 2010 -11 was still a real 14% lower than in 2006 – 07.  Over half of the survey respondents thought there would be less funding from family foundations over the next few years. |
| Compact Voice | [Local authorities and the voluntary and community sector: investigating funding and engagement](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/sites/default/files/foi_2012_-_local_authorities_report_final.pdf)  [December 2012](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/sites/default/files/foi_2012_-_local_authorities_report_final.pdf) | 17% of England's 352 local authorities did not respond to a Freedom of Information request from Compact Voice, 11% refused on the basis of cost and 7% were late.  56% of local authorities reported reducing the amount of grant funding between 2011-12 and 2012-13  8.6% of local authorities reported no changes to the levels of grant funding between 2011-12 and 2012-13  35.5% of local authorities reported increasing available grant funding to the VCS in 2012-13  71% of local authorities reported having contracts with the VCS in 2011-12, with reported spend totalling £786,309,998.  69% of local authorities reported having contracts with the VCS in 2012-13, with reported spend totalling £509,257,354.  68% of local authorities provided information enabling comparisons about changes in contract expenditure between 2011-12 and 2012-13, which totalled a reported reduction of £60,711,392  50% of local authorities reported making disproportionate cuts to grant funding for the voluntary and community sector  59% of local authorities reported holding consultations on changes to policies and funding, with 32% reporting less than 12 weeks in duration.  42% of local authorities reported holding consultations specifically on potential funding changes to VCS organisations, with 37% reporting less than 12 week consultations  10% of local authorities reported funding changes with less than 3 months’ notice  48% of local authorities reported funding changes with more than 3 months’ notice  59% of local authorities reported undertaking impact assessments when changing or ending funding, or amending or introducing policies locally. |
| Lasa | [Report on a survey of charitable organisations use of technology](http://www.lasa.org.uk/uploads/CharitySurveyFinalReport_feb2013.pdf)  January 2013 | 67% of the organisations surveyed (94) employed no IT staff. 42% of the organisations (58) had no IT staff at all, volunteer or employed.  58% of the organisations outsourced some (or all) of their IT to suppliers and 64% took advice on their use of IT from suppliers, leading to a risk of a possibly high cost ‘lock in’ to a specific supplier. |
| The Baring Foundation | [Independence Under Threat: the voluntary sector in 2013](http://www.independencepanel.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Independence-Under-Threat_The-Voluntary-Sector-in-2013_WebVersion12.pdf)  January 2013 | A barometer of measures of independence of the sector in this report suggests that independence of the sector has worsened from the year before with independence of purpose, voice and action all under threat. |
| Gingerbread | [Struggling to make ends meet](http://www.gingerbread.org.uk/content/1804/Struggling-to-make-ends-meet)  January 2013 | This report found that the introduction of universal credit in combination with taxation would ensure single parent families lose three quarters of any additional earnings they gain. This is most severe for those with high childcare and housing costs, larger families or very young children. At London childcare prices, people on low wages may actually be worse off working an extra hour if that requires an additional hour of childcare. |
| Charity Commission | [Press report](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/14185/)  January 2013 | The gross income of the charity sector had increased by over 20% in the last five years, from £48.4billion in 2008 to £58.48billion in 2012. The figures showed a steady increase in the sector's income since 2008 despite fluctuations in the total number of charities which has resulted in an overall reduction from 168,354 in 2008 to 162,915 in 2012. This represents a 20.8% increase in income despite a 3% reduction in the number of charities registered  Large charities with an income over £10million appeared to be doing best, with the proportion of total gross income held by these charities increasing from 53% in 2008 to 57.3% in 2012. These figures add to a steady increase in the proportion of income going to the largest charities since the turn of the millennium (41.8%).  By contrast, there are currently 122,541 charities (75% of all charities) with an annual income less than £100,000 sharing 3.6% of the overall gross income of the sector, an average of £17,194 per charity. |
| Skills Third Sector, NCVO & Third Sector Research Centre | [Labour Force survey July – September 2012](http://www.skills-thirdsector.org.uk/news_media/news/changing_face_of_voluntary_sector_workforce_reveals_need_for_skills_and_tra/)  February 2013 | The number of paid employees in the voluntary sector increased by approximately 18,000 over July to September 2012 – the latest period for which data was available via the quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS) – and by 69,000 over the 12 months previously.  Employees remained more likely to work on a part-time basis in the voluntary sector (37.4% of the workforce) than in either the public or the private sector, with the numbers doing so because they could not find a full-time job increasing by 15,000 (36%) over the past 12 months. The proportion of voluntary sector employees employed on a permanent basis (87.6% of the workforce) is also lower than in either the private sector or the public sector (94.3% and 92% respectively). |
| Directory of Social Change | [Guide to UK Company Giving](http://www.dsc.org.uk/Publications/Fundraisingsources/@161200)  March 2013 | In 2012-13 companies gave £470million in cash donations and £600million in total community contributions. However, these have decreased by 9% and 27% respectively compared with the previous edition's figures. |
| Price Waterhouse Cooper, Charity Finance Group and Institute of Fundraising | [Managing in the new normal](http://www.cfg.org.uk/~/media/Files/Policy/Have%20your%20Say/Managing_in_the_new_normal_adapting_to_uncertainty_report2013.ashx)  March 2013 | According to this survey, charities were feeling very much the same in 2013 as in 2012.  67% had seen an increase in demand for services and 72% expected further increases in 2013  58% reported government policies had had a negative impact on funding levels  50% had taken steps to reduce wages or salary costs  21% had merged or were considering merger, with another charity.  Public sector funding had reduced on average by 6% from 2012, with general public fundraising increasing by 7%. |

# National organisation / service closures

# [*Advice Services Alliance*](http://www.asauk.org.uk/fileLibrary/pdf/NatAdviceOrgsUnderThreat.pdf)

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is proposing to end its Community Legal Service (CLS) Grants programme in March 2013. This programme currently funds three national advice organisations:

• The Advice Services Alliance (ASA)

• The Law Centres Federation

• The Royal Courts of Justice Advice Bureau.

The loss of the CLS grant will mean that from April 2013, ASA will be unable to represent the advice sector on legal aid contracting issues or the future development of legal aid services. They will also be unable to continue their training and support services to advice agencies. The loss of grant will also seriously threaten their capacity to deliver other activities, including speaking for the sector as a whole and engaging with government on developments affecting advice agencies and their clients at a time of increasing pressure on the sector. ASA state that the demands on the sector are likely to increase substantially in the next few years, due to the economic climate, changes in social welfare provision and the reduction in the scope of legal aid.

[***Community Development Exchange***](http://www.cdx.org.uk/news/future-cdx)

The national community development charity, Community Development Exchange (CDX) has announced that its voluntary dissolution as a charity and limited company will be proposed at the AGM on 29th September. After Strategic Partner funding was withdrawn by the Government from April 2011, the organisation had been surviving on their reserves and despite attempts to secure alternative sources of finance through funding bids, training and paid talks, this had not proved possible.

# [*In-volve*](http://www.drugscope.org.uk/Resources/Drugscope/Documents/PDF/Publications/longdaysnight.pdf)

The national drug treatment organisation, In-volve, which began life as the Newham Drugs Advice Project in 1990 went into liquidation in November 2011.Their trustees blamed increasing cash flow problems as payment by results contracts became more common, as well as undercutting bids for contracts from larger organisations, although there was also evidence of some organisational financial management problems. Merger talks with other major providers ended in failure and some of these providers are thought to have bid for contracts that In-volve previously delivered following its closure.

#### [Women’s Design Service](http://www.wds.org.uk/)

Women's Design Service, which promoted good design in all parts of the environment to incorporate the needs of women, remains in a state of dormancy, since January 2012 whilst Trustees look at options for the future, as well as the possibility of winding up the organisation.

[***Big Society Network Ltd***](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/governance/news/content/14785/companies_house_prepares_to_strike_off_big_society_network_ltd)

The Big Society Network Ltd. was set up to work with social entrepreneurs, philanthropists and charities to support the delivery of social change. After failing to reply to reminders to file its accounts, Companies House has begun proceedings to close the organisation down. Its 2010-11 accounts showed a deficit of £25,141.

[***CEMVO***](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/14782/umbrella_body_cemvo_goes_into_liquidation)

The Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations (CEMVO) has appointed a liquidator and is in the process of winding up. It lost its Cabinet Office Strategic Partners funding of £269,223 in 2011-12. CEMVO was a national BAME infrastructure organisation.

[***Shelter***](http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/care/shelter-forced-to-close-advice-offices/6525582.article)

Shelter is closing ten offices and make up to 100 staff redundant, as a result of a loss of 50% of its funding for face-to-face advice services as a result of cuts to the government's legal aid budget.

***[CSV](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/13462/csv_sees_income_drop_by_nearly_a_third)***

CSV, the national volunteering charity, has seen income drop by nearly one third from £33million to £22.5million with losses when the Future Jobs Fund ended, loss of their strategic partners grant from the Office for Civil society and loss of other government contracts. This is likely to reduce its social action and volunteering activities.

***[Daycare Trust and Family & Parenting Institute](http://www.daycaretrust.org.uk/news.php?id=76)***

Daycare Trust and Family & Parenting Institute (FPI) agreed to merge on 1st January 2013. The FPI lost around £7.5million of its £8.5milion income with the end of the Parenting Fund in 2011-12. In June 2011 the Daycare Trust had merged with the National Association of Family Information Services.

***[NCVO](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/13714/ncvos_income_plunged_by_a_quarter_last_year_accounts_show)***

NCVO lost a third of its staff as its income was reduced by 27% in 2011-12. Most of the income reduction was as a result of the cut to the Cabinet Office Strategic Partners funding. The organisation also had a projected deficit of £4.4million in its defined benefit pension scheme and finished the 2011-12 financial year with a reduction in its reserves from £2.5million to £2million.

# London Research

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation** | **Report** | **Findings** |
| Migrants Rights Network | [Advice and support provision for migrants in London](http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/publications/MRN_Advice-Support-Provision-Migrants-London_October-2011.pdf)  October 2011 | [LVSC only became aware of this report in 2012-13] Migrant advice services in London were experiencing simultaneous squeezes on funding from a number of directions. Many local authorities had reduced their funding to advice services. Additionally, small and specialist  organisations were finding it hard to compete in the commissioning process being introduced  by many. The early end of the London Councils grant scheme had removed another source of funding, in some cases earlier than anticipated. Changes to Legal Aid were expected to hit many high level advice providers, such as Law Centres, hard, particularly in immigration work. Due to reduced funding from other areas, there was increasing competition for grants from trusts.  Organisations had also experienced a rise in demand for advice. This was, to some extent,  due to reduced capacity at some support organisations leading to increased demand  at others. The same, generally larger, organisations reducing their capacity were  sometimes also reducing outreach services, a double blow to organisations that were now dealing with an increased workload and decreased support. Changes to  housing benefit and the closure of several large immigration advice providers had also prompted surges in demand.  Advice provision was unevenly spread across London. While central areas remained relatively well provided for, there were several areas in London with very patchy support, especially in the outer boroughs. The most obvious of these were Haringey and Enfield in the north, Croydon and the outer boroughs in the south-east and Hounslow in outer west London. There were reports of migrants travelling long distances from these areas in search of advice.  Support for networking had been reduced. Lack of funding, particularly for inter-borough activities, was making networking increasingly difficult at the time it was most needed. |
| Child Poverty Action Group & Cripplegate Foundation | [Delivering the social fund at London level: opportunities and risks](http://www.cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/Delivering%20the%20social%20fund%20-%20%20London.pdf)  June 2012 | The social fund provides a source of support to meet the costs of one-off payments through emergency grants and loans to many families on a low income. Following the Welfare Reform Act 2012, its delivery will be through local authorities rather than the Department of Work and Pensions in 2013.  This report presents evidence that demands on the fund are likely to increase in the future as around 55% of public spending cuts have not yet hit families. Families living in London will be most adversely affected. They conclude that localisation of the social fund could have positive benefits for recipients through providing a more responsive and integrated service but a reduction in the budge means it is unlikely that this improvement will be delivered at a time when needs are increasing. They warn that more low-income families, particularly those living in London, will be left with nowhere to turn in a crisis. |
| Young Foundation | [An insight into the impact of the cuts on some of the most vulnerable in Camden](http://www.youngfoundation.org/publications/reports/an-insight-impact-cuts-some-most-vulnerable-camden)  July 2012 | After in-depth interviews with 88 vulnerable Camden residents the authors of this report found:  the young people they spoke to felt disengaged and disenfranchised, with cuts to the education maintenance allowance and rising costs of higher education, limiting their ambitions.  the pressures on families included failing to find work or struggling to balance the household budget each week. Some were skipping meals or leaving the house less often to save money.  disabled people and their carers expressed fears of isolation and loneliness**.** Those without family support relied upon the respite of day centres and local support networks, which were being reduced.  there was little knowledge of the specific cuts that were still to come but people had a genuine fear that they might be forced out of the borough by the rising cost of living and the cap on housing benefit.  Manyresidents hadset up their own support networks and clubs, or were being supported by neighbours and faith communities.  The authors suggest that doing more to build community resilience may mitigate some of these effects, but warn that tough choices lie ahead to ensure the most vulnerable are not left worse off. |
| Daycare Trust | [2012 London Childcare Report](http://www.daycaretrust.org.uk/data/files/publications/49/London-childcare-report-2012.pdf)  July 2012 | This report found that 19.6% of Londoners were aged 16 years and under compared with 18.6% outside London resulting in a greater demand for childcare in the capital.  Despite an expansion of childcare places and providers there are serious gaps in London's childcare provision, particularly for older children and parents who work atypical hours. 15 London councils did not have enough breakfast and after-school activities, 16 did not have sufficient holiday childcare and 13 lacked suitable childcare for disabled children.  The cost of nursery care for a child under two in London was 24% higher than the British average, and 17% more expensive in inner than outer London boroughs.  Out-of-school childcare in London was 4.2%  more expensive than the British average, although holiday childcare in London was less expensive than the British average. |
| Church Urban Fund | [The Volunteering Gap](http://www.cuf.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Volunteering_Omnibus_Summary.pdf)  October 2012 | Only a third (33%) of people aged 15+ in England give up their time to volunteer for any kind of project. This was lowest in the North and London (26%) than in the South East (39%) and Midlands (37%).  Only 17% of people give their time to charities or community groups (only 11% in London).  Volunteers living in the north of England volunteered to help the socially disadvantaged much more (19% of all volunteers) than those living in the South (12% of volunteers) or London (4% of volunteers). |
| Lasa & Child Poverty Action Group | [Between a rock and a hard place](http://www.cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/CPAG-briefing-between-rock-hard-place-1012.pdf)  October 2012 | This report assessed the current and forthcoming impact of three cuts to social security on families in London: the caps placed on local housing allowance (from April 2011); the benefit cap (from April 2013); and underoccupation penalties for families in social housing (from April 2013).  Government impact assessments predicted that 124,480 households would be affected by these changes. Research by London Councils suggested that 63,000 households with children could be left unable to pay their rent.  Its survey found that many local authorities were actively considering procuring accommodation outside London. However, they feared that placing families outside of London would leave them subject to legal challenge. The alternative, to make up families’ rent shortfalls, was likely to leave local authorities with holes in their own budgets |
| Compact Voice | [Local authorities and the voluntary and community sector: investigating funding and engagement](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/sites/default/files/foi_2012_-_local_authorities_report_final.pdf)  [December 2012](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/sites/default/files/foi_2012_-_local_authorities_report_final.pdf) | In London, councils not responding to this 2012 Freedom of Information request (9% vs 11% nationally) were Hackney, Kingston and Lambeth  27% of councils in London refused to respond on the basis of cost compared with 11% nationally.  No London local authority reported proportional changes to grant funding in both 2011 and 2012. |
| London Councils | [New Relationships: working with the VCS in the new Financial Climate](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/policylobbying/localgovernmentfinance/newrelationships.htm)  December 2012 | While a number of boroughs had reduced their grant spending, and the London Councils grant regime had been reformed, there had been a number of instances of boroughs freezing their spend on VCS grants. In addition, some London boroughs had recognised the importance of building VCS capacity and put aside funding for this purpose.  Lewisham not only retained its spend on VCS grants but created a £1 million pot to develop VCS capacity.  Redbridge set aside £200,000 in 2011 to enhance VCS capacity in the borough and was looking to repeat this in the coming financial year.  Southwark had put in place a £1.5 million VCS transition fund to improve the sustainability of VCS organisations impacted by council spending reductions. Objectives of the fund were to support better strategic planning, service redesign, partnership, collaboration and merger. Four rounds of the fund had been run and over £900,000 had been awarded to 61 organisations.  Many VCS organisations without recourse to significant alternative funds had been forced to concentrate resources on core front-line services, just as local authorities had been doing. In these circumstances, behind the scene services, such as service development, peer support and campaigning, were consequently impacted, especially by the loss of staff.  This report concludes that capacity building support was therefore vital in delivering the medium and long term support VCS organisations required to remain viable and to enhance their independent existence. |
| London Sustainable Development Commission | [London's Quality of Life Indicators 2012 report](http://www.londonsdc.org/documents/research/LSDC_QoLindicators_2012_Evidence%20Report.pdf)  January 2013 | Most environmental indicators had improved or remained the same since the same Commission’s 2009 report. The number of childcare places per 100 children had decreased in London and voting turnout, business survival and fuel poverty had all worsened since the 2009 report. Levels of volunteering had increased slightly (perhaps as a result of the Olympics). |
| Ipsos MORI & University of Cambridge | [Impact of welfare reform on housing associations: baseline survey 2012](http://ipsos-mori.com/Assets/Docs/Publications/sri-housing-impact-of-welfare-reform-on-has-baseline-2012.pdf)  January 2013 | 70% of housing associations operating in London said they would be affected either a great deal or a fair amount by the introduction of direct payments to tenants (compared to 81% nationally).  37% said they would be significantly affected by the size criteria and 30% by the household benefit cap (compared to 61% and 27% respectively overall).  Associations operating exclusively in London on average anticipated a 55% increase in rent arrears following introduction of welfare reforms.  15% of London associations thought it was likely that increased debt arising from the welfare reforms would make it harder to meet loan covenants (compared to 22% overall).  75% of London associations thought their tenants knew hardly anything or nothing at all about the benefit changes (compared to 57% overall).  64% of associations operating in London were providing (or planning to provide) additional money advice and 46% were undertaking (or planning to undertake) customer analysis to identify and target under-occupiers with help (compared to 76% and 66% respectively overall). |
| London Councils | [Tracking Welfare Reform: Local Housing Allowance](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/policylobbying/welfarereforms/housingbenefitchangeprivate/lhadetail.htm)  February 2013 | This analysis found that 160,000 households in London would be affected by the reforms to Local Housing Allowance (LHA), higher than any other UK region. Landlords in London were more likely to evict or not renew tenancies of tenants impacted by LHA changes than elsewhere. Since the main reforms in LHA haad taken place, the number of LHA tenants in London rose by 16% but Kensington & Chelsea had seen a reduction of 16%, with reductions in many inner London boroughs, while Enfield and Barnet had 27% and 43% increases respectively.  There was a correlation between the implementation of LHA caps and the number of households accepted by local authorities as homeless in London. Following the implementation of the main LHA changes in April 2011, the number of London households in temporary accommodation began to rise for the first time since 2011.  80,000 Londoners were be affected by under-occupier ('bedroom') tax, the second highest number for any region behind the north-west. The average loss per household was £22 per week, higher than any other region. 49% of households affected by the new overall benefit cap were in London. |
| London Assembly Health & Environment Committee | [A Zero Hunger City: tackling food poverty in London](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/publications/a-zero-hunger-city-tackling-food-poverty-in-london)  March 2013 | The top three reasons people are using foodbanks in London were: benefit delay (24%), low income (21%) and unemployment (10%).  This report found that food poverty is likely to increase in London as the economic downturn persists and inflation depresses living standards  In London in 2012 95% of teachers surveyed reported some children arrived at school hungry  64% of older people's organisations said older people had found it harder to afford healthy food  n 2009 London had six foodbanks; in 2013, 40: the average number of people fed at each has risen from 68 to 850.  In the last 12 months 59% of charities and community groups surveyed by charity, FareShare, reported an increase in demand for food from their beneficiaries but reductions in their own funding meant it was harder to provide meals. |
| CHAIN | [Street to Home](http://www.broadwaylondon.org/CHAIN/Reports/S2h2013/Street-to-home-report-2012_13.pdf)  March 2013 | 6,437 people were seen sleeping rough in London in 2012-13. This was 13% higher than in 2011-12. 75% of new rough sleepers were seen sleeping rough only once (up from 70% in 2011-12).. |

# London-wide and cross-borough organisations closing services

### [***London Action Trust***](http://cllrlesterholloway.wordpress.com/2012/02/07/losing-mentoring-bid-was-head-and-shoulders-above-the-rest-claims-former-boris-advisor)

London Action Trust, a charity that worked with children and young people to reduce their involvement in crime, went into administration shortly after it was announced that it was part of a consortia that had been controversially chosen to lead the Mayor of London’s mentoring scheme for young Black men. It had lost its London Council’s funding

#### [Eco Actif](http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2012/jul/15/welfare-work-firm-bankrupt)

Eco Actif, a Sutton-based community interest company that provided employment support for 500 people in south-east London went into liquidation in July, at a time when it was a sub-contractor to A4E in delivering the Work Programme. They blamed the payment by results model being used by the Work Programme which had left them with insufficient cash flow and no loan finance options to cover this because lenders thought the Work Programme too high-risk and that “prime contractors were not passing sufficient funds to the ultimate delivery organisations to make sufficient surplus to finance any loan”. Separate to its south-east London contract, Eco Actif had been signed up by three Work Programme prime contractors to provide *ad hoc* support to ex-offenders but had not received a single referral under these arrangements. It also held a European Social Fund contract to provide support to workless families.

#### [Red Kite Learning](http://www.rkl.org.uk/)

Red Kite Learning, a London-based employment and skills support provider closed in July 2012 despite holding contracts worth £1.3million. The Chief Executive blamed the nature of the payment by results contracts it was delivering as part of the Work Programme for cash flow problems that led the Board to conclude that the organisation was no longer sustainable. The organisation had also not been able to bid for prime contracts with the Department of Work and Pensions and Skills Funding Agency because of the high minimum contract values.

#### [London Civic Forum](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/13108/london_civic_forum_announces_closure)

London Civic Forum, which supported civic engagement in London, announced it is to close in September 2012, blaming a lack of political support for its work, and ending its 12-year presence in the capital. The decision to close at the end of September was described as “a voluntary dissolution of the organisation” and the group now plans to transfer its work to another, as yet unnamed, charity.

#### [Middle East Christian Minorities Advisory Service (MECMAC)](http://www2.ealing.gov.uk/ealing3/export/sites/ealingweb/services/council/committees/agendas_minutes_reports/cabinet/25may2010-23may2011/__26_april_2011/Item_14_-_Appendix_2.pdf)

#### MECMAC was established to support Middle Eastern Christian refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. It provides advice and information on living and working in the UK across West London and is based in Ealing. After losing grants from Trust for London and Ealing Council the organisation was facing closure in July 2012.

[***East London CVS Network***](http://www.elcvsnetwork.org.uk/news/archives/sector-news)

The East London CVS Network (ELN), an informal partnership comprising the 10 Councils for Voluntary Service in the boroughs of Redbridge, Havering, Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Newham, Lewisham, Barking & Dagenham, Greenwich, Bexley and the City of London, and is one of five sub-regional CVS Networks that until recently operated in London from 2004. It now looks to be following in the footsteps of those in North and Central London, as their funding from London Councils ended in January 2011. Although they had some other funding and reserves, which are enabling them to continue at present, they have been unable to secure any additional resources, which will limit future support they can provide and may mean they have to close.

[***Social Enterprise London***](http://www.sel.org.uk/news/84-latest/5318-social-enterprise-london-announces-plan-to-work-more-closely-with-social-enterprise-uk)

Social Enterprise London lost their London Councils funding and Cabinet Office Strategic Partners funding in 2011. They have now announced that they will be working with Social Enterprise UK to bring their membership, information and contracting resources together and to co-locate these at Social Enterprise UK’s headquarters from the end of July 2012.

***[Black Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration Network](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/RemovedCharityMain.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1118439&SubsidiaryNumber=0)***

The Black Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration Network, a BAME infrastructure organisation, has closed following problems with its accounts and performance reporting in 2008 – 9. Its closure has sparked a [review and audit](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk_agenda_items=5181) of the systems and policies of one of its funders, London Councils.

# Charities working throughout London removed from Charity Commission website April – August 2012

120 charities working across London were removed from the Charity Commission register between 1st April and 31st March 2013. These were listed as:

Afikim – The Israel Family Enrichment Association

African Care & Development Trust

Arab Women’s Group (London) Ltd

Atdheu Aid

Awdrey Spence (Fishmongers’ Company)

Barnard Randolph (Fishmongers’ Company)

Beyond Youth

Black Neighbourhood Regeneration & Renewal Network

Bodywise

CMA Trust Ltd

Catalyst Urban Trust

Chailey Heritage Schools Trust

Choices Independent Living and Community Support Service

Churches Initiative in Music Education Trust

CJ’s Mediaworkz Ltd

Comet Nursery School Association

Corner Stone ministry

Creative Capital Arts Ltd

Croydon Appliance Reuse Centre (which has been taken over by Groundwork London and re-named [HomeAgain](http://www.arc-croydon.org.uk/))

D.H. Daines Memorial Trust

Dad’s House Limited

Deaffinity

Destined to Excel Network

Dolphin School Trust

Edgeware Masorti synagogue

Equippers Church Network Ltd

Escape Artists Performing Arts Company

Gemach Avroham Vesarah

Generic Technology Centre

Greenwich & Lewisham Roots and wings Scheme

Greenwich Bengali Community Association

Hep Pak foundation

Hill-Vale Playschool

Hope Foundation

Humanity 4 All Ltd

Igreja Evangelica Getsemani

Inner London Training Ltd

Inner Wheel Club of Wimbledon Benevolent Fund

John Apthorp Charitable Trust

John Heron (Fishmongers’ Company)

Jubilee Walkway trust

King Edward’s Hospital Fund for London

Leone Charity Association

Little Venice Motet Choir

London Ballet School

London Classical Performers Trust

Maasim Toivim Foundation

Marie-Louise von Montesiczky Charitable Trust

Merton Refugee Support

Mother Helpage (UK)

Mount Sinai Gospel C&S Church New Jerusalem

Old Tauntonian Association London Club Benevolent Fund

Ondazul Europe Charitable Trust

Osbourn Nanjo ministries International

Overseas Graduates Advisory Services

Padimat Associates UK Ltd.

Peckham & Dulwich Christian Fellowship

Posthorn Lodge Benevolent Fund

Proactive UK

Pumphouse Educational Trust

Radicle

RCCG Rhema Centre

Sinit Association

Society of Amigos de Iracambi

South Asia Society

South East Asian Women’s Support

South East London Family Conciliation Trust

South London Community Music

South Thames Acute Pain Group

Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers

St Margaret’s Theatre Company

St Peter’s Trust for Kidney, Bladder & Prostrate Research

T.W. Gowere Memorial Prize

Tagero

Thames Community foundation (merged to become [London Community Foundation](http://www.londoncf.org.uk/))

The Andy Fairclough Memorial Trust

The Ark Foundation of Malawi (UK)

The Arsenal Foundation

The Carmel Trust

The Central Synagogue General Charities Fund

The Christian Science Students Association of the Pupils of Audrey H. Butterworth CSB Charitable Trust

The Contact Club

The Daisy Chain Children’s Trust

The Footsteps Vocational Academy

The Glaziers Cutter Trust

The Heaven Trust

The Jarrett Foundation

The Kent Archaeological Trust

The Lavender Trust

The Light & Life Full Gospel Fellowship

The Luminary Lodge Benevolent Fund

The Mapalim Foundation Limited

The Mavis Gotto Trust

The National Association of Assistants in Surgical Practice Ltd.

The Neighbourhood Trust for Cancer Research

The Peruvian Orphan Children’s Fund

The Plashett-in-Hame Lodge (no. 5406) Benevolent Fund

The Sidney and Doris Berman Charitable Trust

The Sisters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Madrid Santa Luisa Province

The T.P.D. Chapman Charitable Trust

The Young Masters Initiative

Thomas Jenyns (Fishmongers’ Company)

Transport History Research Trust

Trinity Independent Anglican Church

Trust property held in connection with the Order of Friars Minor Conventual

Turkish Language, Culture and Education Consortium of UK

Twickenham Crane Park ‘A’ Townswomen’s Guild

Uganda Aids Trust

University of Delaware USA in London

Uphill Aid Society

Vignette Arts

Voiceaid

Wallaalaha Arabsiyo

Waterman’s Activities Group

Welcare Community Projects

Welkom Project

Westlon Trust

Westwood High School Educational Development Trust Fund

Winning Life

Woman’s Trust

Work for Wounded

Working together Project Ltd.

Yeshivas or Mencham V’Kolele Birchas Yehudah

Youth Against Knives

96 new charities registered to work throughout London during this period.

# Boroughs

## General

***Changes in formula grant from 2010-13***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2010-11** | **2011-12** | | **2012-13** | |
|  | **Adjusted (£m)** | **Adjusted**  **(£m)** | **% change** | **Adjusted**  **(£m)** | **% change** |
| All London boroughs + City of London (average) | 4.76 | 4.20 | -11.7 | 3.95 | -5.8 |
| Greater London Authority | 2.40 | 2.28 | -4.9 | 2.17 | -4.9 |

**Table 1** Cuts in formula grant to the GLA and London boroughs & the City of London between 2010 - 2013

Across London local authorities and the City of London, the formula grant provided by central government through the Department of Communities and Local Government decreased on average by 11.7% between 2010-11 and 2011-12 and by 5.8% between 2011-12 and 2012-13 - an overall decrease of 17.9% over two years. The Greater London Authority’s formula grant decreased by 4.9% in both years - an overall decrease of 9.6% over two years.

***Changes in spending power 2011-13***

By including additional funding from the NHS for adult social care, council tax freeze grants and transition grants, the changes in spending power of local authorities and the Greater London Authority are more accurately reflected. These figures showed an average reduction in spending power across London local authorities and the City of London of 8.9% over two years and of 6.8% for the Greater London Authority over two years. This reduction is greater in London than the national average[[1]](#footnote-1).

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has shown how local government spending cuts are larger in high-spending local authorities, which are mainly in the urban and poorer parts of England, than in more affluent rural and suburban areas. London has been especially badly hit[[2]](#footnote-2).

This pattern in spending cuts was also seen within London, where the proportion of spending power reduction was much greater for the more deprived London boroughs such as Hackney (total reduction in spending power over two years is 15%) compared with more affluent boroughs, such as Richmond (total reduction in spending power over two years is 2%). (see Table 3 for figures for each London local authority)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **% change 2010-11 to 2011-12** | **% change 2011-12 to 2012-13** | **% change 2010-11 to 2012-13** |
| All London boroughs + City of London (average) | -5.3 | -3.9 | -8.9 |
| Greater London Authority | -2.9 | -4.10 | -6.8 |

**Table 2** Cuts in spending power of the GLA and London boroughs and the City of London between 2010 and 2013

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **London borough** | **Adjusted change in spending power 2010-11 to 2011-12** | **Adjusted change in spending power 2011-12 to 2012-13** |
| City of London | -6.49% | -6.5% |
| Camden | -6.54% | -4.4% |
| Greenwich | -7.71% | -4.4% |
| Hackney | -8.80% | -6.8% |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | -6.56% | -4.4% |
| Islington | -8.78% | -4.3% |
| Kensington and Chelsea | -5.26% | -4.3% |
| Lambeth | -7.70% | -4.5% |
| Lewisham | -6.49% | -4.3% |
| Southwark | -8.44% | -4.6% |
| Tower Hamlets | -8.80% | -6.2% |
| Wandsworth | -6.45% | -4.6% |
| Westminster | -7.22% | -5.0% |
| Barking and Dagenham | -5.94% | -3.4% |
| Barnet | -2.60% | -2.5% |
| Bexley | -2.79% | -2.8% |
| Brent | -5.85% | -4.0% |
| Bromley | -2.46% | -2.7% |
| Croydon | -5.02% | -2.9% |
| Ealing | -4.87% | -3.8% |
| Enfield | -2.77% | -2.5% |
| Haringey | -7.90% | -4.0% |
| Harrow | -1.89% | -2.4% |
| Havering | -1.71% | -2.2% |
| Hillingdon | -3.11% | -3.1% |
| Hounslow | -4.69% | -3.7% |
| Kingston upon Thames | -2.57% | -2.6% |
| Merton | -3.84% | -3.4% |
| Newham | -8.80% | -6.6% |
| Redbridge | -2.59% | -2.8% |
| Richmond upon Thames | -0.61% | -1.6% |
| Sutton | -2.80% | -2.6% |
| Waltham Forest  **Table 3** Cuts to London local authority’s spending power in 2011-12 and 2012-13 | -5.21% | -3.7% |

[CYPNow has reported](http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/1073143/youth-offending-team-budgets-seven-cent-hit) that it has been confirmed that the Youth Justice Board grant for 2012/13 will be £107.8m, down 6.75% on the 2011/12 figure of £115.6m. This is funding for Youth Offending Teams. The cut in funding represents a smaller decrease than the previous year when the total fell 19.73% from £144m. The Youth Justice Board has said it will be monitoring any impact on services.

Charities that are currently exempt will be [liable for charges for rubbish collection](http://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/local/richmondnews/9890650.Schools_and_charities_face_rubbish_collection_charges/?ref=rss), due to changes to the law from April 2013.

## Barking & Dagenham

***General statutory funding[[3]](#footnote-3)***

Barking & Dagenham Council states that is seeking to “promote the growth and improvement of voluntary and community organisations and community cohesion by offering grants to local groups” through:

[Pump Priming Grants](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/AdviceBenefitsAndEmergencies/VoluntarySectorGrants/Documents/PumpPrimingGrants.pdf)

Pump priming grants are provided for up to £1,500. A list of those awarded in 2012 is provided in the above link.

[Innovation Grants](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/AdviceBenefitsAndEmergencies/VoluntarySectorGrants/Documents/InnovationsGrants.pdf)  
Innovation grants are provided for innovative projects of up to £10,000 for one year.  Grants are awarded to local organisations that have an income of less than £80,000 in the last year. A list of those awarded in 2012 is provided in the link above.

[Strategic Commissions](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/AdviceBenefitsAndEmergencies/VoluntarySectorGrants/Documents/StrategicCommissions.pdf)

The Council’s corporate grants programme is use to support diverse voluntary sector organisations and individuals from all communities in the borough through capacity building, community cohesion and advice services. A list of grants awarded for 2012 is provided in the link above.

A total of £108,000 in capital funding is being distributed by the Council to fourteen local voluntary sector organisations to improve their facilities.  The funding has come from the Cabinet Office for a project called *‘Getting there first’.* All of the building works are being undertaken by Barking and Dagenham-based small businesses.

Each of the fourteen organisations being supported is contributing in some way to raising household incomes in the borough and is working with young people or adults to improve their skills or employability in some way.  The beneficiaries include:

* Barking & Dagenham Volunteer Bureau, who are working on projects with young people not in mainstream education and will undertake repairs to floors, walls and lighting at their facility in Barking
* Widows & Orphans, who are refurbishing a shop unit in Dagenham to provide information, advice and guidance on employment and skills to adults

The monies from the Cabinet Office have also covered the costs of a business administration apprentice, recruited from within the borough and who has overseen the progress of the project.

Barking & Dagenham saw a [big increase in the number of squatters](http://www.bdpost.co.uk/news/squatting_soars_in_barking_and_dagenham_figures_suggest_1_1490391) in the borough in 2011-12.

Barking & Dagenham has the [highest risk of house repossession](http://england.shelter.org.uk/news/previous_years/2012/june_2012/top_repossession_hotspot_barking_and_dagenham) in England.

***Barking & Dagenham Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)***

The figures in the table below represent CVS expenditure projections for the three financial years covered by their [Strategic Plan](http://www.bdcvs.org.uk/documents/CVSStrategicPlan20112014.pdf). Income generated through the hire of the Ripple Centre (the Centre developed by the CVS with council support) is currently in line with projections. At the start of the financial year 2012/13, a major source of project funding came to an end. This funding is for a key area of CVS work, and alternative funding will therefore need to be secured in order to continue this work. The projected increase in staff costs for 2012/13 relates to the Ripple Centre. The anticipated increase in use of the Ripple Centre will result in additional staffing requirements to manage and maintain the Centre, but will also bring in additional income that will cover these costs. The projected increase in staff costs for 2013/14 relates to the intention to increase the development support provided to local groups.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2011-12** | **2012-13** | **2013-14** |
| Staff | 339,569 | 384,805 | 424,000 |
| Volunteers | 1,500 | 2,000 | 2,500 |
| Overheads | 40,980 | 41,500 | 42,000 |
| Services | 85,226 | 70,000 | 75,000 |
| Building costs | 81,346 | 85,000 | 90,000 |
| **Total** | **528,621** | **583,305** | **633,500** |

The local paper has recently [reported](http://www.bdpost.co.uk/news/voluntary_sector_hub_helps_to_launch_social_enterprises_in_barking_and_dagenham_1_1484842) on the work of Barking & Dagenham CVS.

***Barking & Dagenham VCS***

In 2010 Barking & Dagenham CVS produced its [“State of the Sector” report](http://www.bdcvs.org.uk/documents/SOTS2010_FinalReport.pdf). [LVSC has not reported these findings in previous funding cuts updates]. Its main findings included:

* There were approximately 600 VCS organisations in Barking & Dagenham. Just over half of these were registered charities, and over 100 were small neighbourhood, community or faith-based organisations.
* The number of VCS organisations in the borough increased by 65% between 2005 and 2010. This increase was predominantly concentrated on small organisations with low income level.
* The number of groups which cited religious activities as their main charitable object increased from 35% in 2005 to 45% in 2009.
* There had been a significant increase in advocacy, information and advice services, showing the sector responding to the worsening economic environment and also to provide information and advice to newer communities arriving in the borough.
* Whilst micro and small organisations made up 83% of all charities in Barking & Dagenham they collectively received only 10% of all income in 2009.
* Six large local charities comprised only 2% of the local sector but accounted for 50% of all income.
* Between 2005 and 2009 the average income for micro-organisations fell by 15%. The average income for small, medium and large organisations rose by 9%, 17% and 29% respectively.
* The total expenditure in 2009 was £35.9million and there were 3,000 trustees providing in-kind support equivalent to £19.2million. The in-kind contribution of other VCS volunteers in the borough was estimated as £11.3milliion
* Local VCS organisation employed over 1,000 paid staff, the majority of whom were local residents. In 2009 the salary bill for the VCS in the borough was £16milliion.
* In 2009 the contribution made by the VCS in Barking & Dagenham was valued at £66.4milliion.

The [2012 report](http://www.bdcvs.org.uk/documents/JSNA%20Report_web.pdf) by Barking & Dagenham CVS for the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identified the following gaps in services in the borough:

* Integration of services especially transition for 6-11 year olds and 17 year olds
* Poor understanding of LGBT issues in primary care
* Increasing family breakdown and sexual exploitation of women
* An increasing number of children, young people and adults on the Autistic spectrum
* No strategic VCS organisation for older people
* Large increases in demand for information, advice and advocacy services
* Increasing numbers of families with high and complex needs and generational worklessness, as families move into the borough as a result of recent housing and benefit reform policies.

**Impacts on individual VCS organisations in Barking & Dagenham**

[***Youth League UK***](http://www.bdpost.co.uk/news/dagenham_charity_helps_disadvantaged_youths_through_300_000_sports_project_1_1482804)

Following some difficult times Youth League UK, which works to increase sports participation and reduce re-offending amongst young people in Barking & Dagenham has received £298,000 in Big Lottery funding to run an outreach program in the borough over the next four years. The charity reported that there had been a huge increase in demand for their play activities since the recession began in 2008.

[***Broadway Theatre***](http://www.bdpost.co.uk/news/barking_s_broadway_theatre_to_be_managed_by_the_council_1_1475805)

The trust which had managed the Broadway Theatre over the last nine years left in August 2012, following Barking & Dagenham council’s decision to withdraw its funding and the theatre is now being run by the local authority andTop of Form Barking & Dagenham College. Barking & Dagenham council made the decision to withdraw the theatre’s entire £331,000 annual grant earlier this year. The council, which refurbished the building in 2003 at the cost of £4.4million, must keep the theatre open for the use of Barking & Dagenham College due to contractual obligations.

[***Scratton Farm Social Club***](http://www.bdpost.co.uk/news/crime-courts/no_hope_as_scrattons_farm_social_club_barking_burns_again_1_1466618)

Large parts of a former social club in the Barking & Dagenham neighbourhood, Scratton Farm, which community members had hoped to open again, were destroyed in a suspected arson attack. The building was closed in July 2012 but as a result of the fire will now not be able to re-open and resulting in the area losing a youth club, community centre and venue for community events.

[***Barking Food Bank***](http://www.bdpost.co.uk/news/barking_food_bank_expands_with_new_storage_unit_1_1461740)

Barking Food Bank, which provides food to those struggling to feed themselves as the recession continues reported a doubling in demand for its services over the two months between May and July 2012.

***[Barking & Dagenham Citizens Advice Bureau](http://www.barkinganddagenhampost.co.uk/news/1_000_vulnerable_residents_set_to_suffer_under_plans_to_cut_legal_aid_in_barking_and_dagenham_1_1678009)***

Barking and Dagenham Citizens Advice Bureau have reported that 1000 vulnerable people using legal aid could suffer after the government announced it would slash its legal aid funding by more than a quarter of a million pounds in Barking and Dagenham in 2013-14.

## Barnet

***General statutory funding***

Barnet council estimates that public spending cuts will result in an overall reduction in its budget that is equivalent to a spending reduction of 26% over a four-year period.

[Barnet council is due to outsource many of its services to Capita in an effort to save money.](http://www.computerweekly.com/news/2240173932/Capita-to-cut-70-of-staff-in-Barnet-council-outsourcing-deal)

## *CVS in Barnet: CommUnityBarnet*

Community Barnet’s budget will be reduced by 7.4% in 2012 -13 and again in 2013 -14, producing an overall cut of 18%.

***Barnet VCS***

LB Barnet proposed the following budgets for its funding of the VCS in a consultation in 2010-11[[4]](#footnote-4). The proposed budgets are summarised in the table below. This is equivalent to a 25% cut in 2011-12 and an 11% further cut in 2012-13. If the CVS, CommUnity Barnet, is excluded from the budget reduction proposed the overall cut to the Grant Programme for the VCS in Barnet is at least 43%, significantly higher than the 26% cut in the estimated spending power of LB Barnet over the same period.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Existing budget** | **Proposed budgets (approximate)** | | | **% remaining** |
| **Budget item** | **2010/11** | **2011/12** | **2012/13** | **2013/14** |
| Community / Legal Advice | £506,438 | £481,438 | £417,438 | £360,438 | 71% |
| Artsdepot core funding | £194,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Preventive Programme | £87,300 | £83,000 | £75,000 | £67,300 | 77% |
| Community Barnet | £94,500 | £94,500 | £87,500 | £77,500 | 82% |
| Volunteering | £34,500 | £34,500 | £34,500 | £34,500 | 100% |
| Victim Support | £13,800 | \* |  | | |
| Innovation fund (LBB element) | £26,000 | To be rolled up into the Big Society Innovation Fund | | | |

**Impact on individual VCS organisations in Barnet**

***[Barnet day centres](http://www.barnet-today.co.uk/news.cfm?id=24499)***

Four day centres for older people in Barnet have been identified as “very likely to close” due to an expected 23% cut in voluntary sector funding. It is part of the council’s plans to rejig day centre provision for the elderly across the borough. Barnet Council is planning to cut the amount of funding for traditional day centres, including Age UK’s Meritage Centre, in Church End, Hendon, and Ann Owens Centre, in Oak Lane, East Finchley, as well as two facilities for the Asian and African-Caribbean community based at the Multicultural Centre, in Algernon Road, Hendon, in favour of increasing local provision provided in libraries, leisure centres and church halls.

***[Barnet Citizens Advice Bureau home visiting service](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?uniqueVmgCharityUrl=barnetcab)***

Barnet Citizens' Advice Bureau home visiting service is at risk as a result of funding cuts.

***[Community Focus](http://www.london24.com/news/barnet_disability_arts_charity_feels_underestimated_by_eviction_threat_1_1975890)***

Community Focus, a Barnet disability arts charity, may face closure following eviction from their current premises.

## Bexley

***General statutory funding***

The Council provides a variety of funding through grants to VCS organisations across the borough. In financial terms this represents an investment in local groups and services of around £9.6 million per year. Bexley has had its main government grant reduced by £9.25m, or just over 12%, for 2011/12 and by a further £5.48m in 2012/13, or just over 8%. It has also suffered reductions in some of its other grant funding.

As part of [Strategy 2014](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/CHttpHandler:ashx?id=8415&p=0), the Councils’ efficiency programme designed to meet the significant reduction in local government funding over the next three years, a phased reduction in the funding provided to VCS and other bodies through grant and subsidy has been proposed. An option to reduce all grant funding across the board is being considered. This would represent a reduction in funding of 20% by 2013/14.

Following the repatriation of a large part of London Council’s budget back to local Councils, BVSC and the Council worked together to ensure that key projects continued to receive funding until the end of their contracts with London Councils.

[Carers Support (Bexley)](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/ilf-carers-support-bexley.doc)have raised concerns that the transfer of Independent Living funds to local authorities from 2015 will not be ring-fenced and risks reducing the support that disabled people can access.

***Bexley Council for Voluntary Service***

[Bexley Voluntary Sector Council](http://www.bvsc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Annual-Report-11.12.pdf) (BVSC) had further funding reductions in 2012-13, following cuts in 2011-12.

***Bexley VCS***

Bexley council awarded over £20,000 to its VCS in [small grants](http://www.bvsc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/July-12.pdf) in 2012-13. The full list of grants is as follows:

• Advocacy for All - £1,950 – To fund training on hate/mate crime for people with learning disability

• Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice - £920 to buy 1,000 advance care planning booklets, to support people in Bexley with advanced illness to plan their future care

• Lark in the Park - £2,000 - To part fund their summer events for families’ parchment craft sessions

• Deepdene Seniors Learning Skills Club £2000 – To run chairobics sessions for elderly residents in Welling

• Bexley Women’s Aid -£1,675 – To fund training courses to assist staff and volunteers to deliver services for women

• Howbury Friends - £2,000 - To fund a community activity and information day to celebrate the Queen’s

Jubilee and bring the community together

• Alzheimer’s Society - £1,750 – To pay for a “singing for the brain/songs we love to remember” event, for people with dementia, their carers and the community to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee

• Charlton Athletic Community Trust - £2,000 – To pay for coaching and rental costs to run a week long course of football activities for young people in Thamesmead

• Kent Association for the Blind - £1,355 – To purchase specialist equipment to enable people with profound sight impairment to more easily use common household equipment

• The Howbury Tumblers - £1,999 – To fund a series of holiday workshops and games events for children 0 to 10 and their parents

• Complementary Cancer Care Trust - £2,000 – To provide workshops to support carers and ex-carers, promoting their health and maintaining their independence

• Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch - £2,000 – to pay for 2,000 copies of the “Safer Neighbourhood Team Guide Book”.

**Impact on individual VCS organisations in Barnet**

[***MCCH Support Ltd***](http://www.mcch.org.uk/pages/common/mcch.aspx?pg=8596)

MCCH Support Ltd, which works over London and the South East, previously worked to support people with learning disabilities in Bexley at three centres, including the Ken Boyce Centre. From November 2012 the 41 service users from this latter centre will be transferred to the Crayford Community Centre, rooms at Crook Lodge and Erith Leisure Centre. The [Ken Boyce Centre](http://www.bexleytimes.co.uk/news/bexley_disability_service_moving_location_1_1466321) will close.

## Brent

***General statutory funding***

In [Brent](http://www.brent.gov.uk/voluntary.nsf/Files/LBBA-79/$FILE/Voluntary%20Sector%20Conference%20report%20Dec%202010%20summary%20report.pdf), cuts to the local authority’s budget amount to nearly a third (£100 million) of existing budgets between 2010 -11 and 2014 - 15. Nevertheless, the council has made a commitment to continue to protect the most vulnerable communities in Brent and to a strong VCS, including development of a resource centre for local VCS groups.

Some councillor's have [predicted that the council i](http://wembleymatters.blogspot.co.uk/2013/01/butts-bleakbrent-budget-forecast-for.html)s facing a future budget crisis with an expected 11.8% (£19.3 million) cut in funding in 2014 – 15 and 7% annual cuts until 2020.

***Brent Council for Voluntary Service***

Brent is establishing a [new Council for Voluntary Service](http://www.cvsbrent.org.uk/favicon.ico) which will begin delivering services in 2012-13. They are also supporting the development of a resource centre for local VCS organisations. Funding for infrastructure support is set to remain constant over 2012-13 to 2014-15.

***Brent VCS***

Funding to Brent’s VCS is set to remain constant between 2012-13 and 2014-15, and an estimated 78% of the London Councils re-patriated funding is ring-fenced for the local VCS over this period (compared with only 48% in 2011-12).

The Voluntary Sector Initiative Fund helps the voluntary and community sector in Brent to deliver work to support the [Council's Borough Plan](http://www.brent.gov.uk/media.nsf/Pages/LBB-145) which aims to reduce poverty and inequality.

The Fund is split into three parts:

* Themed Grants Funding
* Infrastructure Funding
* Advice, Guidance and Advocacy Funding

The Voluntary Sector Initiative Fund budget is £2,068,457. This round of themed

grants offer £661,347 over 2 years and nine months. Organisations recommended for funding through the Fund can be seen [here](http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=8344).

Allocation of the Voluntary Sector Initiative Fund was summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cost item** | **2012-13** | **2013-14** | **2014-15** |
| Last payments Children & Young People grants | £59,554 | £0 | £0 |
| Last payments NT Grants | £15,189 | £0 | £0 |
| Crime & Regeneration | £371,567 | £0 | £0 |
| Themed grants 2012-2015 | £177,985 | £241,261 | £241,902 |
| Themed grants 2013-2016 | £0 | £371,567 | £371,567 |
| Other | £9,360 | £20,827 | £20,186 |
| Infrastructure stream | £159,249 | £159,249 | £159,249 |
| Advice, guidance and Advocacy Stream | £876,874 | £876,874 | £876,874 |
| London Councils contribution | £377,097 | £377,097 | £377,097 |
| **Total** | **£2,046,875** | **£2,046,875** | **£2,046,875** |

NHS Brent estimated that they spent around £4.5m on the VCS in the borough in 2010 -11 out of a budget of £50m. It is not clear how this will be affected by the new NHS structures which will begin to commission services in 2013-14.

Brent also has a system called Ward Working, where local councillors in each ward have £20,000 to spend on local projects.

**Impact on individual VCS organisations in Brent**

***[Brent Citizens Advice Bureau](http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/news/1170330/)***

Brent Citizens Advice Bureau is expecting demand to increase in 2013 - 14. However, the bureau is to lose a third of its funding because of legal aid cuts and it is planning redundancies.

***[Brent festivals](http://brentcouncillibdems.com/category/voluntary-sector/page/2/)***

Funding for a number of community and cultural festivals in Brent has been cut.

## Bromley

***General statutory funding***

[Bromley council](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200024/consultations/692/tough_choices) has a net budget of £200 millionand hasto save more than £30 million over the next three years***,*** in addition to the £22 million they saved in 2011-12. They estimate that over the four years this will be a net saving of almost 25% of their net budget. Bromley is the lowest spending, per head of population, council in London.

The council states that it works closely with the VCS to ensure services are delivered as cost effectively as possible.  However, unlike many authorities they do not give grants to VCS organisations but only use contracts with them to provide services.

***Community Links Bromley***

Community Links Bromley has had its funding from the local authority cut by 100% between 2011-12 and 2012-13.

***Bromley VCS***

Community Links Bromley reports that there are no exact figures for the change in LB Bromley spending upon the VCS between 2011-12 and 2012-13, as the sector is funded through contracts with a number of different council departments. They also report cuts to local police budgets for the VCS in Bromley. It was not clear what proportion of the funding LB Bromley saved from the London Borough Grants Scheme was to be spent on the VCS.

**Impact on individual VCS organisations in Bromley**

[***Scope***](http://www.bromleytimes.co.uk/news/court-crime/scope_appeal_for_donations_after_bromley_eviction_1_1461180)

Disability charity, Scope, was banned from 34 clothing banks in June 2012 when Bromley council handed the sites over to the private sector waste firm, Veolia. The council will now receive a profit from the sale of any textiles collected. Scope is now appealing to the local community for stock for its charity shops.

## Camden

***General statutory funding***

[Camden council](http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/council-and-democracy/publications-and-finances/twocolumn/the-camden-challenge.en?page=12) took a long-term approach to addressing public sector spending cuts by constructing a three-year savings programme in 2011. This planned approach meant that on current projections the Council will present balanced budgets in 2013/14 and 2014/15. They plan that this will mean no further public service cuts on top of those already announced until 2014 unless there are extra government cuts or new pressures from changes in the law. In 2011-12 they made £39.4million savings through cuts and efficiencies – 47% of their target. They state that they have tried to cut internal staff and salary costs rather than cut frontline services, although the latter has been inevitable in some cases. They claim that more than half of their current savings have been achieved through ‘back-office efficiencies’, such as reducing senior pay and the number of managers and cutting the previously high spend on external consultants, which is down 37% from 2009/10

Council reserves were being used to fund the Camden People’s Fund in 2011-12 and will also be called upon to continue this Fund (although with a 68% reduction in the contribution from council reserves) in 2012-13. The Fund was worth £2.91 million in 2011-12 and was used to help services and organisations facing cuts to find new funding and cheaper ways to deliver services.  Kentish Town City Farm received a £120,000 grant from the Fund.

[Camden Council](http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Youth_Work/article/1109003/camden-protects-voluntary-sector-youth-service-funding/) voted to protect some funding for voluntary and community groups providing youth services. They will provide £330,000 grant-funding to encourage joint working between the voluntary and community sector and other organisations within the borough. The council planned in July 2011 to make £2.3m cuts to the integrated youth service budget, taking the budget from £7.8m in 2011/12 to £5.5m in 2012/13. Of the planned savings £300,000 comes from funding fewer activities such as trips or residentials; a further £400,000 from provision, including accreditation and youth sessions; £700,000 from the Connexions services; and the youth offending service was reduced by 31 per cent (£900,000).

However, the budget programme had significant funding reductions planned for 2012/13 for the council’s support for adult social care and to the voluntary and community sector. In response the council states that it has “sought to promote community involvement and partnership working in each service in order to minimise the effects on service users”.

**The Camden Equalities Task Force** was formed in July 2012. The aspiration is "to make a significant difference to the levels of inequality in Camden through creative and innovative solutions. We do not accept the inevitability of the scarring effects of extreme income inequality on the wellbeing of the poorest households, especially on children. We want to work with families to keep children safe and free of crime. Our long term goal is to eliminate child poverty in the borough." There is more information on the [wearecamden website](http://www.wearecamden.org/camdenplan/reducing-inequality/).

[Camden Council has set up a donate to a charity page on its website, to try to lever in additional funds to the VCS after it cut its own grant funding to the sector.](http://sarahhayward.wordpress.com/2011/09/02/donate-to-a-camden-charity/)

***Voluntary Action Camden***

Funding from the local authority was estimated to be cut by 25-30% in 2011-12. Desk research and requests for information have provided no results on funding for 2012-13. Voluntary Action Camden led the consortia that won the whole of Camden Council’s Organisational and Market Development and Volunteering Infrastructure [Fund in 2011-12. However, this was worth a total £950,000 over three years and three months](http://camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/community-and-living/voluntary-organisations-and-funding/voluntary-and-community-sector-review-2010/voluntary-and-community-sector-vcs-investment-and-support-programme-2012-2015.en?page=5) and had to cover service delivery with five other partners (in 2008 - 9 local authority funding for Voluntary Action Camden alone was over £500,000).

***Camden VCS***

In 2011-12 Camden council reviewed the way they funded the VCS in the borough, reducing total spend to 34million (a 28% reduction). It appears from their [2012-13 Budget Book](http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/download/asset/?asset_id=2804541) that cuts of 9.5% are planned for the VCS through their new [VCS Investment & Support Programme](http://camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/community-and-living/voluntary-organisations-and-funding/voluntary-and-community-sector-review-2010/voluntary-and-community-sector-vcs-investment-and-support-programme-2012-2015.en?page=6). This is the same level of cut as experienced by the councils’ Department for Culture & Environment which funds this Programme, but much higher than the overall council budget cut in 2012-13 of 5.5%.

Eight projects were supported through the Innovation & Development Fund in 2011-12 (£639,000 over two years) and new applications were invited in June 2012. A total of up to £1.5million is available from the fund until March 2015, so 43% has already been spent.

Other funds for the VCS Investment & Support Programme include:

The Equalities & Cohesion Fund (£1million per year over three years): 35 organisations funded in 2011-12.

Community Centres Fund (£1.25milliion per year over three years): 17 organisations had funding committed for the full three years in 2011-12

Volunteering, Giving & Exchange Fund (£120,000 per year over three years): 10 organisations funded in 2011-12

Organisational and market development and volunteering infrastructure fund (£950,000 in total over 3 years and three months). The whole fund is being delivered through a consortia led by Voluntary Action Camden and including the Volunteer Centre Camden, Disability Camden (DisC), Camden BME Alliance, Mary Ward Legal Centre and CENTA.

#### Impact on individual VCS organisations in Camden

#### [Create KX](http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/create_kx_funding_and_minutes?unfold=1)

[LVSC only heard of this closure in 2012-13] Create KX, the arts charity based in the King’s Cross area, closed as a result of a loss of its Camden Council grants and contracts in November 2010.

***[1A Arts](http://www.1a-arts-etc.co.uk/wp/index.php/mind-the-funding-gap/feed)***

1A Arts, which provides arts and digital media services to the community around Holborn in Camden had its funding from Camden council stopped in January 2012 and is facing closure.

***[Millman Street Community Centre](http://www.holborncommunity.co.uk/campaigns.php)***

A day centre for older people in Camden is at risk of closure. It has already had one reprieve as it was originally expected to close in July 2011.

According to Age UK Camden three Camden VCS organisations have closed:

[***Somali Community Development Trust:***](http://camden.talis.com/engage/showrecord/1261065437967) which worked with young people from the Somali community

[***Somali Education & Development Agency:***](http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/contacts/categories/community-and-living/black-and-ethnic-minorities/contacts-for-somali-people.en) which provided education, skills and parenting classes for the Somali community

[***Kentish Town Somali Welfare Association:***](http://camden.talis.com/engage/showrecord/1259324509551)which providedESOL classes, supplementary school and homework classes for the Somali community.

***[Camden Community and Police Consultative Group](http://camdencpcg.org.uk/)***

The Camden Community and Police Consultative Group (CCPG) issued a statement in August 2012 expressing concerns about their future.

***[Healthy Planet](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-16692556)***

Healthy Planet, a charity which gives away free books has reported that Camden council is not giving it any discount on business rates for the shop it rents from them.

***[Camden Psychotherapy Unit](http://www.camdenpsychotherapy.org.uk/)***

Camden Psychotherapy Unit has reported that it needs financial support from groups and individuals in order to maintain their services, as in the current policies of cuts in the NHS, they now have to rely entirely on charitable donations.

***[Camden Music Trust](http://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/little_britain_star_david_walliams_supports_threatened_camden_music_service_1_1975829)***

Camden Music Trust, a charity supporting the council’s music education service faces an annual £250,000 shortfall when cuts to its budget come into force in April 2013.

***[Camden Arts Centre](http://www.camdenarts.icarus.titaninternet.co.uk/supportus/)***

Camden Arts Centre reports that cuts to its funding from Arts Council England and Camden Council mean that less than 60% of its current services are now funded through grants.

## City of London

***General statutory funding***

The City of London received cuts in spending power from the Department of Communities & Local Government of 6.5% in both 2011-12 and 2012-13.

The City of London Corporation oversees the City Bridge Trust and donates more than £15 million to charity annually. However, it also runs a number of other smaller grant schemes through its Finance Committee which makes annual grants amounting to between £150,000 and £250,000.

***City.Comm***

The Council for Voluntary Service in the City of London, City.Comm, and was founded in 2006. It does not receive any funding from the City of London but is solely funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

***City of London VCS***

There are currently no figures available to indicate how much funding the City of London Corporation gave to the VCS in the City in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

***Impact on individual VCs organisations in the City of London***

[***City YMCA***](http://www.cypnow.co.uk/go/news/article/1115555/ymca-hostel-closure-leave-250-young-people-without-housing/)

City YMCA will be closing its largest hostel in the City of London in September 2012, which could reduce the charity’s reach by 43% and leave 250 young people in need of rehousing.

***[Barca UK](http://www.libdemvoice.org/lord-roger-roberts-writesdont-cut-funding-for-charities-which-help-homeless-migrants-33796.html)***

Barca UK tackles homelessness among Central and Eastern European migrants in London. Since its creation, it has helped almost 3,000 people return home, has worked in fourteen London boroughs, and has expanded its work to run an employment programme helping homeless migrants to enter the UK labour market. It also runs a pan-UK helpline which deals with housing and legal issues, as well advising on health and family problems. However, Barca’s vital work may now be at risk as both Lambeth and the City of London councils are planning to cut their funding.

## Croydon

***General statutory funding***

LB Croydon had a cut to its spending power of 5.0% in 2011-12 and this was reduced to a cut of 2.9% in 2012-13.

Croydon Council agreed their budget for 2013-2014 in February 2013 [which will include cuts across adult social services for disabled and older residents adding up to £10million.](http://dpac.uk.net/2013/02/croydon-dpac-protest-against-the-planned-10-million-cuts-to-adult-social-care-in-croydon/)

***Croydon Voluntary Action***

Croydon Voluntary Action had a cut of 37% in local authority funding in 2011-12. Currently no information can be found on changes to Croydon Voluntary Action’s funding in 2012-13.

***Croydon VCS***

According to the LB Croydon’s [2012-13 Budget Book](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/budgets/budget-book) funding from the local authority for the local VCS was reduced by 15% in 2012-13 from £1,808,000 to £1,338,000. This follows a cut of 27% to the local authority’s VCS grant scheme in 2011-12. The 2012-13 funding covers the Community Investment Fund Nature conservation Fund and a small grants fund. It also covers discretionary rate relief for VCS organisations.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Croydon***

[***Croydon Appliance Reuse Centre***](http://www.arc-croydon.org.uk/)

Croydon Appliance Reuse Centre has been taken over by Groundwork London and re-named HomeAgain.

[***Croydon African Caribbean Family Organisation***](http://athousandcuts.wordpress.com/tag/croydon/)

CACFO has been running for nearly 20 years, but now a question mark hangs over its future as a result of cuts to its local authority funding. The organisation provides activities for African Caribbean elders in the borough and also runs a school for excluded African Caribbean pupils.

## Ealing

***General statutory funding***

LB Ealing had cuts in spending power of 4.9% in 2011-12 and a further 3.8% in 2012-13.

#### Ealing Council for Voluntary Service

#### Ealing Council and Primary Care Trust [proposed](http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk/data/item/ealing-cvs-2) cumulative cuts of 11% - 10% - 9% over three years to Ealing CVS’ funding from 2011-12 to 2013-14.

***Ealing VCS***

Ealing Council and Ealing Primary Care Trust’s combined health and social care grants budgets, which total almost £2.6m a year, would have been reduced to £2.1m in 2011/12 and £1.67m in 2012/13, council papers show. But after discussions with Ealing Community Network (ECN) – which represents 450 voluntary and community sector groups – the combined budgets will be reduced to just under £2.3m (a 12.5% cut) in 2011/12 and just over £2m (a further 13% cut) in 2012/13. Ealing CVS reported that of the funds saved by LB Ealing from their contribution to the London Borough Grants Scheme £527,000 (100%) was ring-fenced for the local VCS in 2011-12 and £369,000 (70%) in 2012-13. However, a later [proposa](http://www2.ealing.gov.uk/ealing3/export/sites/ealingweb/services/council/committees/agendas_minutes_reports/cabinet/25may2010-23may2011/__26_april_2011/Item_14_-_Funding_of_Voluntary_and_Community_Sector_Services_2011_and_Beyond.doc)l saw further ‘contingency’ funding ring-fenced for the VCS in 2012-13 as well. This additional funding was allocated as follows

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grant Stream** | **2011/12**  **£** | **2012/13**  **£** | **Comments** |
| ECN additional | 21,488  (for 5.5 months) | 20,000 | This will increase the proposed grant from £40,000 to £60,000 for ECN for 2011/12 and 2012/13. ECN’s grant will reduce to £40,000 for 2013/2014. |
| Transition additional | 20,000 |  | It is now clear that there is substantial interest in transitional arrangements from the VCS including applying to Council / NHS Ealing funding via consortia bids. To support this it is suggested that the sum for transitional arrangements be increased from £40,000 to £60,000 for 2011/12. |
| Neighbourhood & Community Development additional | 36,731  (for 5.5mths) | 75,000 | This will increase the proposed grant from £50,000 to £125,000 for 2011/12 and 2012/13 and will assist particularly in building the capacity of small organisations. The grant will reduce to £50,000 for 2013/14. |
| Ealing Mediation Service additional |  | 15,000 | To maintain the organisation for 2012/13 in the light of the work it undertakes in liaison with the Council’s community safety team |
| Health & Social Care mitigation | 97,400 |  | To mitigate the £236,056 reduction for health and Social Care grant for 2011/12. |
| **Total Yearly Allocation** | **175,619** | **110,000** |  |
| **Total Contingency Allocation** | **285,619** | |  |

#### Impact on individual VCS organisations in Ealing

#### [Ealing Equality Council](http://www.ealingtoday.co.uk/default.asp?section=community&link=http://appasp.ealingtoday.co.uk/server/app/forum/ShowMessage.asp?ID=818182)

Ealing Equality Council was closed in July 2012, as a result of losing their bid to deliver the local authority contract for advice services to Nucleas, an organisation based in Kensington & Chelsea and following the loss their Equality & Human Rights Commission funding The organisation had worked for more than 48 years to promote equality for all in the London Borough of Ealing and provide a Community Advice Programme which gave free legal advice to those in the borough who were disadvantaged.

***[Age UK Ealing and Age Concern Northolt Greenford and Perivale](http://www.ealinggazette.co.uk/ealing-news/local-ealing-news/2013/03/20/we-re-still-open-for-business-says-ealing-elderly-charity-64767-33027722/)***

Age Concern Northolt Greenford and Perivale has now closed. Although Age UK Ealing had suffered cuts in 2011, losing nearly 60% of its funding and as a consequence valuable skills and services, it was continuing to deliver services in all parts of the borough including Northolt Greenford and Perivale. In May 2013 they will be opening two new services at Greenford community centre and Northolt village community centre.

## Enfield

***General statutory funding***

As a result of on-going cuts to government grants, the effect of inflation and an ageing population, Enfield Council still needs to save £49million by 2014/2015 on top of the £34million savings made in 2011/12. Enfield is also disadvantaged by the way the government grant is calculated. For 2011/2012 Enfield was assessed by the

government as needing £145 million of central funding to meet the needs of residents.

However, the government then reduced this figure by £15m for redistribution to other

councils. Enfield Council is set to lose a further £8m through this same process in

2012/2013 making the Council’s bid to protect services and facilities even harder.

The council has entered into a partnership with Waltham Forest from 2012 to achieve £1.5million of savings by jointly buying goods and services.

The council has also [used reserves](http://www.enfieldindependent.co.uk/news/9565055._Titanic__warning_over_council_finances_as_budget_cuts_of___11m_waved_through) to reduce the impact of Government spending cuts in its 2012-13 budget.

***Enfield Voluntary Action***

LB Enfield has committed £75,000 over three years for VCS capacity building. Six strategic infrastructure VCS groups working in the borough have had their contracts extended until 30th September 2012 and the council contracted NAVCA to conduct an independent review of their funding, which reported in March 2012. In 2012-13 Enfield Voluntary Action was one of five strategic infrastructure organisations that went through a competitive grants process to provide VCS support services. They were successful and this has allowed them to consolidate local authority funding with no significant loss. Their contract will now run until 31st March 2016.

***Enfield VCS*** Enfield Voluntary Action report that LB Enfield has committed extra resources to the local VCS for 2012-15. There is £75,00 over three years for VCS capacity building and a total of £50,000 to fund each of the three areas of participation, volunteering and a small grants programme & Innovation Fund. LB Enfield has developed a [VCS Strategic Framework for the VCS in Enfield for 2012 -17](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4483/draft_vcs_strategic_framework_2012-2017), which makes a long-term commitment to supporting the VCS and its infrastructure within the borough. In 2012-13 there did not seem to be any reduction in funding from the council to its VCS but in 2013-14 there will be a shift to larger contracts at the same overall level of funding. The first round to be commissioned are to be Information, Advice and Guidance type services.

In the [financial year 2012/13 the VCS in the borough was reported to be receiving £500,000 from NHS Enfield](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/11511/nhs_cuts_third_of_north_london_voluntary_sector_funding) – a third less than the historic spend of £750,000 in previous years. From 2013-14 the transfer of public health funds to the local authority were consolidated under a Section 75 transfer process. However, future health funding is very uncertain.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Enfield***

[***Enfield Volunteer Centre***](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/5907/vssg_210312_minutes)

Enfield Voluntary Action has reported increasing demand for the services of Enfield Volunteer Centre. The national work programme which is funded to support individuals to get into work is performing poorly. EVC does not receive any resources to support this programme, but is being used by work programme providers to support volunteering opportunities for their clients.

[***Age UK Enfield***](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/11511/nhs_cuts_third_of_north_london_voluntary_sector_funding)

Age UK Enfield had almost all its funding from NHS Enfield cut in 2012-13. In 2011-12 it received £148,749 worth of grants from the NHS for foot treatments, day care for dementia sufferers, and an active life service for elderly and vulnerable people. The group is currently under negotiation with the NHS to renew its £25,000 grant for the foot treatments. However, the local authority has agreed to take over the funding of other threatened services under a Section 75 agreement.

## Greenwich

***General statutory funding***

According to [RB Greenwich council papers](http://committees.greenwich.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=18306), the provisional settlement figures for RB Greenwich for 2011/12 and 2012/13 were announced on the 13th December 2010 (the grant for 2011/12 was subsequently confirmed on 31stJanuary 2011), Based on these allocations and published Comprehensive Spending Review information, the Council adopted an overall savings target of £63million across four year. At the end of 2011/12 savings totalling £48.6million had been approved, leaving a residual target of £14.4million. On 8th December 2011 the Government announced updated grant figures for 2012/13. Resources available to the Council were increased by £493,000 for 2012/13.

***Greenwich Action for Voluntary Service***

LB Greenwich made a two-year 18% cut to GAVS in 2011-12, all of which was implemented in the first year, so GAVS funding from the local authority did not change between 2011-12 and 2012-13. Their funding also remiand unchanged in 2013-14.

***Greenwich VCS***

LB Greenwich made a two-year 29% cut to its VCS in 2011-12, all of which was implemented in the first year, so funding for the sector did not change in 2011-12 and nor did it in 2012-13 nor 2013-14. None of the funding saved by LB Greenwich through its reduced contribution to the London Borough Grants Scheme was used to funding the VCS in either 2011-12 or 2012-13.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Greenwich***

[***Greenwich Council for Racial Equality***](http://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/bexley/9880108.Greenwich_Council_for_Racial_Equality_fraudsters_spared_jail__Reaction_to_sentences/?ref=rss)

Greenwich Council for Racial Equality was forced to close after fraud by two members of staff was discovered.

#### [Youth Reach](http://jonronson.posterous.com/one-cut)

Youth Reach, the youth counselling service in Greenwich had all its local authority funding of £118,000 cut in April 2011 [LVSC only became aware of this in 2012-13]. The service was therefore forced to close after delivering services to young people ineligible for NHS treatment because their mental health problems are not judged to be sufficiently severe. Many of its former service users now no longer have any access to counselling or other support.

[***Greenwich Community Law Centre***](http://www.gclc.co.uk/News.htm)

Greenwich Community Law Centre had all its local authority funding cut. It took the council to [a judicial review](http://www.solicitorsjournal.com/case-reports/r-application-greenwich-community-law-centre-v-greenwich-london-borough-council?ip_login_no_cache=60fdb1cdde2b4c9f232802df4390deac), but this was [unsuccessful](http://853blog.com/tag/greenwich-community-law-centre/). It is now facing imminent closure.

## Hackney

***General statutory funding***

Hackney Council agreed [a budget cut for 2012-13 of £10million](http://hackneycitizen.co.uk/2012/03/02/hackney-council-passes-budget-with-10m-public-spending-cuts/) Council tax was frozen for a seventh year, and Hackney’s mayor Jules Pipe insisted that no frontline services would be harmed and that the council is seeking to deliver the same services for less. Included in this saving were cuts of £1.35million to spending on youth services. [Over the past three years Hackney Council’s budget for older people’s care services has been reduced by around 4.5%,](http://hackneycitizen.co.uk/2012/01/10/cuts-hackney-care-budget-older-people-warn-charities/) which means the total budget allocation for older people aged 65 and over and older mentally ill people is just £37,756,000 (compared to £39,532,000 for 2009/10 and £37,931,000 for 2010/11)

There will be further cuts in the council’s budget in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

***Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)***

In 2011-12 [Hackney CVS](http://www.hcvs.org.uk/EN/store/hcvs/2011/Hackney_CVS_letter_JF.pdf) lost 42% of its funding from LB Hackney and also lost its Team Hackney community grants. We have not received any information on Hackney CVS’ funding in 2012-13.

***Hackney VCS***

Hackney council has stated that it is committed to working with the VCS to support the delivery of the six objectives contained in Hackney's [Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/community-strategy.htm) which are:

* Objective 1: Reduce poverty by supporting residents into sustainable employment, and promoting employment opportunities.
* Objective 2: Help residents to become better qualified and raise educational aspirations.
* Objective 3: Promote health and wellbeing for all, and support independent living.
* Objective 4: Make the borough safer, and help people to feel safe in Hackney.
* Objective 5: Promote mixed communities in well-designed neighbourhoods, where people can access high quality, affordable housing.
* Objective 6: Be a sustainable community, where all citizens take pride in and take care of Hackney and its environment, for future generations.

As in previous years, grants are also available to support Holiday Play schemes.

The investment made through the 2013/14 Hackney Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Programme of £2,519,718 will also contribute to achieving the [Equality Objectives](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/equalities-objectives.htm)for Hackney.

Details of Hackney council’s consultations on funding of its VCS are provided in [a summary of its consultation report](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/Assets/Documents/Consultation_findings_summary_and_response.pdf). In the light of feedback from the VCS, the following changes to the proposals from the consultation document: were made to VCS funding:

* The eligibility cap on the maximum annual income of organisations applying for small grants was now recommended to be £250,000 rather than £100,000.
* Half of the new Community Chest grant fund was now recommended to be reserved for the smallest organisations, and the cap on annual income for these organisations was now recommended to be set at £50,000 (rather than £30,000). The other half of the Community Chest grant fund was recommended to be reserved for organisations with an annual income not exceeding £250,000.
* The limit on the maximum size of applications to the new Community Chest grant fund was recommended to be £1,000 rather than £500.
* Community Chest grant applications were recommended to open three times per year rather than twice.
* A two-stage process would be introduced for all grant applications. However the second stage would consist only of submitting documentation which proves eligibility for the grant – only for those applicants who have been provisionally recommended for a grant. This would mean that this supporting documentation (e.g. constitution, policies, and insurance documents) would no longer need to be submitted at the time of the main application.
* Feedback to unsuccessful applicants would continue to provide personalised comments alongside feedback from a standard list of reasons.

[The Council remains committed to keeping its VCS grants programme intact with an on-going review shaping a refreshed programme for 2012/13 and 2013/14](http://www.hcvs.org.uk/resources/pdfs/spark0112web.pdf).

Hackney CVS produced its [‘The State of the Sector in Hackney’ report](http://www.hcvs.org.uk/app_storage/Policy/2010vcsstrategystate.pdf) in 2010 [LVSC has not summarised findings in previous funding cuts reports]. Its main findings included:

* There were almost 3,000 VCs organisations operating in Hackney in 2009, with more than twice the number of charities per head of population than the national average.
* Over 70% of the organisations are very small, but these only receive 23% of the total income of Hackney-based VCs organisations. There are also a number of national and international charities based in Hackney.
* A larger than national average of organisations concentrate on serving communities of identity and interest; but a comparatively smaller per centage focus on serving a particular geographic area.
* Hackney -based VCS organisations employed almost 12,000 people with an estimated 6,000 – 7,000 of these based in Hackney
* More than 30,000 people in Hackney regularly volunteer.
* Hackney VCs groups receive a lower than average amount of income from membership and investments and a higher than average amount of income from grants and contracts. Hackney groups receive an above average amount of income from statutory sources – this makes them particularly vulnerable in the present climate of public spending cuts.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Hackney***

### [***Disability Hackney***](http://www.lvstc.org.uk/esf_story_08_06_04/the_london_esf_story_disability_hackney.pdf)

Disability Hackney has gone into administration and closed. It had lost European Social Fund income, despite successful delivery.

[***Hackney Community Law Centre***](http://london.greenparty.org.uk/news/2013/02/18/legal-aid-cuts-are-putting-hackney-children-at-risk/)

Cuts to legal aid due to come into force from April 2013 will mean case-workers at the Hackney Community Law Centre will only be able to work on housing cases where people face imminent eviction - when it's usually too late - and not at all on benefits or most immigration cases. The Centre is dealing with an increasing number of cases involving children of parents with different nationalities - and their access to housing and education. In few of these cases will the centre be funded to offer any legal advice from April - and this will, inevitably, put children in Hackney at risk.

[***Hackney Quest***](http://www.hackneyquest.org.uk/images/stories/hackney%20quest%20appeal%20letter_jan%202012.pdf)

Hackney offers day trips and a host of activities to children and young people from across the borough, as well as providing a safe and supported educational space for those suspended and excluded from school. It is currently facing cuts of £72,132.00 to its core funding and has begun a [major fundraising drive](http://www.justgiving.com/hackneyquest/).

## Hammersmith & Fulham

***General statutory funding***

Overall Hammersmith & Fulham council saw a cut in spending power of 6.6% in 2011-12 and 4.4% in 2012-13.

In 2012-13 Hammersmith & Fulham’s VCS received 3% (£1.8million) of the council’s children’s services budget.

***Community and Voluntary Sector Association Hammersmith & Fulham (CaVSA)***

CaVSA has not had its main council grant cut, but had a cut of around 10% of local authority funding in 2011-12 and a further cut in 2012-13.

[CaVSA is currently considering merger with Voluntary Action Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea Social Council following their combined loss of over £1million in funding in 2012-13.](http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/news/login/1170818/)

[CaVSA is currently supporting four VCS consortia to bid for funding tenders across eight boroughs in West London](http://www.cavsa.org.uk/resources/spring%202012%20for%20web.pdf). One, Desta has won the Expert Patient Programme commission tender across Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster. The funding to provide this support is from a Big Lottery Fund grant

***Hammersmith & Fulham VCS***

CaVSA has a list of 510 VCS organisations in Hammersmith & Fulham. The council has decided to cut VCS funding by 16% over the three years 2011-14. [In 2012-13 the council provided £3.9million for a VCS grants fund,.](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/Directory/Advice_and_Benefits/Council_tax/Financial_information/169354_thank_you.asp) a cut from £4.2million the previous year.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Hammersmith & Fulham***

[***Rain Trust***](http://www.cavsa.org.uk/resources/spring%202012%20for%20web.pdf)

The Rain Trust supports people living with HIV in London. It lost £122000 of Primary Care Trust funding in 2010-11 but was able to attract £130,000 additional funding through involvement in the Desta consortia.

[***Hammersmith Information and Visitor Centre***](http://www.katebelgrave.com/category/council/hammersmith-and-fulham-council/)

The Information Centre is threatened with closure by Hammersmith & Fulham council who want to hand the building back to its landlords. The Centre has hosted new community organisations and helped them to grow, provided a resource for small unfunded local groups to meet and provided a gallery space for local artists and photographers to showcase their work. Above all, it has served as an information and visitor centre helping visitors and residents to find their way around the borough and find out about social and commercial services. The centre has been staffed entirely by experienced and expert volunteers during its lifetime

[***Tamworth Hostel***](•%09http:/www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2011/apr/26/mental-health-care-supported-living-housing)

High-level supported-living Tamworth Hostel for people with mental health issues is under threat as Hammersmith & Fulham council call the hostel 'surplus to requirements' The council's cabinet decided to close the 14-unit Tamworth hostel, make all staff redundant and sell the building. The council said alternative accommodation would be found for the hostel's eight residents. The council's rationale for closure was a [Supporting People fund](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/directory/housing/supported_and_sheltered_housing/housing_support/49817_supporting_people.asp) contribution towards a £300,000 austerity saving.

[***Hammersmith & Fulham Refugee Forum***](http://www.fulhamchronicle.co.uk/fulham-and-hammersmith-news/local-fulham-and-hammersmith-news/2013/03/13/charity-blames-recession-for-rise-in-hammersmith-hate-crimes-82029-32983106/)

Refugee groups in the borough of Hammersmith & Fulham have withstood a ‘perfect storm’ caused by the loss of funding and premises during 2012. Ten groups, including the Hammersmith & Fulham Refugee Forum had also lost their office premises when Hammersmith & Fulham Council sold off Palingswick House. A few of the Refugee Forum’s smaller voluntary group members had folded as a result of the pressures and were no longer able to assist the people that depended upon them. Many other members have continued with reduced capacity. Although the Refugee Forum had itself suffered from a loss of funding it continued to offer a unique service to the refugee communities in the borough. It continued to run a serious of training workshops on a wide range of topics and also the annual Refugee Week celebration in June in partnership with Hammersmith & Fulham Volunteer Centre. A recent survey carried out by the Refugee Forum had found that some 30 refugee community groups were still active in the borough

[***Trussell Trust Shepherds Bush Food bank***](http://thefoodbankers.wordpress.com/2012/11/20/interview-with-daphine-aikens-manager-of-hammersmith-and-fulham-foodbank/)

The Trussell Trust’s Hammersmith and Fulham foodbank opened in June 2010 and a second Shepherd’s Bush branch opened in October 2012, which has seen a 22% increase in people using the food banks.

[***MyGeneration***](http://politicalscrapbook.net/2012/03/shaun-bailey-big-society-my-generation-cuts/)

The closure of the MyGeneration charity in March 2012 **saw five staff losing their jobs.** The charity’s Chief Executive, Shaun Bailey, stated that **he had closed the organisation as a result of a lack of funds.** MyGeneration was founded to help young people on Hammersmith & Fulham’s deprived estates but its short history had been **marred by** [financial mismanagement](http://politicalscrapbook.net/2012/02/shaun-bailey-charity-accounts-not-submitted/). Bailey stood down from his full time role with MyGeneration just one year after he failed to win Hammersmith from Labour in 2010. The charity, [had spent](http://politicalscrapbook.net/2011/04/shaun-bailey-my-generation-charity-publicity/) **£92,749 on “fundraising and publicity costs”** in the accounting period encompassing the election.

## 

## Haringey

***General statutory funding***

This year’s budget for Haringey council services other than schools was £7.7million less than 2011-12.

***Haringey Association for Voluntary and Community Organisations (HAVCO)***

In December 2011, LB Haringey commissioned a review of voluntary sector support services in the borough.

***Haringey’s VCS***

Work by HAVCO in 2010 suggested that Haringey has a large VCS, believed to be around 1,600 organisations.

• 70% of VCS organisations in the borough are described as micro or small organisations with incomes of less than £10,000 per year.

• 63% of these organisations have been established for over a decade and 12% are faith groups.

• The sector employs some 5,100 full time equivalents.

• On average, individual volunteers in the borough give their time for seven hours per month, amounting to 217,000 volunteer hours per month and a total of 2.6 million volunteer hours per year.

• The approximate value of volunteering work was £25 million per annum.

* The highest concentration of organisations is in the east of the borough in Tottenham Green and Seven Sisters wards, along with a particular concentration in Noel Park in the centre of the borough.

In 2010/11 the council invested over £15 million in the VCS through a combination of grants and commissioned projects to improve the health and wellbeing of residents. The council has produced a [VCS Strategy that covers 2011-16](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/haringey_voluntary_sector_strategy_2011-2016.pdf) and developed a new Funding and Commissioning Framework for the sector, which aims to switch more funding from grants to contracts and to reduce grants for core funding of VCS organisations.

However, results of [HAVCO’s 2011 survey of VCS organisations in Haringey](http://www.havcoharingey.org.uk/images/uploads/COllaborate!%20February%202011.pdf) showed VCS organisations engaging in procurement were likely to have an income of over £100,000 per year and; there were few smaller organisations wanting to engage in procurement .

As part of the changes the new Voluntary Sector Investment fund was launched by the council in 2012. The Fund, worth £2.4 million over three years, provided the opportunity for voluntary and community organisations to bid for awards of up to £150,000 for three years.  Funds were awarded through a competitive online tendering process which closed on 10 April 2012**.** HAVCO have referred to the Fund as a [“100% cut”](http://www.havcoharingey.org.uk/images/uploads/HVSIF_March_2012.pdf) to Haringey’s VCS and have raised concerns about the lack of ‘core funding’ for VCS organisations in the borough from the council. [Of the 64 applications for funding from the Voluntary Sector Innovation Fund, 25 (39%) were successful](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/community_and_leisure/voluntary-sector/outcome-haringey-voluntary-sector-investment-fund.htm) A £1.2million [One Borough One Future](http://gallery.mailchimp.com/4b10b0c1bb2dfe12d2e43a8a3/files/OneBorough.pdf) fund, which opened in May 2012, is open to all sectors, not just the VCS.

In 2010 -11 Haringey councillors asked for a composite figure for the total amount of cuts on the VCS and the percentage of the Councils grants to the VCS that are to be cut. Members felt it would be useful to have a list of the items and amounts which affected the VCS. This showed that each of the following savings proposals was likely to have an impact on either grant funding to VCS organisations or the level of service commissioned from the VCS. However, it was not possible to accurately assess the impact in terms of funding reductions. The results are shown in the table below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Saving description** | **Savings**  **2011/12**  **£000** | **Savings**  **2012/13**  **£000** | **Savings**  **2013/14**  **£000** |
| Policy & Performance plan to cease funding for  equalities events Either no events are held or it may mean that voluntary organisations (possibly more national than local) feel they need to take up the slack | 47 | 0 | 0 |
| Saving on activity within the  HSP/LAA & Equalities teams (formally ABG funded). | 159 | 0 | 0 |
| Reduction in Building Maintenance | 150 | 125 | 125 |
| Redistribution of the Parkforce budget will mean reduced support for the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers but will continue to fund core activity and to support  Neighbourhood Watch and “Friends” volunteering. | 100 | 38 | 0 |
| The proposal to change the way our Sports and Leisure services are provided include an offer to redirect funding to the voluntary sector in order to provide funding for a specific programme of sport and physical activities to attract external  match funding, and prioritise vulnerable young people, the disabled, and areas of greatest deprivation. Activities would be commissioned through an enhanced Sports Approved  Suppliers Framework and the borough’s Club Accreditation Scheme. | (100) | 600 | 0 |
| Voluntary sector grants, ABG reductions and  Supporting People– as with in house services, all service provided by external parties are being reviewed for appropriateness and necessity and those funded by the former Area Based Grant and through Voluntary Sector grants will also be reviewed. The outcome is not yet known although there will inevitably be some impact | 5,396 | 370 | 0 |
| Day centre and drop in closures – in reproviding services for current service users a range of options will be available. This may include accessing services provided in the private  and voluntary sector (if people chose to use their Personal Budgets in this way). | 265 | 484 | 0 |
| Residential home closures and introduction of extra care – In closing our in house residential homes a number of placements will require reprovision, indeed at the point at which admissions are ceased service user placements will be purchased from the independent sector and will be with both private and voluntary providers. The introduction of Extra Care housing will reduce the requirement for external residential placements (both private and voluntary) but it is likely that the care provision in these settings could be provided by either private or voluntary organisations | 268 | 527 | 2,002 |
| Reduction in funding for Haringey Guarantee  programme – This reduction in funding will impact on a range of third sector organisations that currently provide worklessness interventions and business support activities in Haringey. Decisions on cessation or reduction of funding  for these organisations are being made on the basis of scoring against agreed criteria. | 700 | 0 | 0 |
| Safer, Stronger Communities (Cessation of funding for extra Haringey Police Provision to tackle high priority targets and Problem Solving activities to tackle locally identified crime reduction projects, Cessation of funding for anti  burglary support project (co-ordinator role and handy person), Cessation of funding for Independent Domestic Violence Advocate roles (1.5 FTE), Cessation of funding for Victim Support service for young people) – previously ABG monies were used to fund a number of third sector organisations across the Safer Communities thematic area. | 420 | 0 | 0 |

The London Community Foundation has set up the [Love Haringey Fund](http://loveharingey.org.uk/) in partnership with HAVCO, encouraging people to donate to five VCS organisations working in the borough: [Haringey Shed](http://loveharingey.org.uk/loving-kingston/haringey-shed.aspx), [Markfield](http://loveharingey.org.uk/loving-kingston/markfield.aspx), [Exposure](http://loveharingey.org.uk/loving-kingston/exposure.aspx), [CARIS](http://loveharingey.org.uk/loving-kingston/caris.aspx) and [PHASCA](http://loveharingey.org.uk/loving-kingston/phasca.aspx).

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Haringey***

[***Exposure***](http://www.haringeyindependent.co.uk/news/9704612.Media_charity_thriving_despite_funding_cuts)

Exposure, a charity that works to improve young people’s skills through working in the media, through developing volunteer publications in north London had its core funding from Haringey Council cut in April 2011. Despite this it has continued to thrive and won the MPs Special Award for Best Contribution of a Community group at the Innovation awards run by Kids Count for projects that tackle youth issues in London.

[***Mind in Haringey***](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/health_and_wellbeing_consultation_report.pdf)

The future of Mind in Haringey is threatened by the cuts to core funding from Haringey council. It has embarked on a number of [fundraising activities](http://www.mindinharingey.org.uk/who-we-are/our-stories/jess.) as a result of these cuts. In September 2012 it [closed its Station House community café](http://www.mindinharingey.org.uk/) run in partnership with FoodCycle due to rising operational costs set against a tougher funding environment.

## Harrow

***General statutory funding***

Harrow council saw cuts to its spending power of 1.9% in 2011-12 and 2.4% in 2012-13. It is attempting to make [further cuts of £24miilion](http://www.harrowtimes.co.uk/news/10568949.Society__going_backwards__under_disability_transport_cuts/) over 2013-15

***Voluntary Action Harrow***

Three London Councils for Voluntary Services in neighbouring boroughs (Hillingdon, Ealing and Hammersmith & Fulham) [kept support services going for VCS organisations in Harrow](http://www.hillingdonconnected.org.uk/sites/hillingdonconnected.org.uk/files/Newsletter%20January%202012.pdf) following the closure of Harrow CVS amid allegations of mismanagement and financial irregularities. The two-day-a-week interim service ran until the end of March 2012 and was being funded by Harrow Council. A new CVS for Harrow, [Voluntary Action Harrow](http://harrowequalitiescentre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/C4C-newsletter-1.pdf), a workers’ co-operative social enterprise, has now been funded by the council to provide capacity building support for 40 VCS organisations in the borough.To support the development of this new service it is proposed that £75,000 of the budget in 2013-14 is ring-fenced to fund this service.

***Harrow VCS***

In 2012-13 a proportion of the grants budget was set aside for small grants. The total amount requested by small grant applicants was £130,651and at the end of the process £79,817 was awarded to small grants and £590,000 to the main grants programme.

[Harrow’s Third Sector Strategy](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/s104779/Third%20Sector%20Strategy%20-%20Appendix.pdf) was revised in 2013. It includes commitments to increase the number of VCS organisations in the borough delivering services and to improve communication with the sector The [Third Sector Investment Plan](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/ieIssueDetails.aspx?IId=70185&Opt=3) on the council’s website is unreadable but a summary states that it proposed the transition from the Main Grants Funding Programme, to a phased implementation of Commissioning Services and small grants.

LB Harrow protected £600,000 of the VCS budget in a Discretionary Fund in 2012-13. They are also doing work with the interim CVS service in partnership. They have ring-fenced a £75,000 investment in this service for 2013-14. [Their proposals for 2013-14](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/s100298/Vol%20Sector%20Commissioning.pdf) are based on the assumption that the grants budget will remain at its current level of £669,360 during 2013-14. In 2013-14 there will be an Outcomes Based Grants programme and a small grant programme. The former programme will provide large grants for the delivery of services that support the Council’s corporate priorities and approved core outcomes:

Outcome 1: Harrow residents are able to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

Outcome 2: Harrow residents are helped to overcome poverty, worklessness and homelessness.

Outcome 3: Diversity is celebrated and people feel they get on well together.

Outcome 4: Harrow residents participate in art, sport, leisure and cultural activity.

Outcome 5: A strong and sustainable voluntary and Third Sector able to deliver diverse, efficient and tailored local services.

Outcome 6: Harrow’s streets, public buildings and spaces are kept free of litter, fly-tipping and vandalism.

Outcome 7: Harrow residents and businesses enjoy local economic prosperity.

The maximum grant award available will be either £75,000 or £25,000 per annum depending on the core outcome against which an application is made. Organisations will be able to apply for funding for up to three years. Grants awarded on a three year basis will be reduced in years 2 and 3 by 2.5% per annum in order to encourage sustainability for the activity beyond the funding period. Applications to the small grants programme will be limited to organisations with an annual income of and up to £50,000 per annum. The maximum grant available will be £5,000.

[LB Harrow’s contribution to the London Borough Grants Scheme has been reduced from £747,073 in 2010-11 to £338,153 in 2012-13, which itself is a reduction of £73,346 compared with 2011-12](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/mgAi.aspx?ID=75679). In their 2011-12 budget the council agreed to limit the cut in VCS grants in the budget to only 15%, taking full account of the reduction in contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme.  The £73,346 reduction in 2012-13 is partly the result of delayed payments because the contributions were delayed.  So most of the savings indicated were offset by making a much smaller percentage cut in the budget.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Harrow***

[***Harrow Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://www.harrowobserver.co.uk/west-london-news/local-harrow-news/2013/02/28/face-to-face-cab-appointments-to-end-from-march-20-116451-32892845/)

Harrow CAB had had to [stop its drop-in service and could only provide telephone and e-mail support](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/bureaux-detail.htm?serialnumber=100045). The drop-in clinic, which operates out of Harrow Civic Centre in Station Road, was closed on March 20 2013 due to a cut in funding from the council. After this date there will be face-to-face appointments for the most complex problems, but most advice will be available over the telephone.

[***Harrow Law Centre***](http://harrowlawcentre.org.uk/)

Harrow Law Centre was only set up in April 2010 but they are currently unable to provide a drop-in service because of funding cuts. They have made a deliberate effort not to be reliant on single sources for key funding. Instead, Harrow has secured funding from Lloyds TSB for welfare benefits advice. However, this is not enough as demand for help in this area has increased and their welfare benefits worker is snowed under. LB Harrow has responded well to welfare reform, but the problem is that it has no money to give out either, because its funding has been cut.

[***Harrow Agenda 21 Environmental Forum***](http://harrowagenda21.org/doc/Annual_Report_2011_2012.pdf)

Harrow Agenda 21 Environmental Forum has seen its income drop from £6000 in 2008-9 to just 33 in 2012-13, following the loss of its funding from LB Harrow in 2011-12 and no success in gaining trust funds, such as the £1000 from the Tudor Trust that it was awarded in 2011-12.

[***Home-Start Harrow***](http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/harrow-council-must-continue-to-fund-home-start-harrow-until-a-tendering-process-is-conducted)

Home Start Harrow has supported families with children under five living in the borough of Harrow since 1981. They train volunteers who are parents themselves to visit families in their own homes to give them practical and emotional support. Harrow Council have contracted them to provide this service for many years but this funding (£76,000 per year, 50% of total income) is now to be withdrawn at the end of March 2013 [putting the organisation at risk of closure](http://www.harrowtimes.co.uk/news/10283564._Decision_to_cut_funding_for_vulnerable_families_is_madness__says_volunteer/).

[***Harrow Young Musicians***](http://www.harrowobserver.co.uk/west-london-news/local-harrow-news/2013/02/12/harrow-young-musicians-given-funding-cut-repreive-116451-32795242/)

Harrow Young Musicians arranges borough-wide orchestras and bands for schoolchildren was given a funding cut reprieve. Harrow Council’s Labour administration had proposed in its draft 2013-14 budget to axe Harrow Young Musicians’ £58,000 annual contract in its entirety from April 2013- but the authority has now announced it would continue to financially support the charity for the next two years in the form of £30,000 this year and £20,000 next. The funding agreement stipulates the organisation must either allocate £10,000 of existing reserves to help with its running costs or sufficiently increase its fundraising activities, and will need to review its fees.

## Havering

***General statutory funding***

Havering council saw cuts to its spending power of 1.7% in 2011-12 and 2.2% in 2012-13.

***Havering Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations (HAVCO)***

Overall HAVCO report that their local authority funding has remained unchanged in 2012 -13. Their core grant has been maintained with various aspects of funding rolled into one grant with conditions and specific targets for the first time. Some funding had been cut from specific strands whose delivery had been stopped. A Primary Care Trust-funded project run by HAVCO had a 100% cut to its funding and has, therefore, closed.

***Havering VCS***

[In 2011/12, the total value of grants and contracts awarded by Havering council to the VCS was £7.16million, and in 2010/11 it was £7.75m.](http://democracy.havering.gov.uk/documents/s5593/121122%20-item9%20Voluntary%20Sector%20Funding%20Grants%20Report.pdf)

HAVCO have reported that LB Havering’s funding of the borough’s VCS has remained mainly unchanged in 2012-13. The council has rolled over VCS social care contracts until September 2012, although it is unclear what has happened after this date. A small proportion (10-15%) of the funding saved by LB Havering from the London Borough Grants Scheme has been ring-fenced to continue to fund Havering-based activity via local providers. HAVCO also report that health service contracts with the local VCS have been rolled over for 2012-13, but they expect major funding changes from 1st April 2013.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Havering***

[***Add+Up***](http://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/havering_s_voluntary_and_community_sector_sees_funding_cuts_and_staff_losses_despite_higher_demand_says_havco_1_1393259)

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) charity, Add+Up, has reported that competition for grants had increased. Some staff at Add+Up had even started working on a voluntary basis because the organisation could no longer afford to pay them. [They received the same level of funding from the council in 2012-13 but, their other grants and fundraising income had reduced and their costs had increased.](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends61%5C0001091461_AC_20130331_E_C.pdf)

[***Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Support Group of Barking, Dagenham and Havering***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/london/content/articles/2008/11/21/havering_sicklecell_feature.shtml)

A health support group for people with blood disorders has been rescued from folding after it received a 'life saving' £200,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund. Founded in 2002, The Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Support Group of Barking, Dagenham and Haveringstruggled to keep up with overheads and saw funds for its projects and services diminish as the year wore on. The arrival of the £200,647 grant to cover three years will now enable the charity to continue its work in providing welfare services for sufferers, assist research projects and raise awareness of the condition.

[***Age Concern Havering***](http://www.ageconcernhavering.org.uk/downloads/AgeConcernSpring2012.pdf)

Age Concern Havering announced the closure of two of its services due to the end of outside funding. The Active Living Project – The Pub Clubs and the Information, Advice & Advocacy Services were both funded from outside grants, which ended; the Pub Clubs from the Big Lottery and the Information, Advice and Advocacy from a local authority grant. Age Concern Havering applied twice for extension funding for The Pub Clubs project but both applications were rejected. They now do not have the resources to fund such projects and had no alternative but to close the clubs at the end of May 2012 until other long or short term funding could be found to cover their £5,000 annual administration costs. The London Boroughs withdrew their small grant for the Information, Advice & Advocacy Services in 2012 and then Havering Council ended the grant they had provided for this service for the last eleven years. As a result, at the end of May 2012 the organisation no longer had the funds to support the staff, trained volunteers and resources required to provide the type of overall service achieved in recent years, but they continued to provide an information service in a different way from June 2012 onwards. [Currently Age Concern Havering need over £1 million every year](http://www.ageconcernhavering.org.uk/about_us-funding.php) to run their existing services of which only part comes from Havering Council and Havering Primary Care Trust. They therefore need to raise significant sums each year from their own resources just to maintain existing services.

## Hillingdon

***General statutory funding***

Hillingdon council saw cuts to its spending power of 3.1% in 2011-12 and 3.1% in 2012-13

***Hillingdon Association of Voluntary Services***

[Hillingdon Association of Voluntary Services says that it will eventually have to close if its funding is cut by half as planned](http://www.uxbridgegazette.co.uk/west-london-news/local-uxbridge-news/2012/01/25/funding-for-voluntary-sector-body-to-be-slashed-by-50-113046-30199253/). Hillingdon Council has made 50% reduction in the annual funding it awards the organisation. Last year, HAVS received £90,000 from the borough, but it will only receive £48.750 in the 2012-13 financial year. The cuts are due to come into effect from May. The Association's 2011-2012 allocation was a 15% decrease on the previous year.

***Hillingdon VCS***

In 2011-12, the LB Hillingdon cut the total grants budget for the voluntary and community sector from £1.7million to £1.4million and then increased it in 2012-13 from £1.4million to £1.8million, an overall increase of £100,000 from 2010-11. The council announced in December 2012 that it would be contributing an extra £400,000 for voluntary services this year, but [priority for this extra money would go to front-line VCS services and away from 'second tier' or infrastructure organisations](The%20council%20announced%20in%20December%20that%20it%20would%20be%20contributing%20an%20extra%20£400,000%20for%20voluntary%20services%20this%20year,%20bringing%20the%20total%20budget%20to%20more%20than%20£1.8%20million,%20but%20priority%20for%20this%20extra%20money%20would%20go%20front-line%20voluntary%20services%20and%20away%20from%20'second%20tier'%20organisations.).

#### Impact on individual VCS organisations in Hillingdon

#### [Hillingdon Health & Social Care Forum](http://hillingdonlink.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/07/Hillingdon-LINk-Annual-Report-2011-12-vFinalGH.pdf)

Hillingdon Association for Voluntary Services (HAVS) lost Primary Care Trust funding for its Health & Social Care Forum at the end of March 2011. However, Hillingdon Local Involvement Network (LINk) has worked with HAVS to continue to support the Forum and its work.

[***Hillingdon Narrowboats Association***](http://www.hna.org.uk/) ***(HNA)***

In 2012-13 income from local authority and trust funds was less than £3000 and income had nearly halved from £57248 in 2009-10 to £32,547 in 2012-13. Almost all income is now generated through hiring out the boats which were originally owned by LB Hillingdon but were then outsourced to the Association, with running costs funded by the council in the 1980s. Now the Association receives no funding from LB Hillingdon and a Friends of HNA group runs fundraising activities and co-ordinates volunteers to assist with the boat hire.

## Hounslow

***General statutory funding***

Hounslow council saw cuts to its spending power of 4.7% in 2011-12 and 3.7% in 2012-13

***Hounslow CVS***

Hounslow CVS had its contract for providing capacity building services from LB Hounslow terminated following its award following a competitive tendering exercise to the private sector company, GLE. This resulted in Hounslow CVS’s closure.GLE then lost this contract, following poor delivery and capacity building support services in the borough are now being provided by Ealing CVS and Hammersmith & Fulham CVS (CaVSA).

In its Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy, LB Hounslow commits to providing the opportunity to bid for core funding to key local organisations which provide infrastructure support to the local VCS.,

***Hounslow’s VCS***

LB Hounslow estimates that there are over 600 VCS organisations operating in Hounslow A 2008 Ipsos MORI survey of VCS organisations indicated that in the borough, 18% of groups worked in community development and mutual aid, 29% of groups worked in culture and leisure, 26% of groups worked in education and life-long learning and 21% of groups worked in health and well-being.

In 2011 LB Hounslow introduced a [Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/voluntary_community_strategy_2011.pdf), [Voluntary Sector Corporate Funding Strategy](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/corporate_funding_strategy_2011.pdf) and, in 2009, a [Voluntary Sector Training Strategy](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/voluntary_community_training_strategy.pdf). From 2011 the council agreed to commission through a tendering process all VCS funding over £15,000 per annum but to retain grant funding for groups that receive less funding than this. The additional £35,000 Area Committee Fund is allocated annually between the five defined area committees for funding small local projects. The Isleworth and Brentford Area Committee also open up their Capital Fund of around £50,000 each year to local VCS groups. They also agreed to retain a small fund of £12,100 for holiday play schemes, which is open to the borough’s VCS.

[LB Hounslow’s funding budget for the VCS has seen some increases over recent years – from £1.4million in 2009-10 to £1.9 million in 2012-13. This increase has been delivered in part by ring-fencing the returned London Councils grant for the VCS, something which they expect to continue in 2013-14](http://hounslownetwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Compass-Issue-1.pdf)

## [In 2013 -14 the following grants will be available to Hounslow’s VCS](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/vs_council_grants):

## Area Forums Fund: Small grants of up to £500 to encourage local community activities within one of the five areas of the borough by providing small grants to encourage and support Hounslow based voluntary groups who are currently not funded by the council. Hounslow Innovation Fund: This grant scheme will support voluntary and community sector organisations to:

* Develop services and innovative solutions to emerging social needs (building community resilience)
* Focus on prevention and early intervention to provide better outcomes for residents and help reduce demand on services
* Manage service or organisational change in response to changing funding climate or needs of service users
* Improve the sustainability and independence of the voluntary and community sector by developing new forms of income generation

**Hounslow Community Youth Fund** aims to fund projects which:

* Provide opportunities for young people to develop their confidence, knowledge, skills and abilities
* Provide opportunities for young people to become decision makers and project leaders and to become more involved in their local communities
* Increase the capacity of local communities and the voluntary and community sector to address the needs of young people in the borough
* Increase access for young people to services or activities which meet their needs in a safe environment

**Hounslow Stabilisation Fund** to help support organisations to address their operational issues through a period of transition and to

* Ensure that valuable services and activities provided by the local voluntary and community sector are maintained, where there is a clear need for such services to continue
* Support groups with viable business plans to avoid closure and become sustainable in the longer term

Grants to voluntary and community sector organisations will be up to the following maximum amounts

* £5,000 for small voluntary and community sector groups with up to 1 FTE staff
* £15,000 for medium voluntary and community sector groups with 2 to 5 FTE staff

[LB Hounslow’s survey of the boroughs VCS organisations in 2012-13](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/voluntary_community_sector_survey_2012.pdf) found: the local voluntary sector was experiencing more demand on its services (78.4%) and had less funding (49.4%). It was managing in this situation by working more in partnership (57%), using more volunteers (53%) and diversifying services (52.9%). Most voluntary sector groups were expecting more of the same over the following 12 months: demand was expected to go up (73%), they would be using more volunteers (53%) and they would be diversifying their activities (44%). Many were also expecting to use their reserves (21%) and face a loss in funding (30%).

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Hounslow***

[***BSH Counselling***](http://www.hounslowchronicle.co.uk/west-london-news/local-hounslow-news/2013/03/05/cash-crisis-threatens-brentford-counselling-service-109642-32927717/)

BSH Counselling, based in Brentford’s High Street since 2001, could close its doors for good at the end of the month after being told it is facing a financial crisis. Hounslow Council has given the charity a grant but the service, which is provided free to children and at a very low rate for those on benefits, relies on donations to keep it going. The service is entirely voluntary and not only provides people of all ages with a varied counselling service, but also gives many trainee counsellors the chance to do their placements at the centre. BSH used to be called Bereavement Services Hounslow and specialised in bereavement and pre-bereavement counselling, but a year and a half ago it changed its name to reflect the variety of services it has branched out into, including depression, anxiety, work issues and sexual abuse.

[***Mission in Hounslow Trust***](http://www.hounslowchronicle.co.uk/west-london-news/local-hounslow-news/2012/02/28/homeless-problem-to-worsen-if-charity-closes-109642-30424111/)

Mission in Hounslow Trust (MIHT) which has been running in Hounslow for 20 years was facing closure in April 2012 unless it could find a new base. The organisation has provided hot showers and food to hundreds of rough sleepers since being set up in 1992. However, the charity has outgrown its current premises at Hounslow Salvation Army Corps, in Inwood Road, Hounslow, after a rapid rise in the number of street sleepers.In the last three years alone, the number of people turning up every Saturday, between 6-8pm, has more than doubled from about a dozen to more than 30. [A more suitable venue was eventually found in Hounslow High Street and the project re-commenced in October 2012 at Holy Trinity Church](http://www.hounslowmission.org.uk/index.php?op=modload&name=knowledge&file=index&viewCat=7). The Mission in Hounslow Trust joined forces alongside three local churches with a new 'management committee' giving the project a broader base. It has recruited more volunteers increasing sustainability for the future.

[***Help in Hounslow***](http://www.helpinhounslow.org.uk/)

The Help in Hounslow information, advice and advocacy project run by Age UK Hounslow has now [closed](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/hounslow/our-services/help-in-hounslow/). Although the contract with Hounslow Council was for three years from April 2010, [it was terminated early by the council and the service ended on 30th June 2012](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends81%5C0001061681_AC_20120331_E_C.pdf), nine months early. This resulted in a number of staff having been made redundant and also impacted the charity's finances as it was unable to recoup fully the investment it had made to get the service off the ground and also it could no longer recover a proportion of its core costs from the funding available under the contract.

[***Star Centre / Weare1***](http://www.hounslowchronicle.co.uk/west-london-news/local-hounslow-news/2012/11/14/disabled-charity-founder-scoops-top-award-109642-32234290/)

Weare1 is a new charity which runs social groups for people of all disabilities at venues across the Hounslow.The charity, set up after the [sudden closure of the Star Centre in September 2012,](http://www.companiesintheuk.co.uk/ltd/the-star-centre-%28hounslow%29) gives people with mental health problems the chance to work alongside those with physical disabilities. The vision of Weare1 is to bring together all of the organisations that offer community care services and facilities so that everyone is given the opportunity to participate and take an active role in their development and well being, regardless of disability or circumstances that are presented. It is funded by the National Lottery. Former Star Centre users have told how they did not think they would still be alive were it not for the new charity.

[***Volunteer Centre Hounslow***](http://www.volunteerhounslow.org.uk/vsp)

Volunteer Centre Hounslow’s Volunteer Support Programme was set up to offer specialist support to individuals that experienced difficulties in finding voluntary work. This could be due to additional support needs, for example mental health problems, physical disabilities, learning difficulties, drug and alcohol addiction, ex-offenders and people with low self-confidence. Due to funding from the Big lottery ending this service has closed.

## Islington

***General statutory funding***

LB Islington had a loss of spending power of 8.8% in 2011-12 and 4.3% in 2012-13/

***Voluntary Action Islington***

Voluntary Action Islington report that after a cut of 67% to their local authority funding in 2011-12, in 2012-13 they suffered a further cut of £42,812 to the CVS and community network and of £40,839 to their volunteer centre (100% of its funding). Overall this meant that Voluntary Action Islington’s funding was reduced by 21% in 2012-13 compared to 2011-12.

***Islington VCS***

Islington has a large VCS, of about 1,400 organisations. After a 25% cut in LB Islington’s funding to the local VCS in 2011-12, Voluntary Action Islington reports that there was no further decrease in 2012-13. They also reported that there had been less commissioning of the VCS by the health service in Islington. It was unclear for 2012-13 what % of the funding saved by LB Islington from the London Borough Grants Scheme was to be used to support the new Islington Citizen Advice Bureau, which had established using these savings in 2011-12.

[LB Islington introduced a £1 million Voluntary Sector Rescue Fund to help charities in Islington deal with the effects of the cuts.](http://www.islington.gov.uk/about/council-works/councilfinance/Pages/tackling-cuts.aspx)

[Spending on Islington charities has been slashed by £6.8 million – 17.5% – over the last three years. The figures reveal £32,075,866 was spent on charities last year (2012-13) compared to £38,921,402 in 2010-11.](http://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/news/islington_charities_suffer_crippling_6_8_million_cuts_while_hitting_the_boroughs_vulnerable_1_2286074) However, [only £3.5million](http://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/news/islington_charities_suffer_crippling_6_8_million_cuts_while_hitting_the_boroughs_vulnerable_1_2286074) of this funding is through ring-fenced VCS grant programmes.

[***Islington Giving***](http://www.islingtongiving.org.uk/website/wp-content/uploads/Giving-Together-full-version-FINAL.pdf)

Islington Giving was launched as a charitable campaign in 2010 with the aim of taking action to improve people’s lives. By involving residents, businesses, organisations and all those who have an interest in Islington, it aims to make a real difference and change Islington to be a better place for all. A June 2013 evaluation of the campaign showed it had:

* raised £1.8million, critically bringing new money into the borough and maximising the use of existing funds
* funded 30 community organisations and invested £700,000 in local initiatives with a further £1million planned in 2013 and 2014
* raised awareness of Islington’s issues and started to establish Islington Giving’s reputation as a trusted, knowledgeable and active route through which to give money, time and support
* established Islington’s first employee volunteer scheme (BiG) and involved 600 volunteers.

There was some evidence that it had achieved long-term outcomes of improving quality of life through: investing in young people; tackling poverty; reducing isolation; and encouraging volunteering.

### ***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Islington***

### [***Volunteer Centre Islington***](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/fundraising/news/content/12253/volunteer_centre_network_will_fragment_under_council_cuts)

Islington Council awarded its 2011-12 contract for volunteering to Isedon Partnership, an organisation currently previously involved in the Government’s “free schools” initiative, rather than to the Volunteer Centre run by Voluntary Action Islington, who had previously received £50,000 per annum to provide the service. The Volunteer Centre in Islington had been accredited as meeting national standards, helped thousands of local people to take part in volunteering and worked with 500 local organisations to promote their volunteering opportunities. The Centre’s future is currently uncertain.

[***Islington Arts Factory***](http://www.stjohnstreet.net/islington-arts-factory-in-danger-of-closure/)

The survival of local arts centres is under threat as the Arts Council has had its budget cut by 29.6% since 2011. The [Islington Arts Factory](http://www.islingtonartsfactory.org) receives 45% of its income from the local borough with the rest of the money coming from fundraising. The chief Executive said he “can see the centre closing down in four years if the government’s funding doesn’t increase by 50%.” Classes at the Factory have also increased in size and number, which it was suggested is because of the stress that the economic crisis has imposed on people.

[***Solace Women’s Aid***](http://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/news/islington_charities_suffer_crippling_6_8_million_cuts_while_hitting_the_boroughs_vulnerable_1_2286074)

Solace Women’s Aid, an Islington domestic violence charity which saw about 1,000 women last year, has seen its budget cut by about a third in three years, from £681,262 in 2010-11 to £440,359 in 2012-13. This is at a time when crime figures show domestic-related crimes have shot up from 1,356 to 1,670 last year (2012-13), a rise of 23.2% from the year before. The cut of more than £200,000 in solace’s funding means they are not able to provide the same level of service they would want and they are increasingly only dealing with those at the highest level of need, which means less preventative work takes place. It also means waiting lists are longer and people are not seen for as long as they might want to be.

[***Islington Mind***](http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2013/03/19/london-lgbt-mental-health-charity-outcome-faces-uncertain-future/)

For the last 15 years the Outcome service at Islington Mind has offered support to members of the lesbian, gay men, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community who experience mental health distress. It provides group and one-to-one advice and support and drop-in sessions, along with social activities, including a drama group and writing classes. Peer support groups for transgender clients and for LGBT asylum seekers also meet regularly at the building on Ashley Road, Islington, north London. It was originally funded through an individual donation, but this stopped in 2011-12. The charity says it now needs financial assistance in order to keep the service open, as a result of cuts to its existing funding (from £1,444,162 in 2011-12 to £938,128 in 2012-13 (a reduction of more than one-third). Several of its service-users say they have encountered homophobia when using mainstream health care facilities and the charity says: “with many people facing cuts to their welfare benefits, the need for LGBT specific advice and support is maybe greater than ever.” This is at a time when pressure on psychiatric wards has become so great that doctors are [sectioning mentally ill patients unnecessarily,](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mentally-ill-patients-sectioned-unnecessarily-as-only-way-to-a-hospital-bed-8760166.html) because it is often seen as the only way to gain access to a bed.

## Kensington & Chelsea

***General statutory funding***

Kensington & Chelsea had its local authority spending power reduced by 5.26% in 2011-12 and by 4.3% in 2012-13.

[RB Kensington & Chelsea is working with Hammersmith & Fulham and Westminster councils to develop joint services and commissioning functions in a bid to reduce costs.](http://www.shortbreaksnetwork.org.uk/Resources/Short%20Breaks/Impact/Impact%20ISP/london_triborough__partnership_working.pdf)

***Kensington & Chelsea Social Council***

Kensington & Chelsea Social Council has had its council funding reduced by approximately 6% from £100,000 to £94,000 in 2012-13 compared with 2011-12. A decision on 2013 -14 funding has not yet been made.

***Kensington & Chelsea VCS***

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is [making an extra £739,000 available to the voluntary and community sector in an Innovation Fund over the next three years](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/pressrelease/pressreleasepage.aspx?id=4186) (2012-15), despite the decline in its own financial position. Bidders to the new Fund were expected to show how they were offering a new service, reaching a new client group or that they were a new group, not currently receiving a grant. In particular the Council wanted proposals that addressed its own priorities of tackling social isolation, supporting people into work and training, and encouraging greater neighbourliness, civic participation, and self-help. The council also wanted bidders to develop a business plan that showed they could be financially sustainable and less reliant on public sector grants in the years ahead.

[Kensington and Chelsea Council have outlined plans to increase their level of grant funding to the voluntary sector from £2.08 million in 2012-13 to £2.33 million in 2013-14](http://www.open4community.info/enfield/O4News.aspx?WCI=htmNews&WCU=DSCODE%3dO4CUK3RS%2cNEWSITEMID%3d254-N45684%2cSEARCH%3dDS%3dO4CUK3RS~pCI%3d%22UK%22~pDL0%3d20130101~pDH0%3d20130131%2cUDATA%3dNEWSVIEWBACK%3dARCHIVE#.Ug8yRkol_Vh) (a more than 10% increase per annum making the total increase £739,000, although this could rise to £1.5million). The Council said it was increasing its VCS budget despite an overall reduction in its funding settlement from central government as a sign of its commitment 'to ensuring the long-term future of the third sector'. The new funding will be split between seven groups who will deliver new services to tackle social issues in the borough. The money has been allocated through a new Corporate Services Innovation Fund. However, £99,000 has also been cut from an existing corporate services grant. The existing grant fund for charities will only be £1.98 million in 2013-14, compared with £2.08 million in 2012-13. This explains why Kensington & Chelsea Social Council estimate that the RB Kensington & Chelsea’s total spending on the local VCS (including contract payments) remains at £11million in 2012-13, the same as in 2011-12. They highlight that there has been no increase in funding for the sector to account for cost of living increases over the year. They also reported cuts in funding to Kensington & Chelsea’s local VCS from Department of Health and police budgets, but could not provide exact figures.

Public health funding to the VCS had remained stable between 2011 and 2014 in the borough despite the huge NHS restructuring.

It was unclear what the funds that RB Kensington & Chelsea had saved from the London Borough Grants Scheme, which were ring-fenced for the VCS in 2011-12, were to be spent on in 2012-13 or 2013-14.

The Kensington and Chelsea [**Poverty Watch**](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/povertywatch) is a local observatory which gathers evidence on local poverty and the impact it has on the local community. The group was set up in 2012 through [Kensington and Chelsea Social Council](http://www.kcsc.org.uk). It is led by the VCS but includes members from the local authority, and forms a valuable joint working and communication forum. The **Poverty Watch** group collects  information from a variety of sources including from frontline VCS organisations working in the borough. This information can include figures that show an increase in demand for support services or it may be case studies that highlight the knock on effects of cuts on service users. Poverty Watch aims to create a body of evidence that really highlights the effects of cuts on local communities. This information will be available to help local voluntary and community organisations campaign and lobby local decision makers.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Kensington & Chelsea***

[***Kensington & Chelsea Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://kensington.londoninformer.co.uk/2013/01/voluntary-sector-cash-injectio.html)

The CAB is the largest recipient of existing corporate services grants in the borough, receiving over £700,000, so it will face a £41,000 reduction in funding in 2013-14, which amounts to only a 6% reduction in grant. ***The council has stated that*** given the Bureau’s overall budget of around £1million, the council would expect it to be able to find levels of efficiency savings that did not affect front line services, and would be very disappointed if the CAB went straight to reducing a front line post.

[***Kensington & Chelsea Advice Forum***](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/sites/kcsc.org.uk/files/documents/news_pages/Impact%20of%20Legal%20aid%20Reform.pdf)

A new report produced by members of the Kensington and Chelsea Advice Forum has highlighted the major concerns over legal aid reform and its impact on local advice agencies. From April 2013 legal aid advice on welfare benefit matters will be abolished leaving clients without the advice they seek unless they have the ability to pay.  There are concerns about the effect of austerity measures that are increasing demand for advice particularly for those most in need. This will place even greater pressure on advice services at a time of financial restraint and loss of staff. In Kensington & Chelsea there are four not-for-profit agencies providing advice across this spectrum: the CAB Service, North Kensington Law Centre, Nucleus and Worlds End Neighbourhood Advice centre. All but WENAC currently hold LSC contracts to provide specialist advice although they too continue to provide advice at this level. In the private sector, provision has declined significantly in recent years and there are now only two firms offering help through legal aid, principally in housing and family law – Oliver Fisher & Co, and Alan Edwards & Co., both located in Notting Hill. Kensington & Chelsea will suffer one of the largest reductions in legal aid funding in London next year at around 85%. In one of the few remaining categories, housing and debt, only 360 fixed fee cases are available for bidding. It is estimated that 300 cases are required to support a single specialist caseworker. The CAB Service, for example, will lose funding for 3.2 posts covering debt and welfare benefits.

***Impact of welfare reform in Kensington & Chelsea***

Kensington & Chelsea’s shadow Health & Well Being Board produced [a report](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/sites/kcsc.org.uk/files/documents/vofs/cypf/agenda_minutes/13-01-23/Impact%20of%20welfare%20reforms%20in%20Kensington%20%26%20Chelsea%20.pdf) looking at the impacts of welfare reform in the borough in December 2102

## Kingston

***General statutory funding***

RB Kingston saw a loss of spending power of 2.6% in 2011-12 and of 2.6% in 2012-13

***Kingston Voluntary Action***

There has been no change in local authority funding of Kingston Voluntary Action between 2011-12 and 2012-13.

***Kingston VCS***

Kingston Voluntary Action reports that RB Kingston continues to fund the local VCS at the same level in 2012-13 as it did in 2011-12. They also reported a small decrease in funding to Kingston’s VCS through the local police service but could not provide exact figures.

RB Kingston has committed to spending all the money it saved from the London Borough Grants Scheme in 2011 on the local VCS in both 2011-12 and 2012-13.

[Following a review in 2012, Kingston Council’s Grants to Voluntary Organisations programme were re-launched for 2013-14](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/browse/community_people_and_living/voluntary_sector/grants.htm), with new grant strands designed to benefit local groups.  These are:

**Strategic Partners Programme**: This scheme is designed for those organisations committed to work as strategic partners with RBK and its partner organisations and with the influence, volume, size and resources to do so.

**Community Investment Fund:** This scheme includes multi-year funding and is designed for organisations that provide activities/services that focus on tackling a particular theme or priority

**New Initiatives and Emerging Needs:** These are annual Grants for one-off projects or pump-priming/development activity which can include a contribution to overheads

**Small grants scheme:** Small Grants are annual grants to support organisations that are working across the borough to benefit residents.  They are for one-off projects/events or for running costs.

**Neighbourhood grant scheme:** To apply for a Neighbourhood grant your organisation or project must provide activities or services that benefit residents of one of the Borough's four Neighbourhoods (Kingston, Maldens and Coombe, Surbiton and South of the Borough). The award is up to £750.

RB Kingston continues to support a thriving voluntary and community sector, [having over 2012-13 maintained the borough’s Corporate Grants Programme as well as allocating part of Kingston’s contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme to Kingston Voluntary Action](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/destination_kingston_2013-2017_web.pdf) - the umbrella body supporting local voluntary and community groups. 2013-14 will see the development of a Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy highlighting the role and contribution of the VCS across the borough.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Kingston***

[***The Rose Theatre***](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2011/mar/25/public-sector-cuts-where-will-they-hit#Kingston)

The three-year-old Rose Theatre, gets no Arts Council money, leaving it dependent on box office and grants from the local authority and Kingston University. The council annual grant was £600,000 with £200,000 deducted for rent – but the balance, already budgeted for, has been slashed from April 2012, to £292,000 (a cut of £108,000 or 25%). The theatre gets £300,000 a year from the university, but that agreement expires in 2012-13. An academic study showed that the Rose brought £6million over five months into the local economy.

[***Kingston Savers***](http://www.surreycomet.co.uk/news/10095852.Love_Kingston_appeal__Credit_union_putting_loan_sharks_out_of_business/)

Kingston Savers was set up in April 2012 after credit union SurreySave, was granted permission by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to extend its remit into the borough. Like all credit unions, it offers its members affordable loans and a competitive rate of interest on savings, as well as free life insurance and loan protection cover. Unlike banks and payday lenders, it does not impose penalties on those who pay their loan back early, and all members’ deposits are protected under the FSA’s Compensation Scheme. Kingston Voluntary Action had wanted to add a credit union to Kingston’s VCS for 20 years, but the process has been difficult. It was only possible through a combination of legislative change, the help of Kingston Council, the financial and economic situation and volunteers. Kingston Savers has secured enough funding from Kingston Council for the next three years, but is keen to attract more members in order to continue helping those in need of financial help.

[***Kingston Law School’s Community Legal Advice Centre***](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/news/article/861/27-mar-2013-students-step-up-as-legal-aid-cuts-bite/)

Kingston Law School's Community Legal Advice Centre, launched in September 2012, is dedicated to providing free legal advice to individuals, charities, businesses and community groups from Kingston and the surrounding areas. Legal aid will be restricted in a range of civil cases from April 1st 2013. This means an estimated 500,000 people could lose access to free legal support. A team of 20 Kingston law degree students, who were selected in a competitive process, interview clients to establish an understanding of their predicament before researching and drafting a letter that provides advice on how the client should proceed. The Centre is being paid for by a grant from a special university alumni fund and a donation from a law school alumnus.

## Lambeth

***General statutory funding***

Due to the large funding cuts by the government LB Lambeth’s budget was slashed by a third and over 2011-14 [the council needs to make total cuts of £94.5million](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/NR/exeres/5C760FA0-D04B-4983-95E3-494718FF3D92.htm). In 2011-12 they made £37million of cuts so still needed to find another £57.5milliion by 2014, of which £13.5million had been identified with the remaining £44million still to be found. In 2011-12 £165million was spent in the Adults and Community Services department with £96million going to adult social care services. They are now planning to make cuts of £29million in 2012-13.

***Lambeth Voluntary Action Council***

LB Lambeth [reports](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/60CB658C-BE3F-44F0-B88F-B2B79E759D25/0/CommunityFundingUpdate.pdf) that it provides funding for Lambeth Voluntary Action Council to provide advice and support to Lambeth’s VCS. In 2011-12 the council invested approximately £160,000 a year in VCS capacity building, 80% of which went to Lambeth Voluntary Action Council (LVAC). NHS Lambeth invested an additional £20,000 per year. [In 2012-13 capacity building support for the VCS was going to be based on recommendations from the community hubs consultation that concluded on 16th April, 2012](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/NR/exeres/5C760FA0-D04B-4983-95E3-494718FF3D92.htm).

The recommendations for community hubs in the Cabinet Report are;

* Provide direction of travel that will lead to the delivery of a network of community hubs
* Community Asset Plan that will encourage increased ownership by VCS of buildings
* Investment to increase the supply of affordable rental space for the VCS in the borough
* Generate capital to reinvest into community buildings
* No immediate threat to current occupancy, if groups are complying with their occupancy agreement

Council investment in capacity building over the next two years (2012-14) is estimated at £320,000. The key capacity building priority is supporting the VCS to engage in the community hubs programme. Other priorities identified for capacity building are;

* Fundraising, business planning, training programmes
* The representative role of the sector
* Building collaborative/consortia working
* Volunteering

Capacity building provision is moving away from a single contract to a more mixed approach and some contracts will be ready to commission in July 2012. Lambeth VAC’s contract ended in July 2012.

***Lambeth’s VCS***

Change Up 2005 estimated there to be over 2,000 VCS organisations in Lambeth, with the majority of these being small Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee community organisations working at a grassroots level. LVAC has over 1,000 contacts and Volunteer Centre Lambeth has over 15,000 volunteers registered with them.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Lambeth***

[***Brixton & Norwood Food Bank***](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2012/aug/21/food-banks-lambeth-council)

Lambeth Council is proposing to provide financial support to Brixton and Norwood food bank to help boost its capacity. The council says it is turning to food banks to help, while "holding its nose"; not because it doesn't appreciate their work, but because it is unsure that food banks are a sustainable response to rising [poverty](http://www.theguardian.com/society/poverty). Then again, it knows its social workers and advice officers already refer people to the food bank on an ad hoc basis, referrals which are expected to increase in number as benefit cuts hit home in coming months. Lambeth says it has little choice. From April, in common with other English councils, it will be responsible for providing emergency crisis loans for local vulnerable people. It says it won't be able to afford to offer applicants cash loans – as happens now, under the Whitehall-operated system – because its social fund budget is being cut drastically, to 2005 levels. Hence the interest in food banks, and other charities offering low-cost, "in kind" help.

[***London Printworks Trust***](http://www.slp.co.uk/news.cfm?id=8142&searchword=Lambeth)

London Printworks Trust, based in Brighton Terrace, Brixton, offers textile hand print facilities, expertise and services. It was forced to close last month after 21 years because local authority and Government funding has dried up, in particular core funding from LB Lambeth and the Arts Council was withdrawn in April 2012. A Government grant secured by the borough’s arts groups – under the banner of the Creative Action Partnership – called the Performance Review Grant (PRG) has been diverted into other services by the recipients, Lambeth First, a partnership between the council, public sector and voluntary sector organisations. Six of the borough’s arts groups were set to receive 50 per cent of the PRG funding, worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, after helping to secure the grant. But the Government slashed the PRG funding in half in 2010, leading Lambeth First to divert funding to other services, such as working with unemployed youths, young offenders and domestic violence schemes. Their former landlords are going to reconfigure the space to obtain higher rents.

[***Lambeth Women’s Project***](http://savelambethwomensproject.wordpress.com/campaign-background/)

Lambeth Women’s Project (LWP) is an umbrella organisation providing grassroots, community support to women and their families in South London for over 30 years. As the only women-only space in the local Brixton area it has been nothing short of a lifeline for many women. Over 150 women pass through the LWP each month, accessing services such as counselling, support for women who have experienced domestic violence, art and music workshops, health services, BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) groups and mentoring. LWP operates under a model that was designed to promote diversity and to educate and empower.LWP had been based at 166a Stockwell Road since 1979, and had sole occupation of the building till 2010. Documents from 2009 state that the building is owned by [Children and Young People’s Services](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/CouncilDemocracy/CouncilDepartments/CYPS.htm) (CYPS)- a department of Lambeth Council. In 2009, the building had fallen into disrepair and had been flooded. In 2010, Lambeth Council transferred the management of the lease for 166a to Stockwell Primary School. Under this change, a five year lease was granted to LWP and the two organisations began sharing the building. Under this agreement, LWP pay a peppercorn rent and Stockwell Primary School receives a service charge for managing the property. On 31st May 2012 Stockwell Primary School informed Lambeth Women’s Project that they had two weeks to pack up their belongings and leave. At the time of being handed the eviction letter LWP still had three years remaining on the lease.

[***Lambeth Play Association***](http://www.lambethplay.co.uk/)

The offices of Lambeth Play Association, an independent charitable company committed to maintaining and promoting playable space for all children and young people, are temporarily closed while they look for alternative premises.

## Lewisham

***General statutory funding***

LB Lewisham had cuts in spending power of 6.5% in 2011-12 and of 4.3% in 2012-13. They needed to make £28million of cuts in 2012-13 compared with £33million in 2011-12.

***Voluntary Action Lewisham***

Voluntary Action Lewisham did not report any cuts in its local authority funding in 2011-12 nor 2012-13. Its children & young people’s project ended in July 2012, as a result of its funding ending.

***Lewisham’s VCS***

The London Borough of Lewisham provides many grant schemes for voluntary and community sector groups, which are categorised under the following areas:

* [Arts Service grants](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/getinvolved/funding/arts/Pages/default.aspx); several grants schemes are available to art projects.
* [Community Sector grants](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/getinvolved/funding/Pages/Community-sector-grants.aspx); to encourage community participation and involvement.
* [Sports Small Grants Funding:](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/getinvolved/funding/sports-funding/Pages/Sports-small-grants-funding.aspx) Lewisham sports small grant scheme is available to help individuals and sports clubs within Lewisham to grow, sustain and excel.
* [Positive Activities Fund](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/Funding/PositiveActivitiesFund.htm); combines several funding streams, including the Youth Opportunity Fund / Positive Activities Fund, to support the needs of young people in the borough. (this fund is currently closed but may re-open).

In 2012-13 LB Lewisham [invited](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/getinvolved/funding/Pages/Community-sector-grants.aspx) applications for funding from faith and VCS organisations for 2012 - 2013 by August 2012. Local Authority expenditure levels were not known and they stated that it may be that the overall level of funding available is less than previous years. The Council could not therefore guarantee that organisations funded in previous years would be funded in 201-/2013. It was expected that decisions on applications would be taken in October 2012.

In Lewisham each ward has its own local assembly which makes decisions about local priorities. Local groups can apply for funding for activities that support the ward priorities

LB Lewisham [agreed](http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/favicon.ico) that all repatriated funding from the London Borough Grants Scheme should be spent on the VCS in 2011-12. It is currently unclear whether this remains the case in 2012-13.

[***Voluntary Action Lewisham Children & Young People’s project***](http://www.valewisham.org.uk/content/ebulletin-archive)

Lost funding at end of July 2012 forcing the project’s closure.

[***Lewisham Shopmobility***](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/news/civil-society/ncvo-instrumental-helping-lewisham-charity-remain-sustainable)

Lewisham Shopmobility were sent a bill in June 2011 by Lewisham Council to cover 20% of Business Rates paid to the borough, despite having been exempt from any Business Rates charges in previous years. The unexpected bill for an additional £4,000 per year caused serious problems for the organisation who could only pay by using very limited reserves and the only paid worker taking a cut from her salary. Following advice and help from NCVO’s Compact Advocacy Programme, Lewisham Shopmobility have campaigned successfully to change the Council’s mind – they will be exempt from Business Rates until 2014 and will be refunded the money they have already paid out.

[***Midi Music Company***](http://news.sky.com/story/1025840/charities-fear-for-survival-as-donations-drop)

The [**Midi Music Company**](http://themidimusiccompany.co.uk/) was launched in Deptford, London, 18 years ago to provide a space where children could be inspired and get into music. In 2012-13 the charity has slashed two staff posts and cut back on its work with poorer families and young people in nearby Lewisham. They were still looking to raise £10,000 for 2012-13 and if they didn't achieve that it would just add to accumulating deficit.

[***Youth A,I.D. Lewisham***](http://www.voice-online.co.uk/article/help-us-change-lives-young-people)

Youth A.I.D. (Advice Information Development) Lewisham, established in 1973, partners with other VCS and local authority organisations to provide drop in advice, counselling sessions and personal development for young people in the borough of Lewisham who have been excluded from school, made homeless or need help in getting a job. The charity also helps young people on other issues such as debt, sexual health, family splits and getting young offenders back on their feet. The majority of its clients are from an African Caribbean background. In 2012-13 they reached crisis point because many of their partners had lost their funding or disappeared so there were fewer organisations on which they could rely for support in delivering services. And individuals who had the expertise in delivering young people’s services and worked with them and for them had now moved out of the borough. They are currently seeking new volunteers, management committee members, donations and new partner organisations to work with.

## Merton

***General statutory funding***

LB Merton had cuts in spending power of 3.8% in 2011-12 and of 3.4% in 2012-13.

***Merton Voluntary Service Council (MVSC)***

Merton VSC reports that its core funding from the local authority in 2012-13 and 2013-14 remains at the same level as in 2011-12 but that they have also received new local authority funding for new projects, which were bid for through competitive tendering processes: These additional funds represented two new full-time posts for MVSC. They were also awarded the Merton HealthWatch contract, which began in April 2013, after another competitive tendering process.

[Merton’s method of the local authority and MVSC managing sector funding cuts together has been used as a textbook example of Compact working](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/sites/default/files/managing_cuts_together_-_merton_case_study.pdf). Communication with local groups happens at the earliest opportunity and follows the Compact Group’s views on how best to run the consultation and undertake the exercise. Flat rate percentage cuts across the board have been avoided whilst priorities are protected through joint impact assessments. MVSC asked the council to look jointly at priorities. The Council agreed and the group came together to decide priorities. This process was transparent, fair and reasonable. Despite 10-15% cuts the sector didn’t feel aggrieved by the outcome as it had been involved in the decision-making, and firm foundations for future work together had been laid down.

[From July 2012 MVSC was awarded £63,275 to promote, develop and support effective voluntary action in Merton, including practical support for VCFOs, advocacy and joint working, standard setting, strategic partnership working and development support and £61,279 to provide the community accountancy service across the borough (both for nine months) from the local authority’s Strategic Partner Fund](http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/vcs-support/vs-funding/strategic_partner_funding_2012-2015.htm).

***Merton VCS***

Merton VSC reports that local authority funding of the VCS in Merton was approximately 10% higher in 2012-13 compared with 2011-12 and these levels of funding for the sector were maintained in 2013-14.

Health funding for the VCS in Merton also looks to have been maintained from 2011 to 2014.

80% of the funds saved by the LB Merton from the London Borough Grants Scheme since 2010-11 were ring-fenced to fund the Merton VCS in 2012-13 and 2013 -14. This compares with 100% in 2011-12, but has been specifically used for new VCS grants that are administered by MVSC.

***Impacts on individual VCS organisations in Merton***

[***Deen City Farm and Riding School***](http://www.deencityfarm.co.uk/Catalyst_Site/0B_Newsletters/Spring%202012%20Newsletter.pdf)

Deen City Farm campaigned to reverse Merton council’s decision to cut the farm’s grant for 2012-13. This was as a result of the support shown by their local community. However, despite the good news, they still have to rely upon some donations and additional fundraising to keep the farm going. They are also re-launching their café and promoting work with the local business community to ensure their sustainability.

[***Older People’s social care in Merton***](http://www.hbuk.co.uk/elderly-charities-stripped-of-funding-by-london-council/)

Changes to the criteria of Merton council’s [Ageing Well](http://www.local.gov.uk/ageing-well) initiative have been pin-pointed as the course of a loss of funding for six VCS organisations providing social care services to older people in Merton. Under the newly altered scheme, only groups that are deemed to directly aid the elderly to live in their own homes for longer, and to keep older members of the community out of local government care homes, are able to gain funding . Groups set to be hit by the reduction in funding include Merton Mind, Friends of St. Helier, The Positive Network and the Asian Elderly Group of Merton. Users, volunteers and paid staff are now facing uncertain futures, with some groups having already significantly reduced their opening hours and having been forced to plan an exit strategy for their needy client base. The move is expected to benefit the Borough council by up to £500,000 over the next three years, based on an estimate that just under 200 people will have no choice but to stay in their own homes for, at least, one year more than they otherwise would do

[***The Polka Theatre***](http://swlondoner.co.uk/content/16111395-merton-theatre-thrives-despite-arts-cuts)

Since the government began cutting Arts Council funding by almost 30% in 2010, the debate over the importance of England’s theatres has remained under the spotlight with over 200 organisations losing their funding. This is compounded by the squeeze on local authority arts budgets, with total local government financing for arts down 16% nationally in three years. But the Polka Theatre on Wimbledon Broadway is flourishing as an internationally renowned children’s theatre and a registered charity despite the economic landscape. Polka maintains a good working relationship with Merton Council, and successfully negotiated to retain nearly 70% of funding threatened when arts money was repatriated to individual London boroughs last year. And after securing Arts Council funding until 2015, the situation looks positive for the 85,000 people passing through Polka’s doors each year. But with 60% of its revenue coming from public funding and private sponsorship, further cuts would mean Polka’s charitable objectives may be among the first services to go.

## Newham

***General statutory funding***

LB Newham had cuts in spending power of 8.8% in 2011-12 and of 6.6% in 2012-13.

***Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium***

Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium does not receive any funding from their local authority. It receives funding from trust funders and national programmes.

***Newham VCS***

Newham CVS reported that it was not clear how much local authority funding for the VCS in Newham had changed between 2011-12 and 2012-13, although they expected there to be an overall decrease. They also reported a dramatic decrease in health service funding in 2011-12 and 2012-13, although they could not provide exact figures.

The [Newham Funding Summit in](http://www.aston-mansfield.org.uk/newham-funding-summit-held-at-durning-hall/) September 2012 was organised because, over the previous 18 months, it had become dramatically more difficult for local voluntary and community groups to raise funds to support their charitable activities. Local authority grant funding had been cut or replaced by procurement contracts that tended to favour larger organisations, whilst competition for funds from grant-making trusts and foundations had become more intense. In the current financial climate, groups had also found that individual donors were more cautious about the money they give to charities. Simultaneously demand for the services provided by voluntary and community groups, particularly from more economically deprived communities in east London, continued to grow. Voluntary and community organisations have considerable experience of adapting to change but in east London, with a transient population that includes many new migrant and refugee communities, the majority of local groups were small, new and inexperienced.

None of the money the LB Newham saved from its reduced contribution to the London Borough Grants Scheme was spent on the VCS in either 2011-12 or 2012-13.

***Impacts on individual VCS organisations in Newham***

[***The Al-Athariyyah Mosque***](http://www.mosquedirectory.co.uk/mosques/england/london/newham/upton-park/Al-Athariyyah-Upton-Park-Newham/51)

The Mosque of Uptown Park Newham has closed.

[***Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium***](http://www.nvsc.org.uk/new-direction-for-nvsc-from-april-2013/)

In March 2013 Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium announced that they were no longer able to provide the kind of practical assistance to the borough’s voluntary, community and faith sectors that they had offered in the past, as they had no funding from the beginning of 2014. With their limited remaining funds, NVSC proposed to focus on cooperation and mutual support. Over the next year, they planned to talk to local groups about how they could collaborate more closely, in order to develop networks and partnerships that pool knowledge and skills.

## Redbridge

***General statutory funding***

LB Redbridge had cuts in spending power of 2.6% in 2011-12 and of 2.8% in 2012-13.

***Redbridge CVS***

Redbridge CVS had had its local authority strategic partner core funding costs cut by 5% in 2012 -13, following a similar 5% cut in 2011-12.

***Redbridge VCS***

Redbridge CVS report that local authority funding for the VCS has decreased from £691,794 in 2011-12 to £592,879 in 2012-13, a decrease of 14%, although they had had no cuts in 2011-12. [The council proposal to fund a Volunteer Centre in Redbridge and provide additional funding for the sector via the Redbridge Community Fund and the Olympic Legacy Fund in 2013-14, but it appears that overall there will be still be an overall decrease in VCS funding in 2013-14.](http://www.rcmh.org.uk/documents/reports/RedbridgeBudgetConsultation_Response_2013.pdf)

No decisions have yet been made on how the money LB Redbridge saved from its contribution to the London borough Grants Scheme would be spent in 2012-13. In 2011-12 some was used to reverse a proposed 5% funding cut to all local authority funded VCS organisations and £200,000 was put into a Community fund which was open to applications from local VCS organisations.

Redbridge CVS also reports that funding from the police for the borough’s Police Community Engagement Group was cut by 20% in 2012-13.

***Impacts on individual VCS organisations in Redbridge***

[***Redbridge Mobile Toy Library***](http://www.guardian-series.co.uk/news/10198885.Toy_library_to_close_because_of_funding_cut/)

A mobile toy library which loaned toys to children across Redbridge was closed in March because of council funding cuts. The Redbridge Mobile Toy Library, was operated by charity, The Pre-School Learning Alliance, employed three staff and had been running for 11 years. It worked with families, childminders and pre-schools across Redbridge, but the council funding cut meant staff had been aware the service would have to close for the past year.

[***Redbridge Drama Centre***](http://www.thestage.co.uk/news/2012/09/closure-fears-for-redbridge-drama-centre/)

Redbridge Drama Centre announced it was at risk of closing due to local authority funding cuts and the possible removal of Arts Council England (ACE) funding, in September 2012. The centre works with local children aged from five to 21, as well as presenting a full professional programme throughout the year. It had a 100% funding cut from Redbridge Council – losing £292,000 over four years – confirmed in March 2012.It is also a national portfolio organisation of the arts council, which means it has regular funding from ACE secured until the end of 2014 - 15 tax year. However, a report published by the local authority and presented to its scrutiny committee stated that at an earlier meeting between representatives from ACE, members of the council and the chairman of the drama centre, ACE “stressed it would not normally continue to fund a national portfolio organisation for which the arts council was the sole public funder”. To compensate for the financial gap caused by cuts in funding from the local council, the Centre will not replace its vacant full-time drama teacher or caretaker positions in 2013 - 14 and it plans to reduce its salaries budget in 2013 - 14 and 2014 - 15. The centre’s buy back scheme – where schools pay to use the centre or for workshops to be run in schools – would probably also have to increase charges, which could result in fewer schools taking part.

[***Barnabus Workshops***](http://www.ilfordrecorder.co.uk/ilford-life/organisations/redbridge_employment_charity_barnabas_workshops_closes_after_17_years_helping_thousands_into_work_1_2009521)

The Ilford employment charity, Barnabus Workshops closed after 17 years having helped an estimated 3,000 jobseekers into work with projects including style talks, and the job shop and Creative Business Hub.. At the beginning of April 2013 the centre closed because of a lack of funding. The board of trustees had chosen to go into voluntary liquidation because they could not afford to continue their work. Their grant from Redbridge Council would have been about £23,000 but the whole organisation needed about £250,000 a year to maintain its work. Many of the grants currently available from the council and government are based on payment by results models, meaning little money is paid until the end of courses when people are in work, which made it difficult for such charities that needed up-front funds to run employment programmes.

[***Drugsline***](http://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/78507/drug-charity-collapses-and-leaders-refuse-act)

Drugsline, which was the only charity working directly with drug and alcohol addicts in the Jewish community, was forced to close in September 2012 due to acute financial difficulties. Based in Ilford, Essex, the 23-year-old Chabad-inspired charity ran a schools education and outreach programme which in the last academic year ran workshops for over 28,000 students at more than 90 schools and colleges.It also maintained two drop-in centres and a crisis and support hotline for drug abusers and their friends and families, and played a key role in getting addicts into rehabilitation. The charity had had on-going difficulties in securing sufficient government grants, together with a reduction in support from benefactors’ donations due to the economic recession Two years ago the charity had 10 paid employees, but funding problems had cut that number to six by the time operations ceased. They have all now been made redundant and their more than 60 volunteers could no longer continue with no volunteer management. Drugsline cost £250,000 a year to run. The charity was unable to find donors to make up the difference when the local NHS Primary Care Trust withdrew funding from 1st April 2010. Redbridge Council, which has also granted Drugsline £220,000 over the past six years, had continued to fund its counselling service but this was insufficient to keep the organisation going.

## Richmond

***General statutory funding***

Richmond council had cuts in spending power of 0.6% in 2011-12 and of 1.6% in 2012-13. The Council and NHS Richmond developed a joint commissioning team which led the commissioning of adult services, including those commissioned from the voluntary and community sector. They also jointly commissioned infrastructure and capacity building services.

***Richmond Council for Voluntary Service***

Richmond council split its Infrastructure and Capacity building contract for 2012-13 into three: one for strategic leadership work; one for volunteering and one for training. Initially Richmond Council for Voluntary Service Council was only awarded the contract to deliver the strategic leadership work. As a result of not receiving the contract for volunteering support, which was awarded to Groundwork London, Richmond Volunteer Centre was shut on 31st May 2012. [The final £85,000 training service contract was awarded to FSI, mainly funded by A4E, but that was reviewed because of a Government investigation into A4E](http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/patrick-butler-cuts-blog/2012/apr/24/a4e-emma-harrisons-charity-feels-the-heat) and the final contract was then awarded to [Richmond Council for Voluntary Services](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/community_and_living/voluntary_organisations/approach_to_commissioning/commissioning_infrastructure_and_capacity_building_services.htm).

[Overall Richmond Council for Voluntary Service had its funding from the local authority for infrastructure and capacity building cut by £127, 956 (44%) between 2011-12 and 2012-13](http://www.richmondandtwickenhamtimes.co.uk/news/9701494.End_of_an_era_for_volunteer_service/?ref=rss).

[The overall budget for VCS infrastructure support in Richmond was cut from £455,802 to £226,000 (50%)](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/budget_book_2012_13.pdf) from 2011-12 levels and the following organisations lost all their funding from this budget:

Age Concern Richmond £34,476

Richmond Advice & Disability Information £32,708

Richmond Carers Centre £32,190

Richmond Citizens Advice Bureau £24,472

Richmond Environment Network £38,000

***Richmond’s VCS***

Of the 700+ voluntary and community sector groups and organisations in the borough [only 46 have been awarded grants and 35 contracts by the Local Authority](http://www.richmondcvs.org.uk/documents/Minutes/Voluntary%20Sector%20Meeting%20Minutes%208%20May%202012.pdf).

Between 2011-12 and 2012-13 Richmond council and NHS Richmond [reported](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/budget_book_2012_13.pdf) that they would be reducing their grant funding to the VCS by £429,500 (16%). All grant funding was to be converted to contract funding by the end of 2012-13, except for £100,000 for the Civic Pride fund.

£80,000 (29%) of the £277,000 of funding re-patriated to Richmond council from the London Borough Grants Scheme is to be ring-fenced for the VCS in 2012-13.

***Impacts on individual VCS organisations in Richmond***

***[Barnes, Mortlake and East Sheen Neighbourhood Voluntary Care Scheme FiSH](http://www.richmondcvs.org.uk/documents/Minutes/Voluntary%20Sector%20Meeting%20Minutes%208%20May%202012.pdf)***

FiSH state that they were thrown by NHS Richmond’s Live Well Richmond contract that included a befriending service and didn’t have time to bid. This is a core activity of the 8 Neighbourhood Care Groups across the borough which together make 8000 befriending visits. They couldn’t bid as there was not enough time and resources to come together which meant that their core activity had not been funded.

#### [Richmond Volunteer Centre](http://www.richmondcvs.org.uk/index.php?nuc=news&id=2&cat=8)

As a result of the local authority contract for Volunteer Recruitment and Placement being awarded to Groundwork, rather than the previous delivery agency Richmond CVS, who received £60,000 per year for provision of the service, the Board of Trustees decided to close Richmond Volunteer Centre on 31st May 2012.

[***Richmond Furniture Scheme***](http://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/local/richmondnews/9888166.Richmond_Furniture_Scheme_desperately_low_on_goods/?ref=rss)

This furniture recycling scheme in Richmond has reported that it is short of stock.

[***Richmond Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://www.rcabs.org/public/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Richmond-closure-notice-210312-3.pdf)

As a result of the expiry of its lease the Richmond Citizens Advice Bureau service on Lower Morlake Road was closed in April 2012. The organisation will continue to provide drop-in services at various venues in the borough.

## Southwark

***General statutory funding***

LB Southwark had cuts in spending power of 8.4% in 2011-12 and of 4.6% in 2012-13.

The council is [committed](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/download/7425/budget_book_201213) to making £4.2million of savings from the health & community services department by:

• reshaping voluntary sector open access services

• decommissioning day centre services

• reviewing and redesigning their approach to personalised services.

Southwark Council’s [proposed budget for 2013-14](http://www.peckhamforum.org.uk/2013/02/07/update-on-southwark-budgets-201314/) suggests some specific grants would be reduced which affect some services in particular:

* One of the big specific grants affected is Early Intervention Grant which would be cut by £6.1m in 2013-14, with further reductions in 2014-15.
* Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) WP Social Grant funding transfers to LBS, and plans are to develop a council scheme to support the most vulnerable residents (DWPs figures indicate at least 12,000 such residents, though most agree that this figure must be increasing given the current economic environment) A Welfare Hardship Fund of £800k has been set aside particularly to deal with the effects of Council Tax reforms (which have lead in Southwark to every household having to pay at least 15% of Council Tax as opposed to 0% now
* The Youth and Community Restoration Funds have an ongoing commitment from the council to continue adding to the Youth Fund for the next 3 years

On commissioning:

* Adult Services are expected to see no further changes follwing earlier letters sent to organisations in December, except Community Support Services grants have now been proposed to continue for a further 2 years
* Childrens Services are expected to see many changes taking place in response to changing policies around disadvantaged families, those with learning and other disabilities
* Community Advice Services will have contracts extended to 31st July with a procurement path for 3 years from August 2013 to be set on 11th February 2013
* Community Capacity funding will be decided following a report with recommendations due to be published mid-February
* Youth Services would be looking to advertise their grants programme from mid- February 2013.

***Community Action Southwark***

Community Action Southwark reported that their local authority funding has remained the same in 2012-13.

***Southwark’s VCS***

Southwark council [voluntary sector grants](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/download/7425/budget_book_201213) totalled £684,000 in 2010-11, £1,259,000 in 2011-12 and £804,000 in 2012-13, so the cut in 2012-13 was 36%.

[£354,000 (75%) of the £473,000](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/download/7425/budget_book_201213) repatriated to LB Southwark from the London Borough Grants Scheme was ring-fenced for the VCS in 2012-13.

Harriet Harman, the local MP has [reported](http://www.harrietharman.org/south-london-press-article---24082012) that in Southwark more than 70 voluntary and community groups are facing budget cuts in 2013-14; some of whom will lose all their funding.

***Impacts on individual VCS organisations in Southwark***

[***Union Theatre***](http://www.thestage.co.uk/news/2013/04/union-theatre-in-southwark-threatened-with-closure/)

In April 2013 a petition was launched to stop railway redevelopments by Network Rail that could force the Union Theatre in London to close and move to different premises. At the time the venue had not been served its notice but the chief Executive had been verbally forewarned by Network Rail that the site will be turned into offices.

## Sutton

***General statutory funding***

LB Sutton had cuts in spending power of 2.8% in 2011-12 and of 2.6% in 2012-13.

***Sutton Centre for the Voluntary Sector***

Sutton Centre for the Voluntary Sector had had its local authority funding cut by 4.5% between 2011-12 and 2012-13

***Sutton VCS***

Sutton Centre for the Voluntary Sector report that there is no clear overall budget for the VCS from Sutton council. There was some grants funding in 2012-13 but most local authority funding for the sector in the borough now comes from competitive tendering with some old Service Level Agreements still being rolled over. There was a 4.5% cut in the strategic partner grant from the council which currently funds seven larger VCS organisations in the borough.

£160,000 (41%) of the £390,000 that Sutton council had cut from its contribution to the London Borough Grants Scheme from 2010-11 delivered by London Councils was to be spent on funding the VCS in 2012-13. This was to be through a £100,000 Sutton Community Fund which provided grants of up to £10,000 (so funding around 10 organisations); £30,000 allocated by Local Committees through small grants funds to local VCS organisations and a £30,000 contribution to a sub-regional fund for work by VCS organisations working in Sutton that had previously been funded by London Councils. This 2012-13 figure (41% of total London Councils savings) compares to the £200,000 (59%) ring-fenced for the VCS in Sutton from this source in 2011-12.

Sutton Centre for the Voluntary Sector report that they are only aware of one VCS organisation in the borough that has had its local authority funding significantly reduced (by 30%) in 2012-13.

There had also been a major tendering exercise by LB Sutton Adult Social Services Department involving the funding of 15-20 VCS organisations.

## Tower Hamlets

***General statutory funding***

LB Tower Hamlets had cuts in spending power of 8.8% in 2011-12 and of 6.2% in 2012-13.

Over the next three years the Council will [lose a further £38.6million (16.8%) on top of the £29.2million (11.3%) loss of grant in 2011-12](http://moderngov.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=26013). New savings proposals together with the £26.5million still to be delivered as part of the current approved savings programme will mean that the Council is looking to reduce its net expenditure by £54.8million between April 2012 and March 2015.

***Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)***

Tower Hamlets CVS was developed as a new organisation in 2010 with council funding of around £200,000 per annum. In its current budget the council is proposing to continue to provide grant funding of £200,000 per annum to Tower Hamlets CVS. However the Mainstream Grants Support programme for 2012-15 provides an additional £35,000per annum for Third Sector Infrastructure support.

***Tower Hamlets’ VCS***

The council estimates that there are over 2,500 VCS organisations in Tower Hamlets. It

states that its funding through the Mainstream Grants Programme for 2009-12 amounted to £3.53million per annum and does not propose to cut this in 2012-15. However the current budgets cited in the [Mainstream Grants Programme](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgsl/851-900/871_community_grants/mainstream_grant_funding.aspx) currently open for applications only total £2.2million

The decision on the final budget for the council’s Mainstream Grants has been [delayed](http://us4.campaign-archive2.com/?u=ea17e98e24bc71c0b9a91487a&id=e16a39eb76).  Whilst existing funded organisations are getting another quarter’s extension the delay is likely to affect the start or progress of some projects and services for local people. The Programme Board is now scheduled to meet on 6th September 2013 with the expectation that the decision will be made then.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Tower Hamlets***

[***Speak Now***](http://www.eastlondonadvertiser.co.uk/news/charity_to_lose_thousands_in_revenue_as_halifax_changes_account_1_1481312)

The Speak Network, a Christian charity which campaigns on issues of human rights and global justice, has reported that it could lose much of its donations funding as it is being forced to change its bank account details. It had had an account with Halifax since 2000, but the bank informed them in June that its particular type of account would no longer be available after October 2012. This is leaving the charity with the prospect of losing as much as £4,000 per year in revenue. The charity receives monthly donations via standing orders into the account, but the details of many long-term donors are no longer available to the charity, while others have chosen to remain anonymous. The charity has explored all its available options in an attempt to persuade Halifax to allow them to retain their current bank details so as not to lose donations, only to be informed by Halifax that this was not possible.

## Waltham Forest

***General statutory funding***

LB Waltham Forest had cuts in spending power of 5.2% in 2011-12 and of 3.7% in 2012-13. The Council’s Formula Grant for 2012/13 was £116.050 million which represents a further reduction of 7.84% on the existing 2011/12 grant levels. LB Waltham Forest made savings of £29.5 million in 2011/12 and a further £16.2 million of savings are required in 2012/13 in order to set a balanced budget.

***Voluntary Action Waltham Forest***

LB Waltham Forest has committed to provide support to Voluntary Action Waltham Forest until 31st March 2013. LVSC does not have any information on whether this has increased or decreased from the £579,152 it provided in 2010-11. However, the council’s shift from grant payments to commissioned contracts meant that Voluntary Action Waltham Forest’s income had increased by [148% between 2000–01 and 2010–11](http://beanbagsandbullsh1t.com/2013/06/03/my-charity-hired-a-social-enterprise-consultant-and-all-they-suggested-was-this-lousy-t-shirt/).

***Waltham Forest’s VCS***

The local VCS in Waltham Forest consists of a wide range of charities, community groups, tenants and residents associations, social enterprises and many more not-for-profit organisations or groups. [The Council currently spends around £5million on services delivered by the VCS.](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/pages/services/vol-sector-wf.aspx?l1=100003&l2=200129) The council has decommissioned and recommissioned many VCS services over the last year resulting in the implementation of specific preventative services in areas such as falls, dementia, strokes and alcohol and drugs. According to the [council budget](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/Documents/budgets-rev-cap-2012-13.pdf) £4,921,900 went to the VCS in third sector payments in 2011-12 and this was reduced to £4,905,600 (a 0.3% reduction) in 2012-13 but [increased to £5,302,200 in 2013-14 (an 8% increase).](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/Documents/budgets-rev-cap-2013-14.pdf)

LB Waltham Forest has also committed to reducing the £140,000 Conditional Grant Fund, which supported VCS organisations to develop new business models to be able to provide services to individuals with personal budgets by £80,000 in 2013-14 and a further £60,000 in 2014-15. In 2014-15 it has also decided to cut £300,000 (21%) from the £1.4million Youth Offer and Short Breaks Funds. They state that “to mitigate any decommissioning, VCS organisations who delivered these services would be encouraged to find alternative funding”.

LB Waltham Forest has just produced a new [Thriving Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy for 2012-15](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/documents/vcs%20strategy%20with%20pic.pdf) and [Action Plan](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/Documents/Appendix%20A%20Action%20Plan.docx)

LB Waltham Forest introduced two new funding schemes for the VCS in 2012-13. The [Match funding scheme](http://www.voluntaryaction.net/sites/voluntaryaction.net/files/Waltham_Forest_Council_match_funding_scheme.doc) was introduced as a pilot in 2012-13 and had a total budget of £100,000. The council matched £1 for every £1 raised from a minimum of £100 up to a maximum of £10,000. They also introduced a [Volunteering Support Scheme](http://www.voluntaryaction.net/sites/voluntaryaction.net/files/Waltham_Forest_Council_volunteering_support_scheme.doc) with a total budget of £50,000 for 2012-13. [It has just been confirmed that the total value of these two grant schemes would remain the same in 2013-14](http://www.voluntaryaction.net/news/grants-community-organisations-waltham-forest).

***Impacts on individual VCS organisations in Waltham Forest***

[***The Samaritans of Waltham Forest***](http://www.justgiving.com/Chantal-Vorres)

The Samaritans of Waltham Forest had its local government funding of £10,000 from LB Waltham forest cut completely at the beginning of 2013, reducing its income by almost half. They now need to find funds to keep their building open and running. The charity offers a 24 hour confidential listening service, supporting people who are feeling suicidal, orwho are going through difficult emotional times.

[***Age UK Waltham Forest***](http://www.jeanlambertmep.org.uk/news_detail.php?id=906)

Age UK Waltham Forest had its core grant funding cut by the council in 2010-11. Although it was successful in gaining central government Transition Funding in 2011-12, the changes to its business model resulted in the organisation spending £24,684 (10%) of its reserves in that year alone. In 2012-13 it was reported that the organisation faced increasing uncertainty over funding and had found that fewer people were able to volunteer their time.

[***Waltham Forest Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://www.wflink.org.uk/documents/uploaded/Notice%2011.02.13V.2.pdf)

The end of legal aid for most types of welfare benefits and debt work meant that Waltham Forest CAB lost £200,000 pa in income from the Legal Service Commission at the end of the 2012-13 financial year. As a result the organisation could no longer afford to have a second office in Leytonstone. However, the savings they made by closing the centre allowed them to keep most of their advisers in 2013-14 who moved to their office in Walthamstow.

## Wandsworth

***General statutory funding***

LB Wandsworth had cuts in spending power of 6.5% in 2011-12 and of 4.6% in 2012-13.

***Lifetimes***

Lifetimes, the Council for Voluntary Service in Wandsworth lost 48% of its local authority funding in 2011-12, when it lost the contract for volunteering services to Groundwork. LVSC does not have information about its funding for 2012-13. The loss of this contract also resulted in the organisation having to move premises.

With loss of funding for 2012-13 Lifetimes [reviewed](http://www.wvsda.org.uk/assets/documents/e-bulletin-march-2011-editio%20) the services it offered the local community. Changes to services included:

* The Volunteer Centre Wandsworth would continue to provide volunteer best practice support to local volunteer involving organisations but with one less member of staff. There would be some projects offering specialist volunteering support but other brokerage support such as Volunteer Open Days would no longer be available.
* The reduction in some services also meant a reduction in their volunteering programme, which meant Lifetimes could take on fewer volunteers.
* The Policy Project was set to continue with an additional role in facilitating the Voluntary and Community Sector Forum helping to provide local organisations with voice and representation on a range of issues.
* They would continue to offer learning opportunities to organisations but would focus on key areas of need and would have to charge for sessions where appropriate to cover running costs.
* The Small Groups Project was closed with the loss of one other member of staff. This had previously been funded through reserves.
* One-to-one development support to local organisations free of charge could no longer be offered, with this service replaced by a list of resources on their website.

***Wandsworth’s VCS***

LB Wandsworth gave £22.8million to the VCS in grant and contract funding 2011-12. Its [2012-13 budget](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/download/6156/council_budget_201213) suggests that this is going to be reduced by £848,000 (a 3.8% reduction) in 2012-13

LB Wandsworth agreed to set up the Wandsworth Discretionary Fund (WDF), to help voluntary organisations adversely affected by loss of income from the public sector, and Wandsworth Big Society. Funding of £100,000 was agreed for the Wandsworth Discretionary Fund in 2012/13 (a reduction of 50% from 2011-12) and of £169,000 for the Wandsworth Big Society Fund (the same as 2011-12) following the return of funding from the London Borough Grants Scheme of £464,000. Thus the proportion of repatriated London Borough Grants Scheme funding allocated for the VCS was reduced from 80% to 58%.

Lifetimes also published the results of their survey of Wandsworth’s VCS, [State of the Sector in Wandsworth](http://www.wvsda.org.uk/assets/documents/vsd-policy-state-of-the-sector-2) in March 2012. Its findings included:

* Cuts in funding had seen closure of a number of groups during 2011-12 and others had reduced the amount of activity or support that they offered. Organisations had started charging for services that no longer attracted grant or contract funding.
* There had been a number of mergers, with larger organisations absorbing smaller or similar local voluntary organisations (eg. Odyssey Care had become a subsidiary of Brandon Care).
* Funding from the borough council to voluntary and community organisations had risen from £25million in 2008 to over £30million in 2011.
* Adult Social Services contracts with VCS organisations increased by over £5.5million between 2010 and 2011, while cuts of nearly £5million of VCS funding took place across most other local authority departments. The value of Children’s Services contracts with the VCS and Sure Start funding had dropped by over £1 million, while the Housing Department had seen a reduction in its contracts as well as its support for tenant management organisations and housing cooperatives of over £840 000.
* Between 2005 and 2009, the number of organisations in receipt of some type of Local Authority Funding went from 350 to 222.
* The borough had seen a significant drop in funding to the VCS from the NHS, from £7.8million in 2008 to £2.7million in 2011.
* The borough found information on five charitable trusts or foundations regarding their grant allocation in 2010 to 2011 (all over £100,000). Out of these funders, the Big Lottery Fund had increased its allocation of grants to Wandsworth by almost 40% over the last two years, while all the other funders had reduced the amount of funding they awarded in Wandsworth.
* In 2010-11 Lifetimes closed 37 records of local VCS organisations on their membership database. 12 of these organisations closed due to lack of funding or because the project that they were set up to run had come to an end. 5 groups ceased to operate in the borough, but moved to another area and 9 records were closed because they 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 would be sorely missed, including the Children’s Discovery Centre and Church Lane Day Centre in Tooting.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Wandsworth***

[***Wandsworth Oasis***](http://wandsworthoasis.org.uk/2012/12/wandsworth-oasis-doubles-funding-for-hiv/)

Wandsworth Oasis doubled its funding to charities supporting local people with HIV in the borough in 2012-13. The community based charity shop chain gave out £55,000 to eight charities working with people from Wandsworth affected by HIV in December 2012. This doubling of the amount they were able to give away to support people living with HIV, came at a time when charitable donations in general had fallen by about 20%.

[***Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends03%5C0001040303_ac_20120331_e_c.pdf)

Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureau has suffered a couple of years of funding uncertainty. Its LB Wandsworth annual grant of £488,849 (61% of the organisation’s total annual income) was due to end on 31st March 2012. The charity managed to negotiate a year-long extension for 2012-13 but this left it with its LB Wandsworth and Legal Services Commission contract (worth £181064) both due to end on 31st March 2013 The council has proposed to fund the organisation in 2013-14 and 2014-15 but with a decrease in funding of £36,000 (7%) in the first year and a further £70,000 in the second.(an overall reduction of 21%).

## Westminster

***General statutory funding***

LB Westminster had cuts in spending power of 7.2% in 2011-12 and of 5.0% in 2012-13

***Voluntary Action Westminster***

After an [unsuccessful bid for a contract offered by Westminster City Council to provide local VCS capacity building services](http://www.vawcvs.org/news/unsuccessful-vaw-bid-local-capacity-building-contract), Voluntary Action Westminster saw its local authority funding reduced in 2012-13, although it retains some local authority and health funding. The contract of £145,000 per year to provide support services for the local VCS in Westminster was [awarded to the Scotland-based Business and Enterprise Group](http://www.westendextra.com/news/2012/jul/mps-meltdown-warning-voluntary-movement-charity-dropped-after-30-years-service-favour-).

As a result of these large funding cuts to Westminster and smaller cuts to Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham Councils for Voluntary Service, Community and Voluntary Sector Association Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea Social Council and Voluntary Action Westminster have [announced](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/news/future-local-community-action) that they feel that in the future they could better support local groups and communities, if they combined their strengths and came together as one organisation across the four boroughs, including the City of London. The three organisations have set up a joint working group to explore the possibilities and hope to make a final decision in 2013-14.

***Westminster VCS***

There are around 700 voluntary and community sector organisations in Westminster. From [surveys](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/services/communityandliving/communitygrants) of local voluntary sector organisations in Westminster:

* Over 50% of organisations have an income of less than £10,000
* The total income for the sector is approximately £205 million
* In 2009/10 there were an estimated 678,000 client contacts with services provided by the voluntary and community sector
* The sector employs around 2,250 full time staff and 1,400 part time staff, but over 50% rely on volunteers completely
* ·The sector engages around 8,500 volunteers each year
* The sector also delivers Council contracts to the value of approx. £22 million. The biggest service areas where the voluntary sector delivers contracts are homelessness and learning disabilities. This is followed by older people, substance misuse and children & young people

Voluntary Action Westminster reports that it is unclear how much funding for the local VCS from LB Westminster has changed in 2012-13, as there are many different budgets across different departments through which the VCS can be commissioned. LB Westminster’s grant scheme for the VCS was ended in 2011 and the money saved used to commission services instead.

Westminster city councils 2012-13 budget suggests that the switch from grants to commissioning services from the voluntary and community sector reduced funding for adult services by £472,000 in 2011-12 and a further £161,000 in 2012-13, while children services saw reductions in funding of £300,000 and £125,000 for each year. This suggests that the [overall funding for the VCS in Westminster was reduced by a total of just over £1million between 2011 and 2013](http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/Finance/login/1056818/).

It was also not clear what the money saved by Westminster City Council from the London Borough Grants Scheme was to be spent on in 2012-13. In 2011-12 a proportion was spent on a VCS support service and a support service for young people who were homeless.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Westminster***

[***Arts organisations in Westminster***](http://www.vawcvs.org/news/westminster-council-axe-entire-arts-budget)

Wesminster council is considering plans to cut the whole budget of £350,000 from its arts and culture budget between 2013 and 2015. The Council’s Budget Task Group has proposed cutting the programme by £150,000 in 2013/14 and by a further £200,000 in 2014/15. Community and youth arts projects run by Paddington Arts, Union Dance, Westminster Mind and Dream Arts will all be affected, along with around ten other voluntary sector arts organisations. Examples of the kind of work currently supported by the Council, and which will be affected by cuts to the arts budget include:

* Drama, dance and singing workshops for children and young people, provided by a partnership between Paddington Arts and DreamArts.
* A 12-week programme of workshops run by Westminster Mind for vulnerable adults with mental health issues, to help them regain independence and access volunteering opportunities.
* Dance and choreography tuition for young people of mixed ability, organised by Union Dance.

# Sub-sectors

## Advice & legal services

# [*Advice Services Alliance*](http://www.asauk.org.uk/fileLibrary/pdf/NatAdviceOrgsUnderThreat.pdf)

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is proposing to end its Community Legal Service (CLS) Grants programme in March 2013. This programme currently funds three national advice organisations:

• The Advice Services Alliance (ASA)

• The Law Centres Federation

• The Royal Courts of Justice Advice Bureau.

The loss of the CLS grant will mean that from April 2013, ASA will be unable to represent the advice sector on legal aid contracting issues or the future development of legal aid services. They will also be unable to continue their training and support services to advice agencies. The loss of grant will also seriously threaten their capacity to deliver other activities, including speaking for the sector as a whole and engaging with government on developments affecting advice agencies and their clients at a time of increasing pressure on the sector. ASA state that the demands on the sector are likely to increase substantially in the next few years, due to the economic climate, changes in social welfare provision and the reduction in the scope of legal aid.

#### [Ealing Equality Council](http://www.ealingtoday.co.uk/default.asp?section=community&link=http://appasp.ealingtoday.co.uk/server/app/forum/ShowMessage.asp?ID=818182)

Ealing Equality Council was closed in July 2012, as a result of losing their bid to deliver the local authority contract for advice services to Nucleas, an organisation based in Kensington & Chelsea and following the loss their Equality & Human Rights Commission funding

The organisation had worked for more than 48 years to promote equality for all in the London Borough of Ealing and provide a Community Advice Programme which gave free legal advice to those in the borough who were disadvantaged.

[***Richmond Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://www.rcabs.org/public/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Richmond-closure-notice-210312-3.pdf)

As a result of the expiry of its lease the Richmond Citizens Advice Bureau service on Lower Morlake Road was closed in April 2012. The organisation will continue to provide drop-in services at various venues in the borough.

#### [Middle East Christian Minorities Advisory Service (MECMAC)](http://www2.ealing.gov.uk/ealing3/export/sites/ealingweb/services/council/committees/agendas_minutes_reports/cabinet/25may2010-23may2011/__26_april_2011/Item_14_-_Appendix_2.pdf)

MECMAC was established to support Middle Eastern Christian refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, the majority of whom are fleeing from Iraq. It provides advice and information on living and working in the UK across West London and is based in Ealing. After losing its grant from Ealing Council, the organisation was facing closure in July 2012, having worked with 670 service users in 2011-12.

***[Barking & Dagenham Citizens Advice Bureau](http://www.barkinganddagenhampost.co.uk/news/1_000_vulnerable_residents_set_to_suffer_under_plans_to_cut_legal_aid_in_barking_and_dagenham_1_1678009)***

Barking and Dagenham Citizens Advice Bureau have reported that 1000 vulnerable people using legal aid could suffer after the government announced it would slash its legal aid funding by more than a quarter of a million pounds in Barking and Dagenham in 2013-14.

***[Barnet Citizens Advice Bureau home visiting service](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?uniqueVmgCharityUrl=barnetcab)***

Barnet Citizens' Advice Bureau home visiting service is at risk as a result of funding cuts.

***[Brent Citizens Advice Bureau](http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/news/1170330/)***

Brent Citizens Advice Bureau is expecting demand to increase in 2013 - 14. However, the bureau is to lose a third of its funding because of legal aid cuts and it is planning redundancies.

[***Greenwich Community Law Centre***](http://www.gclc.co.uk/News.htm)

Greenwich Community Law Centre had all its local authority funding cut. It took the council to [a judicial review](http://www.solicitorsjournal.com/case-reports/r-application-greenwich-community-law-centre-v-greenwich-london-borough-council?ip_login_no_cache=60fdb1cdde2b4c9f232802df4390deac), but this was [unsuccessful](http://853blog.com/tag/greenwich-community-law-centre/). It is now facing imminent closure.

[***Hackney Community Law Centre***](http://london.greenparty.org.uk/news/2013/02/18/legal-aid-cuts-are-putting-hackney-children-at-risk/)

Cuts to legal aid due to come into force from April 2013 will mean case-workers at the Hackney Community Law Centre will only be able to work on housing cases where people face imminent eviction - when it's usually too late - and not at all on benefits or most immigration cases. The Centre is dealing with an increasing number of cases involving children of parents with different nationalities - and their access to housing and education. In few of these cases will the centre be funded to offer any legal advice from April - and this will, inevitably, put children in Hackney at risk.

[***Hammersmith Information and Visitor Centre***](http://www.katebelgrave.com/category/council/hammersmith-and-fulham-council/)

The Information Centre is threatened with closure by Hammersmith & Fulham council who want to hand the building back to its landlords. The Centre has hosted new community organisations and helped them to grow, provided a resource for small unfunded local groups to meet and provided a gallery space for local artists and photographers to showcase their work. Above all, it has served as an information and visitor centre helping visitors and residents to find their way around the borough and find out about social and commercial services. The centre has been staffed entirely by experienced and expert volunteers during its lifetime.

[***Harrow Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://www.harrowobserver.co.uk/west-london-news/local-harrow-news/2013/02/28/face-to-face-cab-appointments-to-end-from-march-20-116451-32892845/)

Harrow CAB had had to [stop its drop-in service and could only provide telephone and e-mail support](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/bureaux-detail.htm?serialnumber=100045). The drop-in clinic, which operates out of Harrow Civic Centre in Station Road, was closed on March 20 2013 due to a cut in funding from the council. After this date there will be face-to-face appointments for the most complex problems, but most advice will be available over the telephone.

[***Harrow Law Centre***](http://harrowlawcentre.org.uk/)

Harrow Law Centre was only set up in April 2010 but they are currently unable to provide a drop-in service because of funding cuts. They have made a deliberate effort not to be reliant on single sources for key funding. Instead, Harrow has secured funding from Lloyds TSB for welfare benefits advice. However, this is not enough as demand for help in this area has increased and their welfare benefits worker is snowed under. LB Harrow has responded well to welfare reform, but the problem is that it has no money to give out either, because its funding has been cut.

[***Age Concern Havering***](http://www.ageconcernhavering.org.uk/downloads/AgeConcernSpring2012.pdf)

Age Concern Havering announced the closure of two of its services due to the end of outside funding. The Active Living Project – The Pub Clubs and the Information, Advice & Advocacy Services were both funded from outside grants, which ended; the Pub Clubs from the Big Lottery and the Information, Advice and Advocacy from a local authority grant. Age Concern Havering applied twice for extension funding for The Pub Clubs project but both applications were rejected. They now do not have the resources to fund such projects and had no alternative but to close the clubs at the end of May 2012 until other long or short term funding could be found to cover their £5,000 annual administration costs. The London Boroughs withdrew their small grant for the Information, Advice & Advocacy Services in 2012 and then Havering Council ended the grant they had provided for this service for the last eleven years. As a result, at the end of May 2012 the organisation no longer had the funds to support the staff, trained volunteers and resources required to provide the type of overall service achieved in recent years, but they continued to provide an information service in a different way from June 2012 onwards. [Currently Age Concern Havering need over £1 million every year](http://www.ageconcernhavering.org.uk/about_us-funding.php) to run their existing services of which only part comes from Havering Council and Havering Primary Care Trust. They therefore need to raise significant sums each year from their own resources just to maintain existing services.

[***Help in Hounslow***](http://www.helpinhounslow.org.uk/)

The Help in Hounslow information, advice and advocacy project run by Age UK Hounslow has now [closed](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/hounslow/our-services/help-in-hounslow/). Although the contract with Hounslow Council was for three years from April 2010, [it was terminated early by the council and the service ended on 30th June 2012](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends81%5C0001061681_AC_20120331_E_C.pdf), nine months early. This resulted in a number of staff having been made redundant and also impacted the charity's finances as it was unable to recoup fully the investment it had made to get the service off the ground and also it could no longer recover a proportion of its core costs from the funding available under the contract.

[***Kensington & Chelsea Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://kensington.londoninformer.co.uk/2013/01/voluntary-sector-cash-injectio.html)

The CAB is the largest recipient of existing corporate services grants in the borough, receiving over £700,000, so it will face a £41,000 reduction in funding in 2013-14, which amounts to only a 6% reduction in grant. ***The council has stated that*** given the Bureau’s overall budget of around £1million, the council would expect it to be able to find levels of efficiency savings that did not affect front line services, and would be very disappointed if the CAB went straight to reducing a front line post.

[***Kensington & Chelsea Advice Forum***](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/sites/kcsc.org.uk/files/documents/news_pages/Impact%20of%20Legal%20aid%20Reform.pdf)

A new report produced by members of the Kensington and Chelsea Advice Forum has highlighted the major concerns over legal aid reform and its impact on local advice agencies.From April 2013 legal aid advice on welfare benefit matters will be abolished leaving clients without the advice they seek unless they have the ability to pay.  There are concerns about the effect of austerity measures that are increasing demand for advice particularly for those most in need. This will place even greater pressure on advice services at a time of financial restraint and loss of staff. In Kensington & Chelsea there are four not-for-profit agencies providing advice across this spectrum: the CAB Service, North Kensington Law Centre, Nucleus and Worlds End Neighbourhood Advice centre. All but WENAC currently hold LSC contracts to provide specialist advice although they too continue to provide advice at this level. In the private sector, provision has declined significantly in recent years and there are now only two firms offering help through legal aid, principally in housing and family law – Oliver Fisher & Co, and Alan Edwards & Co., both located in Notting Hill. Kensington & Chelsea will suffer one of the largest reductions in legal aid funding in London next year at around 85%. In one of the few remaining categories, housing and debt, only 360 fixed fee cases are available for bidding. It is estimated that 300 cases are required to support a single specialist caseworker. The CAB Service, for example, will lose funding for 3.2 posts covering debt and welfare benefits.

[***Kingston Law School’s Community Legal Advice Centre***](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/news/article/861/27-mar-2013-students-step-up-as-legal-aid-cuts-bite/)

Kingston Law School's Community Legal Advice Centre, launched in September 2012, is dedicated to providing free legal advice to individuals, charities, businesses and community groups from Kingston and the surrounding areas. Legal aid will be restricted in a range of civil cases from April 1st 2013. This means an estimated 500,000 people could lose access to free legal support. A team of 20 Kingston law degree students, who were selected in a competitive process, interview clients to establish an understanding of their predicament before researching and drafting a letter that provides advice on how the client should proceed. The Centre is being paid for by a grant from a special university alumni fund and a donation from a law school alumnus.

[***Waltham Forest Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://www.wflink.org.uk/documents/uploaded/Notice%2011.02.13V.2.pdf)

The end of legal aid for most types of welfare benefits and debt work meant that Waltham Forest CAB lost £200,000 pa in income from the Legal Service Commission at the end of the 2012-13 financial year. As a result the organisation could no longer afford to have a second office in Leytonstone. However, the savings they made by closing the centre allowed them to keep most of their advisers in 2013-14 who moved to their office in Walthamstow.

[***Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends03%5C0001040303_ac_20120331_e_c.pdf)

Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureau has suffered a couple of years of funding uncertainty. Its LB Wandsworth annual grant of £488,849 (61% of the organisation’s total annual income) was due to end on 31st March 2012. The charity managed to negotiate a year-long extension for 2012-13 but this left it with its LB Wandsworth and Legal Services Commission contract (worth £181064) both due to end on 31st March 2013 The council has proposed to fund the organisation in 2013-14 and 2014-15 but with a decrease in funding of £36,000 (7%) in the first year and a further £70,000 in the second.(an overall reduction of 21%).

## Arts & Culture services

#### [Create KX](http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/create_kx_funding_and_minutes?unfold=1)

[LVSC only heard of this closure in 2012-13] Create KX, the arts charity based in the King’s Cross area, closed as a result of a loss of its Camden Council grants and contracts in November 2010.

[***1A Arts***](http://www.1a-arts-etc.co.uk/wp/index.php/mind-the-funding-gap/feed)

1A Arts, which provides arts and digital media services to the community around Holborn in Camden had its funding from Camden council stopped in January 2012 and is facing closure.

[***Broadway Theatre***](http://www.bdpost.co.uk/news/barking_s_broadway_theatre_to_be_managed_by_the_council_1_1475805)

The trust which had managed the Broadway Theatre over the last nine years left in August 2012, following Barking & Dagenham council’s decision to withdraw its funding and the theatre is now being run by the local authority andTop of Form Barking & Dagenham College. Barking & Dagenham council made the decision to withdraw the theatre’s entire £331,000 annual grant earlier this year. The council, which refurbished the building in 2003 at the cost of £4.4million, must keep the theatre open for the use of Barking & Dagenham College due to contractual obligations.

Scratton Farm Social Club

***[Community Focus](http://www.london24.com/news/barnet_disability_arts_charity_feels_underestimated_by_eviction_threat_1_1975890)***

Community Focus, a Barnet disability arts charity, may face closure following eviction from their current premises.

***[Brent festivals](http://brentcouncillibdems.com/category/voluntary-sector/page/2/)***

Funding for a number of community and cultural festivals in Brent has been cut.

***[Camden Music Trust](http://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/little_britain_star_david_walliams_supports_threatened_camden_music_service_1_1975829)***

Camden Music Trust, a charity supporting the council’s music education service faces an annual £250,000 shortfall when cuts to its budget come into force in April 2013.

***[Camden Arts Centre](http://www.camdenarts.icarus.titaninternet.co.uk/supportus/)***

Camden Arts Centre reports that cuts to its funding from Arts Council England and Camden Council mean that less than 60% of its current services are now funded through grants.

[***Harrow Young Musicians***](http://www.harrowobserver.co.uk/west-london-news/local-harrow-news/2013/02/12/harrow-young-musicians-given-funding-cut-repreive-116451-32795242/)

Harrow Young Musicians arranges borough-wide orchestras and bands for schoolchildren was given a funding cut reprieve. Harrow Council’s Labour administration had proposed in its draft 2013-14 budget to axe Harrow Young Musicians’ £58,000 annual contract in its entirety from April 2013- but the authority has now announced it would continue to financially support the charity for the next two years in the form of £30,000 this year and £20,000 next. The funding agreement stipulates the organisation must either allocate £10,000 of existing reserves to help with its running costs or sufficiently increase its fundraising activities, and will need to review its fees.

[***Islington Arts Factory***](http://www.stjohnstreet.net/islington-arts-factory-in-danger-of-closure/)

The survival of local arts centres is under threat as the Arts Council has had its budget cut by 29.6% since 2011. The [Islington Arts Factory](http://www.islingtonartsfactory.org) receives 45% of its income from the local borough with the rest of the money coming from fundraising. The chief Executive said he “can see the centre closing down in four years if the government’s funding doesn’t increase by 50%.” Classes at the Factory have also increased in size and number, which it was suggested is because of the stress that the economic crisis has imposed on people.

[***The Rose Theatre***](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2011/mar/25/public-sector-cuts-where-will-they-hit#Kingston)

The three-year-old Rose Theatre, gets no Arts Council money, leaving it dependent on box office and grants from the local authority and Kingston University. The council annual grant was £600,000 with £200,000 deducted for rent – but the balance, already budgeted for, has been slashed from April 2012, to £292,000 (a cut of £108,000 or 25%). The theatre gets £300,000 a year from the university, but that agreement expires in 2012-13. An academic study showed that the Rose brought £6million over five months into the local economy.

[***London Printworks Trust***](http://www.slp.co.uk/news.cfm?id=8142&searchword=Lambeth)

London Printworks Trust, based in Brighton Terrace, Brixton, offers textile hand print facilities, expertise and services. It was forced to close last month after 21 years because local authority and Government funding has dried up, in particular core funding from LB Lambeth and the Arts Council was withdrawn in April 2012. A Government grant secured by the borough’s arts groups – under the banner of the Creative Action Partnership – called the Performance Review Grant (PRG) has been diverted into other services by the recipients, Lambeth First, a partnership between the council, public sector and voluntary sector organisations. Six of the borough’s arts groups were set to receive 50 per cent of the PRG funding, worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, after helping to secure the grant. But the Government slashed the PRG funding in half in 2010, leading Lambeth First to divert funding to other services, such as working with unemployed youths, young offenders and domestic violence schemes. Their former landlords are going to reconfigure the space to obtain higher rents.

[***Midi Music Company***](http://news.sky.com/story/1025840/charities-fear-for-survival-as-donations-drop)

The Midi Music Company was launched in Deptford, London, 18 years ago to provide a space where children could be inspired and get into music. In 2012-13 the charity has slashed two staff posts and cut back on its work with poorer families and young people in nearby Lewisham. They were still looking to raise £10,000 for 2012-13 and if they didn't achieve that it would just add to accumulating deficit.

[***The Polka Theatre***](http://swlondoner.co.uk/content/16111395-merton-theatre-thrives-despite-arts-cuts)

Since the government began cutting Arts Council funding by almost 30% in 2010, the debate over the importance of England’s theatres has remained under the spotlight with over 200 organisations losing their funding. This is compounded by the squeeze on local authority arts budgets, with total local government financing for arts down 16% nationally in three years. But the Polka Theatre on Wimbledon Broadway is flourishing as an internationally renowned children’s theatre and a registered charity despite the economic landscape. Polka maintains a good working relationship with Merton Council, and successfully negotiated to retain nearly 70% of funding threatened when arts money was repatriated to individual London boroughs last year. And after securing Arts Council funding until 2015, the situation looks positive for the 85,000 people passing through Polka’s doors each year. But with 60% of its revenue coming from public funding and private sponsorship, further cuts would mean Polka’s charitable objectives may be among the first services to go.

[***Redbridge Drama Centre***](http://www.thestage.co.uk/news/2012/09/closure-fears-for-redbridge-drama-centre/)

Redbridge Drama Centre announced it was at risk of closing due to local authority funding cuts and the possible removal of Arts Council England (ACE) funding, in September 2012. The centre works with local children aged from five to 21, as well as presenting a full professional programme throughout the year. It had a 100% funding cut from Redbridge Council – losing £292,000 over four years – confirmed in March 2012.It is also a national portfolio organisation of the arts council, which means it has regular funding from ACE secured until the end of 2014 - 15 tax year. However, a report published by the local authority and presented to its scrutiny committee stated that at an earlier meeting between representatives from ACE, members of the council and the chairman of the drama centre, ACE “stressed it would not normally continue to fund a national portfolio organisation for which the arts council was the sole public funder”. To compensate for the financial gap caused by cuts in funding from the local council, the Centre will not replace its vacant full-time drama teacher or caretaker positions in 2013 - 14 and it plans to reduce its salaries budget in 2013 - 14 and 2014 - 15. The centre’s buy back scheme – where schools pay to use the centre or for workshops to be run in schools – would probably also have to increase charges, which could result in fewer schools taking part.

[***Union Theatre***](http://www.thestage.co.uk/news/2013/04/union-theatre-in-southwark-threatened-with-closure/)

In April 2013 a petition was launched to stop railway redevelopments by Network Rail that could force the Union Theatre in London to close and move to different premises. At the time the venue had not been served its notice but the chief Executive had been verbally forewarned by Network Rail that the site will be turned into offices.

## Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) services

[***CEMVO***](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/14782/umbrella_body_cemvo_goes_into_liquidation)

The Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations (CEMVO) has appointed a liquidator and is in the process of winding up. It lost its Cabinet Office Strategic Partners funding of £269,223 in 2011-12. CEMVO was a national BAME infrastructure organisation.

#### [Middle East Christian Minorities Advisory Service (MECMAC)](http://www2.ealing.gov.uk/ealing3/export/sites/ealingweb/services/council/committees/agendas_minutes_reports/cabinet/25may2010-23may2011/__26_april_2011/Item_14_-_Appendix_2.pdf)

MECMAC was established to support middle eastern Christian refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, the majority of whom are fleeing from Iraq. It provides advice and information on living and working in the UK across West London and is based in Ealing. After losing its grant from Ealing Council the organisation was facing closure in July 2012, having worked with 670 service users in 2011-12.

***[Black Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration Network](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/RemovedCharityMain.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1118439&SubsidiaryNumber=0)***

The Black Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration Network, a BAME infrastructure organisation, has closed following problems with its accounts and performance reporting in 2008 – 9. Its closure has sparked a [review and audit](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk_agenda_items=5181) of the systems and policies of one of its funders, London Councils.

[***Somali Community Development Trust:***](http://camden.talis.com/engage/showrecord/1261065437967)

The Somali Community Development Trust worked with young people from Somalia in Camden. Age UK Camden has reported its closure.

[***Somali Education & Development Agency:***](http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/contacts/categories/community-and-living/black-and-ethnic-minorities/contacts-for-somali-people.en)

SEDA provided education, skills and parenting classes for the Somali community in Camden. Age UK Camden has reported its closure.

[***Kentish Town Somali Welfare Association***](http://camden.talis.com/engage/showrecord/1259324509551)***:***

The Kentish Town Somali Welfare Association providedESOL classes, a supplementary school and homework classes for Somali community in Kentish town in Camden. Age UK Camden has reported its closure.

[***Greenwich Council for Racial Equality***](http://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/bexley/9880108.Greenwich_Council_for_Racial_Equality_fraudsters_spared_jail__Reaction_to_sentences/?ref=rss)

Greenwich Council for Racial Equality was forced to close after fraud by two members of staff was discovered.

***[Barca UK](http://www.libdemvoice.org/lord-roger-roberts-writesdont-cut-funding-for-charities-which-help-homeless-migrants-33796.html)***

Barca UK tackles homelessness among Central and Eastern European migrants in London. Since its creation, it has helped almost 3,000 people return home, has worked in fourteen London boroughs, and has expanded its work to run an employment programme helping homeless migrants to enter the UK labour market. It also runs a pan-UK helpline which deals with housing and legal issues, as well advising on health and family problems. However, Barca’s vital work may now be at risk as both Lambeth and the City of London councils are planning to cut their funding.

[***Croydon African Caribbean Family Organisation***](http://athousandcuts.wordpress.com/tag/croydon/)

CACFO has been running for nearly 20 years, but now a question mark hangs over its future as a result of cuts to its local authority funding. The organisation provides activities for African Caribbean elders in the borough and also runs a school for excluded African Caribbean pupils.

[***Hammersmith & Fulham Refugee Forum***](http://www.fulhamchronicle.co.uk/fulham-and-hammersmith-news/local-fulham-and-hammersmith-news/2013/03/13/charity-blames-recession-for-rise-in-hammersmith-hate-crimes-82029-32983106/)

Refugee groups in the borough of Hammersmith & Fulham have withstood a ‘perfect storm’ caused by the loss of funding and premises during 2012. Ten groups, including the Hammersmith & Fulham Refugee Forum had also lost their office premises when Hammersmith & Fulham Council sold off Palingswick House. A few of the Refugee Forum’s smaller voluntary group members had folded as a result of the pressures and were no longer able to assist the people that depended upon them. Many other members have continued with reduced capacity. Although the Refugee Forum had itself suffered from a loss of funding it continued to offer a unique service to the refugee communities in the borough. It continued to run a serious of training workshops on a wide range of topics and also the annual Refugee Week celebration in June in partnership with Hammersmith & Fulham Volunteer Centre. A recent survey carried out by the Refugee Forum had found that some 30 refugee community groups were still active in the borough.

[***Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Support Group of Barking, Dagenham and Havering***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/london/content/articles/2008/11/21/havering_sicklecell_feature.shtml)

A health support group for people with blood disorders has been rescued from folding after it received a 'life saving' £200,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund. Founded in 2002, The Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Support Group of Barking, Dagenham and Haveringstruggled to keep up with overheads and saw funds for its projects and services diminish as the year wore on. The arrival of the £200,647 grant to cover three years will now enable the charity to continue its work in providing welfare services for sufferers, assist research projects and raise awareness of the condition.

[***Youth A,I.D. Lewisham***](http://www.voice-online.co.uk/article/help-us-change-lives-young-people)

Youth A.I.D. (Advice Information Development) Lewisham, established in 1973, partners with other VCS and local authority organisations to provide drop in advice, counselling sessions and personal development for young people in the borough of Lewisham who have been excluded from school, made homeless or need help in getting a job. The charity also helps young people on other issues such as debt, sexual health, family splits and getting young offenders back on their feet. The majority of its clients are from an African Caribbean background. In 2012-13 they reached crisis point because many of their partners had lost their funding or disappeared so there were fewer organisations on which they could rely for support in delivering services. And individuals who had the expertise in delivering young people’s services and worked with them and for them had now moved out of the borough. They are currently seeking new volunteers, management committee members, donations and new partner organisations to work with.

[***Drugsline***](http://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/78507/drug-charity-collapses-and-leaders-refuse-act)

Drugsline, which was the only charity working directly with drug and alcohol addicts in the Jewish community, was forced to close in September 2012 due to acute financial difficulties. Based in Ilford, Essex, the 23-year-old Chabad-inspired charity ran a schools education and outreach programme which in the last academic year ran workshops for over 28,000 students at more than 90 schools and colleges.It also maintained two drop-in centres and a crisis and support hotline for drug abusers and their friends and families, and played a key role in getting addicts into rehabilitation. The charity had had on-going difficulties in securing sufficient government grants, together with a reduction in support from benefactors’ donations due to the economic recession Two years ago the charity had 10 paid employees, but funding problems had cut that number to six by the time operations ceased. They have all now been made redundant and their more than 60 volunteers could no longer continue with no volunteer management. Drugsline cost £250,000 a year to run. The charity was unable to find donors to make up the difference when the local NHS Primary Care Trust withdrew funding from 1st April 2010. Redbridge Council, which has also granted Drugsline £220,000 over the past six years, had continued to fund its counselling service but this was insufficient to keep the organisation going.

## Children and Young People

***[Daycare Trust and Family & Parenting Institute](http://www.daycaretrust.org.uk/news.php?id=76)***

Daycare Trust and Family & Parenting Institute (FPI) agreed to merge on 1st January 2013. The FPI lost around £7.5million of its £8.5milion income with the end of the Parenting Fund in 2011-12. In June 2011 the Daycare Trust had merged with the National Association of Family Information Services.

### [***London Action Trust***](http://cllrlesterholloway.wordpress.com/2012/02/07/losing-mentoring-bid-was-head-and-shoulders-above-the-rest-claims-former-boris-advisor)

London Action Trust, a charity that worked with children and young people to reduce their involvement in crime, went into administration shortly after it was announced that it was part of a consortia that had been controversially chosen to lead the Mayor of London’s mentoring scheme for young Black men. It had lost its London Council’s funding.

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[***City YMCA***](http://www.cypnow.co.uk/go/news/article/1115555/ymca-hostel-closure-leave-250-young-people-without-housing/)

City YMCA will be closing its largest hostel in the City of London in September 2012, which could reduce the charity’s reach by 43 per cent and leave 250 young people in need of rehousing.

[***Scratton Farm Social Club***](http://www.bdpost.co.uk/news/crime-courts/no_hope_as_scrattons_farm_social_club_barking_burns_again_1_1466618)

Large parts of a former social club in the Barking & Dagenham neighbourhood, Scratton Farm, which community members had hoped to open again, were destroyed in a suspected arson attack. The building was closed in July 2012 but as a result of the fire will now not be able to re-open and resulting in the area losing a youth club, community centre and venue for community events.

[***Exposure***](http://www.haringeyindependent.co.uk/news/9704612.Media_charity_thriving_despite_funding_cuts)

Exposure, a charity that works to improve young people’s skills through working in the media, through developing volunteer publications in north London had its core funding from Haringey Council cut in April 2011. Despite this it has continued to thrive and won the MPs Special Award for Best Contribution of a Community group at the Innovation awards run by Kids Count for projects that tackle youth issues in London.

[***Voluntary Action Lewisham Children & Young People’s project***](http://www.valewisham.org.uk/content/ebulletin-archive)

Lost funding at end of July 2012 forcing the project’s closure.

#### [Youth Reach](http://jonronson.posterous.com/one-cut)

Youth Reach, the youth counselling service in Greenwich had all its local authority funding of £118,000 cut in April 2011 [LVSC only became aware of this in 2012-13]. The service was therefore forced to close after delivering services to young people ineligible for NHS treatment because their mental health problems are not judged to be sufficiently severe. Many of its former service users now no longer have any access to counselling or other support.

[***Hackney Quest***](http://www.hackneyquest.org.uk/images/stories/hackney%20quest%20appeal%20letter_jan%202012.pdf)

Hackney offers day trips and a host of activities to children and young people from across the borough, as well as providing a safe and supported educational space for those suspended and excluded from school. It is currently facing cuts of £72,132.00 to its core funding and has begun a [major fundraising drive](http://www.justgiving.com/hackneyquest/).

[***MyGeneration***](http://politicalscrapbook.net/2012/03/shaun-bailey-big-society-my-generation-cuts/)

The closure of the MyGeneration charity in March 2012 **saw five staff losing their jobs.** The charity’s Chief Executive, Shaun Bailey, stated that **he had closed the organisation as a result of a lack of funds.** MyGeneration was founded to help young people on Hammersmith & Fulham’s deprived estates but its short history had been **marred by** [financial mismanagement](http://politicalscrapbook.net/2012/02/shaun-bailey-charity-accounts-not-submitted/). Bailey stood down from his full time role with MyGeneration just one year after he failed to win Hammersmith from Labour in 2010. The charity, [had spent](http://politicalscrapbook.net/2011/04/shaun-bailey-my-generation-charity-publicity/) **£92,749 on “fundraising and publicity costs”** in the accounting period encompassing the election.

[***Home-Start Harrow***](http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/harrow-council-must-continue-to-fund-home-start-harrow-until-a-tendering-process-is-conducted)

Home Start Harrow has supported families with children under five living in the borough of Harrow since 1981. They train volunteers who are parents themselves to visit families in their own homes to give them practical and emotional support. Harrow Council have contracted them to provide this service for many years but this funding is now to be withdrawn at the end of March 2013 putting the organisation at risk of closure.

[***Harrow Young Musicians***](http://www.harrowobserver.co.uk/west-london-news/local-harrow-news/2013/02/12/harrow-young-musicians-given-funding-cut-repreive-116451-32795242/)

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[***Lambeth Play Association***](http://www.lambethplay.co.uk/)

The offices of Lambeth Play Association, an independent charitable company committed to maintaining and promoting playable space for all children and young people, are temporarily closed while they look for alternative premises.

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[***Redbridge Mobile Toy Library***](http://www.guardian-series.co.uk/news/10198885.Toy_library_to_close_because_of_funding_cut/)

A mobile toy library which loaned toys to children across Redbridge was closed in March because of council funding cuts. The Redbridge Mobile Toy Library, was operated by charity, The Pre-School Learning Alliance, employed three staff and had been running for 11 years. It worked with families, childminders and pre-schools across Redbridge, but the council funding cut meant staff had been aware the service would have to close for the past year.

## Civic and community engagement services

[***Community Development Exchange***](http://www.cdx.org.uk/news/future-cdx)

The national community development charity, Community Development Exchange (CDX) has announced that its voluntary dissolution as a charity and limited company will be proposed at the AGM on 29th September. After Strategic Partner funding was withdrawn by the Government from April 2011, the organisation had been surviving on their reserves and despite attempts to secure alternative sources of finance through funding bids, training and paid talks, this had not proved possible.

[***Big Society Network Ltd***](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/governance/news/content/14785/companies_house_prepares_to_strike_off_big_society_network_ltd)

The Big Society Network Ltd. was set up to work with social entrepreneurs, philanthropists and charities to support the delivery of social change. After failing to reply to reminders to file its accounts, Companies House has begun proceedings to close the organisation down. Its 2010-11 accounts showed a deficit of £25,141.

#### [London Civic Forum](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/13108/london_civic_forum_announces_closure)

London Civic Forum, which supported civic engagement in London, announced it is to close in September 2012, blaming a lack of political support for its work, and ending its 12-year presence in the capital. The decision to close at the end of September was described as “a voluntary dissolution of the organisation” and the group now plans to transfer its work to another, as yet unnamed, charity.

[***Scratton Farm Social Club***](http://www.bdpost.co.uk/news/crime-courts/no_hope_as_scrattons_farm_social_club_barking_burns_again_1_1466618)

Large parts of a former social club in the Barking & Dagenham neighbourhood, Scratton Farm, which community members had hoped to open again, were destroyed in a suspected arson attack. The building was closed in July 2012 but as a result of the fire will now not be able to re-open and resulting in the area losing a youth club, community centre and venue for community events.

***[Barnes, Mortlake and East Sheen Neighbourhood Voluntary Care Scheme FiSH](http://www.richmondcvs.org.uk/documents/Minutes/Voluntary%20Sector%20Meeting%20Minutes%208%20May%202012.pdf)***

FiSH state that they were thrown by NHS Richmond’s Live Well Richmond contract that included a befriending service and didn’t have time to bid. This is a core activity of the 8 Neighbourhood Care Groups across the borough which together make 8000 befriending visits. They couldn’t bid as there was not enough time and resources to come together which meant that their core activity had not been funded.

***[Healthy Planet](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-16692556)***

Healthy Planet, a charity which gives away free books has reported that Camden council is not giving it any discount on business rates for the shop it rents from them.

[***Hammersmith Information and Visitor Centre***](http://www.katebelgrave.com/category/council/hammersmith-and-fulham-council/)

The Information Centre is threatened with closure by Hammersmith & Fulham council who want to hand the building back to its landlords. The Centre has hosted new community organisations and helped them to grow, provided a resource for small unfunded local groups to meet and provided a gallery space for local artists and photographers to showcase their work. Above all, it has served as an information and visitor centre helping visitors and residents to find their way around the borough and find out about social and commercial services.The centre has been staffed entirely by experienced and expert volunteers during its lifetime.

## Crime and Community Safety

### [***London Action Trust***](http://cllrlesterholloway.wordpress.com/2012/02/07/losing-mentoring-bid-was-head-and-shoulders-above-the-rest-claims-former-boris-advisor)

London Action Trust, a charity that worked with children and young people to reduce their involvement in crime, went into administration shortly after it was announced that it was part of a consortia that had been controversially chosen to lead the Mayor of London’s mentoring scheme for young Black men. It had lost its London Council’s funding

***[Camden Community and Police Consultative Group](http://camdencpcg.org.uk/)***

The Camden Community and Police Consultative Group (CCPG) issued a statement in August 2012 expressing concerns about their future.

[***Youth A,I.D. Lewisham***](http://www.voice-online.co.uk/article/help-us-change-lives-young-people)

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## Deaf and disabled people’s services

### [***Disability Hackney***](http://www.lvstc.org.uk/esf_story_08_06_04/the_london_esf_story_disability_hackney.pdf)

Disability Hackney has gone into administration and closed. It had lost European Social Fund income, despite successful delivery.

[***MCCH Support Ltd***](http://www.mcch.org.uk/pages/common/mcch.aspx?pg=8596)

MCCH Support Ltd, which works over London and the South East, previously worked to support people with learning disabilities in Bexley at three centres, including the Ken Boyce Centre. From November 2012 the 41 service users from this latter centre will be transferred to the Crayford Community Centre, rooms at Crook Lodge and Erith Leisure Centre. The [Ken Boyce Centre](http://www.bexleytimes.co.uk/news/bexley_disability_service_moving_location_1_1466321) will close.

[***Scope***](http://www.bromleytimes.co.uk/news/court-crime/scope_appeal_for_donations_after_bromley_eviction_1_1461180)

Disability charity, Scope, was banned from 34 clothing banks in June 2012 when Bromley council handed the sites over to the private sector waste firm, Veolia. The council will now receive a profit from the sale of any textiles collected. Scope is now appealing to the local community for stock for its charity shops.

[***Rain Trust***](http://www.cavsa.org.uk/resources/spring%202012%20for%20web.pdf)

The Rain Trust supports people living with HIV in London. It lost £122000 of Primary Care Trust funding in 2010-11 but was able to attract £130,000 additional funding through involvement in the Desta consortia.

***[Community Focus](http://www.london24.com/news/barnet_disability_arts_charity_feels_underestimated_by_eviction_threat_1_1975890)***

Community Focus, a Barnet disability arts charity, may face closure following eviction from their current premises.

[***Tamworth Hostel***](file:///\\svdcmain\Departments\Projects%20&%20Services\POLICY%20&%20KNOWLEDGE\POLICY\POLICY%20I-Z\London%20cuts%20and%20changes\London%20cuts%202012-13\•%09http:\www.theguardian.com\commentisfree\2011\apr\26\mental-health-care-supported-living-housing)

High-level supported-living Tamworth Hostel for people with mental health issues is under threat as Hammersmith & Fulham council call the hostel 'surplus to requirements' The council's cabinet decided to close the 14-unit Tamworth hostel, make all staff redundant and sell the building. The council said alternative accommodation would be found for the hostel's eight residents. The council's rationale for closure was a [Supporting People fund](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/directory/housing/supported_and_sheltered_housing/housing_support/49817_supporting_people.asp) contribution towards a £300,000 austerity saving.

[***Mind in Haringey***](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/health_and_wellbeing_consultation_report.pdf)

The future of Mind in Haringey is threatened by the cuts to core funding from Haringey council. It has embarked on a number of [fundraising activities](http://www.mindinharingey.org.uk/who-we-are/our-stories/jess.) as a result of these cuts. In September 2012 it [closed its Station House community café](http://www.mindinharingey.org.uk/) run in partnership with FoodCycle due to rising operational costs set against a tougher funding environment.

[***Add+Up***](http://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/havering_s_voluntary_and_community_sector_sees_funding_cuts_and_staff_losses_despite_higher_demand_says_havco_1_1393259)

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) charity, Add+Up, has reported that competition for grants had increased. Some staff at Add+Up had even started working on a voluntary basis because the organisation could no longer afford to pay them. [They received the same level of funding from the council in 2012-13 but, their other grants and fundraising income had reduced and their costs had increased.](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends61%5C0001091461_AC_20130331_E_C.pdf)

[***Star Centre / Weare1***](http://www.hounslowchronicle.co.uk/west-london-news/local-hounslow-news/2012/11/14/disabled-charity-founder-scoops-top-award-109642-32234290/)

Weare1 is a new charity which runs social groups for people of all disabilities at venues across the Hounslow. The charity, set up after the [sudden closure of the Star Centre in September 2012,](http://www.companiesintheuk.co.uk/ltd/the-star-centre-%28hounslow%29) gives people with mental health problems the chance to work alongside those with physical disabilities. The vision of Weare1 is to bring together all of the organisations that offer community care services and facilities so that everyone is given the opportunity to participate and take an active role in their development and well-being, regardless of disability or circumstances that are presented. It is funded by the National Lottery. Former Star Centre users have told how they did not think they would still be alive were it not for the new charity.

[***Islington Mind***](http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2013/03/19/london-lgbt-mental-health-charity-outcome-faces-uncertain-future/)

For the last 15 years the Outcome service at Islington Mind has offered support to members of the lesbian, gay men, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community who experience mental health distress. It provides group and one-to-one advice and support and drop-in sessions, along with social activities, including a drama group and writing classes. Peer support groups for transgender clients and for LGBT asylum seekers also meet regularly at the building on Ashley Road, Islington, north London. It was originally funded through an individual donation, but this stopped in 2011-12. The charity says it now needs financial assistance in order to keep the service open, as a result of cuts to its existing funding (from £1,444,162 in 2011-12 to £938,128 in 2012-13 (a reduction of more than one-third). Several of its service-users say they have encountered homophobia when using mainstream health care facilities and the charity says: “with many people facing cuts to their welfare benefits, the need for LGBT specific advice and support is maybe greater than ever.” This is at a time when pressure on psychiatric wards has become so great that doctors are [sectioning mentally ill patients unnecessarily,](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mentally-ill-patients-sectioned-unnecessarily-as-only-way-to-a-hospital-bed-8760166.html) because it is often seen as the only way to gain access to a bed.

[***Lewisham Shopmobility***](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/news/civil-society/ncvo-instrumental-helping-lewisham-charity-remain-sustainable)

Lewisham Shopmobility were sent a bill in June 2011 by Lewisham Council to cover 20% of Business Rates paid to the borough, despite having been exempt from any Business Rates charges in previous years. The unexpected bill for an additional £4,000 per year caused serious problems for the organisation who could only pay by using very limited reserves and the only paid worker taking a cut from her salary. Following advice and help from NCVO’s Compact Advocacy Programme, Lewisham Shopmobility have campaigned successfully to change the Council’s mind – they will be exempt from Business Rates until 2014 and will be refunded the money they have already paid out.

## Drug & Alcohol services

#### [In-volve](http://www.drugscope.org.uk/Resources/Drugscope/Documents/PDF/Publications/longdaysnight.pdf)

The national drug treatment organisation, In-volve, which began life as the Newham Drugs Advice Project in 1990 went into liquidation in November 2011.Their trustees blamed increasing cash flow problems as payment by results contracts became more common, as well as undercutting bids for contracts from larger organisations, although there was also evidence of some financial mismanagement by the organisation itself. Merger talks with other major providers ended in failure and some of these providers are thought to have bid for contracts that In-volve previously delivered following its closure.

[***Drugsline***](http://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/78507/drug-charity-collapses-and-leaders-refuse-act)

Drugsline, which was the only charity working directly with drug and alcohol addicts in the Jewish community, was forced to close in September 2012 due to acute financial difficulties. Based in Ilford, Essex, the 23-year-old Chabad-inspired charity ran a schools education and outreach programme which in the last academic year ran workshops for over 28,000 students at more than 90 schools and colleges.It also maintained two drop-in centres and a crisis and support hotline for drug abusers and their friends and families, and played a key role in getting addicts into rehabilitation. The charity had had on-going difficulties in securing sufficient government grants, together with a reduction in support from benefactors’ donations due to the economic recession Two years ago the charity had 10 paid employees, but funding problems had cut that number to six by the time operations ceased. They have all now been made redundant and their more than 60 volunteers could no longer continue with no volunteer management. Drugsline cost £250,000 a year to run. The charity was unable to find donors to make up the difference when the local NHS Primary Care Trust withdrew funding from 1st April 2010. Redbridge Council, which has also granted Drugsline £220,000 over the past six years, had continued to fund its counselling service but this was insufficient to keep the organisation going.

## Employment & Skills services

#### [Eco Actif](http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2012/jul/15/welfare-work-firm-bankrupt)

Eco Actif, a Sutton-based community interest company that provided employment support for 500 people in south-east London w3ent into liquidation in July, at a time when it was a sub-contractor to A4E in delivering the Work Programme.

They blamed the payment by results model being used by the Work Programme which had left them with insufficient cash flow and no loan finance options to cover this because lenders thought the Work Programme too high-risk and that “prime contractors were not passing sufficient funds to the ultimate delivery organisations to make sufficient surplus to finance any loan”.

Separate to its south-east London contract, Eco Actif had been signed up by three Work Programme prime contractors to provide ad hoc support to ex-offenders but had not received a single referral under these arrangements. It also held a European Social Fund contract to provide support to workless families.

#### [Red Kite Learning](http://www.rkl.org.uk/)

Red Kite Learning, a London-based employment and skills support provider closed in July 2012 despite holding contracts worth £1.3million. The Chief Executive blamed the nature of the payment by results contracts it was delivering as part of the Work Programme for cash flow problems that led the Board to conclude that the organisation was no longer sustainable. The organisation had also not been able to bid for prime contracts with the Department of Work and Pensions and Skills Funding Agency because of the high minimum contract values.

[***Somali Education & Development Agency:***](http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/contacts/categories/community-and-living/black-and-ethnic-minorities/contacts-for-somali-people.en)

SEDA provided education, skills and parenting classes for the Somali community in Camden. Age UK Camden has reported its closure.

[***Exposure***](http://www.haringeyindependent.co.uk/news/9704612.Media_charity_thriving_despite_funding_cuts)

Exposure, a charity that works to improve young people’s skills through working in the media, through developing volunteer publications in north London had its core funding from Haringey Council cut in April 2011. Despite this it has continued to thrive and won the MPs Special Award for Best Contribution of a Community group at the Innovation awards run by Kids Count for projects that tackle youth issues in London.

[***Barnabus Workshops***](http://www.ilfordrecorder.co.uk/ilford-life/organisations/redbridge_employment_charity_barnabas_workshops_closes_after_17_years_helping_thousands_into_work_1_2009521)

The Ilford employment charity, Barnabus Workshops closed after 17 years having helped an estimated 3,000 jobseekers into work with projects including style talks, and the job shop and Creative Business Hub.. At the beginning of April 2013 the centre closed because of a lack of funding. The board of trustees had chosen to go into voluntary liquidation because they could not afford to continue their work. Their grant from Redbridge Council would have been about £23,000 but the whole organisation needed about £250,000 a year to maintain its work. Many of the grants currently available from the council and government are based on payment by results models, meaning little money is paid until the end of courses when people are in work, which made it difficult for such charities that needed up-front funds to run employment programmes.

## Environment

[***Croydon Appliance Reuse Centre***](http://www.arc-croydon.org.uk/)

Croydon Appliance Reuse Centre has been taken over by Groundwork London and re-named HomeAgain.

[***Richmond Furniture Scheme***](http://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/local/richmondnews/9888166.Richmond_Furniture_Scheme_desperately_low_on_goods/?ref=rss)

This furniture recycling scheme in Richmond has reported that it is short of stock.

[***Harrow Agenda 21 Environmental Forum***](http://harrowagenda21.org/doc/Annual_Report_2011_2012.pdf)

Harrow Agenda 21 Environmental Forum has seen its income drop from £6000 in 2008-9 to just 33 in 2012-13, following the loss of its funding from LB Harrow in 2011-12 and no success in gaining trust funds, such as the £1000 from the Tudor Trust that it was awarded in 2011-12.

[***Deen City Farm and Riding School***](http://www.deencityfarm.co.uk/Catalyst_Site/0B_Newsletters/Spring%202012%20Newsletter.pdf)

Deen City Farm campaigned to reverse Merton council’s decision to cut the farm’s grant for 2012-13. This was as a result of the support shown by their local community. However, despite the good news, they still have to rely upon some donations and additional fundraising to keep the farm going. They are also re-launching their café and promoting work with the local business community to ensure their sustainability.

## Health & care services

False Economy has [reported](http://www.google.co.uk/reader/view/?hl=en&tab=wy#stream/feed%2Fhttp%3A%2F%2Ffalseeconomy.org.uk%2Frss%2Fblog) specific cuts to mental health services, with spending in real terms on mental health declining for the first time in a decade.

#### [Hillingdon Health & Social Care Forum](http://hillingdonlink.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/07/Hillingdon-LINk-Annual-Report-2011-12-vFinalGH.pdf)

Hillingdon Association for Voluntary Services (HAVS) lost Primary Care Trust funding for its Health & Social Care Forum at the end of March 2011. However, Hillingdon Local Involvement Network (LINk) has worked with HAVS to continue to support the Forum and its work.

#### [Youth Reach](http://jonronson.posterous.com/one-cut)

Youth Reach, the youth counselling service in Greenwich had all its local authority funding of £118,000 cut in April 2011 [LVSC only became aware of this in 2012-13]. The service was therefore forced to close after delivering services to young people ineligible for NHS treatment because their mental health problems are not judged to be sufficiently severe. Many of its former service users now no longer have any access to counselling or other support.

[***Rain Trust***](http://www.cavsa.org.uk/resources/spring%202012%20for%20web.pdf)

The Rain Trust supports people living with HIV in London. It lost £122000 of Primary Care Trust funding in 2010-11 but was able to attract £130,000 additional funding through involvement in the Desta consortia.

[***Lambeth Health & Well being Voluntary and Community Sector Forum***](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/62EF2066-DB55-40D7-9D78-724BC9FF4749/0/2010draft2.doc)

Following funding cutbacks the Forum is no longer supported by LVSC and is currently facilitated by LB Lambeth. The last meeting for which minutes are available was in October 2011.

***[Barnes, Mortlake and East Sheen Neighbourhood Voluntary Care Scheme FiSH](http://www.richmondcvs.org.uk/documents/Minutes/Voluntary%20Sector%20Meeting%20Minutes%208%20May%202012.pdf)***

FiSH state that they were thrown by NHS Richmond’s Live Well Richmond contract that included a befriending service and didn’t have time to bid. This is a core activity of the 8 Neighbourhood Care Groups across the borough which together make 8000 befriending visits. They couldn’t bid as there was not enough time and resources to come together which meant that their core activity had not been funded.

***[Camden Psychotherapy Unit](http://www.camdenpsychotherapy.org.uk/)***

Camden Psychotherapy Unit has reported that it needs financial support from groups and individuals in order to maintain their services, as in the current policies of cuts in the NHS, they now have to rely entirely on charitable donations.

[***Age UK Enfield***](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/11511/nhs_cuts_third_of_north_london_voluntary_sector_funding)

Age UK Enfield had almost all its funding from NHS Enfield cut in 2012-13. In 2011-12 it received £148,749 worth of grants from the NHS for foot treatments, day care for dementia sufferers, and an active life service for elderly and vulnerable people. The group is currently under negotiation with the NHS to renew its £25,000 grant for the foot treatments. However, the local authority has agreed to take over the funding of other threatened services under a Section 75 agreement.

[***Tamworth Hostel***](file:///\\svdcmain\Departments\Projects%20&%20Services\POLICY%20&%20KNOWLEDGE\POLICY\POLICY%20I-Z\London%20cuts%20and%20changes\London%20cuts%202012-13\•%09http:\www.theguardian.com\commentisfree\2011\apr\26\mental-health-care-supported-living-housing)

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[***Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Support Group of Barking, Dagenham and Havering***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/london/content/articles/2008/11/21/havering_sicklecell_feature.shtml)

A health support group for people with blood disorders has been rescued from folding after it received a 'life saving' £200,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund. Founded in 2002, The Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Support Group of Barking, Dagenham and Haveringstruggled to keep up with overheads and saw funds for its projects and services diminish as the year wore on. The arrival of the £200,647 grant to cover three years will now enable the charity to continue its work in providing welfare services for sufferers, assist research projects and raise awareness of the condition.

[***BSH Counselling***](http://www.hounslowchronicle.co.uk/west-london-news/local-hounslow-news/2013/03/05/cash-crisis-threatens-brentford-counselling-service-109642-32927717/)

BSH Counselling, based in Brentford’s High Street since 2001, could close its doors for good at the end of the month after being told it is facing a financial crisis. Hounslow Council has given the charity a grant but the service, which is provided free to children and at a very low rate for those on benefits, relies on donations to keep it going. The service is entirely voluntary and not only provides people of all ages with a varied counselling service, but also gives many trainee counsellors the chance to do their placements at the centre. BSH used to be called Bereavement Services Hounslow and specialised in bereavement and pre-bereavement counselling, but a year and a half ago it changed its name to reflect the variety of services it has branched out into, including depression, anxiety, work issues and sexual abuse.

[***Islington Mind***](http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2013/03/19/london-lgbt-mental-health-charity-outcome-faces-uncertain-future/)

For the last 15 years the Outcome service at Islington Mind has offered support to members of the lesbian, gay men, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community who experience mental health distress. It provides group and one-to-one advice and support and drop-in sessions, along with social activities, including a drama group and writing classes. Peer support groups for transgender clients and for LGBT asylum seekers also meet regularly at the building on Ashley Road, Islington, north London. It was originally funded through an individual donation, but this stopped in 2011-12. The charity says it now needs financial assistance in order to keep the service open, as a result of cuts to its existing funding (from £1,444,162 in 2011-12 to £938,128 in 2012-13 (a reduction of more than one-third). Several of its service-users say they have encountered homophobia when using mainstream health care facilities and the charity says: “with many people facing cuts to their welfare benefits, the need for LGBT specific advice and support is maybe greater than ever.” This is at a time when pressure on psychiatric wards has become so great that doctors are [sectioning mentally ill patients unnecessarily,](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mentally-ill-patients-sectioned-unnecessarily-as-only-way-to-a-hospital-bed-8760166.html) because it is often seen as the only way to gain access to a bed.

[***Older People’s social care in Merton***](http://www.hbuk.co.uk/elderly-charities-stripped-of-funding-by-london-council/)

Changes to the criteria of Merton council’s [Ageing Well](http://www.local.gov.uk/ageing-well) initiative have been pin-pointed as the course of a loss of funding for six VCS organisations providing social care services to older people in Merton. Under the newly altered scheme, only groups that are deemed to directly aid the elderly to live in their own homes for longer, and to keep older members of the community out of local government care homes, are able to gain funding . Groups set to be hit by the reduction in funding include Merton Mind, Friends of St. Helier, The Positive Network and the Asian Elderly Group of Merton. Users, volunteers and paid staff are now facing uncertain futures, with some groups having already significantly reduced their opening hours and having been forced to plan an exit strategy for their needy client base. The move is expected to benefit the Borough council by up to £500,000 over the next three years, based on an estimate that just under 200 people will have no choice but to stay in their own homes for, at least, one year more than they otherwise would do.

[***The Samaritans of Waltham Forest***](http://www.justgiving.com/Chantal-Vorres)

The Samaritans of Waltham Forest had its local government funding of £10,000 from LB Waltham forest cut completely at the beginning of 2013, reducing its income by almost half. They now need to find funds to keep their building open and running. The charity offers a 24 hour confidential listening service, supporting people who are feeling suicidal, orwho are going through difficult emotional times.

[***Wandsworth Oasis***](http://wandsworthoasis.org.uk/2012/12/wandsworth-oasis-doubles-funding-for-hiv/)

Wandsworth Oasis doubled its funding to charities supporting local people with HIV in the borough in 2012-13. The community based charity shop chain gave out £55,000 to eight charities working with people from Wandsworth affected by HIV in December 2012. This doubling of the amount they were able to give away to support people living with HIV, came at a time when charitable donations in general had fallen by about 20%.

## Housing & Homelessness

[***Shelter***](http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/care/shelter-forced-to-close-advice-offices/6525582.article)

Shelter is closing ten offices and make up to 100 staff redundant, as a result of a loss of 50% of its funding for face-to-face advice services as a result of cuts to the government's legal aid budget.

[***City YMCA***](http://www.cypnow.co.uk/go/news/article/1115555/ymca-hostel-closure-leave-250-young-people-without-housing/)

City YMCA will be closing its largest hostel in the City of London in September 2012, which could reduce the charity’s reach by 43 per cent and leave 250 young people in need of rehousing.

***[Barca UK](http://www.libdemvoice.org/lord-roger-roberts-writesdont-cut-funding-for-charities-which-help-homeless-migrants-33796.html)***

Barca UK tackles homelessness among Central and Eastern European migrants in London. Since its creation, it has helped almost 3,000 people return home, has worked in fourteen London boroughs, and has expanded its work to run an employment programme helping homeless migrants to enter the UK labour market. It also runs a pan-UK helpline which deals with housing and legal issues, as well advising on health and family problems. However, Barca’s vital work may now be at risk as both Lambeth and the City of London councils are planning to cut their funding.

[***Mission in Hounslow Trust***](http://www.hounslowchronicle.co.uk/west-london-news/local-hounslow-news/2012/02/28/homeless-problem-to-worsen-if-charity-closes-109642-30424111/)

Mission in Hounslow Trust (MIHT) which has been running in Hounslow for 20 years was facing closure in April 2012 unless it could find a new base. The organisation has provided hot showers and food to hundreds of rough sleepers since being set up in 1992. However, the charity has outgrown its current premises at Hounslow Salvation Army Corps, in Inwood Road, Hounslow, after a rapid rise in the number of street sleepers.In the last three years alone, the number of people turning up every Saturday, between 6-8pm, has more than doubled from about a dozen to more than 30. [A more suitable venue was eventually found in Hounslow High Street and the project re-commenced in October 2012 at Holy Trinity Church](http://www.hounslowmission.org.uk/index.php?op=modload&name=knowledge&file=index&viewCat=7). The Mission in Hounslow Trust joined forces alongside three local churches with a new 'management committee' giving the project a broader base. It has recruited more volunteers increasing sustainability for the future.

## Infrastructure

***[NCVO](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/13714/ncvos_income_plunged_by_a_quarter_last_year_accounts_show)***

NCVO lost a third of its staff as its income was reduced by 27% in 2011-12. Most of the income reduction was as a result of the cut to the Cabinet Office Strategic Partners funding. The organisation also had a projected deficit of £4.4million in its defined benefit pension scheme and finished the 2011-12 financial year with a reduction in its reserves to £2million.

[***East London CVS Network***](http://www.elcvsnetwork.org.uk/news/archives/sector-news)

The East London CVS Network (ELN), an informal partnership comprising the 10 Councils for Voluntary Service in the boroughs of Redbridge, Havering, Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Newham, Lewisham, Barking & Dagenham, Greenwich, Bexley and the City of London, and is one of five sub-regional CVS Networks that until recently operated in London from 2004. It now looks to be following in the footsteps of those in North and Central London, as their funding from London Councils ended in January 2011. Although they had some other funding and reserves, which are enabling them to continue at present, they have been unable to secure any additional resources, which will limit future support they can provide and may mean they have to close.

[***Social Enterprise London***](http://www.sel.org.uk/news/84-latest/5318-social-enterprise-london-announces-plan-to-work-more-closely-with-social-enterprise-uk)

Social Enterprise London lost their London Councils funding and Cabinet Office Strategic Partners funding in 2011. They have now announced that they will be working with Social Enterprise UK to bring their membership, information and contracting resources together and to co-locate these at Social Enterprise UK’s headquarters from the end of July 2012.

***[Black Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration Network](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/RemovedCharityMain.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1118439&SubsidiaryNumber=0)***

The Black Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration Network, a BAME infrastructure organisation, has closed following problems with its accounts and performance reporting in 2008 – 9. Its closure has sparked a [review and audit](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk_agenda_items=5181) of the systems and policies of one of its funders, London Councils.

[***Hammersmith & Fulham Refugee Forum***](http://www.fulhamchronicle.co.uk/fulham-and-hammersmith-news/local-fulham-and-hammersmith-news/2013/03/13/charity-blames-recession-for-rise-in-hammersmith-hate-crimes-82029-32983106/)

Refugee groups in the borough of Hammersmith & Fulham have withstood a ‘perfect storm’ caused by the loss of funding and premises during 2012. Ten groups, including the Hammersmith & Fulham Refugee Forum had also lost their office premises when Hammersmith & Fulham Council sold off Palingswick House. A few of the Refugee Forum’s smaller voluntary group members had folded as a result of the pressures and were no longer able to assist the people that depended upon them. Many other members have continued with reduced capacity. Although the Refugee Forum had itself suffered from a loss of funding it continued to offer a unique service to the refugee communities in the borough. It continued to run a serious of training workshops on a wide range of topics and also the annual Refugee Week celebration in June in partnership with Hammersmith & Fulham Volunteer Centre. A recent survey carried out by the Refugee Forum had found that some 30 refugee community groups were still active in the borough.

[***Harrow Agenda 21 Environmental Forum***](http://harrowagenda21.org/doc/Annual_Report_2011_2012.pdf)

Harrow Agenda 21 Environmental Forum has seen its income drop from £6000 in 2008-9 to just 33 in 2012-13, following the loss of its funding from LB Harrow in 2011-12 and no success in gaining trust funds, such as the £1000 from the Tudor Trust that it was awarded in 2011-12.

[***Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium***](http://www.nvsc.org.uk/new-direction-for-nvsc-from-april-2013/)

In March 2013 Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium announced that they were no longer able to provide the kind of practical assistance to the borough’s voluntary, community and faith sectors that they had offered in the past, as they had no funding from the beginning of 2014. With their limited remaining funds, NVSC proposed to focus on cooperation and mutual support. Over the next year, they planned to talk to local groups about how they could collaborate more closely, in order to develop networks and partnerships that pool knowledge and skills.

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT)

[***Islington Mind***](http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2013/03/19/london-lgbt-mental-health-charity-outcome-faces-uncertain-future/)

For the last 15 years the Outcome service at Islington Mind has offered support to members of the lesbian, gay men, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community who experience mental health distress. It provides group and one-to-one advice and support and drop-in sessions, along with social activities, including a drama group and writing classes. Peer support groups for transgender clients and for LGBT asylum seekers also meet regularly at the building on Ashley Road, Islington, north London. It was originally funded through an individual donation, but this stopped in 2011-12. The charity says it now needs financial assistance in order to keep the service open, as a result of cuts to its existing funding (from £1,444,162 in 2011-12 to £938,128 in 2012-13 (a reduction of more than one-third). Several of its service-users say they have encountered homophobia when using mainstream health care facilities and the charity says: “with many people facing cuts to their welfare benefits, the need for LGBT specific advice and support is maybe greater than ever.” This is at a time when pressure on psychiatric wards has become so great that doctors are [sectioning mentally ill patients unnecessarily,](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mentally-ill-patients-sectioned-unnecessarily-as-only-way-to-a-hospital-bed-8760166.html) because it is often seen as the only way to gain access to a bed.

## Older People

[***Millman Street Community Centre***](http://www.holborncommunity.co.uk/campaigns.php)

A day centre for older people in Camden is at risk of closure. It has already had one reprieve as it was originally expected to close in July 2011.

[***Age UK Enfield***](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/11511/nhs_cuts_third_of_north_london_voluntary_sector_funding)

Age UK Enfield had almost all its funding from NHS Enfield cut in 2012-13. In 2011-12 it received £148,749 worth of grants from the NHS for foot treatments, day care for dementia sufferers, and an active life service for elderly and vulnerable people. The group is currently under negotiation with the NHS to renew its £25,000 grant for the foot treatments. However, the local authority has agreed to take over the funding of other threatened services under a Section 75 agreement.

***[Barnet day centres](http://www.barnet-today.co.uk/news.cfm?id=24499)***

Four day centres for older people in Barnet have been identified as “very likely to close” due to an expected 23% cut in voluntary sector funding. It is part of the council’s plans to rejig day centre provision for the elderly across the borough. Barnet Council is planning to cut the amount of funding for traditional day centres, including Age UK’s Meritage Centre, in Church End, Hendon, and Ann Owens Centre, in Oak Lane, East Finchley, as well as two facilities for the Asian and African-Caribbean community based at the Multicultural Centre, in Algernon Road, Hendon, in favour of increasing local provision provided in libraries, leisure centres and church halls.

***[Age UK Ealing and Age Concern Northolt Greenford and Perivale](http://www.ealinggazette.co.uk/ealing-news/local-ealing-news/2013/03/20/we-re-still-open-for-business-says-ealing-elderly-charity-64767-33027722/)***

Age Concern Northolt Greenford and Perivale has now closed. Although Age UK Ealing had suffered cuts in 2011, losing nearly 60% of its funding and as a consequence valuable skills and services, it was continuing to deliver services in all parts of the borough including Northolt Greenford and Perivale. In May 2013 they will be opening two new services at Greenford community centre and Northolt village community centre.

[***Age Concern Havering***](http://www.ageconcernhavering.org.uk/downloads/AgeConcernSpring2012.pdf)

Age Concern Havering announced the closure of two of its services due to the end of outside funding. The Active Living Project – The Pub Clubs and the Information, Advice & Advocacy Services were both funded from outside grants, which ended; the Pub Clubs from the Big Lottery and the Information, Advice and Advocacy from a local authority grant. Age Concern Havering applied twice for extension funding for The Pub Clubs project but both applications were rejected. They now do not have the resources to fund such projects and had no alternative but to close the clubs at the end of May 2012 until other long or short term funding could be found to cover their £5,000 annual administration costs. The London Boroughs withdrew their small grant for the Information, Advice & Advocacy Services in 2012 and then Havering Council ended the grant they had provided for this service for the last eleven years. As a result, at the end of May 2012 the organisation no longer had the funds to support the staff, trained volunteers and resources required to provide the type of overall service achieved in recent years, but they continued to provide an information service in a different way from June 2012 onwards. [Currently Age Concern Havering need over £1 million every year](http://www.ageconcernhavering.org.uk/about_us-funding.php) to run their existing services of which only part comes from Havering Council and Havering Primary Care Trust. They therefore need to raise significant sums each year from their own resources just to maintain existing services.

[***Help in Hounslow***](http://www.helpinhounslow.org.uk/)

The Help in Hounslow information, advice and advocacy project run by Age UK Hounslow has now [closed](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/hounslow/our-services/help-in-hounslow/). Although the contract with Hounslow Council was for three years from April 2010, [it was terminated early by the council and the service ended on 30th June 2012](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends81%5C0001061681_AC_20120331_E_C.pdf), nine months early. This resulted in a number of staff having been made redundant and also impacted the charity's finances as it was unable to recoup fully the investment it had made to get the service off the ground and also it could no longer recover a proportion of its core costs from the funding available under the contract.

[***Older People’s social care in Merton***](http://www.hbuk.co.uk/elderly-charities-stripped-of-funding-by-london-council/)

Changes to the criteria of Merton council’s [Ageing Well](http://www.local.gov.uk/ageing-well) initiative have been pin-pointed as the course of a loss of funding for six VCS organisations providing social care services to older people in Merton. Under the newly altered scheme, only groups that are deemed to directly aid the elderly to live in their own homes for longer, and to keep older members of the community out of local government care homes, are able to gain funding . Groups set to be hit by the reduction in funding include Merton Mind, Friends of St. Helier, The Positive Network and the Asian Elderly Group of Merton. Users, volunteers and paid staff are now facing uncertain futures, with some groups having already significantly reduced their opening hours and having been forced to plan an exit strategy for their needy client base. The move is expected to benefit the Borough council by up to £500,000 over the next three years, based on an estimate that just under 200 people will have no choice but to stay in their own homes for, at least, one year more than they otherwise would do.

[***Age UK Waltham Forest***](http://www.jeanlambertmep.org.uk/news_detail.php?id=906)

Age UK Waltham Forest had its core grant funding cut by the council in 2010-11. Although it was successful in gaining central government Transition Funding in 2011-12, the changes to its business model resulted in the organisation spending £24,684 (10%) of its reserves in that year alone. In 2012-13 it was reported that the organisation faced increasing uncertainty over funding and had found that fewer people were able to volunteer their time.

## Poverty

[***Barking Food Bank***](http://www.bdpost.co.uk/news/barking_food_bank_expands_with_new_storage_unit_1_1461740)

Barking Food Bank, which provides food to those struggling to feed themselves as the recession continues reported a doubling in demand for its services over the two months between May and July 2012.

[***Trussel Trust Shepherds Bush Food bank***](http://thefoodbankers.wordpress.com/2012/11/20/interview-with-daphine-aikens-manager-of-hammersmith-and-fulham-foodbank/)

The Trussel Trust’s Hammersmith and Fulham foodbank opened in June 2010 and a second Shepherd’s Bush branch opened in October 2012, which has seen a 22% increase in people using the food banks.

[***Kingston Savers***](http://www.surreycomet.co.uk/news/10095852.Love_Kingston_appeal__Credit_union_putting_loan_sharks_out_of_business/)

Kingston Savers was set up in April 2012 after credit union SurreySave, was granted permission by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to extend its remit into the borough. Like all credit unions, it offers its members affordable loans and a competitive rate of interest on savings, as well as free life insurance and loan protection cover. Unlike banks and payday lenders, it does not impose penalties on those who pay their loan back early, and all members’ deposits are protected under the FSA’s Compensation Scheme. Kingston Voluntary Action had wanted to add a credit union to Kingston’s VCS for 20 years, but the process has been difficult. It was only possible through a combination of legislative change, the help of Kingston Council, the financial and economic situation and volunteers. Kingston Savers has secured enough funding from Kingston Council for the next three years, but is keen to attract more members in order to continue helping those in need of financial help.

[***Brixton & Norwood Food Bank***](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2012/aug/21/food-banks-lambeth-council)

Lambeth Council is proposing to provide financial support to Brixton and Norwood food bank to help boost its capacity. The council says it is turning to food banks to help, while "holding its nose"; not because it doesn't appreciate their work, but because it is unsure that food banks are a sustainable response to rising [poverty](http://www.theguardian.com/society/poverty). Then again, it knows its social workers and advice officers already refer people to the food bank on an ad hoc basis, referrals which are expected to increase in number as benefit cuts hit home in coming months. Lambeth says it has little choice. From April, in common with other English councils, it will be responsible for providing emergency crisis loans for local vulnerable people. It says it won't be able to afford to offer applicants cash loans – as happens now, under the Whitehall-operated system – because its social fund budget is being cut drastically, to 2005 levels. Hence the interest in food banks, and other charities offering low-cost, "in kind" help.

## Religion / belief

[***Speak Now***](http://www.eastlondonadvertiser.co.uk/news/charity_to_lose_thousands_in_revenue_as_halifax_changes_account_1_1481312)

The Speak Network, a Christian charity which campaigns on issues of human rights and global justice, has reported that it could lose much of its donations funding as it is being forced to change its bank account details. It had had an account with Halifax since 2000, but the bank informed them in June that its particular type of account would no longer be available after October 2012. This is leaving the charity with the prospect of losing thousands of pounds in revenue. The charity receives monthly donations via standing orders into the account, but the details of many long-term donors are no longer available to the charity, while others have chosen to remain anonymous. The charity has explored all its available options in an attempt to persuade Halifax to allow them to retain their current bank details so as not to lose donations, only to be informed by Halifax that this was not possible.

[***The Al-Athariyyah Mosque***](http://www.mosquedirectory.co.uk/mosques/england/london/newham/upton-park/Al-Athariyyah-Upton-Park-Newham/51)

The Mosque of Uptown Park Newham has closed.

[***Speak Now***](http://www.eastlondonadvertiser.co.uk/news/charity_to_lose_thousands_in_revenue_as_halifax_changes_account_1_1481312)

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## Volunteering

***[CSV](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/13462/csv_sees_income_drop_by_nearly_a_third)***

CSV, the national volunteering charity, has seen income drop by nearly one third from £33million to £22.5million with losses when the Future Jobs Fund ended, loss of their strategic partners grant from the Office for Civil society and loss of other government contracts. This is likely to reduce its social action and volunteering activities.

[***Volunteer Centre Islington***](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/fundraising/news/content/12253/volunteer_centre_network_will_fragment_under_council_cuts)

Islington Council awarded its 2011—12 contract for volunteering to Isedon Partnership, an organisation currently previously involved in the Government’s “free schools” initiative, rather than to the Volunteer Centre run by Voluntary Action Islington, who had previously received £50,000 per annum to provide the service. The Volunteer Centre in Islington had been accredited as meeting national standards, helped thousands of local people to take part in volunteering and worked with 500 local organisations to promote their volunteering opportunities. The Centre’s future is currently uncertain.

#### [Richmond Volunteer Centre](http://www.richmondcvs.org.uk/index.php?nuc=news&id=2&cat=8)

As a result of the local authority contract for Volunteer Recruitment and Placement being awarded to Groundwork, rather than the previous delivery agency Richmond CVS, the Board of Trustees decided to close Richmond Volunteer Centre on 31st May 2012.

[***Enfield Volunteer Centre***](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/5907/vssg_210312_minutes)

Enfield Voluntary Action has reported increasing demand for the services of Enfield Volunteer Centre. The national work programme which is funded to support individuals to get into work is performing poorly. EVC does not receive any resources to support this programme, but is being used by work programme providers to support volunteering opportunities for their clients.

[***Volunteer Centre Hounslow***](http://www.volunteerhounslow.org.uk/vsp)

Volunteer Centre Hounslow’s Volunteer Support Programme was set up to offer specialist support to individuals that experienced difficulties in finding voluntary work. This could be due to additional support needs, for example mental health problems, physical disabilities, learning difficulties, drug and alcohol addiction, ex-offenders and people with low self-confidence. Due to funding from the Big lottery ending this service has closed.

### [***Volunteer Centre Islington***](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/fundraising/news/content/12253/volunteer_centre_network_will_fragment_under_council_cuts)

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## Women

#### [Women’s Design Service](http://www.wds.org.uk/)

## Women's Design Service, which promoted good design in all parts of the environment to incorporate the needs of women, remains in a state of dormancy, since January 2012 whilst Trustees look at options for the future as well as the possibility of winding up the organisation.

[***Solace Women’s Aid***](http://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/news/islington_charities_suffer_crippling_6_8_million_cuts_while_hitting_the_boroughs_vulnerable_1_2286074)

Solace Women’s Aid, an Islington domestic violence charity which saw about 1,000 women last year, has seen its budget cut by about a third in three years, from £681,262 in 2010-11 to £440,359 in 2012-13. This is at a time when crime figures show domestic-related crimes have shot up from 1,356 to 1,670 last year (2012-13), a rise of 23.2% from the year before. The cut of more than £200,000 in solace’s funding means they are not able to provide the same level of service they would want and they are increasingly only dealing with those at the highest level of need, which means less preventative work takes place. It also means waiting lists are longer and people are not seen for as long as they might want to be.

[***Lambeth Women’s Project***](http://savelambethwomensproject.wordpress.com/campaign-background/)

Lambeth Women’s Project (LWP) is an umbrella organisation providing grassroots, community support to women and their families in South London for over 30 years. As the only women-only space in the local Brixton area it has been nothing short of a lifeline for many women. Over 150 women pass through the LWP each month, accessing services such as counselling, support for women who have experienced domestic violence, art and music workshops, health services, BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) groups and mentoring. LWP operates under a model that was designed to promote diversity and to educate and empower.LWP had been based at 166a Stockwell Road since 1979, and had sole occupation of the building till 2010. Documents from 2009 state that the building is owned by [Children and Young People’s Services](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/CouncilDemocracy/CouncilDepartments/CYPS.htm) (CYPS)- a department of Lambeth Council. In 2009, the building had fallen into disrepair and had been flooded. In 2010, Lambeth Council transferred the management of the lease for 166a to Stockwell Primary School. Under this change, a five year lease was granted to LWP and the two organisations began sharing the building. Under this agreement, LWP pay a peppercorn rent and Stockwell Primary School receives a service charge for managing the property. On 31st May 2012 Stockwell Primary School informed Lambeth Women’s Project that they had two weeks to pack up their belongings and leave. At the time of being handed the eviction letter LWP still had three years remaining on the lease.

1. Available at <http://www.ifs.org.uk/budgets/gb2012/gb2012.pdf> [13th July 2012] [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Available at <http://www.ifs.org.uk/budgets/gb2012/gb2012.pdf> [13th July 2012] [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Barking & Dagenham Economic Development News January 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. London Borough of Barnet (2010) Consultation on Proposed changes to the Councils’ Grants Programme. London: LB Barnet [↑](#footnote-ref-4)