##

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

**Update: April 2013 – September 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

Contents

[National research 5](#_Toc367068887)

[National organisation closures and cuts 10](#_Toc367068888)

[London Research 11](#_Toc367068890)

[London-wide and cross-borough organisations closures and cuts 14](#_Toc367068891)

[Charities working throughout London removed from Charity Commission website April – August 2013 15](#_Toc367068892)

[Boroughs 17](#_Toc367068893)

[Barking & Dagenham 19](#_Toc367068895)

[Barnet 20](#_Toc367068896)

[Bexley 21](#_Toc367068899)

[Brent 22](#_Toc367068900)

[Bromley 24](#_Toc367068901)

[Camden 26](#_Toc367068902)

[City of London 28](#_Toc367068903)

[Croydon 29](#_Toc367068904)

[Ealing 31](#_Toc367068905)

[Enfield 32](#_Toc367068906)

[Greenwich 33](#_Toc367068907)

[Hackney 34](#_Toc367068908)

[Hammersmith & Fulham 35](#_Toc367068909)

[Haringey 38](#_Toc367068910)

[Harrow 41](#_Toc367068911)

[Havering 43](#_Toc367068912)

[Hillingdon 44](#_Toc367068913)

[Hounslow 45](#_Toc367068914)

[Islington 47](#_Toc367068915)

[Kensington & Chelsea 49](#_Toc367068916)

[Kingston 50](#_Toc367068917)

[Lambeth 52](#_Toc367068918)

[Lewisham 55](#_Toc367068919)

[Merton 56](#_Toc367068920)

[Newham 58](#_Toc367068921)

[Redbridge 59](#_Toc367068922)

[Richmond 60](#_Toc367068923)

[Southwark 62](#_Toc367068924)

[Sutton 66](#_Toc367068925)

[Tower Hamlets 68](#_Toc367068926)

[Waltham Forest 70](#_Toc367068927)

[Wandsworth 72](#_Toc367068928)

[Westminster 74](#_Toc367068929)

[Sub-sectors 77](#_Toc367068930)

[Advice & legal services 77](#_Toc367068931)

[Arts & Culture services 83](#_Toc367068932)

[Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) services 87](#_Toc367068934)

[Children and Young People 87](#_Toc367068935)

[Civic and community development services 91](#_Toc367068936)

[Crime and Community Safety 92](#_Toc367068937)

[Deaf and disabled people’s services 92](#_Toc367068938)

[Drug & Alcohol services 95](#_Toc367068939)

[Employment & Skills services 95](#_Toc367068940)

[Environment 96](#_Toc367068941)

[Health & care services 97](#_Toc367068942)

[Housing & Homelessness 100](#_Toc367068943)

[Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender 102](#_Toc367068945)

[Religion / belief 103](#_Toc367068946)

[Older People 103](#_Toc367068947)

[Poverty 104](#_Toc367068948)

[Volunteering 105](#_Toc367068949)

[Women 105](#_Toc367068950)

[Appendix 1: London boroughs and funding for advice services 107](#_Toc367068951)

# National research

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation** | **Report** | **Findings** |
| Homeless Link | [Who is supporting people now?](http://homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/Who%20is%20supporting%20people%20now%20Report%20Jan13.pdf)January 2013 | Further funding reductions threaten to push homelessness services over the edge into closure, leaving individuals without accommodation or support. Local authorities risk losing experienced commissioners who hold knowledge of local needs. Quality of services will be affected by lack of performance monitoring and poor pay for workers. Homeless Link’s analysis of homelessness statistics and the sector\* has highlighted the impact funding cuts have had on the sector and local communities since 2009, when the ring-fence on funding to support vulnerable people was removed: Service provision for homeless people has declined with the sector losing more than 4,000 bed spaces; the number of people seeking help has increased, with homeless applications 27% higher than they were three years ago; and in a survey of services by the charity, communities who had their funding cut reported an increase in rough sleeping (52%), street drinking (41%), anti-social behaviour (48%) and crime (33%). |
| Association of Charitable Organisations | [Changing for Good](http://www.aco.uk.net/default.aspx?Page=107)April 2013 | 73% of benevolent funds had increased grant levels or stayed the same over 2012-13 and 30% had moved from long-term to short-term or one-off grants. 50% had introduced new programmes in response to the economic downturn and all were concerned about the impact of welfare reform.60% thought the boundary between state funding and discretionary funds was becoming increasingly blurred.65% had evidence of beneficiaries taking out payday loans |
| Sheffield Hallam University | [Hitting the poorest places hardest](http://www.shu.ac.uk/research/cresr/sites/shu.ac.uk/files/hitting-poorest-places-hardest_0.pdf)April 2013 | When the present welfare reforms have come into full effect they will take nearly £19billion a year out of the economy. This is equivalent to around £470 a year for every adult of working age in the country. The biggest financial losses arise from reforms to incapacity benefits (£4.3billion a year), changes to Tax Credits (£3.6billion a year) and the 1% up-rating of most working-age benefits (£3.4billion a year). The Housing Benefit reforms result in more modest losses – an estimated £490million a year arising from the ‘bedroom tax’ for example – but for the households affected the sums are nevertheless still large. Some households and individuals, notably sickness and disability claimants, will be hit by several different elements of the reforms. The financial impact of the reforms varies greatly across the country. At the extremes, the worst-hit local authority areas lose around four times as much, per adult of working age, as the authorities least affected by the reforms. Britain’s older industrial areas, a number of seaside towns and some London boroughs are hit hardest. Much of the south and east of England outside London escapes comparatively lightly. As a general rule, the more deprived the local authority, the greater the financial hit. A key effect of the welfare reforms will be to widen the gaps in prosperity between the best and worst local economies across Britain. Westminster and Hackney are big losers in London, losing £824 and £821 per head by 2014-15.Most inner London boroughs saw combined reductions of more than £600. |
| Cambridge Centre for Housing & Planning Research | [Intended and unintended consequence s?](http://www.housing.org.uk/publications/browse/welfare-reform-and-housing-associations-intended-and-unintended-consequence)April 2013 | Housing associations expect the main impact of welfare reform to be rising rent arrears. Housing associations are assuming a significant hit on their income and are altering their business plans to increase their bad debt provision to between twice and three times current levels. Associations can live with welfare reform but they cannot do that and self-finance any large development programme. There is a real tension between the Government’s ambition to reform welfare and its desire to see more housing output. There is a high degree of uncertainty and unpredictability as to how tenants will respond to the shortfall of housing benefit caused by the size criteria and to managing their rent payments themselves under Universal Credit. There are general uncertainties because so many elements of welfare reform are taking place over the same period and there are concerns about the cumulative impact of these changes. Organisations are looking to streamline their operations and to prioritise and focus their resources on rent collections and tenancy support. Some may step back from their wider community support programmes. Some associations are looking to change the mix of new housing to be built, for example, by developing smaller homes in order to meet the changing demand arising from the size criteria, and avoiding housing larger families who would be affected by the household benefit cap and be unable to pay their rent. |
| Belinda Pratten | [Mapping the cuts: a report to the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation](http://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/news-and-learning/publications)May 2013 | A key finding is the most vulnerable people in the most deprived areas are most affected by each and every one of the cuts. Welfare reforms hit hardest where deprivation is greatest; the worst affected areas are: older, industrial areas, seaside towns and some London boroughs. The same pattern can be seen in relation to cuts to local authority funding: the frontloading of cuts and targeting of specific grants to deprived authorities, has meant that these authorities are being cut faster and harder. More deprived authorities are also more grant dependent, and so lose more in absolute terms.A key issue is the cumulative impact of cuts on the most disadvantaged individuals and households: as well as losing income from benefit cuts, they are also most reliant on public services and least able to afford alternatives.All voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) are experiencing rising demand for their services and falling income across all income streams. However, organisations in the most deprived areas are more likely to be funded by the state and therefore more susceptible to reductions in public expenditure. Children’s services and arts funding have been hit hard by local authority cuts: More generally, VCOs are experiencing turbulence as a result of changes to commissioning, with many local organisations not so much squeezed as squashed: too small to compete, too big to survive without funding.Charitable foundations could play a crucial role as social innovators, bringing together people, ideas, money and power to create social change. |
| NCVO | [Counting the Cuts](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/counting_the_cuts.pdf)May 2013 | This report predicts a potential drop in funding of 15% by 2017-188, which translates to £1.7billion. This steep decline however, is one of the ’best case scenarios’ – i.e. if cuts are proportionate to overall budgetary cuts at local authorities. Should cuts be disproportionate – as they already are at 50% of councils responding to a Freedom of Information request – the sector could lose as much as £2.1bn from government. |
| Institute for Volunteering Research & NCVO | [Annual Return for Volunteer Centres 2011-12](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/arvc_2013_summary.pdf)May 2013 | Local government remained the most common funding type, with 83% of Volunteer Centres receiving some money from a local authority (a drop of 6% from the previous year). For those receiving money from their local authority in 2011-12, the average was £32,000. There had also been a sharp fall in the proportion of Volunteer Centres receiving some funding from central government. Whereas in the year before 24% did, only 7% in 2011-12. For those still receiving funding from this avenue the amount had fallen by £18,316. The number of those receiving fees for services had fallen from 43% in 2010-11 to 38% in 2011-12. Those Volunteer Centres receiving fees gained £6,466 through this source. This was an increase from the year before of £875.  |
| Charities Aid Foundation | [Survey](https://www.cafonline.org/media-office/press-releases/2013/1206-councils-charity-services.aspx)June 2013 | 72% of voters do not want councillors to cut funding to charities by more than they cut other services. 69% of people fear that local communities will suffer if charity funding is cut by councils and 66%)of those polled are worried that cuts to charities will personally affect them in the future. The survey found that 73% of the public think charities do valuable work in their local area and 77% of people believe that charities are well placed to deliver local services due to their not-for-profit status.  Only a quarter (25%) of those interviewed think the government is doing enough to support charities in these tough economic times. This follows research which found that as many as half of all local councils have cut funding to charities by a greater proportion than the overall cuts to their budget. |
| Directory of Social Change | [Company Giving Almanac](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/fundraising/news/content/15565/dsc_truly_horrified_by_levels_of_corporate_giving)June 2013 | The total corporate philanthropy support in the UK was worth £603million in 2012-13, a 27% year on year decline. Of the top 418 corporate givers, the average contribution was worth 0.4% of pre-tax profits. |
| Impetus | [Beating the cuts](http://impetus-pef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Beating_The_Cuts.pdf)July 2013 | The report concluded that:Short-term financial pressures should not create a ‘crisis management’ situation.Charities should invest for the future sustainability of the organisation.Offers to service users should continually be refined.Organisation’s resources should be concentrated on the activities where they have the greatest capabilities and are most able to demonstrate tangible resultsOperations should have a deliverable and sustainable scope and scale, while remaining flexible enough to respond to new growth opportunitiesA healthy mix of sources of income should be developed.There is often scope to reduce costs without impacting core operations.There is a wealth of external experience from which charities could benefit. |
| Guardian Voluntary Sector Network | [Voluntary Sector Network survey](http://www.theguardian.com/voluntary-sector-network/2013/jul/24/voluntary-sector-network-survey-findings)July 2013 | 47% had no confidence in the government’s approach to the third sector, with only 30% having some confidence and 1% a lot of confidence. 36% thought demand for their charity’s service would increase dramatically, while 50% thought it would increase slightly. 73% thought their charity was resilient enough to still be operating in five years’ time. |
| Cabinet Office | [Community Life survey](http://communitylife.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/)July 2013 | 72% of people had volunteered at least once in the last 12 months, with 44% of people volunteering formally and 62% volunteering informally, significant increases from 2010-11 (65%, 39% and 55% respectively). Just under half (49%) of people had volunteered at least once a month in the past year, a significant increase from 41 per cent in 2010-11.74% of people had given money to charity in the four weeks prior to being interviewed, a significant increase from 72% in 2010-11.In January-April 2013, just under a quarter of people (23%) had been involved in social action at least once in the last year. 68% were aware of social action happening in their local area.18% had taken part in some form of civic consultation about local services or problems in the last year, with 2 per cent of people engaging in some form of civic consultation at least once a month. 47% of people said they would like to be more involved in decisions made by their local council, a significant increase from 44% in 2010-11.  |
| nfp synergy | [Poll of 1000 people](http://nfpsynergy.net/trust-charities-third-year-running)July 2013 | Public trust in charities had increased for the third year running. 66% of people trust charities ‘quite a lot’ or ‘a great deal’ compared to 64% last year. 50% said they trusted charities because they ‘know the charity follows high standards in their fundraising’ although 44% had never even heard of the Fundraising Standards Board. Charities are still the 4th most trusted UK institution. The Armed Forces remain top on 78%, but the Scouts and Guides are now second with 67%. The reasons for trusting charities have remained largely the same, with celebrity influence still only making 3% trust a charity |
| NAVCA | [Quarterly survey](http://www.navca.org.uk/news/view-article/members-finding-new-ways-to-support-local-charities)August 2013 | 26% of NAVCA members predicted that between August and October 2013 prospects would improve and 27% that prospects worsen. This compares with figures of 29% and 19% respectively last year. NAVCA members are adapting to ensure that they can continue to provide support for local groups. For the first time the survey shows more members looking to increase rather than reduce services (33% increase, 30% reduce). New initiatives by NAVCA members include introducing new services, increasing online support, forming closer ties with local businesses and working more with each other and with other charities. There is also continuing emphasis on partnership working. NAVCA members report an improving relationship with their local public bodies. They also identify other charities as key to their continued success and collaboration between NAVCA members continues to be an important trend. |
| Social Enterprise UK | T[he People’s Business](http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/uploads/files/2013/07/the_peoples_business.pdf)August 2013 | In the last 12 months, 38% of social enterprises surveyed saw an increase in their turnover compared with 29% of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). 56% developed a new product or service, compared with 43% of SMEs. 63% of social enterprises expect their turnover to increase in the next two to three years, almost double the number of SMEs (37%). The majority of social enterprises (57%) draw 100% of their workforce from the local areas in which they operate, and a greater number of social enterprises are planning to grow their staff teams over the next 12 months than two years ago (33% expect to employ more people, compared to 26% in 2011).Social enterprises say that access to finance is their single biggest barrier to growth and sustainability. Twice as many social enterprises as SMEs sought capital in the past 12 months (48% compared with 24%). The average sum applied for by social enterprises was £58,000, suggesting a need for smaller-scale lending than is currently available to the sector from social investment sources.In 2011, just 8% of social enterprises cited the economic climate as a barrier to growth – in 2013 this figure has quadrupled to 32%, the second biggest barrier for social enterprises to grow and become sustainable. For social enterprises who mainly trade with the public sector, there has been an increase in the number who report prohibitive public sector commissioning and procurement as a major barrier to growth and sustainability. In 2013 the figure stands at 34%, up from 25% in 2011. |
| GLA Intelligence | Trends in housing tenureAugust 2013 | Owner occupation is much less common in London (49.5%) than nationally (64.3%). Census data from 2011 shows London’s private rented sector is growing with a 76.3% increase in private rented households in 2011. Owner occupation decreased to 49.5%, while the social rented sector decreased further so that in 2011, for the first time since 1971, a greater proportion of households were privately rented than socially rented in London. |
| Local Government Association & Centre for Economic & Social Inclusion | [The local impacts of welfare reform: an assessment of cumulative impacts and mitigations](http://www.cesi.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/The%20local%20impacts%20of%20welfare%20reform%20version%207.pdf)August 2013 | It is estimated that the income of households claiming benefit will be on average lower by £1,615 a year (or £31 a week) in 2015-16 as a result of welfare reforms since 2010. This excludes the impact of Universal Credit. At a local authority level, the average impacts per claimant household are relatively evenly spread – with all regions except London seeing average losses between £1,500 and £1,650 per year. In London high benefit receipt and high housing costs combine to give very large impacts per household – with on average claimant household incomes lower by £1,965 per year. Overall, 45% of households of “working age” receive one of the main state benefits. The 10% of areas with the lowest proportions of households on benefit are overwhelmingly in outer London and the south east, while the areas with the highest proportions on benefit are in the north west, north east, West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber. So the impacts of reforms are likely to be most strongly felt in areas with the highest dependence on benefit – the north east, Lancashire and the central north west, Birmingham and the Black Country, parts of London, and a swathe of coastal towns and cities. 59% of all welfare reform reductions fall on households where somebody works. The reductions for working households are greater than the reductions for households where no one works in 314 of the 325 local authorities. The largest impacts of the key housing benefit reforms are in London: in every single London authority, the average impact is above £1,300 per year. Even in the best case scenario modelled, a large majority of the impacts of reforms affecting housing costs for households out of work are unlikely to be met through claimants finding work or moving home. And using more plausible models, at least four out of every five households are likely to need further assistance in order to deal with the impacts. |

# National organisation closures and cuts

[***Oxfam***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-23422538)

Oxfam's income fell £17.6million to £367.9million in the year to 31st March 2013 with its two main sources of money, shops and fundraising, down on the previous year. The charity's annual report shows that the shops' net income fell 9.9% to £20.1million, while fundraising fell 5.6% to £267.8million.Oxfam blamed the fall on tough economic times, and said many shops had reported a decline in donations. Total spending on charitable activities, at £290million, was a slight increase on last year. But Oxfam spent an extra £3.6million responding to humanitarian emergencies.

[***Bipolar UK***](http://www.bipolaruk.org.uk/assets/uploads/documents/news_bipolaruk/2013/2013_Bipolar_UK_Crisis_Appeal_Press_Release.pdf)

Bipolar UK which supports individuals and families affected by bipolar faces the threat of closing life-saving services as its income suffers in the economic downturn.

Bipolar UK supports more than 65,000 individuals every year providing crucial services including information and advice, self-help groups, a mentoring service, a

youth service and a web-based discussion forum for those affected. The charity mainly receives funds through donations and a large number of small grants from charitable trusts but their income is not keeping pace with the increase in demand for their services that has occurred in recent years. 2012 was unprecedented in terms of the number of individuals contacting the charity for help and accessing their services. Increasingly they are finding that individuals’ first contact with them is at a time of crisis involving intervention with emergency services. They were £100,000 short of the amount of money they needed to continue providing services at the beginning of 2013.

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***.***[***Film Education***](http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/Governance/article/1179562/film-charity-close-loss-15-jobs/)

Film Education, a charity which worked with schoolchildren to introduce them to film, lost 60% of its funding after the industry body Cinema First switched its backing. It closed at the end of April 2013, after 26 years of operation with the loss of 15 jobs. The charity, which had an annual income of £1.2million, was forced to make 13 full-time and two part-time staff redundant.Film Education received 60% of its funding from Cinema First, an industry body that represents film distributors in the UK. But Cinema First switched its backing to a scheme to educate schoolchildren provided by [Filmclub](http://www.filmclub.org/) and [First Light](http://www.firstlightonline.co.uk/), with the backing of the [British Film Institute](http://www.bfi.org.uk/). Film Education decided it had no future without the funding from Cinema First, despite deriving some of its income from training teachers. Programmes such as the National Schools Film Week, which involved 500,000 children visiting cinemas for free during one week every October, were closed down along with the charity.

***[Shelter](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/governance/news/content/14414/legal_aid_cuts_could_cost_100_shelter_jobs)***

Shelter closed one-third of its face-to-face services and lost 75 staff at the end of March 2013 as a result of the halving of government legal aid support. [Shelter](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/directory/company/380/shelter) is facing a halving of its legal aid funding in 2013-14, which in 2011-2012 was worth £6million. It plans to provide more legal services online and over the phone.

[***DANDA***](http://www.danda.org.uk/)

**The national Charity currently operating as DANDA, which supports adults on the autistic spectrum, is in the process of being closed down. A new group, DANDA London, will be created, to continue the aims and objectives of the existing charity organisation in the capital.**

[***Hft and Self Unlimited***](http://www.hft.org.uk/News-and-events/News/Learning-disability-charities-announce-merger/)

Learning disability charities, Hft and Self Unlimited, announced in May 2013 that they were to merge. Both charities provide support for adults with learning disabilities across England. Between them the organisations provide a wide variety of support including; supported living services; supported employment opportunities and working with personalised technology to support people with learning disabilities to be more independent. The merged organisation will be known as Hft and will have an annual turnover of almost £70million, supporting almost 3,000 adults with learning disabilities and employing more than 3,000 staff. Hft’s existing Chief Executive, Robert Longley-Cook, became Chief Executive of the merged organisation. The reason for the merger was cited as being to ensure the organisation was more sustainable in an uncertain economic climate

# London Research

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| **Organisation** | **Report** | **Findings** |
| Womens’ Resource Centre | [The impact of public spending cuts on women’s voluntary and community sector organisations in London](http://thewomensresourcecentre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/London-report-FINAL-for-website.pdf)March 2013 | 65% of women’s organisations in London have lost funding in the past financial year. 46% of organisations have less than 50% of their funding secured for the next financial year. 78% of organisations with reserves were planning to use this money to maintain their services. 75% of organisations in London have had to reduce or close services. 58% of organisations have made staff redundancies this year. 50% of respondents expect staff redundancies in the coming financial year. 97% of organisations in London have seen an increase in demand for their services. |
| CHAIN | [Street to Home Annual Report 2011-12](http://www.broadwaylondon.org/CHAIN/Reports/S2H_201112.pdf)April 2013 | 5,678 people were seen rough sleeping by outreach workers in London in 2011/12. This is an increase of 43% compared to 2010/11. Enhanced levels of outreach services as part of 'No Second Night Out' means that people sleeping rough, and in particular new people to the streets, are more likely to be contacted. The greatest increase occurred in April to May 2011, when the ‘No Second Night Out’ project started. 3,825 people slept rough for the first time in London, 2,696 (70%) of whom spent only one night on the streets. ‘No Second Night Out’ means that new rough sleepers are more likely to get the help they need straight away and avoid spending a second night on the streets. Nearly half (45%, 2,554) of those seen rough sleeping were contacted in Westminster. Westminster consistently sees the highest number ofrough sleepersHostel outcomes for CHAIN clients have continued to improve 30% of those leaving hostels did so to move to medium to long term accommodation in 2011/12 compared to 24% in 2010/11. 25% left for negative reasons (abandoning or being evicted from their accommodation) - a drop compared to 34% in the previous year.  |
| London Tenants Federation | [Delivery of social rented homes in London: analysis](http://www.londontenants.org/publications/newsletters/LTFNewsletter18.pdf) [Newsletter 18](http://www.londontenants.org/publications/newsletters/LTFNewsletter18.pdf)April 2013 | The 2011-12 London Plan target for new and additional homes (that is after loss / demolitions have been taken into account) of all tenures was 32,210. The total delivered was 21,179. The target for delivery of new and additional so-called ‘affordable’ homes was 13,200 (41% of the total target); split 60% social-rented (7,920, down from the previous 10,675 target) and 40% intermediate (5,280, up from the previous 4,575 target). To meet need for social-rented homes in London (as identified in the 2008 Greater London Strategic Housing Market Assessment) it would require at least 50% of homes delivered to be social-rented. However, if the assessment had not assumed that homeless families placed in private-rented homes by their boroughs would be able to remain there, covered by housing benefit, the percentage increases to 76%. 25% of the total new and additional homes delivered in London for 2011/12 were social-rented homes. 62% of the homes delivered were market homes. 2,871 were intermediate homes (59% of the London Plan target). The target for new and additional market homes was 19,004 (59% of the total housing target). 13,072 (69% of target) were delivered.  |
| GLA Intelligence | [Poverty Figures for London 2011-12](http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Update%2009-2013%20-%20Poverty%20Figures%202011-12.pdf)June 2013 | The number of Londoners living in poverty has seen little change over the last few years. More than a third of London's children are in households with income below the poverty line, though rates have again fallen. The poverty rate for children in London, after housing costs, remains higher than for any other region, but is at its lowest level for 16 years. Poverty among pensioners in Inner London has fallen in the last year's figures, but it is the only part of the UK where the pensioner poverty rate after taking housing costs into account is higher than using the before housing costs measure. Pensioners in Inner London are at least twice as likely to suffer material deprivation as those in any other area, and the proportion is more than four times that in the East of England.  |
| London Councils | [Tracking Welfare Reform: the impact of housing benefit reform in London](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/policylobbying/welfarereforms/housingbenefitchangeprivate/Theimpactofhousingbenefitreforms.htm)June 2013 | More than two-thirds of the growth in housing benefit receipt in London over the past two years has been in the private sector. Rents are not falling in London despite reforms to Local Housing Allowance (LHA); indeed some boroughs have seen rent rises of more than 20% in the last yearLHA numbers in inner London are falling for the first time, but grew in outer London by 9% between January 2012 and January 2013. Working households account for 90% of this growth in LHA receipt in outer London. The biggest decline in LHA receipt has been among 25-34 year-olds; falling by more than 11% in inner London between January 2012 and January 2013. LHA households with dependent children are the fastest growing family type in outer London. |
| London Irish Centre, Lasa & Federation of Irish Societies | [The cost of change: the Impact of welfare reform on the Irish community in London](http://www.irishinbritain.org/demo/files/files/CostofChange_WEB_UPDATEJULY.pdf)July 2013 | Research indicates that London will be acutely affected by the benefit reforms. Areas of Irish settlement, such as Brent, Ealing and Haringey will be amongst the worst affected. Evidence suggests that Irish people aged between 50 and 64 in London will be disproportionately affected by changes to Local Housing Allowance and the ‘bedroom tax’. Evidence indicates that the subsequent reduction in income may result in pre-retirement age claimants being forced to move out of traditional areas of Irish settlement.The DWP has identified 20 ‘claimant types’ who may need extra support to adjust to the new model of Universal Credit. The Irish community is over-represented in at least five of these categories. Agencies highlighted that difficulties will be faced by Irish travellers, emigrant Irish survivors of institutional childhood abuse, unemployed men between the ages of 50 and 64, homeless Irish people and those with mental health and/or substance misuse issues. |
| CASE, LSE, JRF, Nuffield Foundation & Trust for London | [Prosperity, poverty and inequality in London, 2000/1-](http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/spcc/SRR03.pdf)[2010/11](http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/spcc/SRR03.pdf)July 2013 | The economy and labour market in London proved more resilient to the onset of recession than in other English regions. Inner London fared better than Outer London. Full-time employment fell by less across London than elsewhere in the country and there was a smaller rise in unemployment. There was an increase in part-time working, particularly among men.While London coped well with some economic pressures, inequalities in earnings and incomes increased between 2006/8 and 2010/11. Those living on the lowest incomes were hit hardest, seeing their incomes after housing costs fall by 24% in real terms compared with 3.5% nationally. Wealth inequalities also widened faster in London than in other regions. The wealthiest Londoners increased their financial, physical and property wealth by 8% between 2006/8 and 2010/11. This compared with 0.4% among their counterparts elsewhere.Poverty became less concentrated in inner London and began to spread outwards. This was partly due to population change and ‘gentrification in Inner London but also because the recession appeared to hit Outer London harder. |
| Community Links | [I don’t understand it at all: interim report](http://www.community-links.org/uploads/documents/Newham_Welfare_Final.pdf)August 2013 | This research looked at the impacts of welfare reform in LB Newham. People knew very little about upcoming reforms: levels of awareness were extremely low and misunderstanding was common. Previous negative experience of changes to the benefits system led people to view any reform with extreme suspicion. People were sceptical that major reforms could be introduced without administrative delays and failings that have accompanied previous reforms, for example tax credits. People were suspicious of the motives behind reforms and suspected the impacts would be mostly detrimental to themselves, friends and neighbours. |

# London-wide and cross-borough organisations closures and cuts

[***GMFA***](http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2013/04/11/london-gay-mens-health-charity-gmfa-faces-uncertain-future-after-funding-cut/)

GMFA reported in April 2013 that it would no longer receive funding for its London HIV information services. [The Terrence Higgins Trust (THT), Britain’s largest HIV and sexual health charity announced in March that around £1.2 million had been cut from the Pan-London HIV Prevention Programme.](http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2013/03/15/terrence-higgins-trust-half-of-hiv-prevention-funding-cut-in-london/) GMFA and THT have been notified that they will no longer receive funding for their London HIV information services, including GMFA’s websites and the sex and health magazine, FS, as well as THT’s press advertising campaigns. There are more gay men living with HIV in London than anywhere else in the UK, and the numbers continue to rise. As a result of the cuts GMFA now faced an uncertain future. Its websites are relatively cheap to run, costing far less than any other pan-London HIV prevention activity, and reach more gay men than any of the other projects to but GMFA couldn’t afford to keep them going at the same level without any funding. The cuts mean that there would now be no London funded general information resources and they represent another major cut in HIV prevention funding, at a time when HIV diagnoses amongst gay men are increasing.

# Charities working throughout London removed from Charity Commission website April – August 2013

42 charities working across London were removed from the Charity Commission register between 1st April and 30th August 2013. These were listed as:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Registered Number** | **Charity name** |  |
| [1057694](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1057694)  | [ACTION IN COMMUNITIES](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1057694)  | Removed  |
| [1127740](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1127740)  | [AFRICAN CANCER ORGANISATION](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1127740)  | Removed  |
| [1135061](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1135061)  | [AFRICAN HEALTH EDUCATION AND DISABILITY](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1135061)  | Removed  |
| [1133417](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1133417)  | [BOM SAMARITANO](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1133417)  | Removed  |
| [288216](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=288216)  | [CAMDEN ITEC](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=288216)  | Removed  |
| [246422](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=246422)  | [CHARITIES ADMINISTERED I C W FINSBURY RIFLES](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=246422)  | Removed  |
| [238078](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=238078)  | [CHARITY OF JAMES LIMBOROUGH](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=238078)  | Removed  |
| [286002](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=286002)  | [HAMMERSON HOME CHARITABLE TRUST LIMITED](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=286002)  | Removed  |
| [1129528](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1129528)  | [HANNAH'S MENINGITIS APPEAL](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1129528)  | Removed  |
| [1013234](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1013234)  | [HANOVER FOUNDATIONS](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1013234)  | Removed  |
| [1141350](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1141350)  | [HEAD FOR BUSINESS](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1141350)  | Removed  |
| [1140560](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1140560)  | [HELP THE WOMAN AND CHILD](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1140560)  | Removed  |
| [1138060](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1138060)  | [KIND HEARTS INTERNATIONAL LTD](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1138060)  | Removed  |
| [277571](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=277571)  | [KURT AND EVA SCHAPIRA CHARITABLE TRUST](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=277571)  | Removed  |
| [1134741](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1134741)  | [KYNANCE TRUST](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1134741)  | Removed  |
| [1089693](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1089693)  | [LEYTONSTONE (A) TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1089693)  | Removed  |
| [1129208](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1129208)  | [LOVING SOMEONE IN PSYCHOSIS](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1129208)  | Removed  |
| [1078307](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1078307)  | [MABWIN SUPPLEMENTARY SCHOOL LIMITED](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1078307)  | Removed  |
| [1063391](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1063391)  | [MARYLAND STUDIOS](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1063391)  | Removed  |
| [1138179](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1138179)  | [MIGHTY GOD C&S CHURCH OUTREACH](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1138179)  | Removed  |
| [1114172](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1114172)  | [NON RESIDENT INDIANS EDUCATION FOUNDATION](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1114172)  | Removed  |
| [1089921](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1089921)  | [PHILANTHROPY IN COMMUNITIES](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1089921)  | Removed  |
| [293156](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=293156)  | [PHILIP GREEN MEMORIAL TRUST](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=293156)  | Removed  |
| [1096338](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1096338)  | [PODANE RUCE](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1096338)  | Removed  |
| [246161](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=246161)  | [PROCEEDS OF SALE OF THE ORCHARD HOLIDAY HOME](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=246161)  | Removed  |
|  |
| [1136682](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1136682)  | [PROFESSIONALS FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS (EUROPE)](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1136682)  | Removed  |
| [312402](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=312402)  | [SOCIETY OF PATRONS OF CHARITY SCHOOL](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=312402)  | Removed  |
| [1123601](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1123601)  | [SOUTH AFRICAN ARTS TRUST (SAAT)](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1123601)  | Removed  |
| [1089302](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1089302)  | [STIFFORD ESTATE- TINSLEY, JAMAICA, REDMANS AND STEPNEY GREEN TENANTS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1089302)  | Removed  |
| [267535](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=267535)  | [THE AMALGAMATED UNION OF ENGINEERING WORKERS FLEET STREET BRANCH TRUST](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=267535)  | Removed  |
| [803199](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=803199)  | [THE FELTHAM OPEN DOOR PROJECT LIMITED](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=803199)  | Removed  |
| [1111048](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1111048)  | [THE HELEN BAMBER FOUNDATION](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1111048)  | Removed  |
| [803797](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=803797)  | [THE IAN PARRY MEMORIAL FUND](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=803797)  | Removed  |
| [268435](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=268435)  | [THE IRISH WELFARE BUREAU HAMMERSMITH](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=268435)  | Removed  |
| [298600](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=298600)  | [THE PAULINE HEPHAISTOS SURVEY PROJECTS CHARITABLE TRUST](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=298600)  | Removed  |
| [284638](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=284638)  | [THE SHEPHERDS BUSH THEATRE LIMITED](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=284638)  | Removed  |
| [1130952](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1130952)  | [THE SPOT YOUTH CENTRE](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1130952)  | Removed  |
| [1116655](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1116655)  | [THE WESTSIDE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1116655)  | Removed  |
| [1083386](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1083386)  | [TURKISH COMMUNITY PROJECT LEWISHAM](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1083386)  | Removed  |
| [1045592](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1045592)  | [UNITY FAITH OUTREACH MINISTRIES](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1045592)  | Removed  |
| [1106104](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1106104)  | [VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS SUPPORT (LONDON)](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1106104)  | Removed  |
| [1106780](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1106780)  | [WE CAN FOUNDATION](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchResultHandler.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1106780)  | Removed |

91 new charities registered to work throughout London during this period

# Boroughs

# [Changes in spending power 2013-14](http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1314/settle.htm)

 Including Excluding

 Public Health Public Health

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | (£ million) | (% change) | (£ million) | (% change) |
| GLA - all functions | 2,063.745 | -1.5% | 2,063.745 | -1.5% |
| London boroughs | 8,264.951 | -0.7% | 7,711.479 | -1.0% |
| City of London | 54.302 | -1.1% | 52.651 | -1.2% |
| Camden | 318.080 | -1.1% | 292.431 | -1.4% |
| Greenwich | 276.597 | -0.1% | 258.320 | -0.7% |
| Hackney | 341.663 | -0.4% | 312.658 | -0.7% |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 215.323 | -0.9% | 195.035 | -1.2% |
| Islington | 293.579 | -0.1% | 268.842 | -0.4% |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 211.096 | -2.2% | 190.460 | -2.7% |
| Lambeth | 364.010 | -0.9% | 338.571 | -1.4% |
| Lewisham | 311.917 | -0.9% | 292.376 | -1.1% |
| Southwark | 364.157 | -0.7% | 342.348 | -1.1% |
| Tower Hamlets | 358.938 | 0.1% | 327.556 | -0.2% |
| Wandsworth | 241.035 | -0.1% | 216.297 | -0.4% |
| Westminster | 284.100 | -0.9% | 253.716 | -1.3% |
| Barking and Dagenham | 185.997 | 1.0% | 173.076 | 0.3% |
| Barnet | 293.168 | -0.9% | 279.369 | -1.3% |
| Bexley | 177.816 | -0.8% | 170.930 | -1.2% |
| Brent | 303.858 | -0.1% | 285.524 | -0.3% |
| Bromley | 226.338 | -2.0% | 213.737 | -2.2% |
| Croydon | 316.079 | -0.9% | 297.767 | -1.2% |
| Ealing | 306.966 | -0.9% | 285.591 | -1.2% |
| Enfield | 280.578 | 0.1% | 267.617 | -0.3% |
| Haringey | 283.231 | -0.6% | 265.644 | -1.2% |
| Harrow | 193.756 | -1.2% | 184.882 | -1.4% |
| Havering | 185.718 | -1.1% | 176.884 | -1.6% |
| Hillingdon | 225.426 | -0.7% | 210.145 | -1.0% |
| Hounslow | 211.025 | -1.0% | 198.221 | -1.6% |
| Kingston upon Thames | 139.855 | -2.0% | 130.806 | -2.4% |
| Merton | 167.199 | -1.9% | 158.214 | -2.2% |
| Newham | 332.303 | 0.8% | 308.565 | 0.2% |
| Redbridge | 219.621 | -0.4% | 209.247 | -0.9% |
| Richmond upon Thames | 169.820 | -1.4% | 162.144 | -1.6% |
| Sutton | 168.731 | -1.9% | 160.347 | -2.2% |
| Waltham Forest | 242.667 | 0.8% | 231.506 | 0.4% |

In the 2010 Spending Review, HM Treasury set out plans to reduce central government's funding to local authorities (excluding education, police, and fire) by 26% (£7.6 billion) in real terms over four years—from £29.7 billion in 2010-11 to £22.1 billion in 2014-15. In addition, local authorities are facing constraints on their ability to increase the income they can raise locally. The National Audit Office estimates that, over the first two years of the Spending Review period, local authorities had reduced their spending by £4.6 billion in real terms, approximately half of the overall savings required by March 2015.

In the Autumn Statement 2012 despite intense lobbying that the previously announced spending review reductions should not be extended further, local government funding was cut by an extra 2% (£445million) in 2014-15 Local government managed to avoid additional spending cuts in 2013-14 but overall, councils' "spending power" would be 1.7% lower in 2013-14.

In London boroughs there was an overall decrease in spending power of 1.0% between 2012-13 and 2013-14. However, this was reduced to 0.7% (0.8% if the cuts to the GLA’s budget in 2013-14 were included) when the new local authority allocations for public health funding were added to the total funds available. This compared with a greater 1.3% fell in spending power across England in 2013-14, but if 2013-15 figures were used rather than a single years, London’s loss in spending power was 5%, compared with 4.7% nationally.

Finally in the autumn 2013 spending review departmental spending limits for 2015-16 and 2016-17 were also announced. Local government would also face more severe cuts at the start of this period than other parts of the state, with the budget cut by 10% from £25.6billion to £23.5billionn, and the council tax freeze extended for another year. Local government budgets face being reduced by up to 30% in overall terms over the next five years.



## Barking & Dagenham

***General statutory funding***[[1]](#footnote-1)

Reduction in spending power was 0.3% in Barking & Dagenham between 2012-13 and 2013-14. [The local authority in Barking & Dagenham had 40% of their budget cut over the four years from 2011-12 to 2014-15. In 2013-14) they needed to make savings of £18million in order to balance the budget. This was on top of £28 million worth of savings in 2011-12 and a further £19million in 2012-13.](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/CouncilandDemocracy/Budget/Pages/Budget.aspx)

The budget for corporate grants and commissioning was reduced by £250,000 for 2012/13, with a similar reduction for 2013/14.  In February 2013, the council approved a £23million package of spending cuts which resulted in an estimated 100 additional redundancies. It included a £120,000 cut from voluntary sector grants and a reduction in budgets for number of children and youth services cut.

***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** |

[In 2012-13 expenditure was only £467,265, matched by income of £478508.](http://www.bdcvs.org.uk/documents/Annual%20Report%202013.pdf)

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***

[The budget for corporate grants and commissioning was reduced by £250,000 for 2012-13, with a similar reduction for 2013-14.  In February 2013, the council approved a £120,000 cut from voluntary sector grants and a reduction in budgets for number of children and youth services.](http://www.barkinganddagenhampost.co.uk/news/11m_for_making_barking_and_dagenham_council_staff_redundant_1_2012410)

The Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services (CDACS) [said on 17 January 2011](http://moderngov.barking-dagenham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=6387) "...I am happy to reiterate that funding returning to the borough arising from the London Councils grants review will be kept within the voluntary sector grants programmes, so that every pound saved from London Councils is a pound we don't have to save through local cuts."

[A petition against the cuts to Barking & Dagenham’s VCS led by the CVS was rejected by the council.](http://moderngov.barking-dagenham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=6387)

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

[***The Osbourne Partnership***](http://www.barkinganddagenhampost.co.uk/news/post_people_why_i_quit_the_theatre_and_joined_a_charity_that_s_an_asset_to_the_community_1_2352596)

The local authority gave up the lease on the Osbourne Partnership’s centre in 2012. The charity, which supports people with learning disabilities into work, had previously paid a peppercorn rent of £1 a week. They were faced with finding new premises, taking over the lease or closing down. They decided to take on the lease – but that cost £1,000 a week. They have a small grant from the council to provide 100 placements a week and run a skills franchise for Barking & Dagenham College. They also obtained a £5,000 community grant from Santander and in 2013 they expanded by opening a community café after successfully obtaining grants, including £98,000 from the National Lottery.

## 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 (2010-11 to 2014-15). The borough is already the largest in London and faces further growth at both ends of the age spectrum – 17% more 5-to-9s and 25% more over-90s by 2016. Barnet Council estimates that over the four-year Spending Review period it will lose roughly 30% of its income, requiring matching reductions in spending. [Without significant changes in the way council services are provided and/or in councils’ funding, the increasing numbers Barnet council will be supporting mean that by 2022-23 it would be providing only social services, there being no money left for anything else**.**](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2012/05/23/barnet-graph-doom/)

## [The council projects a funding gap of £3.7million over 2013-14 and is proposing to raise £1.3 million of this by collecting an 8.5% council tax contribution from those who previously did not have to pay as they were covered by council tax benefit.](http://www.barnet-today.co.uk/news.cfm?id=1774) It will have a loss of spending power of 0.9% in 2013-14 compared to 2012-13.

## CommunityBarnet: the CVS in Barnet

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 a 25% cut to the voluntary and community sector funding 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 was at least 43%, significantly higher than the 26% cut in the estimated spending power of LB Barnet over the same period.

[Barnet Council’s Cabinet Resources Committee approved the award of almost £220,000 of Big Society Innovation Bank grants to help kick-start 13 local projects in 2013-14.](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/news/article/244/community_projects_receive_innovation_bank_backing)

In 2013-14LBBarnet’s Corporate Grants Programme for the VCS offers grants of up to £10,000 to help either:

* set up a new project or activity in Barnet in response to identified needs
* or with specific events, purchases or other non-recurring items of expenditure,
where a proposal complements one or more of the council’s key corporate priorities or Barnet’s [Sustainable Community Strategy](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/info/1131/sustainable_community_strategy/173/sustainable_community_strategy).

[In an effort to save money, LB Barnet officers have reported that the Council would obtain details of the financial status of voluntary sector organisations, particularly voluntary sector groups reserves if they applied for grant funding.](http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=1695)

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Barnet***

[***Barnet Law Service***](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=BLS2013&isTeam=true)

In 2013-14 Barnet Law sErvice is again having to cope with funding cuts: dramatic cuts to Legal Aid and their Barnet council contract is 25% less than it was and reduces each year. They are finding charitable grants are harder and harder to come by at the same time that the need for their service is increasing. BLS has only a few staff and volunteers, but to keep staffing levels even at the ir 2013 low levels and avoid having to turn even more people away they need more money. They have set up a Virgin Money Giving page.

## 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%3Aashx?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.

The Chancellor announced in his Autumn Statement a further reduction of 2% in funding for LB Bexley in 2014/15. In response to the 2013 Spending Review LB Bexley, have set [an additional efficiency target of 3%](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11755&p=0) which they would begin to implement in 2013/14 - over and above the £35milion target saving from the 2010 Spending Review and Autumn Statement 2012...

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.

***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) reported that 2011-12 was a challenging year for both itself and the VCS in Bexley. Reductions in BVSC income meant they had had to reduce the hours of some posts as well as ﬁnd other savings in their budgets. However the demand for their work had increased resulting in the challenge of doing more with less, which they had addressed through constant prioritising. [BVSC faces further funding reductions of £4,200 in 2012-13 and again of £4,200 in 2013-14.](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=10046&p=0)

***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 Council stated that it would begin a Phased reduction in funding to voluntary and other bodies, and more targeted funding in 2012-13 aiming to save £1,320.000 in 2012-13 and £1,398, 000 in 2013-14.](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=10046&p=0)

 As part of the Joint Commissioning work with the London Borough of Bexley, it has been agreed that [the contracts with the third sector for both Bexley CCG and the Local Authority will be extended until October 2013](http://www.bexleyccg.nhs.uk/Downloads/Bexley%20Clinical%20Cabinet/Formal%20meeting%20papers/Thursday%2020%20December%202012/ENC%20Fi%20Commissioning%20Intentions%202013-14.pdf) when both organisations will be in a position to jointly re-procure services which meet the needs of the local population. The CCG valueof grants is £407,523 during the period of the extension, staff in both organisations will be undertaking a deep dive review of the services currently provided by the third sector organisations and assessing how these meet the needs of the local population in terms of outcomes. Once this information is available, then in conjunction with the Carers’ Strategy and the Health and Well-Being Strategy, commissioning decisions can be jointly made as to how the envelope available from both parties can be best utilised to provide tangible outcomes for the residents of Bexley who require these services.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Bexley***

[***Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice***](http://www.bvsc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Spotlight-July-13.pdf)

Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice provides free specialist end of life care for people with life-limiting llnesses, as well as providing support for their families, friends and carers. The Hospice does not charge for its services, and only one third of its funding comes from the NHS, which means the Hospice has to rely on the support of mainly local people, businesses, community groups and its net-work of shops to raise £4million annually to continue its work.

## Brent

***General statutory funding***

In [Brent](http://www.brent.gov.uk/voluntary.nsf/Files/LBBA-79/%24FILE/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.

***Brent Council for Voluntary Service***

Brent is establishing a [new Council for Voluntary Service](http://www.cvsbrent.org.uk/favicon.ico) which began 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.

NHS Brent estimated that they spent around £4.5million on the VCS in the borough in 2010 -11 out of a budget of £50million. 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 Mencap***](http://disabilitynewsservice.com/2013/06/councils-cuts-put-trio-at-risk-of-debt-eviction-and-harassment/)

In June 2013 three people with learning difficulties won permission from the high court for a full judicial review of the decision by Brent council to cut the “floating support” they received through the government’s Supporting People programme.

Lawyers for the claimants say the council made the decision without carrying out any assessment of the potential risk to service-users, a proper equality impact assessment, or a consultation on the changes.

The court ruled that it was “arguable” that the council failed to have due regard under the Equality Act to its public sector equality duties, and that it had failed to consult about the proposed reduction in service.

People with learning difficulties in Brent who were receiving two to four hours of support a week were set to see this cut to just one-and-a-half hours, including the support worker’s travel time.

The case followed a complaint in January by the charity Brent Mencap, which had previously provided the support the trio received under Supporting People.The charity believed that the cuts to Supporting People hours were hidden from Brent councillors, service-users and the public.The decision to award a new contract for floating support to residents with learning disabilities was taken in November 2012. The service was previously provided by Brent Mencap, but the new contract was awarded to Riverside Housing Limited following a competitive tendering process.

“Riverside Housing was chosen because they demonstrated they could deliver the service more efficiently and at a lower cost than the other organisations who submitted tenders.”

[***Advice4Renters (formerly Brent Private Tenants’ Rights Group)***](http://www.advice4renters.org.uk/files/3613/7175/1811/NEWNotice_to_Potential_New_Clients_-_May_2013.pdf)

Advice4Renters’ (previously Brent Private Tenants Rights Group) free advice service is funded by the Legal Aid Agency, who administer the Legal Aid Scheme on behalf of the government.

They fix the number of people that we can be supported each year. They have cut the numbers of people that can be supported each year and this means that Advice4Renters only have about half the number of appointments that they had had in previous years. The Government’s cut to the legal aid budget has also had a direct effect on their work, as they are now limited in the types of problems that they can be funded to help people with. From 1st April 2013 they can only support cases about:

• Serious disrepair which means there is a serious risk to the health or safety of an individual or a member of their family because of the disrepair or defect in the accommodation

• Homelessness people who have wrongly been refused help by the council

• A landlord’s issuing of a notice to leave, the start of court proceedings to get possession of the home or has applied to court for an eviction

• An illegal eviction or if there is a need to apply to the court for an injunction to stop a landlord or somebody causing harassment. Advice4Renters does not have the funding to help clients with other housing issues, such as seeking information about their rights under a tenancy agreement, trying to recover a tenancy deposit-seeking transfers or needing help with housing benefit problems.

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## 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.

[The Local Government Finance Settlement 2013-14 had a significant impact on the Council’s finances with net losses in grant income of £8.9million compared with the 2012-13 Budget. The Council had to make savings of over £30million in 2011-12 and 2012-13 and faced a budget gap of over £40million in the next four years due to inflation remaining higher than previous predictions, on-going service pressures and the significant reductions in government funding.](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1653/explaining_changes_to_council_tax_for_201314%20-%205k) Government funding has reduced by over £27million in the last 3 years;

To meet these financial pressures they have allowed a small increase (1.2% overall with the GLA precept) 2013-14 in council tax, noting that Bromley gets the second lowest amount of i£964. They also noted other new costs in the budget including: council met volume service pressures of about £1.3million in 2013/14 mainly relating to adults with learning disabilities; and the local implications for welfare reform, including the impact of increasing homelessness, is estimated to cost the Council £2.0million in 2013/14.

After the impact of these changes, LB Bromley had to identify savings of £13million per annum from 2013-14. This was in addition to savings of over £30million they had had to achieve over the last two years.

[Bromley Council is also hosting a series of public meetings to discuss further budget savings of £55million over the next four years](http://www.gravesendreporter.co.uk/news/bromley_council_invite_public_to_discuss_55million_cuts_1_2327531). Items on the agenda include how the council are managing the impact of financial pressures. The views of the public will help to shape the budget for 2014/15 as the council continue to make cutbacks, building on substantial savings over the past three years.

***Community Links Bromley***

Community Links Bromley has had its funding from the local authority cut by 100% between 2011-12 and 2012-13, and, even in 2011-12, its total income was reduced by 40% from £532,763 to £314,953 with some of the expended resources for that year of £479,339 having to come from reserves. They again did not receive any voluntary sector grant or commission funding in 2013-14, [but they were awarded the Healthwatch Bromley contract](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/press/article/712/a_stronger_voice-for_patients_and_public).

***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, not grants, with a number of different council departments

From the council budgets for 2012-13 and 2013-14 the following changes look to have taken place in changes to funding for voluntary and community organisations by LB Bromley

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Funding** | **2013-14** | **2012-13** | **% Change** |
| HIV/AIDS | 42,050 | 43,100 | +2.5 |
| Commissioning | 12,810 | 12,500 | +2.5 |
| Carers | 515,130 | 515,000 | +0.3 |
| Learning disabilities grants | 289,740 | 282,680 | +2.5 |
| Learning disabilities nursing | 406,950 | 326,220 | +24.7 |
| Learning disabilities- residential | 12,326,288 | 14,179060 | -13.1 |
| Mental health - nursing | 84,930 | 72,820 | +16.6 |
| Mental health - residential | 2,079,790 | 2,251,850 | -7.6 |
| Town Centre | 38,250 | - | +100 |
| Dementia project |  | 44,280 | +100 |
| Total | 15,795,938 | 17,727510 | -10.9 |

Although several VCS departmental commissions kept pace with inflation by increasing by 2.5% and spending on nursing from the VCS increased by 24.7 and 16.65 for learning disabilities and mental health respectively, the huge proportion of VCs spend going to residential care, which was reduced in 2013-14 meant that overall there was a decrease in LB Bromley funds going to the VCS of 10.9%.

Community Links advised that the following cuts from LB Bromley would take place in 2013-14

* + 13% reduction to Bromley Citizens Advice Bureau (cumulatively 30% in 2013-14
	+ 50% reduction then complete ending in 2013-14 of support planning and brokerage for older people and those with learning disabilities who are not eligible for council funding for services
	+ 25% ( cumulatively 50% ) reduction to Carers Bromley to support young carers [this did not go ahead]
	+ There are also planned cuts in 2013-14 of 13% in mental health day centres and 20% in disability work schemes.

However, an additional £2,054,530 of the new public health grant for local authorities was ring-fenced 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***

[***VCS groups providing the Falls service in Bromley***](http://www.bromleyccg.nhs.uk/about/ourboard/Papers/Enc%203%20-%20Falls%20and%20Fracture%20Prevention%20Service%20Procurement.pdf)

Falls services in Bromley have been provided routinely by various agencies, including South London Healthcare Trust, Bromley Healthcare, the London Borough of Bromley, VCS organisations and Community Pharmacy. Each of the providers work independently and the budgets are held separately leading to services that are fragmented, lack cohesion and do not provide an integrated, standardised approach creating inequitable access for residents and duplication of provision. The total cost of the current falls pathway was estimated at £6,350,000 of which £6,175,00 was accounted for by health related issues and the remainder for social factors. Only £19,347 was currently spent on a falls-specific service. Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group have now decided to commission a new Falls service for

£301,000 per year with estimated net savings of £247,000 per annum. However [they have decided to progress with a single tender waiver for procurement and offer the new service as a contract extension to Bromley Healthcare, a social enterprise formed by staff previously employed by the NHS.](http://www.bromleyccg.nhs.uk/about/ourboard/Papers/Enc%203%20-%20Falls%20and%20Fracture%20Prevention%20Service%20Procurement.pdf)

[***Bromley Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends62%5C0000299762_ac_20120331_e_c.pdf)

The charity will lost 40% of its overall funding between 2011 and 2014This greatly affected the way in which they could provide services to the community. The Bureau at Orpington was shut to the public in 2012, although some outreach services are still provided in Orpington with the help of other organisations who have provided rent-free accommodation. The Charity closed the Beckenham & Penge bureau in March 2013. They are also hoping to improve their It use to increase access to their advice services. They have found that there has

Bromley recently been insufficient staff time to liaise with other agencies and be involved in wider VCS statutory sector partnerships but recognise that this type of collaborative work is becoming more essential.

[They plan to build on and develop a more concise working relationship with funders and have already created inroads in putting effective networks in place to develop partnerships and consortia for the purposes of strategic planning, service delivery and joint project development.](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends62%5C0000299762_ac_20120331_e_c.pdf)

## 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. Central Government cuts forced LB Camden to make savings of £83.3 million between 2011 and 2014. They delivered £56.7million (68%) of the £83.3 million savings programme agreed in 2010-11. £43.5 million of the £83.3 million savings programme will come from back office savings, such as administration, human resources and finance, rather than frontline cuts. £26.6 million of savings remained to be delivered. The majority of these were incorporated in low-risk programmes, which were progressing as planned and expect to be achieved in full and on time. The savings programme has meant the loss of staff, with the reduction of over 900 posts since April 2010.

Long-term term planning and ‘investing to save’ has allowed Camden council to deliver a balanced budget until 2014, but also to launch a number of innovative projects that tackle inequality, raise educational standards and re-invest £117 million into schools. An examples is the [Community Investment Programme (CIP)](http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/environment/planning-and-built-environment/two/placeshaping/twocolumn/the-community-investment-programme.en?page=1) .

The period beyond 2014 remains uncertain with more central government cuts expected. A combination of future funding cuts, rising costs and demographic changes will lead to an annual pressure of between £40 to £50 million somewhere between 2017/18 and 2020/21.

***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 or 2013-14. Voluntary Action Camden led the consortia that won the whole of [Camden Council’s Organisational and Market Development and Volunteering Infrastructure Fund](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) in 2011-12. However, this was worth a total £950,000 over three years and three months 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). Voluntary Action Camden was also successful in gaining Cabinet Office Transforming Local Infrastructure Funds which were due to end on 30th September 2013.

***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.

The majority of grants to the VCs in Camden come from the Culture & environment department. Direct grants in 2013-14 were £4,739,983 compared with £4,460,432 in 2012-13, an increase of 6.3%.

#### [In 2013-14 the Community Safety Partnership has allocated up to £40,000 for the VCS to support a one-year pilot of Community Report](http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/community-and-living/voluntary-organisations-and-funding/funding-opportunities-for-organisations.en), which will be an investment in local communities to ensure sustainable neighbourhoods and support the Camden Plan ambition that residents are safe, and feel safe. At the end of the year the pilot outcomes will be reviewed and the council will make a decision on whether to identify future funding for the project.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Camden***

[***The Armoury***](http://www.camdennewjournal.com/news/2013/apr/healthy-future-royal-free-charity-steps-save-armoury-gym-closure)

The Armoury, a community gym in Hampstead was saved from closure by the Royal Free Charity which stepped in to save it from closure, after learning that it had been put up for sale at £1.5million by Camden Council. With its help, the charity-run Armoury has been granted a new 10-year lease to continue helping 2,000 poor and disadvantaged members stay healthy in 2013-14.

[***Camden Music Trust***](http://webfronter.com/camden/music/menu6/Music_Trust/Home_Spring_2013.html)

The Friends of Camden Music Service was conceived in 2001 and registered as a charity, Camden Music Trust (CMT), in 2008. It exists to ensure that musical opportunities at every level are available to all children and young people in Camden, regardless of their ability to pay. The local authority had always previously supported the Camden Music Service but recent cuts to central government grants mean that they have withdrawn funding. The Trust is now asking for donations from parents, trusts, foundations, businesses and individual donors, to sustain their work. They need to raise £250,000 a year to ensure the Music Service continues to offer high-quality music activities to all young people in the borough.

[***Kentish Town City Farm***](http://blog.38degrees.org.uk/2013/08/13/an-update-on-kentish-town-city-farm/)

Kentish Town City Farm has lost a portion of its funding from Camden council, but despite this, the council are still funding the farm to stay open – on the understanding that they’ll work to find increased funding from other sources too. The groundswell of support in a recent online campaign to “save the Farm” demonstrated the depth of affection the people of Camden and the wider London community felt. While the campaign was initiated by a concerned user was well intentioned, it had led to some confusion. And There had been council cuts and the Farm was under pressure to look for new sources of funding and to save money where it could in the present financial climate. In order to cope with the pressure, the Farm’s board of trustees has been in close and constructive dialogue with Camden Council to ensure that the doors stay open. As part of those discussions the Farm has received assurances from Camden Council’s finance chief, Theo Blackwell, that support will remain over the difficult years ahead*.* Whilst the online campaign to “save the farm” was well intentioned, the Farm felt that its future interest was best served by positive action to generate income in new ways, which could include individual giving, increased charitable trust donations and business sponsorship.

[**West Euston Partnership**](http://www.camdennewjournal.com/news/2013/aug/children-still-waiting-study-centre-after-regents-park-library-axe)

Children from Netley Primary school, have been let down over promises to create new facilities for them at the home of the West Euston Partnership charity. When the Robert Street library closed earlier this year, the West Euston Partnership (WEP) won a three-year contract worth £55,000 to run a study centre for school pupils. But now, partly due to the charity moving to new premises, the WEP say they are not able to fulfil the plans without extra funding – leaving youngsters with nowhere to do their homework. WEP had an open-access drop-in area for people to use computers and that children were welcome. But the money offered by Camden Council to run a  dedicated student study centre was not sufficient to upgrade their computers and establish a space in their new offices, which are due to open in September near their current building in Hampstead Road. Because of the move, there had been quite a lot of additional costs involved and that has now raised concerns over whether WEP could do what they originally planned. Camden Council have said they would be working to ensure the new centre was up and running in time for the new term. If they were unable to reach agreement with West Euston Partnership they will see if alternative providers who previously expressed an interest could offer this service from the start of the school term or provide it directly until a new contract could be agreed.

## 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. [Net expenditure on City’s services for 2013-14 is budgeted at £62.6million, a decrease of £2.9million (4.4%) compared to the original budget for 2012-13 of £65.5million](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-the-city/what-we-do/media-centre/news-releases/2013/Documents/revenue-and-capital-budgets-2012-2013-and-2013-2014.pdf).

The City of London Corporation oversees the City Bridge Trust and donates more than £15 million to charity annually.

***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. The project, based at Voluntary Action Westminster, [was begun to be wound down in 2012](http://www.vawcvs.org/downloads/annual-report-and-financial-accounts-2012-final-draftpdf) as a result of no further funding being identified to support it in 2012-13. In 2013-14 there is still [a website](http://www.citycomm.org.uk/) but the news has not been updated since February 2013.

***City of London VCS***

[The 2013-14 City Bridge Trust budget for charitable grants is £19.](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-the-city/what-we-do/media-centre/news-releases/2013/Documents/revenue-and-capital-budgets-2012-2013-and-2013-2014.pdf)2million and comprises: the £15million base budget for charitable grants; provision of £3.2milion for the ‘Not in Employment, Education or Training’ (NEETS) project; and provision of £1.0million for the ‘Employability Partnership’ project with the other £1.0million included in the forecast for 2014-15. This is an increase of £1,7million (9.7%) compared to 2012-13.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in City of London***

[***Broadway***](http://www.financialdirector.co.uk/financial-director/interview/2277711/interview-broadway-director-of-finance-nick-lee)

The City of London spend more than double per person than any other council in the country on mental health £195 per head is spent on social care services for people under 65 with mental health needs. Camden – the second highest spender in terms of per capita for mental health services – spends £67 per head.. Most of the money goes on helping the homeless. The City of London commissions its own homeless person’s charity, called Broadway, which works with over 7,000 people every year to provide housing and support 95% of its income from government funding. According to its latest annual accounts, Broadway was running at a larger than planned operating deficit of £219,000 set against a background of reductions in statutory funding. The charity has had to contend with funding cuts over five successive years from local authorities, councils and the Department for Communities and Local Government. They have had to drive down costs and invest in new areas to find funding from elsewhere; chiefly by increasing voluntary donations from the public. So far, support costs have been driven down to 12% from 18% of turnover

The group merged with Threshold Housing Advice in late 2011. The catalyst for the merger was partly the economic situation of both organisations, though merging the two advice services created a stronger offering. Broadway has had to invest in fundraising, marketing and communications, spending £90,000 on two posts - including upgrading its head of fundraising - and on a partnership with a housing association in Gosport. In 2011-2012, Broadway was able to increase its voluntary income to £382,039 from £253,285 and a "fairly consistent return" from the investment in fundraising to £500,000 over the next two or three years is expected. However, the business has to cope with the time lag between the investment and the return.

Reserves have gone from over £2million of free cash reserve down to around £1.2million over four years as a result of this "deliberate investment".

To improve its financial position, Broadway decided to sell Corner House, its property in Broadstairs, which was previously used to offer clients respite breaks and learning trips. Additionally, to safeguard existing services and remain cost effective, the charity has had to review staff costs, by far and away its largest expense item. They have come off the national pay scale and moved to a market testing approach. For the last three years they have only paid to the median, and adjusted pay scales if wages are out of line.

## 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. [It has to make a further £36million of savings over 2013-14 and 2014-15](http://www.thisiscroydontoday.co.uk/Croydon-Council-s-proposed-cuts-hit-borough-s/story-17585209-detail/story.html#axzz2dlwxXUE6). As well as its formula grant, the council has also seen cuts to some of its core grants, including the Early Intervention Grant (EIG), which will drop from £17.131million to £11.82million in 2014-15. The Department of Adult Services, Health and Housing (DASHH) will be the hardest hit, with £11.1million of cuts and efficiencies, followed by children, families and learning with £10.93million. Services which the council will cut between 2013 and 2015 include:

* Review and redesign of early intervention, family support and integrated youth services – £1.7million;
* Axing two school improvement officers – £184,000;
* Cut in care support budgets for older people, people with learning and physical disabilities and those with mental health problems – £150,000;
* End Journeys youth service – £140,000;
* Smaller contribution to Upper Norwood Joint Library – £114,000;
* Reduction of council’s role in 'facilitation of culture', including reducing archive service to statutory minimum – £105,000;
* Further reduction in payments to the voluntary sector – £80,000;
* Reduction of funding for supplementary education, mentoring and community languages – £78,000;
* Transfer or reduce 42 per cent of school crossing patrols – £60,000;
* Reduction of tree planting and maintenance – £35,000;
* Reduction of Safer Croydon Partnership Budget – £23,000;
* Non-maintenance (closure) of South Norwood Pitch & Putt – £20,000;
* Removal of 'under-used' football pitches – £12,000;
* Less commissioning of domestic violence services – £20,000;
* Reduction in park related costs (trees/sports equipment) – £10,000;
* Reduced commissioning for youth counselling – £10,00

***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. [In 2013-14 Croydon Voluntary Action had its LB Croydon funding reduced by a further £38,000](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/contents/departments/democracy/pdf/1035997/budget-book-2013-14).

***Croydon VCS***

According 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. [In 2013-14 funding to the VCS was reduced by a further £300,000 or 20%.](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/contents/departments/democracy/pdf/1035997/budget-book-2013-14)

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

[***Croydon Auto and Bike Scheme***](http://www.thisiscroydontoday.co.uk/New-Addington-youth-project-facing-closure/story-17586187-detail/story.html#axzz2dlwxXUE6)

Croydon Auto and Bike Scheme (CABS) reaches out to at-risk 13 to 19-year-olds by teaching them motorbike maintenance and riding skills, as well as covering issues such as drugs, sexual health and conflict management. Earlier this year, CABS was recognised for its work with £15,000 from Channel 4's Secret Millionaire programme and since its inception in 1996, the project, run by the Croydon Youth Development Trust (CYDT), has worked with more than 1,500 young people From 2014-15 the council wants to axe the project's £70,000 grant, raising doubts about its future.

[***Croydon Citizens Advice* Bureau**](http://insidecroydon.com/2013/04/22/citizens-advice-hears-record-number-of-pleas-on-benefit-cuts/)

Croydon Citizen Advice Bureau handled a record number of enquiries in 2012-13, with an increase in demand for help of more than 10%.Their Chief Executive stood down from the position in April 2013 at what was a testing time for the charity, not just because of the demand on its already stretched services, but also because Croydon Council has forced the organisation to close its largest office at Strand House in Thornton Heath, while there has been a delay in opening a temporary office in what used to be the adult education centre in Sandown Road, South Norwood. They were expecting a huge influx of people struggling to manage the changes in welfare benefits. The charity has secured a contract from Croydon Council to offer independent housing advice to Croydon residents for the next three years. The council tendered out this responsibility to save its own costs. CCAB has also been working with the council to try to deal with the increased demand for advice as a result of the welfare reforms and they have opened a new service in Taberner House – or “Access Croydon” – to offer those affected by the welfare reforms access to independent advice services.In a sign of how such work will come to rely even more on private charity as the
public sector cuts back, Springfied Masonic Lodge presented a cheque for £3,160.34 to help pay towards the furnishings at the new offices in South Norwood.

[***Fairfield Halls***](http://insidecroydon.com/2013/05/29/charity-commission-to-examine-takover-of-fairfield-halls/)

As a result of hefty pension liabilities the arts venue and charitable trust, Fairfiled Hall is in financial difficulties. LB Croydon has offered to take over the organisation to help it sort out its pension liabilities and to protect the interests of property developers’ multi-million pound schemes for building “luxury apartments” in its “Fair Field Masterplan”.In recent times, Croydon Council had provided more than £1 million per year to subsidise the Fairfield Halls’ running costs, and it had been planning to spend £27 million on a refurbishment of the venue. The Charity Commission is currently looking into the proposed takeover Croydon Council has appointed five councillors to the board of the Fairfield Halls which could put the councillors in impossible positions if the council’s takeover of the Fairfield Halls goes ahead.

[***Welcare***](http://www.thisiscroydontoday.co.uk/Child-contact-centres-Croydon-Sutton-close/story-18492100-detail/story.html#axzz2ehBRNHvI)

Two centres providing vital "safe havens" where children from broken families can meet their parents in safe and supervised conditions, closed at the end of May 2013. The Welcare charity said that cuts in its funding and a reduction in the number of children being referred to it for support had made it impossible to keep its child contact services in Croydon and Sutton. The services based in Mitcham Road, West Croydon, and Robin Hood Lane, Sutton, stopped operating on May 31. The decision affected around 90 families and 170 children. Many of the parents locally involved with Welcare paid for the service but in recent years the charity had found it increasingly hard to raise money to remain on a sound financial footing.The situation had been made worse in 2013-14 by the withdrawal of £20,000 of funding from Sutton Council, which had decided to carry out its contact work in-house.The Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) hasdalso reduced its funding by £10,000 and Croydon Council had also cut the number of children it referred to Welcare. The charity needed £200,000 a year to pay staff and cover other operating costs but the trustees have looked closely at the finances and found that in 2013-14 they would have been left with a deficit of £98,000.

## 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 is facing an £18million reduction in funds for 2013-14.A further £16million cut is expected for the year after and, over the two-year period, this would represent a 18% cut in grant funding In total. The council had already expected to have to make £85million worth of savings by April 2015 and had identified ways to achieve this with more than £50million of these savings having already taken place. Ealing’s early intervention grant’ from the government was also to be slashed by almost a third, leaving a shortfall of £3.8million for services like children’s centres over the next two years,

#### 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 agreed cumulative reductions to voluntary and community sector funding of 28% in the health and social care grant budget and 30% in the community grants budget over the three years 2011-12 to 2013-14. This reduced the small grant programme from £255,800 for 2010-2011 to £96,000 for 2013-14. The new Ealing Clinical Commissioning Group has just confirmed its contribution to health and social care grants, finalising total spend in 2013-14 to £335,000, a reduction of 6.9% from £360,000 in 2013-12.

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. It is unclear if this funding was ring-fenced for the local VCS in 2013-14 as well.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Ealing***

[***Bereft***](http://www.ealingccg.nhs.uk/media/2798/Paper%202%20Draft%20minutes%20Governing%20Body12%2012%2012.pdf)

Bereft is a low-cost bereavement support service offering one-to-one counselling to any bereaved Ealing borough resident over the age of 16, who chooses it. They are currently funded by the Health and Social Care Grant which covers some, but not all, of their operating costs. They are also heavily reliant on the donations made by our clients per session. The majority are able to afford something according to their means, but some are simply unable to, so those who can’t pay don’t. In 2013 the charity had noticed an increase in patients referred by their GP or other NHS professionals holding the assumption that the service is free. They were also concerned about future funding through the Health & Social Care Grant from 2014-15.

[***Ealing Law Centre***](http://www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/ealing-process-begins-after-cuts/70251.article)

The Ealing Law Centre, anot-for-profit law centre in London only opened in 2012 at a time when wide-ranging civil legal aid cuts came into force. The Centre provides specialist housing and immigration support.

A small group of volunteers had built up the centre since October 2011 with support from the London Legal Support Trust, enabling it to gain a legal aid contract and other funding. [Ealing Law Centre was part of a successful consortium, led by Nucleus Legal Advice Centre, which won a £200,000 for a one-year interim service from Ealing Council.](http://www.theguardian.com/law/2012/jul/20/legal-aid-new-law-centre) Ealing Council, aware of the gaping hole in provision of advice in the borough, [commissioned the interim one-year contract](http://legalvoice.org.uk/blog/advice-in-a-leafy-suburb/) to provide generalist level advice across the range of social welfare law areas. The Law Centre worked extremely hard to put together a consortium of providers to bid, crucially with Nucleus Legal Advice Centre taking on lead agency function to provide the necessary solidity. In 2013-14 funding will also be through a successful application with Nucleus to the new national Advice Service Fund and the Centre is [engaged in many fundraising initiatives](http://ealinglawcentre.wordpress.com/) to ensure it can meet the increasing need for its services. The need for the Law Centre’s services in Ealing were tremendous following the closure of other legal aid providers in the area and now demand is increasing still further.

## 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 £145million of central funding to meet the needs of residents. However, the government then reduced this figure by £15million for redistribution to other councils. Enfield Council lost a further £8million 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. [It is aiming to make further savings of £10million in 2013-14 and indicative savings of £5.5milion in 2014-15, £16.2million in 2015-16 and £14.5million in 2016-17.](http://governance.enfield.gov.uk/documents/s37125/BUDGETBudget%202013-14%20MTFP%20Report%20Inc%20Appendices.pdf)

***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.

NHS Enfield reviewed all its funding contracts with the VCS in 2011-12. Some contracts remained with the health service, two were terminated at the contract end date and the rest were subject to a Section 75 transfer to the LB Enfield. LB Enfield has also opened a small Education Grants Scheme for which VCS organisations working in the borough are eligible.

The total adult social care spend, administered by the adult social care commissioning team, on voluntary and community organisations in 2011-12 was £2.46million. The estimated spend in 2012-13 was £2.31million. The difference in values was due to the expiry of some short term agreements that were in place and a programme of work to carry out the conversion of voluntary and community organisation payments to direct payments for customers.

[Voluntary and community groups which help unemployed people in Enfield to find work are being invited to bid for a share of £187,000](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/news/current/pressdetail.htm?pk=1655&dm_i=192K,1TMFJ,71SRJ2,6ISWD,1). London Councils has enabled Enfield council to gain access to match funding from the European Social Fund for projects which help people search for jobs or equip themselves with the skills they need to find work.

## 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 31st January 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.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich plans to finance service expenditure of £253million in 2013-14, with Government funding of £188million and funding from Council Tax of £65million.

***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 remained unchanged in 2013-14.

***Greenwich CVS***

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 did not change between 2011-12 and 2012-13 nor in 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, 2012-13 or 2013-14.

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

[***Greenwich Islamic Centre***](http://www.greenwichislamiccentre.org.uk/gic-uptodate.php)

Greenwich Islamic Centre (GIC) are planning to expand the current centre, and its facilities, as there is desperate need for larger premises to accommodate the ever growing Muslim population. The Mosque was originally built to cater the needs of handful of local Muslim families, however during the past 10 years the Mosque congregation has grown rapidly and now it is serving the needs of almost 15000 families of the Borough of Greenwich as well as 4000 Muslims from the neighbouring Borough of Bexley. They do not receive any grant funding and will rely on donations and sponsorship to fund this. The Centre acquired a dilapidated building and land at 131-Plumstead Road in May 1981. An architect was engaged to design a Mosque and Community Centre at this site to cater for the religious needs of growing Muslim Community in the Borough of Greenwich. In 1981 a planning application was submitted for the construction of this Centre. The permission was granted by the Council in early 1985. Due to limited funds it was decided to construct the Mosque in two phases. A contract was signed and phase- I construction started on June 4th, 1985.Phase – I construction was completed in 1988, and the Centre was registered as a Place of Religious Worship, in accordance with the Place of Worship Registration Act 1855. Phase 2 of the construction is estimated to cost £3million but the Centre has only fundraised £170,000.

[***Greenwich Council for Race Equality***](http://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/bexley/9880108.Greenwich_Council_for_Racial_Equality_fraudsters_spared_jail__Reaction_to_sentences/)

Greenwich Council for Race Equality has been forced to close after 43 years because two members of staff fraudulently stole £47,000 from its funds.

## Hackney

***General statutory funding***

Hackney has had to make cuts of £82million in the four years from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [It cut £14.6million (1.4%) from its budget in 2013-14](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/Assets/Documents/budget-book13-14.pdf). However, this means it must make additional savings of at least £17,4million in 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[. In 2012-13 it was awarded £125,](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/Assets/Documents/grants-programme-evaluation.pdf)000 from the Hackney voluntary sector grants programme and it has just been [awarded £125,000 for 2013-14](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/Assets/Documents/grant-awards-2013-14.pdf). Although this is not a cut it does not take into account price rises due to inflation between 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Currently no information can be found on how much Hackney CVs has been awarded in the form of contracts from the council, NHS or other local statutory sector funder, nor what has happened to the funding saved from Hackney’s contribution to the London Borough Grants Scheme since 2011-12.

***Hackney VCS***

The Voluntary Sector Grants Scheme in Hackney was worth £2,544,718 in 2012-13 and [£2,468,251 was recommended for awards through the scheme in 2013-14](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/Assets/Documents/grant-awards-2013-14.pdf) (a reduction of 3%). According to the [Council’s budget book](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/Assets/Documents/budget-book13-14.pdf) £10,216,710 was awarded in Hackney council contracts to the VCS in 2012-13 and £10, 417,740 in 2013-14 (an increase of 2%).

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

[***Hackney Pirates***](http://www.meoko.net/news/hackney-pirates-to-build-ship-of-adventures-and-need-your-help)

The charity, Hackney Pirates develop literacy and creativity amongst young people by giving them one-to-one attention provided by volunteers, working on an plethora of projects including developing music videos and theatre productions, as well as creating T-shirts, CDs and Hackney post cards. They have worked with 150 young people, 500 volunteers and given over 12,000 hours of time. To cater for the growth of the organisation, they are launching a crowd-funded campaign to raise £20,000 in order to move into a brand new building.Not merely an ideal location for their literacy workshops, the ‘Ship of Adventures’ will be a hub of creativity, with a retail area and events space incorporated into the venue, which will moor up on Kingsland High Street in the heart of Hackney. It will act as a public front to the organisation, not only providing a new space for the community but also raising awareness for the Hackney Pirates. In return for supporting the cause, there are a number of rewards available in return for certain levels of contribution – ranging from £5 - £1000. A Seadog will receive the young pirates guide book to Hackney, a Jolly Roger will receive a guided tour of the area, from tourist spots to some of the lesser known treasures on offer. A Quartermaster will get an invite to the VIP launch of the ship and the use of the space for their own private event, and a Buccaneer will enjoy a candle lit boat dinner amidst an evening of exciting conversation and educational innovation in a beautiful setting.

## Hammersmith & Fulham

***General statutory funding***

Overall Hammersmith & Fulham council saw a cut in spending power of 6.6% in 2011-12, 4.4% in 2012-13 and 0.9% in 2013-14. [There was to be a £6million (8.9%) reduction in funding from Government in 2013-14 with a further £13million reduction forecast for 2014-15](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/Directory/Council_and_Democracy/Committee_reports_minutes_and_agendas/Committee_calendar/Homepage.asp?mgpage=ieListDocuments.aspx%26amp%3BCId%3D342%26amp%3BMId%3D2232). Over a four year period from 2011-12 total cash grant from the Government would have been reduced by £48million. £3.1million of growth and £22million of savings had been identified in 2013-14 and the budget for the year was balanced, although there currently remained projected funding gaps of £6million in 2014-15 and £14million in 2015-16

In 2013/14 the council was [planning to save £22million in total](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/Directory/News/Budget_2013_How_we_did_it.asp), of which just over £5million was a result of sharing services with Westminster City Council (WCC) and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC). Just over £2million was being saved in debt repayments. Around 175 senior management jobs had gone as a result of sharing children’s, adults and library services with WCC and RBKC. H&F and RBKC also share environmental services and a chief executive. The three councils are on course to save £40million a year by 2015-16.

***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, although its core funding from the council was agreed for four years until to 2014-15.[. It currently receives two sets of funding from the Third Sector Investment Fund to support capacity building and fundraising work](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/Images/Currently%20Funded%20Voluntary%20Sector%20Organisations%20HF_tcm21-180907.pdf).

[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 was from a Big Lottery Fund grant for £500,000 the ended on 31st March 2013.

CaVSA was also successful in receiving [£360,000 Transforming Local Infrastructure Funds](http://www.cavsa.org.uk/SimpleCMS/uploads/Funding_Alert_April_2013.pdf) available between April 2012 and September 2013 to deliver:

* a social investment strategy for Hammersmith & Fulham Voluntary Sector Groups
* a Masterclass series to prepare organisations for survival in a new financial and
* networked environment
* investment readiness group and one to one mentoring support for four organisations
* an HR training and compliance support package

[Voluntary Action Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council and Community and Voluntary Sector Association Hammersmith and Fulham are considering forming a single organisation, which would also cover the City of London](http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/news/1170818/). They have set up a working group to explore the possibilities and promise to involve members and other stakeholders before taking a final decision. The infrastructure groups had a combined income of £2.1million in 2011-12, down from £3.1million in 2010-11. The income of Community and Voluntary Sector Association Hammersmith and Fulham, which has nine staff, fell by almost half last year, from £725,600 in 2010-11 to £376,800 in 2011-12.

***Hammersmith & Fulham VCS***

CaVSA has a list of 510 VCS organisations in Hammersmith & Fulham. The council decided to cut VCS funding by 16% over the three years 2011-14 with savings targets of £158,738 for 2010 to 2011, £284,772 for 2011 to 2012 and £257, 481 for 2010 to 2013, with a total savings target of £700,791 by 2014.

There was to be  [a 10% reduction across third sector grants in 2013-14](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/Directory/Council_and_Democracy/Committee_reports_minutes_and_agendas/Committee_calendar/Homepage.asp?mgpage=mgAi.aspx%26amp%3BID%3D13778), achieved by commissioning across the three boroughs, and the level of support would remain as one of the highest across London Boroughs. The Council’s Third sector contracts would be reviewed and the Third Sector Investment Fund’s and Fast Track Grants Sheme’s budgets were to be re-prioritised to make [a proposed saving of £444,000](http://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/documents/s26119/04%20Revenue%20Budget.pdf) in the year.

The council have a long established Community investment team, whose role it is to support the VCS in Hammersmith & Fulham, including administering the Third Sector Investment Fund and Fast Track Small Grants Scheme, assistance with premises and providing support to infrastructure organisations to ensure that all local VCS sector organisations have the support and assistance they need to flourish. [The Community Investment Team will be launching the next round of the Third Sector Investment Fund in October 2013 (for funding to start in late 2014)](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/Directory/Community_and_Living/Voluntary_Organisations/Funding/48442_Funding.asp). From April 2013, the council’s Fast Track Small Grant Scheme was turned into a rolling programme, whereby applications could be made throughout the year. Grants were to be awarded roughly every two to three months, with the longer gaps occurring over the Christmas period and at the end of the financial year. They expected to allocate approximately £20,000 every other month, aiming to make decisions and payments in May, September, November and February.

[As a result of Hammersmith & Fulham being part of the tripartite borough approach with Kensington & Chlesea and Westminster, there is expected to be little impact on the VCS](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/workspace/assets/publications/tri-borough-proposals-report_aw3-1297241297.pdf) as services supported by grant aid were largely unaffected, although the opportunity may be taken to see whether successful voluntary sector organisations can be encouraged to widen their reach across the three borough territory. A variety of smaller budgets including support to the voluntary sector have been retained by each Council and are now managed in the light of community needs, within localised arrangements particular to each Council. Each Council will continue to support voluntary sector delivery. However, all children’s services have been combined under integrated management. Youth services are being provided entirely by the voluntary sector, together with most of the children’s centres and play services. Most provision of care is now offered by either the voluntary or private sectors.

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

[***Hammersmith & Fulham Law Centre***](http://www.fulhamchronicle.co.uk/fulham-and-hammersmith-news/local-fulham-and-hammersmith-news/2013/04/19/fears-for-the-poor-as-fulham-legal-advice-centre-has-funds-slashed-82029-33203511/)

The need for legal help for the poorest and most vulnerable people in the Borough is growing rapidly as the recession is creating greater poverty while the rights of the poorest are under great threat from changing legislation. At the same time the government is imposing large cuts to the funding of legal advice agencies. Hammersmith & Fulham Law Centre now faces closure after the council decided to stop its funding.

The centre, based in Fulham Road, which opened in 1973 gives free advice to people who face losing their homes, possessions or jobs, and is the only service in west London to offer its expertise in the evenings. But Hammersmith and Fulham Council, which owns the building, will not be renewing its £53,000 a year grant, which runs out later in 2013. The centre now faces closure unless it can raise funds from elsewhere and their three employees will lose their jobs. All the volunteers who give up their free time to help feel devastated at the imminent demise of such an important organisation in the borough. Highly qualified barristers and solicitors have given a combined total of over 200 years of free evenings of advice helping thousands of people. The council said legal advice could be sort at the Citizens Advice Bureau stating they had withdrawn funding to the Fulham Legal Advice Centre - their two year contract simply came to an end. The council had changed its grants system and negotiated for the European Social Fund (ESF) to match £1million of the council's own money. This meant that, according to the council. residents were now able to access a wider and improved range of advice services at the same cost to the taxpayer through a new scheme. Free legal advice could also be obtained from the Citizens Advice Bureau which received more than £300,000 of council funding each year.

[***Hammersmith& Fulham Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://www.clicsargent.org.uk/news/01-08-2013-clic-sargent-launches-welfare-advice-service-hammersmith-and-fulham-citizens-advice)

Hammersmith & Fulham Citizens Advice Bureau is working with a national charity to provide a service across England & Wales. CLIC Sargent, the UK’s leading cancer charity for children and young people and their families, has launched a welfare advice line and email service in partnership with the Hammersmith and Fulham branch.

The service, which started on July 1 2013, can be accessed via email or as a telephone advice line and provides:

• Help for those on low incomes
• Council tax and housing benefit information
• Advice about benefits for young people
• Help with bereavement.

It also covers tenancy agreements and rent arrears, rights at work, help with debt, banking information, consumer advice, and relationships, including domestic abuse, and any other issues relating to children and young people. Advice about civil and human rights, taking legal action and disability discrimination will also be available. This enables the Bureau to provide CAB expertise to CLIC Sargent staff, and the families and young people they assist at a very difficult time, in an innovative new service delivery model. It also compensates in some way for the cut in Legal Services Commission funding of £79,111 per year.

[***Shepherd’s Bush Families Project***](http://www.shepherdsbushfamiliesproject.org/index.html)

Shepherd’s Bush Families Project and Children’s Centre was established in1988 to help families who are homeless or have other unmet housing needs and suffer social and economic hardship in Shepherds Bush and the Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham. They work with families to promote the emotional, physical, social and intellectual development of infants, children and young people by providing of a range of high quality, stimulating educational and recreational daytime services and activities which will enable them to flourish and develop both at home and school or college. They now **rely on grant aid & donations and need to raise £250,000 a year to continue their work** due to the loss of considerable funds (95% of previously allocated funds) through the Local Authorities reconfiguration of children’s centre with very little prior notice, and the ending of their £100,000 per year Tudor Trust grant in 2012.

## Haringey

***General statutory funding***

This year’s budget for Haringey council services other than schools was £7.7million less than 2011/12. Up until 2013-14 the council had cut £84million from a base budget of £285million.[The council is proposing to make savings of £7.083million in 2013-14.](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000118/M00006015/AI00031692/FinancialPlanning201314to201516.pdf) Spending power will be reduced by 0.6% in 2013-14.

[In Haringey, the council has made a 75% reduction in the Youth Services budget, affecting the number of youth centres open. Adult and social care services have also been affected. Two day centres have now closed: the Woodside day centre, which supported elderly people to stay in their communities, and the Six8Four Centre, which provided a social environment for people with severe and enduring mental health issues. In addition, six lunch clubs and drop-in centres have been closed, affecting more than 700 elderly and disabled people in the borough. The Alexandra Road Crisis Unit was decommissioned in the summer of 2012. This had provided unique short-term support for people with severe mental or emotional distress. It was able to look after eight people at a time and was used as an alternative to hospital admission. Other services affected in similar ways include parks, allotments, libraries, neighbourhood management, customer walk-in centres, and leisure centres.](http://dnwssx4l7gl7s.cloudfront.net/nefoundation/default/page/-/publications/Surviving%20Austerity.pd)

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

HAVCO is mainly funded by LB Haringey although it was also successful in gaining funding from the Transforming Local Infrastructure fund and is looking to diversify its income streams. [HAVCO’s core grant funding from LB Haringey’s Adult & community Services department was extended for one year for 2013-14](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000118/M00006014/AI00032198/LegalAdviceADULTSPUBLICincAppendix1.pdf).

***Haringey’s VCS***

Haringey’s Voluntary Sector Strategy covers 2011 to 2016 and a Voluntary Sector strategy Review Board was established in 2013.The funding of Haringey’s voluntary and sector is aligned to its commissioning and funding framework, which is the vehicle to drive vision of the Voluntary Sector Strategy forward.[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](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/haringey_voluntary_sector_strategy_2011-2016.pdf). [In 2012-13 this had reduced to £9.6miilion.](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00006168/AI00032117/VoluntarySectorReport.pdf)It [ceased its core grants programme in 2012 and funding of the VCs is now through contracts and the following grants:](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00006168/AI00032117/VoluntarySectorReport.pdf)

[One Borough One Future Fund = £1.5 million per year](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00006168/AI00032117/VoluntarySectorReport.pdf)

[Voluntary Sector Investment Fund = £820,000 per year for three years](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00006168/AI00032117/VoluntarySectorReport.pdf)

[Legal information and advice = £2million per year. To be amalgamated in 2013-14 to produce new 3 year contract in 2014-15](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00006168/AI00032117/VoluntarySectorReport.pdf)

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**.** 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.

The following table sets out savings in council budgets that include funding to VCS organisations between 2011-12 and 2013-14

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Saving description** | **Savings****2011/12****£000** | **Savings****2012/13****£000** | **Savings****2013/14****£000** |
| Policy & Performance plan to cease funding forequalities 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 theHSP/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 supportNeighbourhood 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 externalmatch funding, and prioritise vulnerable young people, the disabled, and areas of greatest deprivation. Activities would be commissioned through an enhanced Sports ApprovedSuppliers Framework and the borough’s Club Accreditation Scheme. | (100) | 600 | 0 |
| Voluntary sector grants, ABG reductions andSupporting 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 privateand 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 Guaranteeprogramme – 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 fundingfor 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 antiburglary 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 council has agreed to make a total of £350,000 from the procurement of VCS services by the Adult & Community Services department](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000118/M00006014/AI00032198/LegalAdviceADULTSPUBLICincAppendix1.pdf) with £50,000 of these in 2012-23, £200,000 in 2013-14 and £100,000 in 2014-15. It also agreed to extend contracts for Haringey CAB, Haringey Law Centre, Disability First Consoritum and HAVCO in 2013 – 14 with funding increasing from £1,095,900 to £1,125,900 (2.7%). However, all these organsiations’ funding is due to be reviewed in 2014-15.

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

[***Haringey Irish Cultural and Community Centre***](http://www.haringey-irish.com/)

The Centre was set up in 1987 and provides an Advice and Support Service, a social club and a community resource for a wide variety of Irish groups. In the space of a year the Centre has gone from a healthy surplus of £30,000 to deficit. The deficit is set to get worse in 2013-14 as their main funder Haringey Council changed the system of voluntary sector funding from core grants to commissioning. The change had to do with a move away from supporting posts to support for activities and services. The amount of funding was also cut from £55,000 to £40,000. There was a cut in funding from the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Project (ESP) that supported both the Advice & Support Service and the Day Care & Lunch Club. While some of the Haringey grant had gone to fund both the Advice & Support Service and the Day Care & Lunch Club it had not been enough to replace the amount of ESP grant that was lost.
All income streams, however, were down on the previous year in 2012-13. Use of facilities was down from £131,196 to £110,183, a reduction of £21,013. Bar income was down from £273,894 to £258358 a fall of £15,356. Income from the Car Park was down from £34,172 to £32,617 a reduction of £1,555. The 50/50 draw made £4,653 compared to £8,522 the previous year. Haringey Council’s decision on circular funding/peppercorn rents is critical to the future of the organisation. They are proposing to better market the Centre and keep a close eye on costs with an emphasis on reductions in wastages for the future.

[***Haringey Young People Empowered***](http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2011/jul/29/young-people-gangs-youth-clubs-close)

Hype ([Haringey Young People Empowered](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=24704795011)), a youth-led group that tackles gang and postcode violence through activities such as football tournaments held in neutral areas, said its future is uncertain. The council is charging the organisation to use rooms that used to be free and future funding is unlikely. The young people involved are starting to drift away. [Godwin Lawson](http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/mar/27/knife-stabbing-godwin-lawson-gangs) was a Hype member and a footballer who played for Oxford United. In March last year the 17-year-old was back in London to see friends and family when he was attacked by a gang. He had one stab wound straight in his heart and he died straight away

## Harrow

***General statutory funding***

Harrow council saw cuts to its spending power of 1.9% in 2011-12, 2.4% in 2012-13 and 1.2% in 2013-14. 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, after already having been required to make a 28% cut in its controllable budget over the four years from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [As it currently stood, the Council had a funding gap of £5.2 million for 2013-14 and £3.3 million for 2014-15.  However for the following two years after this, the funding gap increased significantly. The draft Budget requirement for 2013-14 was approximately £181million](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/s103210/Revenue%20Budget%2013122012%20Cabinet.pdf).  This figure took into account budget pressures, technical changes and an increase in Council Tax. Some of the budget reductions included a reduction in Adults Contract Management by £1.3million and a reduction as part of the PRISM (Public Realm Integrated Service Model) project by £1.5 million.

***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 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 conti](http://www.hillingdonconnected.org.uk/sites/hillingdonconnected.org.uk/files/Newsletter%20January%202012.pdf)nuation of these services was currently being provided by Hillingdon and Hammersmith and Fulham CVS until September 2013. Harrow Council has set aside funding to support the delivery of voluntary sector support services such as fundraising advice, developing organisational policies and support for partnership working and [is inviting expressions of interests for £75,000 funding from local consortiums interested in delivering Third Sector support services when the current contract expires](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/200148/tenders_and_contracts/336/current_procurement_opportunities).

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 Big Lottery to support the Boards of voluntary and community sector organisations in Harrow](http://www.voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk/build-your-board/).

***Harrow VCS***

LB Harrow has produced a new [Voluntary Sector Strategy 2013-16](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/s104779/Third%20Sector%20Strategy%20-%20Appendix.pdf). [In February 2013 Harrow council's grant committee recommended how the council should distribute its discretionary £600,000 fund for the voluntary and community sector in 2013-16](http://www.harrowobserver.co.uk/west-london-news/local-harrow-news/2013/02/05/harrow-council-grants-who-may-get-what-116451-32748224/). The council did not consult with the voluntary sector when it reduced to £500,000 the size of the grants budget after all the applications had been submitted. Eventually, however, £100,000 was reinstated but the pot was still smaller than when organisations were invited to bid.

The committee decided to ring-fence £75,000 to set up a new replacement Council for Voluntary Service organisation that provides infrastructure support for charities and not-for-profit bodies by organising training, helping with accounts and the legal hurdles, and assisting with funding applications. Councillors opted to give all outcome-based grants applicants that scored above 88% in its evaluation, 70% of the sum sought for the first year of their three-year projects. Applications scoring between 80% and 87% were recommended to get 44% of their bid amount. This meant that organisations that had threatened to miss out on cash were awarded at least some money, but no organisation received all it had applied for.

In addition, the grants committee decided to reward 26 bidders with small grants worth a maximum of £5,000. Those with evaluation scores of 80% or higher were recommended to get 75% of the sum requested and those between 55% and 79% would receive 52% of the amount applied for.

***Impacts 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/)

A drop-in debt advice service that has been operated by the Citizens Advice Bureau in Harrow, London, since the war is to be axed which could affect thousands of families seeking help with debt problems. The CAB has announced that the service is being cut as a result of budget cuts, and that from March 20th 2013 appointments would only be made available for the most complex of debt management problems.The closure of the walk-in debt advice service as a result of cuts to their funding from LB Harrow.

The Harrow CAB had reportedly been receiving as many as 100 walk-in clients a day asking for help and advice with debt problems and the demand had grown considerably over the last few years. However in a double blow to the bureau, the council's need to cut their budgets has coincided with the natural ending of funding agreements in place, which had made their ability to keep the service going twice as difficult. In total, Harrow CAB dealt with a massive 13,500 cases in regards to problems such as housing, benefits, employment and debts and it is estimated that more than half of those clients had walk-in appointments. The Harrow bureau helped resolve more than £3 million worth of debt problems and helped clients claim more than a million pounds worth of benefits.

As a result of the difficult funding environment, Harrow CAB began developing more partnership work and in June 2013 it was announced that [twelve local voluntary sector organisations, led by Harrow Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and supported by Harrow Council, had won funding of £313,817 over two years from the Big Lottery Fund to pay for a new service called the Harrow Advice Network](http://www.harrowobserver.co.uk/west-london-news/local-harrow-news/2013/06/06/funding-won-for-harrow-advice-network-116451-33431171/) The voluntary sector organisations who make up Harrow Advice Network besides Harrow CAB are: Carremea; Harrow Law Centre; Age UK Harrow; Harrow Association of Disabled People; Mind In Harrow; Harrow Mencap; Harrow Carers; HASVO (Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations); Harrow Refugee Forum; Harrow Equalities Centre; Afghan Association Paiwand, and Harrow Women’s Centre. The Network will have its own website, which will provide not only written advice but an interactive chat window with advisers. The funding will also allow the appointment of one training officer post each at Harrow CAB and at Carramea and a part-time post for a specialist welfare rights advisor at Harrow Law Centre. Each of the 12 partner organisations will get a small development fund to pay for things like training courses for their own staff and the network’s members will start meeting once a month to share cases and expertise.

After the council cuts in March 2013, [Harrow Council has recently stepped up its support for the CAB service by funding the drop in sessions at Civic 5 in Station Road which will start from Tuesday 10 September](http://www.iharrow.com/council/harrow-steps-up-its-support-for-people-affected-by-welfare-reform/). These would be in addition to the existing telephone and email service offered by Harrow CAB. The Council has acted in response to a wave of uncertainly about the impact on household incomes by a range of welfare reform measures being introduced by the Government.

[***Borough of Harrow Swim Club***](http://www.harrowtimes.co.uk/news/10425660.Swimming_club_faces_possible_closure/)

The Harrow swimming club is under threat of closure following the announcement it will no longer be allowed to train at a school pool. Members of the Borough of Harrow Swim Club fear it may shut down due to the closure of the John Lyon Sports Centre to non-school users from June2013. In response to the announcement from the sports centre, on the site of John Lyon School in Middle Road, Harrow, the swimming club has launched a petition calling for the planned closure not to go ahead

[***St Luke’s Hospice***](http://www.harrowtimes.co.uk/news/10372752.Charity_shop_tax_leaves_hospice___15_000_out_of_pocket/)

A Kenton hospice says terminally ill people will suffer because a change in council policy means it has to pay an extra £15,000 in tax. St Luke’s Hospice in Kenton will now have to pay full business rates on its 13 charity shops across the borough after Harrow Borough Council abolished the rebate it receives. The charity says the money it has lost could have paid for 250 home visits.

## Havering

***General statutory funding***

Havering council saw cuts to its spending power of 1.7% in 2011-12, 2.2% in 2012-13 and 1.1% in 2013-14. [The council aims to make budget savings of £12.728million in 2013-14](http://www.havering.gov.uk/Documents/Budget%20Book%2013-14.pdf).

[The London boroughs of Newham and Havering have become the latest local authorities in the capital to pursue a shared service for legal and governance](http://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14047%3Atwo-more-london-boroughs-set-to-share-legal-service&catid=51%3Amanagement-articles&q=&Itemid=11). Newham is in the process of recruiting a Director of Legal and Governance, a role which will command a salary of up to £120,000.The successful candidate will initially lead the division at Newham, with a view to becoming director for both boroughs in 2014. They will have monitoring officer responsibilities at Newham. Havering is meanwhile recruiting a Head of Legal and Democratic Services who will be involved in the management and delivery of the joint services through the design, structure and effective transition stages. Also acting as monitoring officer for the council, the role attracts a salary of up to £100,000. Newham and Havering had already demonstrated a track record in partnership working, particularly in ICT, that had improved services and saved money for both organisations.

***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 had, therefore, closed. [Because of its dependence on funding from LB Havering and the NHS, HAVCO expected its funding to decrease over the next three years and is planning to restructure and generate more of its own income.](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends67%5C0001088267_ac_20120331_e_c.pdf)

***Havering VCS***

[In 2011-12 over £7million of LB Havering’s expenditure was on buying services from and supporting the VCS across the whole council. By 2013-14 this is expected to rise to around £8million.](http://www.havering.gov.uk/Documents/Market%20Position%20Statement%20Summer%202013%20Final.pdf)

Havering’s voluntary and community organisations are losing cash, employing fewer staff and relying more heavily on volunteers - even though more people need their services. [A report from the Havering Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations (HAVCO), based on a survey to gauge the result of funding cuts](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), reported a reduction in the availability of grant funding, and changes to commissioning across the borough. Fifty-two organisations responded to the survey. Between them, the groups employ 1,220 staff and 2,980 volunteers .The results showed a third of the groups had lost income, with just 13% seeing an increase. Similarly, more than a quarter of the groups had cut paid staff over the last year. Just 5% had taken on more employees. The HAVCO survey also showed that, over the next year, 67% of groups said they expected to recruit more volunteers within the next 12 months, compared with just 18% who said they would employ extra staff. It wasn’t possible to say whether the groups would be replacing paid staff with volunteers. But despite the losses in cash and staffing, most groups – 57% – said demand for their services had actually gone up. HAVCO CEO, Kim Guest, said a lot of the funding cuts were indirect. “The council has been really good, and is holding contracts in the voluntary sector, but people are losing health contracts and philanthropy isn’t as forthcoming. People give to national charities – what we want is for local charities to be flagged up as places to help because you can see the need on your doorstep.”

***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)

Sheila Keeling, development manager at Hornchurch ADHD charity Add+Up, said competition for grants had increased. Some staff at Add+Up have even started working on a voluntary basis because the organisation could no longer afford to pay them.“So many groups are going for external funding – we’re in so much competition now,” said Ms Keeling. “We get the same level of funding from the council but our costs have increased. We’re the only ADHD charity in the south-east. If we aren’t here, nobody is going to pick up our children – and young people with ADHD are at high risk of becoming involved with anti-social activities.”

[***Girl guiding in Havering***](http://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/girlguiding_could_be_closed_down_in_havering_due_to_council_funding_cut_district_commissioner_1_2265563)

A Havering Council funding review could “close Girlguiding down in the borough”, a guide leader has warned. Carol Nunn, district commissioner for Girlguiding in South Hornchurch, wrote to parents saying the council intended to withdraw funding for the use of school halls by uniformed groups from September 2013. But the council said no final decisions had been made, and added it would help uniformed groups find alternative affordable accommodation. Without council funding the cost of hiring the South Hornchurch school hall would rise from £6.33 to £85 per meeting.

## Hillingdon

***General statutory funding***

Hillingdon council saw cuts to its spending power of 3.1% in 2011-12, 3.1% in 2012-13 and 0.75 in 2013-14. [Savings of £15.6million in 2010-11 and £26.2million in 2011-12 had been fully delivered and the £17.7million savings in 2012-13 had been on track for delivery. For the final year of the original strategy (2013-14), proposals for further savings of £12.8million had been developed](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/media.jsp?mediaid=27464&filetype=pdf)

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***Hillingdon Association of Voluntary Services***

Hillingdon Association of Voluntary Services has had its funding from the local authority cut by approximately 50% in 2012-13 compared to 2011-12. [In June 2013 it was announced that HAVS had been awarded around £300,000 over two years from the Big Lottery Fund and Cabinet Office.](https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/media.jsp?mediaid=28797&filetype=pdf) A local voluntary sector partnership had successfully bid for transitional funding to meet two outcomes – to improve service outcomes for residents through effective collaboration, and to ensure local advice services were resilient and well-equipped to meet future needs, with more modern and enterprising business models and more diverse sources of funding. Partners including Jobcentre Plus, Uxbridge College, Brunel, Age UK and London Borough of Hillingdon

***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.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Hillingdon***

[***Hillingdon Law Centre***](http://www.hillingdonlaw.org.uk/laspo.php)

On 1st April 2013 the cuts imposed by the **Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012** took effect and affected some of the services the Law Centre could offer. Legal aid was no longer available for employment and welfare benefit cases.The Centre would still help around homelessness or immediate risk of homelessness, when possession proceedings have been issued, illegal evictions, disrepairs that are so bad that they are causing serious health problems or if there were issues of antisocial behaviour. They have a contract to run the county court desk scheme at Uxbridge County Court so may be able to advise at the court on the day of possession hearings. The Centre also has a new contract to deliver family law advice, casework and representation from 1st April 2013.  Under the new family legal aid rules, legal aid will only be available if there is evidence to show domestic violence. The organisation now owns its own building and employs eight staff - six full-time caseworkers, one part-time caseworker, one part-time administrator and a full time legal assistant. The Centre has successfully obtained contracts from the Legal Services Commission in Housing and Family and also has the contract to run the housing law advice desk scheme at Uxbridge County Court on days there are possession hearings. The Centre is now funded by grants from Lloyds TSB, Hillingdon Community Trust and London Legal Support Trust, a big increase in grant funding compared with public sector funding compared with the past..

## Hounslow

***General statutory funding***

Hounslow council saw cuts to its spending power of 4.7% in 2011-12, 3.7% in 2012-13 and 1.0% in 2013-14. [They are committed to save £12.5 million in 2013-14](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/hounslow_matters_march13.pdf#firsthighlight) by working more efficiently through new contracts, partnership working and a continued war on waste. The council over-delivered on its previous savings targets by £500,000, which enabled a half a per cent reduction in council tax bills in 2013-14.

***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. [However, in 2012-13 LB Hounslow provided £15,476 for VCS development but this was reduced to zero in 2013-14.](http://democraticservices.hounslow.gov.uk/%28S%28ae24ex55flnv3045cz3shini%29%29/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=77929) Instead the Voluntary Sector Support Service was commissioned and [Ealing CVS (in partnership with Hillingdon CVS) won the tender to deliver a new VCS Support Service for Hounslow groups in June 2012](http://www.westlondonnetwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/August-WLN-Enews1.pdf), worth around £140,000 per year in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15. The [Hounslow Community Network](http://hounslownetwork.org.uk/about-hn/), support for which was [part of the service specification](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/index/community_and_living/voluntary_sector/support_voluntary_community/vsss.htm) was launched in early July 2012. The Network is open to any VCS group based or working in Hounslow and is the representative body for the voluntary & community sector of Hounslow

[The West London Collaborating for Change (C4C) programme, led by Ealing CVS is a new set of services available to groups in the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in west London. C4C is funded (£965,000 over 18 months) by the Big Fund Transforming Local Infrastructure programme on behalf of the Cabinet Office. It aims to modernise support by second tier VCS organisations to frontline groups. The C4C partnership has developed eight west London-wide projects and eight that are focused in specific boroughs (two of which are in Hounslow).](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/index/community_and_living/voluntary_sector/support_voluntary_community/collaboratingforchange.htm)

***Hounslow’s VCS***

In 2011 LB Hounslow introduced a [Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2011-15](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/voluntary_community_strategy_2011.pdf) and a [Voluntary Sector Corporate Funding Strategy 2011-15](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/corporate_funding_strategy_2011.pdf) and they have recently published the results of their [Voluntary Sector Survey 2012-13](http://hounslownetwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Hounslow-VCS-Survey-2012_13.pdf). In 2009-10 LB Hounslow spent £1.401 million on the VCS, with over £1.2 million in the form of corporate revenue grants and a Community Investment Fund. In 2013-14 the latter two funds have been replaced by Strategic VCS Commissioning for funding over £15,000 per year and VCS Development Grants awarded through an Innovation Fund and a Stabilisation Fund in 2013-14. Other VCS funding through the Community Youth Fund (total £50,000 per year), the Area Community Fund (£17,200 per year) and the Holiday Play Schemes fund (£12,500) was reduced slightly. [In 2012-13 LB Hounslow agreed a budget of £1.886million for the VCS and in 2013-14 this was increased to £1.887million (an increase of 0.03%: less than inflation).](http://democraticservices.hounslow.gov.uk/%28S%28ae24ex55flnv3045cz3shini%29%29/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=77929)

[At the Cabinet meeting on 9th July 2013, Hounslow Council approved plans for the development of a Community Resource Centre at the Treaty Centre in Hounslow town centre](http://www.can-online.org.uk/can-advise/premises-projects/hounslow-community-resource-centre-development). It followed a feasibility study, undertaken by CAN, the national charity supporting social enterprise, which won the LB Hounslow £50,000 commission to develop a new Hounslow VCS Resource Centre, to establish the premises and space challenges and requirements of social sector organisations in the borough of Hounslow. The development project works are scheduled to start in October to enable the launch of the Resource Centre in February 2014. The centre’s development is part funded through the Transforming Local Infrastructure “West London Collaborating for Change” Programme.

London Councils has been reducing its London-wide grants budget and returning funding to boroughs. [To date Hounslow Council has been very positive in ring-fencing this returned funding for local VCS use, and in 2013-14 this is to be distributed through the Innovation Fund. London Councils has now announced an additional £68,000 pa would be returned to Hounslow from April 2013Hounslow Community Network have asked that Hounslow Council continues to ring-fence this additional funding for local VCS support and consults with HCN on potential uses](http://hounslownetwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/HOUNSLOW-COMMUNITY-NETWORK-EXECUTIVE-BOARD-GRANTS-LETTER.pdf).

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

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

Due to funding cuts, Hounslow Volunteer Centre is no longer able to offer its Volunteer Support Programme service. The 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.

[***Hounslow Federation of Tenants and Residents Association***](http://hounslowfoodbox.org.uk/news/hounslow-launches-first-community-foodbox/)

Hounslow Federation of Tenants and Residents Association has worked with LB Hounslow to set up the Hounslow Community Foodbox: the first resident-run Food Bank in the country which aims to involve residents and local groups in preventing and relieving poverty by working together, as well as creating new employment and work experience opportunities. It was the second foodbank to open in Hounslow in a month.The launch event on 26th April 2013, attracted a number of Hounslow based charities and organisations, all of whom the Foodbox organisation hoped to work with. Attendees gained an understanding of the new project and how it would provide emergency supplies for local residents in crisis, in response to the Government’s welfare reforms. The ASDA superstore in Hounslow is the main partner for the service and will provide a collection point for shoppers to donate non-perishable items. Hounslow Council, HFTRA and local groups working with those in need, will help to identify families and other residents in crisis and in need of emergency food. [There has, however, been some controversy about this foodbank as its website states that those who have ‘chaotic lifestyles’ and/ or those whose benefits have been sanctioned will not be eligible to receive its help.](http://www.theinformationdaily.com/2013/06/05/if-foodbanks-reject-the-undeserving-where-can-they-go)

## Islington

***General statutory funding***

LB Islington had a loss of spending power of 8.8% in 2011-12, 4.3% in 2012-13 and 0.1% in 2013-14. [They estimate that the proposed funding cuts to police, health and council services will be more than £330million between 2011 and 2015. The council alone will need to make savings of £100million over this period - over a third of the net total budget. LB Islington lost £39million of direct Government grant cuts in 2011-12 with a further £10.5million to follow in 2012-13, and a total cut of £60million – assuming that there are no further public spending cuts by central government. This will revert the council to the same funding levels as 2004-5. In addition to this they expect around £40million of cost increases due to inflation, increasing demand for services and other factors. They had made made savings of £52million in 2011-12 through £31million of efficiency savings and increased income. For the 2012-13 financial year they saved another £17.7million, with only £1million of cuts in service. They expect to have to save a further £50million over the three year period starting in April 2012, though this assumes there will be no further changes to local authority funding from central government](http://www.islington.gov.uk/about/council-works/councilfinance/Pages/default.aspx).

[For 2013-14 LB Islington has a net revenue budget of £255.5million and the council's budgeted spend for 2013-14 is](http://www.islington.gov.uk/about/council-works/councilfinance/Pages/fund-and-spend.aspx):

* **Environment and Regeneration: £41.8million.** This includes waste and recycling, street cleaning, leisure centres, parks and library services
* **Children's Services: £81.2million.** This includes schools, fostering and adoption services
* **Housing and Adult Social Services: £90.7million.** This includes council housing, day centres and providing support at home
* **Other: £29.7million.** This is the cost of the Council’s contributions to London-wide bodies, such as the London Pensions Fund Authority and the North London Waste Authority. Download additional information below.
* **Corporate Costs and Provisions: £177.2million.**

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***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. [The maximum grant from LB Islington for support for other organsations was £40,000 per year between 2011-12 to 2015-16](http://www.islington.gov.uk/publicrecords/library/Community-and-living/Information/Advice-and-information/2010-2011/%282011-03-25%29-VCS-Grants-Fund-Prospectus.pdf), but Voluntary Action Islington did not receive funding under this budget stream.

***Islington VCS***

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. [However, figures obtained by the Islington Gazette reveal spending on charities has been cut by £6.8million – 17.5% – over the last three years](http://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/news/islington_charities_suffer_crippling_6_8_million_cuts_while_hitting_the_boroughs_vulnerable_1_2286074). The figures revealing £32,075,866 was spent on charities last year in contracts and grants from LB Islington (2012-13) compared to £38,921,402 in 2010-11. Islington Council blames the coalition Government for the cuts, but some charities claim the council should have ring fenced certain areas of spending. In 2011 the council introduced the new Islington Community Fund providing a combined total of £3,435,000 per year over 2011-12 to 2015-16 for VCS organisations – through a combination of core grants, rate relief, small grants and commissioning. This fund was dedicated and targeted funding to the sector, over and above any allocated through mainstream commissioning. [It incorporates the following pots of funding per year until 2015:](http://www.islington.gov.uk/publicrecords/library/Community-and-living/Information/Advice-and-information/2010-2011/%282011-03-25%29-VCS-Grants-Fund-Prospectus.pdf)

VCS Grants Fund (formerly VCF Infrastructure Fund) £1,050,000

Advice Fund (funds the CAB and Islington Advice Alliance) £615,0000

Local Initiatives Fund (formerly Area Committee Grants Fund) £320,000

Discretionary Rate Relief Fund (existing but revised) £450,000

VCS Rescue Fund (new) £800,000

Community Chest £200,000

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.

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

[***Centre 404***](http://www.islingtontribune.com/news/2013/jul/lifeline-disabled-charity-faces-uncertain-future-writer-jean-willson-says-carers-are-o)

Holloway disabled organisation Centre 404’s Big Lottery funding will run out in 2015 and they are asking that the council step in and provide their financial support. The centre provides support for more than 1,000 families with members with learning disabilities, of which the majority are in social housing, on low income or receiving benefits. There were 265 adults with learning difficulties in Islington, who would have each cost the borough £56,000 per year if they had received full council care – instead they are mainly looked after by family carers supported by Centre 404.  The cumulative effect of changes to welfare benefits, the “bedroom tax”, and cuts to legal aid mean that life would only get tougher. Less funding means that carers are becoming overwhelmed, stressed and exhausted.

[***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 by LB Islington (a 35% reduction). Solace Women’s Aid continues to seek funding opportunities to plan, develop and extend services. This can be complex and demanding as the sector is in a period of major change with insecurities over longer term funding due to the commissioning of services by local and central government, the recession and the cuts to public spending. For these reasons SWA has put in place strategies to diversify its funding streams and to change its management structure. [A net deficit in the Income and Expenditure account of £44,947 was created in 2011-2012](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends50%5C0001082450_AC_20120331_E_C.pdf), In April 2012, Domestic Violence Support Services in Barnet merged with Solace Women’s Aid following a successful tender for Barnet’s new Domestic Violence service. The contract, involved a partnership with Jewish Women’s Aid, Barnet Asian Women’s Association and Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP). Solace Women’s Aid bought and converted a 10 bed refuge for this service in April 2012. During 2012 they worked consistently with 20 other London Violence against Women and Girls providers to form the London VAWG partnership. They successfully submitted a partnership bid to London Councils in October 2012 as the lead partner for a pan-London advice and counselling service, which began delivery in 2013-14 with overall funding (shared between the partners) of over £1.3million, but funding for Solace alone still does not reach the £380,159 it received from London Councils in 2010-11, and the organisation is having to look at gaining funding from individual local authorities.

## Kensington & Chelsea

***General statutory funding***

[Government grant is set to fall by £8.5 million, or 6.7%, in 2013-14](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/pressrelease/pressreleasepage.aspx?id=4337) as part of a reduction of over 30% in grant to local authorities across England between 2010-11 and 2014-15. Actual spending by the RB Kensington & Chelsea will have dropped by 14% between 2010-11 and 2013-14 after allowing for inflation. Council Tax will remain frozen at 2009-10 levels. The budget proposes to find £10 million of savings through further service efficiencies. A key element of that efficiency programme is the sharing of a range of major services with their Tri-borough partners, Westminster and Hammersmith & Fulham. Sharing management, back office functions and procurement across the three boroughs is on track to deliver at least £13million worth of savings a year to Kensington and Chelsea by 2014-15. The Council is also lowering costs by moving more transactions online. It is consolidating staff into fewer buildings to reduce overheads and so that the unused capacity can be released for sale or rent. In addition pay per officer is now about 5.5% lower than it was in 2008. These savings and efficiencies have enabled the Council to avoid any significant service reduction comparing 2012-13 and 2013-14.

***Kensington & Chelsea Social Council***

Kensington & Chelsea Social Council has not had its council funding reduced by in 2012-13 compared with 2011-12, but had a 5% decrease in 2010-11 to cover the two years 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Kensington & Chelsea Social Council had received £45,000 in both 2011-12 and 2012-13 from the Kensington & Chelsea Partnership to fund the Voluntary Organsations Forum. [As a result of the Forum’s achievements they were successful in gaining an extra year’s funding of £50,066 for 2013-14.](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/pdf/KCP%20January%202013%20-%20Item%204%20-%20VOF%20report%20from%20KCSC1.pdf)

Following a period of exploration, [Kensington & Chelsea Social Council (KCSC) and Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea (VCKC) have agreed to merge](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/news/merger-update-social-council). Both organisations play an important role in connecting people, organisations and community groups to local life in Kensington & Chelsea and already work in partnership to achieve their goals. Building on this as one merged organisation, they can maximise their impact to enable greater local participation and action.

***Kensington & Chelsea VCS***

[The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea claims that its spending on the voluntary and community will actually increase, from £2,081,000 in 2012-13 to £2,331,212 in 2013-14. The extra cash is courtesy of a Council decision to invest an additional £739,000 for innovation in the voluntary sector](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/pressrelease/pressreleasePage.aspx?id=4301). Together with money from other sources, the new fund could see as much as £1.5million invested in new organisations and projects over the next three years. Successful bidders to the fund have had to show how they are offering a new service, reaching a new client group or are themselves a new group not currently receiving a grant. In particular, the Council selected proposals that address its own priorities of tackling social isolation, supporting people into work and training, and encouraging greater neighbourliness, civic participation and self-help. Moreover, VCS organisations providing well-established services such as community centres, support to local groups and citizen's advice will continue to receive significant funding - some £1.98million in total next year. [However, Kensington & Chelsea Social Council note that the headline rise, a result of the new £348,000 Corporate Services Innovation Fund, masks a cut in existing Corporate Services grant funding of £99,000 for the next financial year](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/news/overall-voluntary-sector-budget-increase-masks-cuts-funding). The cut which will reduce the amount awarded to voluntary and community organisations through the grants programme to £1.98million.

[NHS West London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) commissioned Kensington & Chelsea Social Council (KCSC) to manage a programme to allocate grants to local voluntary and community organisations so that they could deliver projects or services that would deliver patient/public and clinical engagement](http://www.lbhflink.org/files/2013/04/CCG-grant-programme-further-info.pdf). Projects had to be completed within the financial year 2013-14. The total grant fund was £94,000 to fund approximately four to six projects with a maximum single grant of £50,000.

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

[***Kensington & Chelsea Citizen’s Advice Bureau***](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/news/overall-voluntary-sector-budget-increase-masks-cuts-funding)

One of the biggest losers in what the council describes as a “relatively modest switch in funding from existing activity towards innovative projects” in 2013-14 is the Kensington and Chelsea Citizens Advice Bureau who stand to lose £40,000. At a time when debt, housing issues and the cap on benefits are putting increasing pressure on advice agencies the funding cut is equivalent to at least one advisor post. [In Kensington & Chelsea there are four not-for-profit‟ agencies providing advice – the CAB Service, North Kensington Law Centre, Nucleus and Worlds End Neighbourhood Advice centre](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/sites/kcsc.org.uk/files/documents/news_pages/Impact%20of%20Legal%20aid%20Reform.pdf). All but WENAC currently hold Legal Service Council 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.

[***Oremi Centre***](http://www.spn.org.uk/index.php?id=1247)

Oremi Centre is a black mental health day care service that has been around since 1997. The contract is now being put out for open tender by the council

## Kingston

***General statutory funding***

RB Kingston saw a loss of spending power of 2.6% in 2011-12, 2.6% in 2012-13 and 2.0% in 2013-14. Over the four years of the Spending Review period, government funding to Kingston Council will have fallen from over £67million to just under £45million. Over the past two years since 2010-11 funding from central government has been reduced by 24% in cash terms. [A balanced budget was set for 2012-13 that included a freeze in Council Tax for the second year running and identified further savings of £8.6million to be delivered. The 2013-14 budget aims to save £10.376 million By 2014-15 this will have reduced the council’s baseline spending by £12.6million a year, a cumulative saving (net of investment) of £38.5million since the programme began in 2009/10](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/26/destination_kingston_2013-17). A wide range of areas will be looked at to make these savings: commissioning, decision making, improved use of technology and better use of workers’ time. The aim is to release efficiencies of more than £2.5million and improve services following a third year of government funding cuts and an expectation of at least three more to come. It was decided it would be necessary to implement a below inflation increase in Council Tax of 1.99% in 2013-14 to help maintain a sustainable medium term financial strategy for the council and to avoid painful reductions in service provision.

[With a drop in central Government grants Kingston Council is looking to spend £50,000 less in 2013-14 on youth services, and nearly £100,000 less the year after](http://www.kingstonguardian.co.uk/archive/2013/02/18/10231610.Youth_service_facing_cuts/). The council spent £1.73million on youth services last year, up nearly £60,000 from the year before, but plans to stop directly employing staff and pay other organisations to do the work instead. It currently runs seven youth centres, employing 12 youth workers including three at senior level.

[Kingston Council and the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) - made up of the 28 GP practices in Kingston and other health professionals - are seeking ‘pioneer’ status from the Department of Health, which would see the borough share its ambitious and innovative approach to integrated care with the rest of the country](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/news/article/33/kingston_bids_to_be_integrated_health_and_social_care_pioneer). Plans to integrate commissioning of the borough’s health and adult social care services are well advanced, in an effort to deliver better outcomes for local people and better value for money. NHS and social care services in Kingston already work closely together, with joint programmes including integrated health and social support in the home to reduce the need for hospital and residential care, and a community wellbeing service to provide psychological therapies and substance misuse support. Kingston has ambitious plans for a single new integrated health and social care organisation, with a combined budget of around £255million

***Kingston Voluntary Action***

There has been no change in local authority funding of Kingston Voluntary Action between 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14.

***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. Over 2012-13 the borough’s Corporate Grants Programme has been maintained, as well as allocating part of Kingston’s contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme to Kingston Voluntary Action - the umbrella body supporting local voluntary and community groups. In 2013-14 the council will develop a [Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/downloads/file/441/voluntary_and_community_sector_strategy) highlighting the role and contribution of the VCS across the borough. The draft Strategy advocates community development, co-production and social value approaches as well as committing to supporting VCS voice and capacity building. Kingston Council has several types of grants in its annual funding programme designed to benefit local VCS groups.  The annual programme is generally launched in the autumn of each year, for allocation from the start of the following financial year (i.e. April).

The different types of grant available are:

* [Strategic Partners Programme](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200189/funding_grants/156/strategic_partners_programme)
* [Community Investment Fund](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200189/funding_grants/153/community_investment_fund)
* [Emerging needs and new initiatives](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200189/funding_grants/158/emerging_needs_and_new_initiatives_grants)
* [Small grants](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200189/funding_grants/159/small_grants)
* [Neighbourhood grants](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200189/funding_grants/160/neighbourhood_grants)

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, 2012-13 and 2013-14.

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

[***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 was launched in September 2012 It is dedicated to providing free legal advice to individuals, charities, businesses and community groups from Kingston and the surrounding areas. 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. Throughout this process they liaise closely with a small number of local solicitors to increase their knowledge and make sure the advice they give is correct. The advisers are mostly third year LLB law degree students. The Centre is being paid for by a grant from a special university alumni fund and a donation from a law school alumnus. Legal aid was restricted in a range of civil cases from April 1st 2013 meaning an estimated 500,000 people could lose access to free legal support and this has been reflected in a large increase in demand for the Centre’s services. At a time when Government cuts are reducing the amount of affordable legal advice available, the Centre provides a valuable service to the local community as well as considerable professional benefits to the student volunteers.

[***Thames Concerts***](http://www.kingstonguardian.co.uk/archive/2013/04/08/10334484.Music_charity_s_shock_at_grant_loss___but_council_says_application_was_month_late/)

Thames Concerts is a registered charity that has put on musical performances in the borough of Kingston for more than 50 years. But it has not been awarded the £6,000 it applied for from RB Kingston this year’s concert series between September 2013 and February 2014. More than 35 groups and organisations received money. Thames Concerts admitted that due to changing management and staff shortage the application for the grant had been submitted late, but said the council were aware of this ad had given no indication that the grant would be totally withdrawn as a result. Although the organisation has got reserves, they are going to be heavily reliant on corporate sponsorship and the goodwill of people and will have to cut back on educational and outreach work, as a result of not receiving the funding. A spokesman for Kingston Arts (KA) said: "KA is dismayed by the drastic cut in the council’s grant to Thames Concert Society and is indeed concerned for the organisation's very survival. The cut appears to have been the result of what is really a technicality, namely a just-missed deadline for grant applications (owing to a changeover in the leadership of the organisation). It strikes KA as extraordinarily short sighted and non-supportive that no-one in the council should have noticed this slip and at the very least have picked up the phone to check on Thames Concert Society." A council spokesman said: “Voluntary sector grant applications opened on October 8, 2012, with deadline for this year’s community investment fund on November 30. Thames Concerts’ application arrived on 21 December.”

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## Lambeth

***General statutory funding***

Original funding cuts by the government over 2011-14 suggested that LB Lambeth’s budget would be reduced by a third and that [the council would need to make total cuts of £94.5million](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/NR/exeres/5C760FA0-D04B-4983-95E3-494718FF3D92.htm) over those three years. [As a result of the announcement of further cuts to the central Government settlement, the General Fund Report now recommends a net expenditure budget of £332.7million in 2013-14 and a zero per cent increase in the Lambeth element of the Council Tax](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s53357/05a%20Budget%20February%202013.pdf). It anticipates that the Council will have to save a further £82million over the three years 2014-15 to 2016-17. This represents a projected total reduction of around 45% of funding by the end of 2016-17. As a result, the savings target of £94.5million over the four years to 2014-15 had needed to be increased and rolled forward to future years. In total, savings delivered and required over the six years from 2011-12 to 2016-17 were anticipated to be £174million. The Council had already delivered, or had plans in place, for £92million of this total, but further reductions of £82million are required from 2014-15 to 2016-17. As part of this approach, the council is developing its financial planning processes with the community to ensure resource allocation (both revenue and capital) more effectively delivers co-produced priorities. The funding management strategies are split into three areas of focus:

• building financial resilience within both the Council and its communities

• managing council-owned assets

• providing high quality financial management across the organisation.

[Since the government’s benefit cuts took effect on 1st April 2013, LB Lambeth has recorded](http://www.politicshome.com/uk/article/77624/lambeth_council_33_rise_in_demand_for_council_call_centre_following_government_benefit_cuts.html):
a 33% increase in the number of calls received by Lambeth’s revenues & benefits call centre in March & April 2013 compared to the same two months last year. The number of calls rose from 49,793 calls in 2012 to 66,292 calls in 2013.
a 22% increase in the number of residents in Lambeth receiving reminder notices on their council tax accounts.
over 3000 people attending council-run meetings on government benefit cuts in the last four months. (in addition to the 66,292 residents who contacted the call centre).

[Lambeth is becoming the country's first cooperative council. That means in future the council will do things with local people instead of doing things to them](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/CouncilDemocracy/MakingADifference/TheCooperativeCouncil/)

***Lambeth Voluntary Action Council***

[In 2009 Lambeth Voluntary Action Council (LVAC) was awarded the contract for the provision of Capacity Building Services to Lambeth’s Third Sector for the term 2009-2012 at a total cost of £538,000. LVAC was identified as the preferred provider based on its long established role in Lambeth as the local Council for Voluntary Organisations.](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s14112/LVAC%20report.pdf)

Also in 2009 Lambeth council’s Cabinet agreed the funding and implementation of phase 1 of their Third Sector Investment Plan, the first step by the Council and Lambeth NHS in taking greater responsibility to build the local Third Sector provider base by deploying Third Sector funding and resources more strategically. The total cost of these recommendations was £115,000 in 2009-10 and £50,000 in 2010-11. Phase 1 which was planned to take place between October 2009 and April 2010 aimed to develop commissioning principles and engage national Third Sector organisations to work alongside the Council, Lambeth NHS and local Third Sector providers to:

undertake of an independent assessment of the capacity and services being provided by Third Sector providers occupying Council owned property ([report](http://www.lambethvac.org.uk/data/Community_Matters_Survey_of_3rd_Sector_Orgs_Occupying_Lambeth_Council_Owned_Premises.pdf) commissioned from Community Matters)

develop and implement a leadership programme for senior officers from local Third Sector providers.

establish a clear understanding of the appropriate business model and specification for capacity building services required by Third Sector providers to deliver personalised services ([report](http://www.acevo.org.uk/document.doc?id=1167) commissioned from ACEVO).

Transfer the commissioning of the Compact Development Work from the Adults and Community Services Department to the Lambeth First Team.

[In July 2012, LB Lambeth recommended that £160,000 was invested over two years is required, to be invested in Community Capacity Building Support for the Development of Community Hubs in Lambeth. Community Matters and Lambeth Voluntary Action Council were jointly awarded the contract to deliver this](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s51274/Community%20Hubs.doc.pdf). The methodology for the support programme was driven by the values and vision of a co-operative council, a pocess of co-design between the community hubs, LVAC, Community Matters and LB Lambeth. Through the process of co-design each community hub would actively identify their development needs and shape a capacity building plan in partnership with LVAC or Community Matters support workers. This period of co-design will lead into the delivery of an in-depth capacity building programme that help strengthen community involvement and confidence whilst sustaining Lambeth’s community sector. However, the £40,000 per year funding for LVAC’s involvement is much less than the £179,000 per year they were awarded for capacity building support services in 2009-12.

***Lambeth’s VCS***

In 2011-12 LB Lambeth’s Third Sector Action plan delivered in the following areas:

**Shopping:**

* Commissioning standards
* Training programme for commissioners
* Joint commissioning workshop
* Lambeth Commission into the Personalisation of Public Services

**Investing:**

* Building Third Sector leadership capacity – a programme where ten leaders in the Third Sector were given intensive leadership development training
* Community Matters commissioned to undertake an audit of the Third Sector’s use of council owned buildings
* Piloting ‘area based’ approaches into the provision of Community Hubs, working with the community and challenging the grant dependency culture
* Transfer of the Lambeth Compact agreement to the heart of Lambeth First’s agenda.

**Giving:**

* Lambeth Community fund (£600,000) - small grants administered via Capital Community Foundation.
* Departmental Third Sector Innovation Fund
* Funders Fair

[In 2011-12 LB Lambeth spent £73,979,169 with 293 Third Sector organisations](http://www.lambeth.coop/sites/default/files/brl-annual-procurement-report-2011-2012.pdf), although it is not clear how much this was in 2013-14 as the Third Sector Innovation Fund is divided between Departments and not clearly delineated in council accounts.

In 2011-12 £25million of council property was occupied by Lambeth’s VCS. The council state that they do not have the money to invest in these properties and some of the organisations occupying them do not have the capacity to manage them. LB Lambeth are therefore considering the provision of property and asset management transfer opportunities.

LB Lambeth has consulted with the VCS in the borough on developing [a network of community hubs in Lambeth](http://www.lambethvac.org.uk/data/Community_Hubs_Cabinet_Report_December_2011.pdf). They have provided £450,000 to kick-start this development.

Small grants remain an important part of the local funding mix for small charities and community organisations in which they can achieve outcomes that matter for local people. The Lambeth Community Fund was established in 2008 when the Council transferred the £2million Pedlars Acres Charitable Fund to the Capital Community Foundation to create the Lambeth Community Fund. By 2011-12 the Capital Community Foundation had raised a further £100,000 towards the endowment, which underpins the Community Fund. The [Lambeth Cooperative Challenge Fund](http://www.londoncf.org.uk/downloads/LCF%20CoOp%20Guidance%20Notes%202013.pdf) is part of The Lambeth Community Fund. Its programme of grants, workshops and one to one capacity building support for Lambeth groups and residents aim to help people get involved in the cooperative council borough agenda.

***The impact on individual VCS organisations in Lambeth***

[***Raw Material Music and Media***](http://www.southlondonpress.co.uk/news.cfm?id=8142)

Raw Material Music and Mediaworks with hundreds of young people across Lambeth and provides employment training and career progression for youths and young offenders. It was one of six of the borough’s arts groups were set to receive 50% of the Government’s Performance Review Grant (PRG) funding, worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, after helping to secure the grant as part of the Creative Action Partnership. But the Government slashed the PRG funding in half, leading Lambeth First, the lead recipient, to divert funding to other services, such as those working with unemployed youths, young offenders and domestic violence schemes. Raw Material Music and Media are finding it much harder to get funding in the present climate; all their previous sources of funding have ended and not been renewed and LB Lambeth has not announced funding within its children’s services budget. With the increased costs of maintaining their centre, providing up to date equipment and resources, and employing sufficient staff to effectively manage the work, Raw Material Music & Media have found recent funding cuts from Arts Council England and the loss of 100% from LB Lambeth’s Arts and Cultural services funding as well as its schools education support programme, the PRG and Future Jobs Fund, difficult to manage There is currently no available funding for employment support and Raw Material is continuing with this work using reserves [They have carried out major internal building work, renovation and improvements in the centre with £30,000 grants from SITA and](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends66%5C0001020066_AC_20120331_E_C.pdf)

[BIFF award to ensure the centre is able to deliver the best facilities and has increased capacity because of the increased call for the voluntary and community sector to provide work experience placements for unemployed young people. However, there are no resources provided for this service, which is in effect free. Demand for services is increasing but as income and grants have been cut, staff have all taken up to a 20% cut in rate of pay.](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends66%5C0001020066_AC_20120331_E_C.pdf)

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## Lewisham

***General statutory funding***

LB Lewisham had cuts in spending power of 6.5% in 2011-12, 4.3% in 2012-13 and 0.9% in 2013-14. [For 2013-14, the Council's net revenue general fund budget totals £284.632illion. If council tax is increased 1.08% to cover spending for the year, savings for 2013-14 are £20.933million.](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/finances/Documents/CorporateBudgetBook2013-14.pdf)

***Voluntary Action Lewisham***

Voluntary Action Lewisham’s total local authority funding in 2011-12 was 23% lower than in 2010-11 (£282,555 vs .£366,113). Its children & young people’s project ended in July 2012, as a result of its funding ending and its CRIB (Community Research & Information Bureau) project ended in March 2013 when funding ended.

***Lewisham’s VCS***

The London Borough of Lewisham Council provides many grant schemes for voluntary and community sector groups. In 2008-9 the main grant funding to the VCS was £5.046million, in 2009-10 £5,139million and in 2010-11 £5.223million. This was reduced significantly in 2011-12 to £4.421million (15% less) and may have been reduced further in 2012-13 and 2013-14 although figures are not currently available on the council’s website. The [Community Sector Investment Fund](http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MID=2868#AI6066): is a two year programme, 30% of it delivered in 2012-13 and the balance to be delivered in 2013-14. The £2.5million in the fund was designed to be spent over two years

* 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).
* [Assembly Fund](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/getinvolved/localassemblies/assembly-funding/Pages/Local-assemblies-funding.aspx): a budget allocated to each ward to meet the local assembly priorities. It can support chosen assembly priorities for each ward, help each assembly make decisions and bring about change or may be used as ‘seed’ funding to attract other sources of finance. There was £15,000 available for each ward in 2011–12, of which £12,500 is available for assemblies and a further £2,500 for councillors to spend on local projects, making a total of £270,000 in funding. This was reduced to £178,000 in 2013-14.

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 and 2013-14.

***Impacts on individual VCS organisations in Lewisham***

[***Lewisham Opportunity Pre-School***](http://savelops.com/)

Lewisham Opportunity Pre-School (LOPS) has been in operation as an inclusive pre-school for the last 30 years allowing differently-abled children to begin their education together at nursery level. So far the school has been funded by council grants and topped up by charitable donations and fundraising.  Lewisham Council are now cutting the grants to the school quickly and deeply and expecting charitable donations and fundraising to make up a greater part of the funding. LOPS is Ofsted Outstanding and is held up as a beacon of good practice by Lewisham Council who encourage other nurseries in the borough to send their teachers and keyworkers to observe its working / learning environment. The school, therefore, now needs to make need to make a reasonable amount of money (£15,000) very quickly just to enable pupils to complete the last term of the year, April – July 2013. Otherwise the school looks set to close after the Easter term, staff will be made redundant and children will be left with no nursery placement.

## Merton

***General statutory funding***

LB Merton had cuts in spending power of 3.8% in 2011-12, 3.4% in 2012-13 and 1,9% in 2013-14. [The council has had to make a 28% cut in its spending over three years with more to come but they have still frozen council tax in the years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14. The Council has had to find over £ 11million of savings in 2013-14.](file:///%5C%5Csvdcmain%5CDepartments%5CProjects%20%26%20Services%5CPOLICY%20%26%20KNOWLEDGE%5CPOLICY%5CPOLICY%20I-Z%5CLondon%20cuts%20and%20changes%5C2013-14%5Caving%20from%20the%20London%20Councils%20Grants%20scheme%20in%202014%5C15%20to)

***Merton Voluntary Service Council***

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 additional 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 in 2013-14. They were also awarded the Merton HealthWatch contract, which began in April 2013, after another competitive tendering process.

[Merton VSC was awarded £63,295 per annum to support effective voluntary action and £61,279 to provide a community accountancy service from LB Merton’s three-year Strategic Partner fund for 2012 - 15](http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/vcs-support/vs-funding/strategic_partner_funding_2012-2015.htm).

***Merton VCS***

Merton’s voluntary and community sector will see overall cuts of £141,000 over the four years of 2010-11 to 2014–15, but these have been masked by the ring-fencing of funds that had previously been allocated to the London Borough Grants Scheme to the local VCS in Merton. As a result Merton VSC reports that local authority funding of the VCS in Merton was approximately 10% higher in 2012-13 compared with 2011-12, and there is likely to be an equivalent decrease with the loss of this ring-fencing in 2013-14.

The total funding from Merton council to the VCS was £4,545,470 in 2010-11, £3,412,063 in 2011-12 and £3,539,856 in 2012-13.

80% of the funds saved by the LB Merton from the London Borough Grants Scheme were ring-fenced to fund the Merton VCS in 2012-13. This compares with 100% in 2011-12 and [0% in 2013 - 14 but there is a guarantee that savings from the London Councils Grants scheme in 2014-15 (estimated to be £87,000) will be transferred to the Corporate Service Grants budget so that they can be used to fund Merton’s VCS.](file:///%5C%5Csvdcmain%5CDepartments%5CProjects%20%26%20Services%5CPOLICY%20%26%20KNOWLEDGE%5CPOLICY%5CPOLICY%20I-Z%5CLondon%20cuts%20and%20changes%5C2013-14%5Caving%20from%20the%20London%20Councils%20Grants%20scheme%20in%202014%5C15%20to)

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Merton***

[***Merton Asylum Welcome***](http://swlondoner.co.uk/content/15031616-merton-asylum-charity-struggles-funding-after-government-cuts)

Merton Asylum Welcome, a charity which provides support to recently arrived refugees and asylum seekers in Wimbledon, is suffering from the effects of government cuts. The charity has seen a 22% rise in the number of people seeking their support, at a time when its funding is being heavily cut by central and local government. Financial constraints meant the charity could not retain the services of Carol Pegg Tsivanidis from the Citizens Advice Bureau, who was a long-standing partner and advisor for the charity.

[***Positive Network***](http://www.positive-network-centre.com/press-room)

Positive Network, for the first time since being funded by Merton Council for the last 10 years, faced the prospect of the removal of their Council funding grant of £34,000, which has enabled the group to   support older people from diverse communities to stay fit and well at home and able to manage their affairs.  Some are wheelchair users or receive home help, or another form of social care support but most have multiple long term conditions that need carefully managing to enable them to stay well in their home. Determined to stay open and press on Positive Network still intend to put up a fight to try to remedy the situation.  The cuts will leave many of their service users at home, isolated, alone, and vulnerable which is the quickest route to their eventually moving into costly residential care.

Six adult social care groups, previously funded by the council, have reacted with shock, dismay and anger after bids for funds were rejected supposedly due to new criteria outlined in the council’s Ageing Well initiative.   However the criteria is still based on those requiring a service for the most needy.  The scheme dictates that only groups deemed to help keep the elderly living in their homes for longer, delaying the need for council funded social care, will receive funding from the council’s three year £3million adult social care grant. Positive Network argue that they fulfil this requirement on a daily basis.

Groups that similarly lost funding from April 2013 included Merton Mind, Friends in St Helier, Positive Network, the Asian Elderly Group of Merton, the Merton and Wandsworth Asylum Association Welcome, and the Merton Goans Senior Citizens Association. These groups are all based pre-dominantly in the East of the Borough where there is a greater need, less affluence and a shorter life expectancy than in the South West, yet the South West of the borough received the bulk of the funding, with Merton Community Transport, Merton Mencap and Carers Support Merton gaining increased support.  The biggest gain is for Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare which has seen funding more than double from £112,290 to £289,650. Users, volunteers and staff are now facing uncertainty with some groups fearing they may have to close.  The move is expected to save the council £500,000 over three years based on an estimated 182 people being able to stay in their homes for an extra year, but has not taken into account the Impact on the service users of the groups they are not funding.

[***Merton Mind***](http://www.mertonconnected.com/node/193491)

Merton Mind closed on 30 June 2013 after thirty five years of service to people with mental ill health and their carers in the London Borough of Merton. The trustees are in the final stages of winding up the charity’s financial and legal affairs and will then place the unspent reserves in a holding account until April 2014, after which they will be disbursed according to the stipulations in Merton Mind’s constitution.

[***The Wimbledon Guild***](http://www.wimbledonguild.co.uk/news.html)

The consultation period around the closure of the residential and nursing home , Rosemary Lodge was successfully completed. All information was reviewed by the Board of Trustees at The Wimbledon Guild and the decision has been made to close the Lodge.The Guild is working with residents and families to find the right solution for each person, who was a former resident and it anticipated that this programme would be completed by the end of summer 2013. Full HR support was being provided to all staff members, some of whom had already found new employment. The number of staff at Rosemary Lodge will be gradually reduced over the coming months as residents and their families find alternative accommodation.There are currently 43 staff at Rosemary Lodge affected by the closure, working in full and part-time positions.  These jobs will be made redundant as they work towards the closure at the end of summer and all staff affected were being offered full outplacement support and training.

## Newham

***General statutory funding***

LB Newham had cuts in spending power of 8.8% in 2011-12, 6.6% in 2012-13 and 0.8% n 2013-14. [Newham’s available funding for 2013-14 is £243.753million, which represents a reduction of £5.555million or 2.2% on the 2012-2013 adjusted comparative figure of £249.308million. The 2013-14 budget includes implementing a major new savings programme which together with existing programmes currently underway, should deliver over £112.5million in savings by 2015-2016. Original savings agreed under previous year’s savings programmes for 2012-2013 total £9.7million.. This includes the continuation of key corporate programmes. New savings for under the 2013-2014 savings programme amount to an additional £15.3million bringing the total savings for 2013-2014 to £25million.](http://www.newham.gov.uk/Documents/Council%20and%20Democracy/BudgetBook201314.pdf)

***Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium***

Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium does not receive any funding from their local authority. It receives some funding from trust funders and national programmes. [Because NVSC has limited resources and receives no financial support from the local council, a key element of its operations involves working closely with a number of ‘local infrastructure organisations’: local charities with a long history in the borough who provide services](http://www.nvsc.org.uk/about-nvsc/) but who are also concerned more broadly with ‘place-making’ – the assets, inspiration and potential for making Newham’s communities sustainable.

[NVSC has been hit hard by the rapid decrease in charitable funding. Unlike other comparable umbrella bodies in London, they also receive no financial support from their local council. The result is that NVSC is no longer able to provide the kind of practical assistance to the borough’s voluntary, community and faith sectors that was offered in the past.](http://www.nvsc.org.uk/new-direction-for-nvsc-from-april-2013/#more-6703)

With their limited remaining funds, NVSC will be focusing on core values like cooperation and mutual support. Over 2013-14, they plan to talk to local groups about how they can collaborate more closely in the areas they are most passionate about, in order to develop networks and partnerships that pool our knowledge and skills to influence the way decisions are made in Newham. NVSC has employed a former Coordinator of Aston Mansfield’s Community Involvement Unit Kevin Blowe, who will be based in the offices of Rights and Equalities in Newham (REIN). Kevin will explore whether local groups are interested in participating in networks that are specific to their area of work, what new networks they want to see developed and how they should meet and communicate.

***Newham VCS***

Newham VSC reported that it was not clear how much local authority funding for the VCS in Newham had changed between 2011-12 and 2013-14, although they expected there to be an overall decrease. They also reported a dramatic decrease in health service funding in 2011-12, although they could not provide exact figures. 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, 2012-13 or 2013-14.

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

[***Local Space***](http://www.localspace.co.uk/mediaFiles/downloads/69834528/Annual_review_2013.pdf)

Local Space was created in 2006 in a partnership between the London Borough of Newham and a group of housing professionals. The model rested on the gifting of 450 properties from Newham Council to Local Space, which then raised around £200 million to acquire and improve 1,000 homes across East London. These homes were all used to house homeless people in good quality temporary accommodation using revenue streams generated from housing benefit. The model was extremely successful and resulted in several similar enterprises being set up over the next few years. In addition, Local Space merged with Passmore Urban Regeneration to provide locally based key worker accommodation within Newham. The fundamental model on which Local Space was built was highly innovative at the time. However, the funding frameworks for housing have changed dramatically in the six years since Local Space was created. Government subsidy, in the form of grants from the Homes and Community Budget, have been reduced significantly, making it difficult for regeneration and improvement to take place. At the same time, we’ve seen a squeeze on the levels of rent covered by housing benefit, with the introduction of benefit reforms. In addition, the emphasis on the provision for temporary accommodation has been replaced by long-term commitments to sustainable accommodation. Pilot schemes on the south coast that Local Space has undertaken with Hastings Borough Council have also demonstrated that the key financial assumptions which would once have made these schemes possible are no longer true. As a result of this shift, the board of Local Space has resolved to withdraw from future work in the coastal areas, and to re-examine the financial and legal options so that they can deliver additional affordable homes within Newham and the other east London housing authorities. If this was an easy task, the private sector would be doing it now. What is actually happening is that the private sector is providing poor quality, expensive, insecure accommodation which is often overcrowded and in some cases dangerous and unhealthy. Local Space intend to work with partners to provide an alternative to this, and to contribute significantly to better housing and better places for homeless households and people on limited incomes, whether they’re in work or not.

## Redbridge

***General statutory funding***

LB Redbridge had cuts in spending power of 2.6% in 2011-12, 2.8% in 2012-13 and 0.4% in 2013-14. [The Council’s Approved Revenue Budget for 2013/14 is £201.9 million, which when compared to the equivalent adjusted figure for 2012/13, is a decrease of £7.2 million (5.8%). For the fourth year running the Council Tax element relating to services provided wholly by the London Borough of Redbridge was frozen at a zero per cent increase on that originally approved in 2009/10.](http://www2.redbridge.gov.uk/cms/the_council/about_the_council/the_councils_budget/the_councils_budget_2011-12/the_councils_budget_2013-14.aspx)

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***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. In 203-14 its Strategic Partner fund remained the same at £63,630 per annum. In 2012-13 Redbridge CVs was awarded £13,600 from LB Redbridge to develop the work of the volunteer centre. In 2013-14 they were successfully awarded the contract for delivery of the Volunteer Centre by the council, worth £75,000 per year. In 2013-14 Healthwatch Redbridge was set up as an independent organisation: Redbridge CVS had previously received £131,150 per year between 2008-2011 and £117,334 per year in 2011-12 to host its predecessor, the Redbridge LINk.

***Redbridge VCS***

Redbridge CVS report that local authority funding for the VCS Corporate Grant funds had 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. In 2013-14 there was a further small decrease of 0.3% to £590,879 per year. The Community Fund, which provides grants for the VCS remained at £200,000 per year in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14. The Redbridge Arts Grants were worth £22,000 per year in 2011-12 and 2012-13. In 2013-14 there was an increase of 23% to £27,000 per year.

Redbridge council does not categorise its contracts by whether they were awarded to VCs organisations, so it is not possible to compare council contracts awarded to VCs organisations across the years.

In 2011-12 some of the repatriated funding from the London Borough Grants Scheme 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. The £200,000 Community Fund was retained in 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Redbridge CVS also reports that funding from the police for the borough’s Police Community Engagement Group was cut by 20% in 2012-134.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Redbridge***

[***Caremark Harlow, Epping and Redbridge***](http://www.caremark.co.uk/locations/redbridge/local-news/caremark-redbridge-launch-24-hour-live-in-care-package-habito)

Caremark Harlow, Epping and Redbridge have launched Habito a live in care package for customers who would like to remain living in their own home but feel they need more assistance with day to day living. All care workers are CRB checked and fully trained. The service user’s own personal care and support worker will live in their home and be there to help and assist in a professional and dignified way at all times.

[***Redbridge branch of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research***](http://www.ilfordrecorder.co.uk/news/redbridge_leukaemia_charity_closes_for_good_after_38_years_1_1165971)

Redbridge branch of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research A Redbridge charity has closed after failing to find new members willing to take over key roles. The final audited accounts were sent to members, signalling the final act in the group’s 38-year history. The winding up of the group also spells the end of the annual Bikeathon. The event, held in Valentines Park, raised thousands for the charity each year, which went directly to aiding research into Leukaemia and lymphoma. The branch had raised £2,172,283 since it was founded in 1973.

## Richmond

***General statutory funding***

Richmond council had cuts in spending power of 0.6% in 2011-12, 1.6% in 2012-13 and 1.4% in 2013-14 [There was a net loss of £4.6million (7%) on existing grants in 2013-14. Initial indications are that there will be a further £4.2million (7%) reduction in 2014-15, bringing the total loss since the start of the Spending Review period to 35%.](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/budget_book_2013_14.pdf) Richmond remains the worst funded London borough.

Increasingly Richmond council are working with neighbouring local authorities, including RB Kingston and LB Merton to share back office services where this makes operational sense and saves money. For the future, the work with RB Kingston to establish a shared service,

Achieving for Children, will impact significantly on financial forward planning, as will the

feasibility work with LB Hounslow and NHS partners on the establishment of an Integrated Care Organisation. NHS Richmond is on target to achieve its required efficiency targets and planned surplus of £6.2million. Richmond Clinical Commissioning Group received its first year’s funding allocation in 2013-14 which included an uplift of 2.3% on the previous year. The CCG, however, will continue to face intense financial pressures due to particular budget pressures relating to acute hospital trusts. Joint commissioning work with the Council, including the implementation of the Out of Hospital Care Strategy will remain a high priority for both organisations to ensure best use of resources across the health and social care system. In 2013-14, the Council is due to receive funding of £1.2million through a Section 256 Grant from Richmond CCG and £2.365million through a grant from the newly established NHS Commissioning Board to support adult social care. The Police are currently consulting on the borough Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017 which proposes cutting the costs of policing by 20% by 2016.

***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. They claim that 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 Council buys a range of services to help develop the infrastructure and capacity of voluntary sector organisations working in the borough](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/community_and_living/voluntary_organisations/approach_to_commissioning/commissioning_infrastructure_and_capacity_building_services.htm). Following a recent tendering exercise the Council has commissioned the following services to help voluntary organisations and businesses with a social purpose:

[Richmond Council for Voluntary Service](http://www.richmondcvs.org.uk/) to provide strategic leadership, representation and negotiation for the voluntary sector. (£81,000 per year)

[Groundwork London](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/community_and_living/voluntary_organisations/volunteering_richmond.htm) to provide a volunteering recruitment and placement service

[Richmond Council for Voluntary Service](http://www.richmondcvs.org.uk/) to provide 1-2-1 advice and training on fundraising, financial management, governance and commissioning (£74,000).in a reduction of LB Richmond funding to Richmond CVS since 2011-12.

However, this still results

A key development for Richmond CVS was its success in securing funding from the Office for Civil Society, through BIG, for the Richmond Transforming Local Infrastructure (TLI) programme.

RCVS acted as lead agency for the Richmond TLI Steering Committee. To support three strands of activity until September 2013:

Development of a cost-effective accommodation model for the voluntary and community sector to provide greater efficiencies for organisations;

Broker cost-effective back-office functions that will help organisations increase their efficiency and effectiveness, and

Support organisations towards more enterprising and sustainable futures, through a range of models including training, consortia development, community involvement, philanthropic and social investment opportunities and corporate social responsibility programmes.

***Richmond’s VCS***

Funding for the VCS in Richmond is shifting from grant funds to commissioning from both LB Richmond-upon-Thames and NHS Richmond as shown in the table below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Contracts** | **LB Richmond grants** | **NHS Richmond grants** | **Total** |
| 2009-10 | £10,316,000 | £1,702,851 | £396,968 | £12,415,819 |
| 2010-11 | £10,316,000 | £1,936,946 | £428,306 | £12,681,252 |
| 2011-12 | £12,050,000 | £1,667,399 | £354,854 | £14,072253 |
| 2012-13 | £12,828,000 | £991,936 | £244,573 | £14,064,509 |

The grant funding in 2013-14 is made up of voluntary sector corporate grants, transitional funding to support organisations through the change to commissioning, Civic Pride Funds (of £100,000 per year) and Community Energy Action Grants, which will total £1,050,600 (including funds from Richmond Clinical Commissioning Group). There are currently no figures for funding for the VCs awarded through contracts in 2013-14.

[Community advice services include advice on welfare benefit, housing, debt management and employment. These are currently provided by independent voluntary sector providers in the borough, grant aided by the Council. Funding for these services ends in July 2013 and so they are seeking to re-commission community advice services.](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/community_and_living/voluntary_organisations/approach_to_commissioning/community_advice_services.htm)

[In September 2012, the Council set out its intention to commission a programme of work that would support its commitment to increase and improve the involvement of the borough’s residents and service users in improving their local areas, and in contributing to the design and delivery of local services.](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/community_and_living/voluntary_organisations/approach_to_commissioning/community_involvement.htm) As part of this work a Community Involvement grant of up to £75,000 per year for 2 years has been made available to the not-for-profit sector. Applications for the grant closed in October 2012 and five applications were received. The grant has now been awarded to a joint bid from Groundwork London and Castelnau Community Project to deliver the Richmond Community Action Project. The two organisations will deliver activities aimed at building the capacity and confidence of target groups to:

take responsibility for improving their own lives and their local areas

plan and deliver their own local projects to improve their own lives and local areas

take part in opportunities to contribute to decision-making about what happens locally and how people’s needs are met. Richmond Community Action Project was due to launch in the summer of 2013.

[LB Richmond’s new Community Energy Action Grants Programme was launched in 2013 and was aimed at helping not-for-profit groups around Richmond reduce carbon emissions and save energy](http://www.greendealsurveying.co.uk/green-deal-surveys/services/RichmondCouncillaunchgrantsforGreenDealSurveys.aspx). Organisations can apply for grants of up to £1000 whilst schemes which involve two or more groups are eligible for grants of up to £2,500.Groups who are successful can use their grants to purchase Green Deal Surveys, or put towards energy saving technologies such as insulation, double glazing or heating efficiency. It is not clear how much funding is available for these grants in total.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Richmond***

[***Richmond Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://www.richmondandtwickenhamtimes.co.uk/news/10658000.Sick_and_vulnerable_losing_out_in_benefits_changes/)

Richmond Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) published an open letter calling on the Government to make three specific changes to the benefits system. The charity said the proposals come after three years of evidence of the effect of the current system particularly in relation to Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Disability Living Allowance (DLA). The group said evidence showed benefits could be stopped immediately without warning and people suffered from a fluctuating income that spirals into financial instability, debt and health breakdowns. The charity said benefit claimants, some of whom have long-term medical conditions with little prospect of improvement, underwent a “rollercoaster” of assessments, decisions and appeals within six months. In the past year Richmond CAB said it had a 49% increase in people seeking help with ESA cases year on year and that 14% more of their clients were disabled. The group helped people resolve 15,569 issues and secured £1,451,811 in reported financial gains in the past year.

## Southwark

***General statutory funding***

LB Southwark had cuts in spending power of 8.4% in 2011-12, 4.6% in 2012-13 and 0.7% in 2013-14..[In 2013-14 the council had more than £13million cut from their income from central government, following a £17million cut in 2012-13 and £30million in 2011-12, with further reductions to the income from government expected in the coming financial years](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200110/council_budgets_and_spending/2108/southwark_councils_budget). But Southwark council have still frozen council tax for a fifth year. LB Southwark are committed to protecting services for the most vulnerable people, and preserving as many other frontline services as possible. In setting the 2013-14 budget, they have achieved £19million in efficiency savings and improved use of resources, and they intend to continue to identify ways to make further savings in the year ahead.

***Community Action Southwark***

Community Action Southwark reported that their local authority funding has remained the same in 2012-13 and 2013-14.

[Southwark Council, the Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Community Action Southwark (CAS) have been working together on a unique project to help improve the health and wellbeing of staff and volunteers in a number of local voluntary organisations](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/news/article/1355/southwark_charities_share_20k_of_public_health_funding_for_workplace_wellbeing). Southwark Council and the CCG has given public health money to fund CAS - allowing them to award six grants to encourage voluntary sector organisations to use the Mayor of London’s Healthy Workplace Charter to make improvements in a range of areas. These include health and safety, sickness absence, mental health and wellbeing, healthy eating, and physical activity. Combined with the grant, the Council’s public health workplace specialists will be offering support and advice.

***Southwark’s VCS***

[Community Action Southwark has estimated the impact of further council cuts on the VCS in 2013-14 based on assumed cuts of 15%, distributed evenly across all voluntary organisations in all areas of service provision (although the Council has indicated some specific areas where no cuts are planned](http://casouthwark.org.uk/news/council-cuts-to-voluntary-and-community-sector-for-2013-14/)).

* For example, in 2012-13 about 90 organisations received grants under **children’s services** funding streams. A 15% cut to grants and contracts would mean a loss to the sector of just under £300,000 for work supporting children and young people.
* The council also foresees a ‘significant reduction’ – potentially of up to 25% – in the government’s [Early Intervention Grant](http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/delivery/funding/a0070357/eig-faqs), which has previously supported voluntary sector services. In fact Early Intervention Grant which is cut by £6.1million in 2013-14.
* In terms of **adult social care**, the loss to the sector following a 15% cut would be just under £2million.
* The Council has stated that contracts under the **advice and legal services** programme ending in March 2013 would be extended for four months to the end of July 2013 to give organisations more time to prepare for potential reductions to the pro gramme. If the programme was cut by 15% after July, this would mean a loss to the sector in 2013-14 of £115,000. Currently seven voluntary sector organisations receive funding from this source.
* A 15% cut in **arts and culture** funding would mean a loss to the sector of over £70,000, affecting the seven voluntary organisations funded in 2012-13. Grants that fund work around the environment may not be cut but a 15% cut to contracts would mean a loss of £15,000 from the sector.
* A 15% cut to the **Community Capacity** (previously ‘Support’) programme would mean a loss to the sector of £220,000, affecting the 36 organisations who received grants in 2012-13.

The council commissions local voluntary and community sector organisations to provide services to residents through both contracts and grant aid. Grants include:

[Community Council Fund](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200047/grants_and_funding/392/community_council_fund). Southwark's community councils have a total of £122,000 to support activities run by local groups for local people across the borough.

[Innovation Fund](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/100010/health_and_social_care/2935/adult_social_care_new_innovation_fund): [Organisations that can offer new services to people with personal budgets are being encouraged to apply for part of a £200,000 cash pot from Southwark Council to kick start their idea](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/news/article/1115/200k_cash_pot_set_up_to_offer_better_choice_for_social_care_users). For the second year running, in 2013-14 Southwark's adult social care team has established an Innovation Fund for voluntary and community sector organisations in the borough. This one-off grant is intended to support organisations to develop new, financially self sustaining business models to support LB Southwark’s Vision for Adult Social Care and the implementation of personalised services for older and disabled people who need support.

[Voluntary and Community Sector Transition Fund](http://casouthwark.org.uk/event/understanding-the-transition-fund-round-5-briefing-workshop/): The Council’s Policy and Resources Strategy 2011-12 included a £1.5million Transition fund over 2011-12 and 2012-13 to provide interim support in helping VCS organisations make the changes necessary to meet the challenges from reduced public sector funding and in order to develop a more sustainable sector. As at September 2012 four rounds of the Transition Fund had been run and £934,262 awarded to 61 organisations (this includes two consortia bids). In September 2013 Southwark Council launched Round 5 of the [Voluntary and Community Sector Transition Fund](http://casouthwark.org.uk/event/understanding-the-transition-fund-round-5-briefing-workshop/). Round 5 is very different to previous rounds. It is not about providing ‘gap-funding’, but is a tailored approach to support organisations to improve their organisational structures, develop new business models and deliver higher impact services to their users.

[Community Capacity Grant Aid Programme](http://moderngov.southwarksites.com/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=3575): The council’s budget for funding the Community Capacity Grant Aid programme in 2012-13 totalled £1,149,941. A proposed budget reduction of £200,000 to the Community Support programme for 2012-13 was offset using £123,000 of savings from a reduction in the London Councils Levy Budget recommendations contain a budget reduction of £60,000 for the Community Capacity programme for 2013-14. For 2013-14 the council’s base budget to fund the Community Capacity programme is, therefore, £1,117,511 Funding recommended to the Cabinet member for Communities & Economic Wellbeing totals £1,077,411 for 33 organisations, four of which are completely new applicants to the programme. In 2013-14 it is proposed to bring the Forum for Equalities and Human Rights in Southwark (hosted by Southwark Citizens Advice Bureaux Service) into the

Community Capacity programme. Previously this had been funded under a separate contract.

[The council has created an 'approved list' of registered voluntary sector organisations who wish to be commissioned to provide services to Southwark residents](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200047/grants_and_funding/350/voluntary_and_community_sector_support/2), rather than be awarded grants. Organisations must be either: based within the London Borough of Southwark; or based outside Southwark but providing services to Southwark residents The list consists of organisations who have been assessed to ensure that they have the necessary capability and capacity to provide services. Being on the approved list means that an organisation would already have provided detailed information about the way it is run, when bidding for contracts (this is known as the 'pre-qualification questionnaire' stage).

[£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. It is not clear what is happening to the repatriated funds in 2013-14.

***Impact on individual VCS organisations in Southwark***

[***Peckham Space***](http://moderngov.southwarksites.com/documents/s39866/Report%20-%20Transitional%20Support%20for%20Peckham%20Space.pdf)

Peckham Space is a purpose-built public gallery on Peckham Square dedicated to commissioning location-specific artworks made in partnership with community groups. Peckham Space was created by a partnership between Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London (UAL) and Southwark Council. The building opened to the public in June 2010 with a programme of public events. From November 2013 the programme at Peckham Space will continue to be funded by UAL and the Arts Council. However, 2013 marks a significant change for Peckham Space. To date, the gallery has been funded by a range of organisations including: University of the Arts London’s Higher Innovation and Education Fund as well as investment from the Widening Participation strand; Arts Council England’s Grants for the Arts; Southwark Council’s Cleaner Greener Safer and Community Council as well as a range of small Trusts and Foundations.2013 will see the gallery make the transition to operate independently from the University of the Arts London. This transition will see Peckham Space being constituted as an independent charity with a continued relationship with UAL via the Widening Participation programme. From 2013 the gallery will diversify and increase its income streams to include: a Donors Scheme to encourage a culture of individual giving;a Hire Scheme which will primarily be for youth service sessions to takeplace at the gallery; Consultation Services to deliver public art strategies; and Research Partnerships with academic organisations. In addition to this the new company will be able to apply to large scale trusts and foundations that were not possible whilst Peckham Space was hosted by the University. Peckham Space has already established itself as an independent not for profit company (Peckham Space Limited) and is recruiting a new board of trustees that will work to ensure that it delivers this organisational change during the transition year 2013-14 with the intention that it diversifies its funding streams and sustains itself without continued over-reliance on funding from the council or other public agencies. The intention is that with the support of the trustees and the new skills set that this will entail, Peckham Space will successfully deliver a high calibre cultural programme embedded into the community in Southwark that will continue to contribute to the cultural industries as a growth area for the local economy. LB Southwark agreed to award of a one-off grant of £41,000 to Peckham Space Limited in 2013-14 to support its transition to an independent organisation without long-term reliance on council funding. This council funding will support the one-off costs of the transition to the new independent organisation and the development of fundraising and sustainability strategies for the future. Funding from UAL will allow the gallery to continue to provide programmes and activities in this period

[***Southwark Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://www.neilcoyle.org.uk/frontline-welfare-debate/)

Southwark Citizens Advice Bureau had seen a 20% jump in demand for help with the introduction of welfare reforms in 2012-13 and are seeing startling cases emerge since 1st April 2013 of people in real distress and despair. The Bureau has also lost the equivalent of four full time workers as a result of legal aid cuts.

[***Training for Life***](http://www.london-se1.co.uk/news/view/6435)

Training for Life, the charity which runs the Downside Centre in the Downside Fisher Youth Club building, has gone into administration. The charity, which is best-known for its Hoxton Apprentice and Dartmouth Apprentice restaurants, specialises in on-the-job training for the long-term unemployed.The [Downside Fisher Youth Club](http://www.london-se1.co.uk/places/downside-fisher-youth-club) building in Coxson Place off [Druid Street](http://www.london-se1.co.uk/street/druid-street) was refurbished by Training for Life between 2006 and 2008 under a deal between the two charities which at the time shared a trustee in common. In return for the £3.2 million refurbishment of the centre, Training for Life was granted a 25-year lease to use the building during the day on weekdays and all day at weekends.The youth club continued to use the building on weeknights. The centre's sports and leisure facilities, including the [swimming pool](http://www.london-se1.co.uk/news/view/5127), were open to the local community through Training for Life, most recently under the [Downside Centre](http://www.london-se1.co.uk/places/downside-centre) brand name. However, the relationship between the two charities has not always been easy and [Simon Hughes](http://www.london-se1.co.uk/community/mp/simon-hughes) MP has previously brokered negotiations between the two groups. Legal notices on the door of the building dated 5 November 2012 stated that Training for Life's lease on the Bermondsey building has been terminated by the Downside Settlement. Mazars LLP were [appointed as administrators](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/60327/notices/1706966/) of Training for Life on 8 November 2012. Training for Life's Barking Apprentice cafe in east London has [closed](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=385175571559594&id=201754683235018) but the Hoxton and Dartmouth restaurants continue to trade at present. several former Training For Life executives hope to form a new charity to try to address the problem of long-term unemployment.

[***Southwark Stop Hate UK***](http://www.speakingupsouthwark.org/search/label/news)

Southwark Council might end its funding for Stop Hate UK. This is because a low number of people from Southwark have used Stop Hate UK’s services since the charity started working in borough in November 2011. The council says more people need to use Stop Hate UK to make it worth paying for.

[***CoolTan Arts***](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/14773/90_percent_dont_qualify_for_mental_health_personalisation_says_charity_ceo)

90% of people with mental health problems are not qualifying for a personal budget, costing more money and often leading to further problems, according to CoolTan Arts. The mental health and arts charity reported that a large majority of sufferers are not being accepted for a personal budget. This meant that they could no longer afford to come to CoolTan’s day centre in Southwark. They reported that 46% of their users were funded through a Service Level Agreement with the council but only 15 of those had been assessed as eligible to have a personal budget. As a result 18 people had gone back into hospital, one person had gone missing and four people had committed suicide.

[***Supporting Travellers and Gypsies (STAG)***](http://www.staglondon.org/2012/03/01/315/)

#### Due to cuts in Blackfriars Advice Centre funding and lower numbers for the Wednesday morning gypsy and traveller sessions these ended on 31st July 2013. Blackfriars would still provide a service for Travellers in the area and STAG are committed to making sure that Travellers can still get the support they need. Blackfriars will still have a STAG-link worker, who will visit sites to make sure that people know about the advice service available and to talk about changes in benefits.

## Sutton

***General statutory funding***

LB Sutton had cuts in spending power of 2.8% in 2011-12, 2.6% in 2012-13 and 1.9% in 2013-14. [The council has saved £18million since 2010 with another £11million of savings planned for 2013-14](http://www.sutton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=20500&p=0). Most of these savings have come through better contracts, sharing services with other councils and more rigorous project management. Council tax has been frozen for the last four years.

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

Sutton Centre for the Voluntary Sector had had its local authority funding Strategic Parttners grant cut by 4.5% between 2010-11 and 2011-12 and by the same per centage again between 2011-12 and 2012-13. It is unclear how much it received in local authority funding in 2013-14, although a payment of £169,280 recorded in the council payment logs in April 2013 might suggest that there has been a further reduction of 3% from £174,469 in 2012-13.

Sutton CVS manages the Sutton Community Fund, which distributed £115,000 in 2012-13 and has a budget of £75,000 in 2013-14

Sutton CVS was also successful in gaining £400,000 of Transforming Local Infrastructure funding for the period April 2012 – September 2013.

***Sutton VCS***

Information on Sutton’s VCS in 2011-12 is provided on [this open source website](http://data.ncvo-vol.org.uk/areas/sutton/intro).

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.

The three-year 2012-15 [Council's Strategic Partner Programme](https://www.sutton.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4287) aimed to invest in a small number of VCS partners who work collaboratively with the Council to develop capability and capacity in the third sector. In the 2012-15 Programme there were seven Strategic Partners:

[Age UK Sutton](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/sutton/)

[BioRegional](http://www.bioregional.com/)

[Sutton Citizens' Advice Bureaux (CAB)](http://www.suttoncabx.org.uk/)

[Sutton Centre for Independent Living and Learning (SCILL)](http://www.scill.org.uk/)

[Sutton Carers' Centre](http://www.carers.org/local-centre/sutton)

[Sutton Centre for the Voluntary Sector (SCVS)](http://www.suttoncvs.org.uk/)

[Volunteer Centre Sutton (VCS)](http://www.vcsutton.org.uk/)

In addition the council continues to work with Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) and the VCS to develop consortia approaches.

Sutton Council is also offering £500 [Neighbourhood Grants](http://www.sutton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=19027&p=0) for up to £500 to support community group activities from a total funding pot of £60,000.

The [Community Fund](http://www.suttoncvs.org.uk/scvs2.php?page=39) is another VCS grants scheme, financed primarily by Sutton Council and administered by Sutton Centre for the Voluntary Sector. It supports projects that benefit Sutton residents and meet the Council's priorities. Applications can cover sums of £330 to £10,000 and the total pot was around £115,000 in 2012-13 and £75,000 in 2013-14..

The [Adult Social Services and Housing Small Grants fund](http://www.suttoncvs.org.uk/scvs2.php?page=39#100158) is also an on-going grants funding programme, financed by Sutton Council and administered by Sutton Centre for the Voluntary Sector. It supports projects that work with older adults and vulnerable adults with sums of up to £500

£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. It appears the final ring-fenced fund in 2013-14 will be £75,000.

Sutton Centre for the Voluntary Sector report that they were only aware of one VCS organisation in the borough that had 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.

LB [Sutton had been involved in the Big Society since 19th July 2010 when the government announced that, along with three other local authorities,](https://www.sutton.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=11094) Sutton would show how the coalition's 'Big Society' idea could be brought to life. Sutton was chosen because it was regarded as having one of the country's most vibrant communities with a very active voluntary sector, plus a track record of devolving power to neighbourhoods.

***Implications for individual VCS organisations in Sutton***

[***Home-Start Sutton***](http://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/local/suttonnews/10668985.Family_charity_Home_Start_Sutton_faces_closure/)

A charity which has supported families with problems for almost 30 years faces closure after the council pulled its funding. Home-Start Sutton helps families, with at least one young child, with everything from mental health problems to domestic abuse and bereavement. The charity, which focuses on early intervention, has 80 volunteers who visit families in their home every week offering emotional and practical support. However, after the council cancelled their funding in July 2013, Home-Start Sutton has been unsuccessful in securing on-going support. Over the years Sutton council provided between £60,000 - £100,000 to the charity but if this is not replaced soon, the charity will face closure before the end of 2013 –despite supporting 98 families since April 2013 alone. Most of the charity’s eight members of staff had been there for almost a decade. Two were to be made redundant in September 2013 while the rest were due to have their hours reduced then.

[***Welcare***](http://www.thisiscroydontoday.co.uk/Child-contact-centres-Croydon-Sutton-close/story-18492100-detail/story.html#axzz2ehBRNHvI)

TWO centres providing vital "safe havens" where children from broken families can meet their parents in safe and supervised conditions, closed at the end of May 2013. The Welcare charity said that cuts in its funding and a reduction in the number of children being referred to it for support had made it impossible to keep its child contact services in Croydon and Sutton. The services based in Mitcham Road, West Croydon, and Robin Hood Lane, Sutton, stopped operating on May 31. The decision affected around 90 families and 170 children. Many of the parents locally involved with Welcare paid for the service but in recent years the charity had found it increasingly hard to raise money to remain on a sound financial footing.The situation had been made worse in 2013-14 by the withdrawal of £20,000 of funding from Sutton Council, which had decided to carry out its contact work in-house.The Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) hasdalso reduced its funding by £10,000 and Croydon Council had also cut the number of children it referred to Welcare. The charity needed £200,000 a year to pay staff and cover other operating costs but the trustees have looked closely at the finances and found that in 2013-14 they would have been left with a deficit of £98,000.

[***Family Focus***](http://www.suttonguardian.co.uk/news/10586517.Family_support_charity_faces_closure_unless_new_premises_is_found/)

The family support charity, Family Focus, could face closure unless it secures new funding and new premises. Family Focus was based at the Cheam Resource Centre for 25 years until Sutton Council took over the building and moved in a new children's nursery. The support group, which offers help and classes to parents struggling with young children, used to be run by the council and relies heavily on it for a significant chunk of its funding. But as local authorities budgets are squeezed, the charity has seen its funding cut. Their running costs are about £55,000 a year, and the council funding covered between £20,000 and £30,000 of it, but with no premises the organisation might have to close. The group needed to find a venue available in the daytime every Wednesday during term-time which had one main large room for the children to play, one smaller room for group sessions, a kitchen area and an outside area.

## Tower Hamlets

***General statutory funding***

LB Tower Hamlets had cuts in spending power of 8.8% in 2011-12, 6.2% in 2012-13 but saw a gain in 20123-14 of 0.1%. Over the next three years (2012-13 to 2015-2016) the Council was due to [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 meant that the Council was 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 budgets the council propsed to continue to provide grant funding of £200,000 per annum to Tower Hamlets CVS in 2012-13 until 2015-16.

Tower Hamlets CVS was also awarded Transforming Local Infrastructure funding between April 2012 – September 2013.

***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, funding 133 VCS organisations and it did not propose to cut this in 2012-13 and to increase it to £3.78million in 2013-14 as a result of the need to recomission additional older people’s non-lunch club activities in April 2013.. However the current budgets cited in the [Mainstream Grants Programme were to be top-sliced by £200,000 per annum to fund Tower Hamlet CVs and £36,000 per annum to fund the GIFTS database system. Thus if these are excluded the budget for Mainstream Grants programme was £3,29 million in 2012-13 and £3,54 million in 213-14.](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgsl/851-900/871_community_grants/mainstream_grant_funding.aspx)

[The decision on the final budget for t](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgsl/851-900/871_community_grants/mainstream_grant_funding.aspx)[he](http://moderngov.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=26644) council’s Mainstream Grants was [delayed](http://us4.campaign-archive2.com/?u=ea17e98e24bc71c0b9a91487a&id=e16a39eb76).  Whilst existing funded organisations were awarded another quarter’s extension of grant funding the delay affected the start or progress of some projects and services for local people. [Tower Hamlets CVS submitted a Compact complaint](http://www.thcvs.org.uk/compact_complaint.aspx) as a result of the significant dealys in grant decisions and payments experienced thorugh the Mainstream Grants Programme and the ESF Community Funds

The councils also offers a number of small community grants including:

The [Community Leadership programme](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgsl/851-900/871_community_grants.aspx) which offers accredited post graduate diploma training in community leadership.

[Tower Hamlets Mayors ESF Community Grants](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/grants/esf/community/docs.htm) scheme provides grants of between £5,000 to £12,500 for projects in the borough to support people furthest away from the labour market.

[The Mayor’s Community Events Initiative](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgsl/851-900/871_community_grants.aspx) is designed specifically to support groups based and working in Tower Hamlets to assist in the planning and staging of community focused events/initiatives. It awards grants of up to £5,000 for organisations that deliver services and can be used towards events that are:

* one-off or periodic events that could be related to artistic, recreational, cultural, entertainment or celebratory activities open to the community;
* estate/locality based activities designed to improve the physical or environmental aspects of the local area, tackle anti-social activities or improve community cohesion

The Initiative is funded through resources previously allocated to the Mainstream Grants Programme.

[The Mayor;s Community Chest Grants](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgsl/851-900/871_community_grants.aspx) Scheme is currently being reviewed so were not open for funding.

## Waltham Forest

***General statutory funding***

LB Waltham Forest had cuts in spending power of 5.2% in 2011-12, 3.7% in 2012-13 and an increase of 0.8% in 2013-14. The Council’s Formula Grant for 2012-13 was £116.1million 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 in 2012-13 in order to set a balanced budget. [Waltham Forest was analysed as needing £127.4 million in grant funding in 2013-14, which translated into annual savings of 12.7million for 2013-14. Overall savings between 2010-11 to 2014-15 were estimated to total £67.2million for the borough council. Council tax was also frozen for 2013-14.](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/Documents/budgets-rev-cap-2013-14.pdf)

***Voluntary Action Waltham Forest***

LB Waltham Forest has committed to provide support to Voluntary Action Waltham Forest until 31st March 2014. In 2010-11 it was awarded £105,000 through a Service Level Agreement with LB Waltham Forest and this was increased in 2011-12 to £126,083 (a 20% increase following decommissioning and recommissioning of the service). It is currently not clear how much money it received from the council for its capacity building contract in 2012-13 and 2013-14. Voluntary Action Waltham Forest is also contracted to provide a volunteering service for the benefit of organisations and individuals working in the borough.

***Waltham Forest’s VCS***

According to the [council budget](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/Documents/budgets-rev-cap-2012-13.pdf) £4,647,900 went to the VCS in third sector payments in 2011-12 and this was increased to £4,748,700 (2%) in 2012-13 and £5,145,300 in 2013-14 (8.4%). LB Waltham Forest have also committed to reducing the 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. 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)

Voluntary Acton Waltham Forest worked on a sustained campaign to defend local grants. Through their leadership and consistent representations at the Voluntary Sector Forum network meetings, it was agreed that savings achieved through the reduction in the Council’s contributions to the London Councils grant scheme were earmarked to sustain a range of services from advice to recycling services delivered by local groups. [The Council committed to spending 75% of repatriated funds from the London Councils Grants Scheme to resource two new grant programmes for the VCS in 2012-13](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/documents/vcs%20strategy%20with%20pic.pdf)

The first of these, [the Match funding scheme](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/Pages/Services/Grants-voluntary-organisations.aspx), was introduced as a pilot in 2012-13 with 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. The Match funding grant scheme was continued in 2013-14, with the same levels of funding (£100,000) and the same deal on council match funding

LB Waltham Forest also introduced a second grant scheme, [the Volunteering Support Scheme](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/Pages/Services/Grants-voluntary-organisations.aspx) with a total budget of £50,000 in 2012-13 and worth a total of £50,000 per year. The Scheme aimed to enable better quality and more volunteer opportunities in the borough by assisting organisations with the costs of supporting volunteers. The Scheme was also extended in 2013-14 with the same levels of funding.

The London Borough of Waltham Forest is also supporting organisations to celebrate or commemorate a number of days/months that take place through the year that promote the diversity of the borough in 2013-14 through the [Cohesion Event Scheme](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/Pages/Services/vol-sector-wf.aspx?l1=100003&l2=200101#Communitycohesion). This awards up to £500 per event to cover the costs associated with the activities arranged such as venues, catering and promotional leaflets.

LB Waltham forest also provides [Community ward funding which provides every ward in the borough with an annual allocation of £10,000 to spend on local projects.](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/Pages/Services/community-ward-funding.aspx?l1=100001&l2=200047)

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

[***Waltham Forest Disability Resource Centre***](http://wfdrc.org.uk/2013/06/new-for-2013/)

At the beginning of 2013 Waltham Forest Disability Resource Centre reported that after ten years the local authority had taken back the two seconded members of staff it had provided to the organisation. At the same time the council also reduced their funding was  by £60,000. This had left the Centre with a very small staff team Their transport funding had also recently been cut and the Centre was having to ask people to pay £3 a journey. However, although the transport service had been running for 3 days a week, insufficient numbers of people were using it to be able to cover its full costs, so it might have to be cut back further.  Another effect of the £60,000 cut in funding was that Waltham Forest Disability Resource Centre had had to start charging service users £3 per day to attend the centre.  Unfortunately they reported that some former service users had decided that this was too much to pay and had stopped coming to the Centre.

[***Carefree Kids***](http://www.carefreekids.org/index.php?Itemid=51)

Carefree Kids was established in 2004 and aims to help improve the emotional well-being of babies, children, young people and their parents/carers, mainly but not exclusively in the London Borough of Waltham Forest. Run by local people in non-bureaucratic ways, and using volunteers, the charity provides therapeutic play, dramatherapy, dance/movement therapy, arts therapies, training for school and other staff, study days and conferences. Carefree Kids works from a low-cost office space and uses donated and recycled items whenever possible.   By delivering most work through volunteers, the organisation avoids the need to raise money to pay fees, and make it possible for most local schools to be able afford their services. However, in the current economic climate of cut backs they have seen their income from paid for services, donations and trust funders decline. The salary of their full-time Co-ordinator is the biggest amount of money that they have had to fundraise for, but the Board are also keen to keep their two part-time administration staff who have proved essential as the number of schools Carefree Kids works with has increased. One fundraising model was the launch of Friends of Carefree Kids on 16th April 2011. The Friends commit to a small annual donation or subscription of £20 per year that supports Carefree Kids charitable activities.

***[Christian Kitchen](http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/care/charity-launches-legal-action-over-soup-run/6527066.article)***

Charity Christian Kitchen, which runs a soup kitchen in Mission Grove, Walthamstow, and two of its users have instructed public lawyers Irwin Mitchell to seek an urgent judicial review against Waltham Forest Council to stop it revoking their license and moving it to a spot 50 minutes away.  They say the out-of-town venue the council wants to move them to, just off the busy North Circular Road, is unsuitable and would lead to the soup run’s closure. The soup kitchen is a vital charitable service for homeless and vulnerable people in the area and the organisers and users of the service were left with no choice but to take legal action to stop the move which they believed would lead to its closure. The council had wanted to close the soup run immediately, but had allowed it to continue while the legal action was resolved. It and says that it must move the soup run on because it is in a residential area and there have been complaints about anti-social behaviour connected to it. The council said the police had demonstrated the scale of the problem at a meeting in February this year saying 15 ‘problematic core street drinkers’ had been identified as users of the soup run and since June 2012 there had been a total of 58 arrests attributable to these individuals for a range of offences including violence against the person, theft and drunkenness. However, Christian Kitchen questioned these figures, stating that a freedom of information request had shown the ‘council has had no direct complaints about the soup kitchen in the previous 12 months. The soup run had been run seven days a week for more than 25 years on the same site and served between 50 and 100 meals a night.

## Wandsworth

***General statutory funding***

LB Waltham Forest had cuts in spending power of 6.5% in 2011-12, 4.6% in 2012-13 and 0.1% in 2013-14.

In 2013-14 LB Wandsworth had budgeted to make savings of 17.9million to produce a total service budget of £215.7million for the financial year.

[NHS Wandsworth’s Clinical Commissioning Group made further funds available from April 2013 (a similar grant scheme had been available in 2012-13) to help seldom heard groups in the local community engage in NHS decision-making.](http://www.wvsda.org.uk/ads/one-entry?entry_id=10206470) Grants of up to £2,000 were available for 2013-14 to enable members of such organisations to take part in shaping future healthcare provision. Wandsworth Care Alliance (WCA) was responsible for administering the grants and monitoring how they were to be used.

***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 or 2013-14. The loss of this contract also resulted in the organisation having to move premises, makng some staff redundant and reducing the hours others worked.

[*Chances grant fund*](http://www.chances-charity.org.uk/)

Lifetimes Charity also administers a small grant fund established by its subsidiary charity, Chances. It provides small grants of up to £5000 to VCS and some public sector organisations whose work involves relieving hardship for parents with children under 13 years of age.

Lifetimes’ is a complicated organisational structure with a trading arm, Lifetimes Trading Ltd and a subsidiary charity, Chances, that holds endowment funds left to Lifetimes including an investment property and investment funds. Lifetimes is the corporate trustee of Chances. Lifetimes Trading Limited trades as Puddle-ducks Nursery, which generates income to support Lifetimes charitable activities. This operation is based within the property owned by Chances. Lifetimes Trading Limited holds a two year lease at market rental on the premises. Chances owns (as part of its endowment fund) Victorian premises in Putney which are used as a pre-school nursery. The nursery was in a run-down state when the new lease was granted in 2010 and as a result Chances used some of its reserves to repair the fabric of the building to ensure its asset was in a marketable state and able to provide future income.

***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. In 2012-13 and 2013-14 according to the councils’ 2013-14 budget book funding to the local VCS was as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Department** | **2012-13** | **2013-14** |
| Adult Care Older People | 1,362,000 | 1,303,000 |
| Adult Care Learning Disabilities | 74,000 | 108,000 |
| Adult Care Mental Health | 984,000 | 511,000 |
| Adult Care Other Services | 75,000 | 75,000 |
| Finance & Corporate grants to VCS | 1,085,000 | 808,000 |
| Housing contracts | 57,000 | 57,000 |
|  | 3,637,000 | 2,862,000 |

The large decrease suggests that the 2013-14 budget book has not identified all council funding spent on VCS contracts and grants. However, it does illustrate a reduction in VSC funding between 2012-13 and 2013-14 of 21%.

In 2011-12 LB Wandsworth agreed to set up the Wandsworth Discretionary Fund (WDF), to help voluntary and community sector organisations adversely affected by loss of income from the public sector, and [Wandsworth Big Society. Funding](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/1113/volunteering-information_and_advice/367/volunteering_and_the_voluntary_sector/3) 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%.

LB Wandsworth also funded a [Youth Service Community Grant](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/1113/volunteering-information_and_advice/367/volunteering_and_the_voluntary_sector) scheme in 2013-14 which replaced the grant aid previously offered by the Youth Service. The scheme aimed to develop, support and enhance starting and existing youth groups in Wandsworth. There was a total fund of £175,000 available in 2013-2014, of which groups could apply for £500 to £15,000 each.

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

[***Legal and advice services in Wandsworth***](http://www.wandsworthcabx.org.uk/Application%20%26%20related/twa/TWA%20Project%20Outline.pdf)

Legal and advice services in Wandsworth had suffered a range of cuts to their local authority and legal aid funding, and so had begun to work more closely together in response. As a result of a partnership application, Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureau, South West London Law Centre, Springfield Advice and Law Centre, Wandsworth Carers’ Centre, Age UK Wandsworth and Disability and Social Care Advice Service (DASCAS) were awarded a total of £342,908 over two years under the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) and the Cabinet Office Advice Services Transition Fund programme. Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureau is the lead agency for the project and the partnership is named the Transforming Wandsworth Advice Project. It aims to improve debt management, welfare benefits, housing rights and employment law advice, by increasing the knowledge and skills of existing staff and volunteers to deliver front line advice and support. In addition the project will deliver public training on financial capability and welfare reforms with the purpose of educating over 600 clients which will reduce the initial impact on services. The project has identified three new outreach sites in the borough to increase advice coverage. It will also support the merger of the two existing law centres, Springfield and South West London with the aim of providing a more suitable and cost effective advice service throughout Wandsworth. The project will also maximise the use of new technology with the developing Wandsworth Advice website linked to a new telephone service. The project partners will address the long term sustainability of the project through consolidating costs and developing diverse business models to increase income from potential new funding streams.

## Westminster

***General statutory funding***

Westminster council had cuts in spending power of 7.2% in 2011-12, of 5.0% in 2012-13 and of 0.9% in 2013-14. Over 2011-12 and 2012-13 Westminster City Council delivered an £84million savings programme in order to meet substantial funding reductions by central government. The total impact of these funding reductions meant that savings of £14million had to be found from the council budget for 2013/14. For 2014/15, a further £19million reduction in funding is expected

Savings are expected to be made through the council’s tri-borough joint working plans with neighbouring boroughs Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham. which aim to redesign service delivery, seek efficiencies and reduce corporate overheads. There are now Tri-Borough Services for Adult Social Care, Children’s Services, Libraries and Treasury and Pensions and the councils are on-track to deliver savings of £40million per annum across the three Boroughs by 2015-16.

Westminster councillors were also considering a report to the Council’s Budget Task Group which proposed cutting the entire £350,000budget for arts and culture with proposed cuts of £150,000in 2013-14 and a further£200,000 in 2014-15.

***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 drastically reduced in 2012-13, although it retained some pots of 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 Business and Enterprise Group](http://www.westendextra.com/news/2012/jul/mps-meltdown-warning-voluntary-movement-charity-dropped-after-30-years-service-favour-). [Business and Enterprise Group](http://www.business-enterprise.net/contact-business-enterprise-group) have their Head Office in Seaham. They also have a London office based in Camden. The Camden office is where the WAVE (Westminster Action for Voluntary Engagement) Team will be based but it is the council’s intention that services will be delivered in Westminster at local community locations.

Following the resignation of Voluntary Action Westminster Chief Executive, Bernard Collier, inmid-2013 [Gareth Owen, Chief Executive of Volunteer Centre Westminster (VCW) also became the Executive Director of Voluntary Action Westminster (VAW).](http://www.vawcvs.org/news/volunteer-centre-westminster-ceo-heads-voluntary-action-westminster) He aimed to explore opportunities to combine the knowledge, resources and expertise of both organisations with a view to releasing economies and extending their joint reach to the local community as effectively as possible. VCW and VAW have also entered into preliminary strategic discussions around formally merging their operations and activities to become a single organisation in the future.  In the meantime, a Merger Steering Group, consisting of trustees from both organisations and chaired by the new joint CEO has been set up.

***Westminster VCS***

In its Strategic Plans for the borough, Westminster City Council has committed to:

* continue to invest in small grants, neighbourhood funds and VCS support services (such as those provided by Volunteer Centre Westminster and Westminster Action for Voluntary Engagement);
* encourage businesses to be more philanthropic and support the voluntary and community sector;
* make it easier for people to volunteer; and
* encourage the Council’s own staff to volunteer in the City;

Voluntary Action Westminster reports that it is unclear how much funding for the local VCS from Westminster City council changed in 2012-13 or 2013-14, as there were many different budgets across different departments through which the VCS could be commissioned and Westminster did not code VCS providers separately. LB Westminster’s grant scheme for the VCS was ended in 2011 and the money saved used to commission services instead. It is not clear what the money saved by Westminster City Council from the London Borough Grants Scheme is to be spent on in 2012-13 or 2013-14. In 2011-12 a proportion was spent on a VCS support service and a support service for young people who were homeless.

The City Council has delivered on its commitment to small grants in 2013-14. It is working with the London Community Foundation to deliver up to £100,000 in small grants to small voluntary sector organisations during 2013-14 through the [Westminster Small Grants Fund](http://www.londoncf.org.uk/downloads/Westminster%20Small%20Grants%20Fund%20Guidelines%202013.pdf). Grants of up to £5,000 will be awarded to projects which foster greater community cohesion and improve inter-community relationships The London Community Foundation had been appointed to manage the administration of the Fund on behalf of the council.

***Impacts on individual VCS organisations in Westminster***

[***Westminster Befriend a Family***](http://www.befriendafamily.co.uk/)

In the two financial years (2010-11 and 2011-12) expenditure greatly exceeded income and Westminster Befriend a Family was forced to use reserves to continue its work, The charity had been providing early intervention support to address the physical, emotional and learning needs of vulnerable families in Westminster for 23 years. Although all of their services were delivered by a team of 200 volunteers, they had developed an extensive paid staff team, which was keeping expenditure at unsustainable levels. The charity decided to meet these challenges head on in 2012 by carrying out a fundamental restructuring programme to achieve significant on-going cost-efficiencies without impacting on the delivery of services. This resulted in a reduction in salaried staff from eight to four and reducing remaining staff to part-time working. The outcome was a 27% reduction in resources the organisation expended over that year, even taking into account the entire one-off costs of redundancy. Westminster Befriend a Family also recruited social work interns to maintain their capacity and support the work of their volunteers. Indeed, the organisation managed to increase the number of families they worked with, over that year whilst significantly reducing their expenditure, as a result.

In 2012 they had succeeded in diversifying their funding sources through organisation of the charity’s first successful fundraising event, the Westminster Befriend a Family Vintage Fair which raised £4,000 in grants and donations, raised the profile of the organisation and engaged the local community. They also established their first charity text campaign, ‘[Every Second Counts’](http://www.befriendafamily.co.uk/every-second-counts/), which had also been a success, raising funds and awareness of the charity’s work, developing a revised marketing strategy and engaging a wider base of potential donors As a result of these initial successes Westminster Befriend a Family set themselves the goal of decreasing their reliance on external sources of financing and incorporating their own self-sustaining fundraising drive to raise £400,000 to support their services in 2013-14. Again, they met with success. Cubitt House is a family run business of prestigious hotel rooms and public houses, that invests a substantial amount of time, resources and commitment to support worthy causes in the community. [In 2013 it announced that it would be supporting Westminster Befriend a Family by helping to raise funds to support their services.](http://www.befriendafamily.co.uk/2013/03/12/its-a-family-affair/) In addition they had more fundraising success [when instructors at Fitness First Victoria agreed to organise a fundraising fitness fest to raise funds for the organisation, while the corporate company, Land Securities had allowed the use of the outdoor roof terrace area of Cardinal Place Shopping Centre for the day in August](http://www.befriendafamily.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Newsletter-2-Summer-2013a.pdf).

[***Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association***](http://fitzrovia.org.uk/2013/09/02/working-together-with-organisations-to-tackle-system-failure/)

The Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association (FNA) had joined with several other local advice agencies to continue to offer free advice to Westminster residents in the wake of a 100% cut in their grant for advice by Westminster City Council. One initiative it had developed was the ‘Reform Advice in Westminster Project’, funded from the Cabinet Office and administered by the Big Lottery, which aimed to look at what is known as ‘system failure’ where someone is forced to seek advice as a direct result of a systematic mistake made by a government department. Recent cuts to legal aid had made it much more difficult for people to appeal these decisions. The project would, therefore focus on how often these mistakes happened, how long they took to sort out and what kinds of questions were usually involved. The second year of the project would make recommendations about how these mistakes could be avoided by the government departments involved, and how advice work in the Westminster area could be streamlined and improved. The Neighbourhood Association would be hiring a member of staff for two days a week over 2013-14 to deliver the project in partnership with the [Migrants Resource Centre](http://www.migrantsresourcecentre.org.uk/), the [Zacchaeus 2000 Trust](http://z2k.org/) (Z2K) and [Westminster Citizens Advice Bureau](http://www.westminstercab.org.uk/) (WCAB). As part of a second initiative, the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association would also begin hosting a multilingual advice worker from Westminster CAB for one day a week as part of its outreach service. This outreach service would be funded through a contract Westminster CAB had won in a competitive tendering process to deliver general advice services throughout the City of Westminster from September 2013. Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association has run a free, independent advice service in Fitzrovia since 1975. The service is available to both Westminster and Camden residents, despite receiving no funding from Camden Council since 2011 and Westminster City Council having cut its grant in 2013.

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

Westminster City councillors were considering a report to the Council’s Budget Task Group which proposes cutting the entire £350,000budget for arts and culture.  The Council had proposed to cut the programme by £150,000in 2013-14 and by a further£200,000 in 2014-15. Community and youth arts projects run by Paddington Arts, Union Dance, Westminster Mindand Dream Arts would all be affected, along with around ten other voluntary and community sector arts organisations. Examples of the kind of work supported by the council, and which would 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; and dance and choreography tuition for young people of mixed ability, organised by Union Dance. The cuts could also threaten the longer-term future of some smaller arts groups. Larger arts organisations could absorb the loss of these small grants, which would only be a tiny proportion of their overall funding, relatively easily For smaller arts groups working mainly in Westminster, however, these cuts could mean the loss of more than 20% of their income, which would have a real impact on their long-term future, and would limit their future ability to bring new grant-funding into the borough.

[In a follow up article Westminster City Council confirmed it would go ahead with its 100% cut to arts funding despite a petition in opposition to the proposal. The petition called on the local authority to reject the proposal and was signed by more than 500 people.](http://www.thestage.co.uk/news/2013/05/westminster-denies-petition-against-100-arts-cuts/)

[***Advice services in Westminster***](http://www.vawcvs.org/news/westminster-councils-plans-advice-services)

Advice services in Westminster are also under threat. At the beginning of 2013 Westminster City Council funded 15 different advice services provided by organisations such as Westminster Citizens Advice Bureau, Age Concern Westminster and Action for Children but did not fund any legal advice services, with the exception of a small grant for Paddington Law Centre and a service to help residents challenge licensing applications. The council stated that it would like to see greater integration and consistency in the service offered, They also wanted to improve efficiency by lowering back-office and management costs through reducing the number of individual contracts to be drawn up and managed**. Finally the council needed to** reduce the amount the council spent on advice services by 10% to meet its budget targets for the year. The new service which the council had decided should provide independent advice to the most vulnerable people living in Westminster was competitively tendered in summer 2013. The council hoped to announce a single successful provider in the autumn, putting any of the VCS organisations currently funded, but not included in the successful tender, under threat.

# Sub-sectors

## Advice & legal services

[***Barnet Law Service***](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=BLS2013&isTeam=true)

In 2013-14 Barnet Law sErvice is again having to cope with funding cuts: dramatic cuts to Legal Aid and their Barnet council contract is 25% less than it was and reduces each year. They are finding charitable grants are harder and harder to come by at the same time that the need for their service is increasing. BLS has only a few staff and volunteers, but to keep staffing levels even at the ir 2013 low levels and avoid having to turn even more people away they need more money. They have set up a Virgin Money Giving page.

[***Advice4Renters (formerly Brent Private Tenants’ Rights Group)***](http://www.advice4renters.org.uk/files/3613/7175/1811/NEWNotice_to_Potential_New_Clients_-_May_2013.pdf)

Advice4Renters’ (previously Brent Private Tenants Rights Group) free advice service is funded by the Legal Aid Agency, who administer the Legal Aid Scheme on behalf of the government.

They fix the number of people that we can be supported each year. They have cut the numbers of people that can be supported each year and this means that Advice4Renters only have about half the number of appointments that they had had in previous years. The Government’s cut to the legal aid budget has also had a direct effect on their work, as they are now limited in the types of problems that they can be funded to help people with. From 1st April 2013 they can only support cases about:

• Serious disrepair which means there is a serious risk to the health or safety of an individual or a member of their family because of the disrepair or defect in the accommodation

• Homelessness people who have wrongly been refused help by the council

• A landlord’s issuing of a notice to leave, the start of court proceedings to get possession of the home or has applied to court for an eviction

• An illegal eviction or if there is a need to apply to the court for an injunction to stop a landlord or somebody causing harassment. Advice4Renters does not have the funding to help clients with other housing issues, such as seeking information about their rights under a tenancy agreement, trying to recover a tenancy deposit-seeking transfers or needing help with housing benefit problems.

[***Bromley Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends62%5C0000299762_ac_20120331_e_c.pdf)

The charity will lost 40% of its overall funding between 2011 and 2014This greatly affected the way in which they could provide services to the community. The Bureau at Orpington was shut to the public in 2012, although some outreach services are still provided in Orpington with the help of other organisations who have provided rent-free accommodation. The Charity closed the Beckenham & Penge bureau in March 2013. They are also hoping to improve their It use to increase access to their advice services. They have found that there has

Bromley recently been insufficient staff time to liaise with other agencies and be involved in wider VCS statutory sector partnerships but recognise that this type of collaborative work is becoming more essential.

[They plan to build on and develop a more concise working relationship with funders and have already created inroads in putting effective networks in place to develop partnerships and consortia for the purposes of strategic planning, service delivery and joint project development.](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends62%5C0000299762_ac_20120331_e_c.pdf)

[***Croydon Citizens Advice* Bureau**](http://insidecroydon.com/2013/04/22/citizens-advice-hears-record-number-of-pleas-on-benefit-cuts/)

Croydon Citizen Advice Bureau handled a record number of enquiries in 2012-13, with an increase in demand for help of more than 10%.Their Chief Executive stood down from the position in April 2013 at what was a testing time for the charity, not just because of the demand on its already stretched services, but also because Croydon Council has forced the organisation to close its largest office at Strand House in Thornton Heath, while there has been a delay in opening a temporary office in what used to be the adult education centre in Sandown Road, South Norwood. They were expecting a huge influx of people struggling to manage the changes in welfare benefits. The charity has secured a contract from Croydon Council to offer independent housing advice to Croydon residents for the next three years. The council tendered out this responsibility to save its own costs. CCAB has also been working with the council to try to deal with the increased demand for advice as a result of the welfare reforms and they have opened a new service in Taberner House – or “Access Croydon” – to offer those affected by the welfare reforms access to independent advice services.In a sign of how such work will come to rely even more on private charity as the
public sector cuts back, Springfied Masonic Lodge presented a cheque for £3,160.34 to help pay towards the furnishings at the new offices in South Norwood.

[***Ealing Law Centre***](http://www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/ealing-process-begins-after-cuts/70251.article)

The Ealing Law Centre, anot-for-profit law centre in London only opened in 2012 at a time when wide-ranging civil legal aid cuts came into force. The Centre provides specialist housing and immigration support.

A small group of volunteers had built up the centre since October 2011 with support from the London Legal Support Trust, enabling it to gain a legal aid contract and other funding. [Ealing Law Centre was part of a successful consortium, led by Nucleus Legal Advice Centre, which won a £200,000 for a one-year interim service from Ealing Council.](http://www.theguardian.com/law/2012/jul/20/legal-aid-new-law-centre) Ealing Council, aware of the gaping hole in provision of advice in the borough, [commissioned the interim one-year contract](http://legalvoice.org.uk/blog/advice-in-a-leafy-suburb/) to provide generalist level advice across the range of social welfare law areas. The Law Centre worked extremely hard to put together a consortium of providers to bid, crucially with Nucleus Legal Advice Centre taking on lead agency function to provide the necessary solidity. In 2013-14 funding will also be through a successful application with Nucleus to the new national Advice Service Fund and the Centre is [engaged in many fundraising initiatives](http://ealinglawcentre.wordpress.com/) to ensure it can meet the increasing need for its services. The need for the Law Centre’s services in Ealing were tremendous following the closure of other legal aid providers in the area and now demand is increasing still further.

[***Hammersmith & Fulham Law Centre***](http://www.fulhamchronicle.co.uk/fulham-and-hammersmith-news/local-fulham-and-hammersmith-news/2013/04/19/fears-for-the-poor-as-fulham-legal-advice-centre-has-funds-slashed-82029-33203511/)

The need for legal help for the poorest and most vulnerable people in the Borough is growing rapidly as the recession is creating greater poverty while the rights of the poorest are under great threat from changing legislation. At the same time the government is imposing large cuts to the funding of legal advice agencies. Hammersmith & Fulham Law Centre now faces closure after the council decided to stop its funding.

The centre, based in Fulham Road, which opened in 1973 gives free advice to people who face losing their homes, possessions or jobs, and is the only service in west London to offer its expertise in the evenings. But Hammersmith and Fulham Council, which owns the building, will not be renewing its £53,000 a year grant, which runs out later in 2013. The centre now faces closure unless it can raise funds from elsewhere and their three employees will lose their jobs. All the volunteers who give up their free time to help feel devastated at the imminent demise of such an important organisation in the borough. Highly qualified barristers and solicitors have given a combined total of over 200 years of free evenings of advice helping thousands of people. The council said legal advice could be sort at the Citizens Advice Bureau stating they had withdrawn funding to the Fulham Legal Advice Centre - their two year contract simply came to an end. The council had changed its grants system and negotiated for the European Social Fund (ESF) to match £1million of the council's own money. This meant that, according to the council. residents were now able to access a wider and improved range of advice services at the same cost to the taxpayer through a new scheme. Free legal advice could also be obtained from the Citizens Advice Bureau which received more than £300,000 of council funding each year.

[***Hammersmith& Fulham Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://www.clicsargent.org.uk/news/01-08-2013-clic-sargent-launches-welfare-advice-service-hammersmith-and-fulham-citizens-advice)

Hammersmith & Fulham Citizens Advice Bureau is working with a national charity to provide a service across England & Wales. CLIC Sargent, the UK’s leading cancer charity for children and young people and their families, has launched a welfare advice line and email service in partnership with the Hammersmith and Fulham branch.

The service, which started on July 1 2013, can be accessed via email or as a telephone advice line and provides:

• Help for those on low incomes
• Council tax and housing benefit information
• Advice about benefits for young people
• Help with bereavement.

It also covers tenancy agreements and rent arrears, rights at work, help with debt, banking information, consumer advice, and relationships, including domestic abuse, and any other issues relating to children and young people. Advice about civil and human rights, taking legal action and disability discrimination will also be available. This enables the Bureau to provide CAB expertise to CLIC Sargent staff, and the families and young people they assist at a very difficult time, in an innovative new service delivery model. It also compensates in some way for the cut in Legal Services Commission funding of £79,111 per year.

[***Haringey Irish Cultural and Community Centre***](http://www.haringey-irish.com/)

The Centre was set up in 1987 and provides an Advice and Support Service, a social club and a community resource for a wide variety of Irish groups. In the space of a year the Centre has gone from a healthy surplus of £30,000 to deficit. The deficit is set to get worse in 2013-14 as their main funder Haringey Council changed the system of voluntary sector funding from core grants to commissioning. The change had to do with a move away from supporting posts to support for activities and services. The amount of funding was also cut from £55,000 to £40,000. There was a cut in funding from the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Project (ESP) that supported both the Advice & Support Service and the Day Care & Lunch Club. While some of the Haringey grant had gone to fund both the Advice & Support Service and the Day Care & Lunch Club it had not been enough to replace the amount of ESP grant that was lost.
All income streams, however, were down on the previous year in 2012-13. Use of facilities was down from £131,196 to £110,183, a reduction of £21,013. Bar income was down from £273,894 to £258358 a fall of £15,356. Income from the Car Park was down from £34,172 to £32,617 a reduction of £1,555. The 50/50 draw made £4,653 compared to £8,522 the previous year. Haringey Council’s decision on circular funding/peppercorn rents is critical to the future of the organisation. They are proposing to better market the Centre and keep a close eye on costs with an emphasis on reductions in wastages for the future.

[***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/)

A drop-in debt advice service that has been operated by the Citizens Advice Bureau in Harrow, London, since the war is to be axed which could affect thousands of families seeking help with debt problems. The CAB has announced that the service is being cut as a result of budget cuts, and that from March 20th 2013 appointments would only be made available for the most complex of debt management problems.The closure of the walk-in debt advice service as a result of cuts to their funding from LB Harrow.

The Harrow CAB had reportedly been receiving as many as 100 walk-in clients a day asking for help and advice with debt problems and the demand had grown considerably over the last few years. However in a double blow to the bureau, the council's need to cut their budgets has coincided with the natural ending of funding agreements in place, which had made their ability to keep the service going twice as difficult. In total, Harrow CAB dealt with a massive 13,500 cases in regards to problems such as housing, benefits, employment and debts and it is estimated that more than half of those clients had walk-in appointments. The Harrow bureau helped resolve more than £3 million worth of debt problems and helped clients claim more than a million pounds worth of benefits.

As a result of the difficult funding environment, Harrow CAB began developing more partnership work and in June 2013 it was announced that [twelve local voluntary sector organisations, led by Harrow Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and supported by Harrow Council, had won funding of £313,817 over two years from the Big Lottery Fund to pay for a new service called the Harrow Advice Network](http://www.harrowobserver.co.uk/west-london-news/local-harrow-news/2013/06/06/funding-won-for-harrow-advice-network-116451-33431171/) The voluntary sector organisations who make up Harrow Advice Network besides Harrow CAB are: Carremea; Harrow Law Centre; Age UK Harrow; Harrow Association of Disabled People; Mind In Harrow; Harrow Mencap; Harrow Carers; HASVO (Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations); Harrow Refugee Forum; Harrow Equalities Centre; Afghan Association Paiwand, and Harrow Women’s Centre. The Network will have its own website, which will provide not only written advice but an interactive chat window with advisers. The funding will also allow the appointment of one training officer post each at Harrow CAB and at Carramea and a part-time post for a specialist welfare rights advisor at Harrow Law Centre. Each of the 12 partner organisations will get a small development fund to pay for things like training courses for their own staff and the network’s members will start meeting once a month to share cases and expertise.

After the council cuts in March 2013, [Harrow Council has recently stepped up its support for the CAB service by funding the drop in sessions at Civic 5 in Station Road which will start from Tuesday 10 September](http://www.iharrow.com/council/harrow-steps-up-its-support-for-people-affected-by-welfare-reform/). These would be in addition to the existing telephone and email service offered by Harrow CAB. The Council has acted in response to a wave of uncertainly about the impact on household incomes by a range of welfare reform measures being introduced by the Government.

[***Hillingdon Law Centre***](http://www.hillingdonlaw.org.uk/laspo.php)

On 1st April 2013 the cuts imposed by the **Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012** took effect and affected some of the services the Law Centre could offer. Legal aid was no longer available for employment and welfare benefit cases.The Centre would still help around homelessness or immediate risk of homelessness, when possession proceedings have been issued, illegal evictions, disrepairs that are so bad that they are causing serious health problems or if there were issues of antisocial behaviour. They have a contract to run the county court desk scheme at Uxbridge County Court so may be able to advise at the court on the day of possession hearings. The Centre also has a new contract to deliver family law advice, casework and representation from 1st April 2013.  Under the new family legal aid rules, legal aid will only be available if there is evidence to show domestic violence. The organisation now owns its own building and employs eight staff - six full-time caseworkers, one part-time caseworker, one part-time administrator and a full time legal assistant. The Centre has successfully obtained contracts from the Legal Services Commission in Housing and Family and also has the contract to run the housing law advice desk scheme at Uxbridge County Court on days there are possession hearings. The Centre is now funded by grants from Lloyds TSB, Hillingdon Community Trust and London Legal Support Trust, a big increase in grant funding compared with public sector funding compared with the past..

[***Kensington & Chelsea Citizen’s Advice Bureau***](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/news/overall-voluntary-sector-budget-increase-masks-cuts-funding)

One of the biggest losers in what the council describes as a “relatively modest switch in funding from existing activity towards innovative projects” in 2013-14 is the Kensington and Chelsea Citizens Advice Bureau who stand to lose £40,000. At a time when debt, housing issues and the cap on benefits are putting increasing pressure on advice agencies the funding cut is equivalent to at least one advisor post. [In Kensington & Chelsea there are four not-for-profit‟ agencies providing advice – the CAB Service, North Kensington Law Centre, Nucleus and Worlds End Neighbourhood Advice centre](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/sites/kcsc.org.uk/files/documents/news_pages/Impact%20of%20Legal%20aid%20Reform.pdf). All but WENAC currently hold Legal Service Council 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 was launched in September 2012 It is dedicated to providing free legal advice to individuals, charities, businesses and community groups from Kingston and the surrounding areas. 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. Throughout this process they liaise closely with a small number of local solicitors to increase their knowledge and make sure the advice they give is correct. The advisers are mostly third year LLB law degree students. The Centre is being paid for by a grant from a special university alumni fund and a donation from a law school alumnus. Legal aid was restricted in a range of civil cases from April 1st 2013 meaning an estimated 500,000 people could lose access to free legal support and this has been reflected in a large increase in demand for the Centre’s services. At a time when Government cuts are reducing the amount of affordable legal advice available, the Centre provides a valuable service to the local community as well as considerable professional benefits to the student volunteers.

[***Richmond Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://www.richmondandtwickenhamtimes.co.uk/news/10658000.Sick_and_vulnerable_losing_out_in_benefits_changes/)

Richmond Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) published an open letter calling on the Government to make three specific changes to the benefits system. The charity said the proposals come after three years of evidence of the effect of the current system particularly in relation to Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Disability Living Allowance (DLA). The group said evidence showed benefits could be stopped immediately without warning and people suffered from a fluctuating income that spirals into financial instability, debt and health breakdowns. The charity said benefit claimants, some of whom have long-term medical conditions with little prospect of improvement, underwent a “rollercoaster” of assessments, decisions and appeals within six months. In the past year Richmond CAB said it had a 49% increase in people seeking help with ESA cases year on year and that 14% more of their clients were disabled. The group helped people resolve 15,569 issues and secured £1,451,811 in reported financial gains in the past year.

[***Southwark Citizens Advice Bureau***](http://www.neilcoyle.org.uk/frontline-welfare-debate/)

Southwark Citizens Advice Bureau had seen a 20% jump in demand for help with the introduction of welfare reforms in 2012-13 and are seeing startling cases emerge since 1st April 2013 of people in real distress and despair. The Bureau has also lost the equivalent of four full time workers as a result of legal aid cuts.

[***Supporting Travellers and Gypsies (STAG)***](http://www.staglondon.org/2012/03/01/315/)

Due to cuts in Blackfriars Advice Centre funding and lower numbers for the Wednesday morning gypsy and traveller sessions these ended on 31st July 2013. Blackfriars would still provide a service for Travellers in the area and STAG are committed to making sure that Travellers can still get the support they need. Blackfriars will still have a STAG-link worker, who will visit sites to make sure that people know about the advice service available and to talk about changes in benefits.

[***Legal and advice services in Wandsworth***](http://www.wandsworthcabx.org.uk/Application%20%26%20related/twa/TWA%20Project%20Outline.pdf)

Legal and advice services in Wandsworth had suffered a range of cuts to their local authority and legal aid funding, and so had begun to work more closely together in response. As a result of a partnership application, Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureau, South West London Law Centre, Springfield Advice and Law Centre, Wandsworth Carers’ Centre, Age UK Wandsworth and Disability and Social Care Advice Service (DASCAS) were awarded a total of £342,908 over two years under the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) and the Cabinet Office Advice Services Transition Fund programme. Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureau is the lead agency for the project and the partnership is named the Transforming Wandsworth Advice Project. It aims to improve debt management, welfare benefits, housing rights and employment law advice, by increasing the knowledge and skills of existing staff and volunteers to deliver front line advice and support. In addition the project will deliver public training on financial capability and welfare reforms with the purpose of educating over 600 clients which will reduce the initial impact on services. The project has identified three new outreach sites in the borough to increase advice coverage. It will also support the merger of the two existing law centres, Springfield and South West London with the aim of providing a more suitable and cost effective advice service throughout Wandsworth. The project will also maximise the use of new technology with the developing Wandsworth Advice website linked to a new telephone service. The project partners will address the long term sustainability of the project through consolidating costs and developing diverse business models to increase income from potential new funding streams.

[***Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association***](http://fitzrovia.org.uk/2013/09/02/working-together-with-organisations-to-tackle-system-failure/)

The Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association (FNA) had joined with several other local advice agencies to continue to offer free advice to Westminster residents in the wake of a 100% cut in their grant for advice by Westminster City Council. One initiative it had developed was the ‘Reform Advice in Westminster Project’, funded from the Cabinet Office and administered by the Big Lottery, which aimed to look at what is known as ‘system failure’ where someone is forced to seek advice as a direct result of a systematic mistake made by a government department. Recent cuts to legal aid had made it much more difficult for people to appeal these decisions. The project would, therefore focus on how often these mistakes happened, how long they took to sort out and what kinds of questions were usually involved. The second year of the project would make recommendations about how these mistakes could be avoided by the government departments involved, and how advice work in the Westminster area could be streamlined and improved. The Neighbourhood Association would be hiring a member of staff for two days a week over 2013-14 to deliver the project in partnership with the [Migrants Resource Centre](http://www.migrantsresourcecentre.org.uk/), the [Zacchaeus 2000 Trust](http://z2k.org/) (Z2K) and [Westminster Citizens Advice Bureau](http://www.westminstercab.org.uk/) (WCAB). As part of a second initiative, the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association would also begin hosting a multilingual advice worker from Westminster CAB for one day a week as part of its outreach service. This outreach service would be funded through a contract Westminster CAB had won in a competitive tendering process to deliver general advice services throughout the City of Westminster from September 2013. Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association has run a free, independent advice service in Fitzrovia since 1975. The service is available to both Westminster and Camden residents, despite receiving no funding from Camden Council since 2011 and Westminster City Council having cut its grant in 2013.

[***Advice services in Westminster***](http://www.vawcvs.org/news/westminster-councils-plans-advice-services)

Advice services in Westminster are also under threat. At the beginning of 2013 Westminster City Council funded 15 different advice services provided by organisations such as Westminster Citizens Advice Bureau, Age Concern Westminster and Action for Children but did not fund any legal advice services, with the exception of a small grant for Paddington Law Centre and a service to help residents challenge licensing applications. The council stated that it would like to see greater integration and consistency in the service offered, They also wanted to improve efficiency by lowering back-office and management costs through reducing the number of individual contracts to be drawn up and managed**. Finally the council needed to** reduce the amount the council spent on advice services by 10% to meet its budget targets for the year. The new service which the council had decided should provide independent advice to the most vulnerable people living in Westminster was competitively tendered in summer 2013. The council hoped to announce a single successful provider in the autumn, putting any of the VCS organisations currently funded, but not included in the successful tender, under threat.

## Arts & Culture services

[***Film Education***](http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/Governance/article/1179562/film-charity-close-loss-15-jobs/)

## Film Education, a charity which worked with schoolchildren to introduce them to film, lost 60% of its funding after the industry body Cinema First switched its backing. It closed at the end of April 2013, after 26 years of operation with the loss of 15 jobs. The charity, which had an annual income of £1.2million, was forced to make 13 full-time and two part-time staff redundant.Film Education received 60% of its funding from Cinema First, an industry body that represents film distributors in the UK. But Cinema First switched its backing to a scheme to educate schoolchildren provided by [Filmclub](http://www.filmclub.org/) and [First Light](http://www.firstlightonline.co.uk/), with the backing of the [British Film Institute](http://www.bfi.org.uk/). Film Education decided it had no future without the funding from Cinema First, despite deriving some of its income from training teachers. Programmes such as the National Schools Film Week, which involved 500,000 children visiting cinemas for free during one week every October, were closed down along with the charity.

[***Camden Music Trust***](http://webfronter.com/camden/music/menu6/Music_Trust/Home_Spring_2013.html)

The Friends of Camden Music Service was conceived in 2001 and registered as a charity, Camden Music Trust (CMT), in 2008. It exists to ensure that musical opportunities at every level are available to all children and young people in Camden, regardless of their ability to pay. The local authority had always previously supported the Camden Music Service but recent cuts to central government grants mean that they have withdrawn funding. The Trust is now asking for donations from parents, trusts, foundations, businesses and individual donors, to sustain their work. They need to raise £250,000 a year to ensure the Music Service continues to offer high-quality music activities to all young people in the borough.

[***Fairfield Halls***](http://insidecroydon.com/2013/05/29/charity-commission-to-examine-takover-of-fairfield-halls/)

As a result of hefty pension liabilities the arts venue and charitable trust, Fairfiled Hall is in financial difficulties. LB Croydon has offered to take over the organisation to help it sort out its pension liabilities and to protect the interests of property developers’ multi-million pound schemes for building “luxury apartments” in its “Fair Field Masterplan”.In recent times, Croydon Council had provided more than £1 million per year to subsidise the Fairfield Halls’ running costs, and it had been planning to spend £27 million on a refurbishment of the venue. The Charity Commission is currently looking into the proposed takeover Croydon Council has appointed five councillors to the board of the Fairfield Halls which could put the councillors in impossible positions if the council’s takeover of the Fairfield Halls goes ahead.

[***Hackney Pirates***](http://www.meoko.net/news/hackney-pirates-to-build-ship-of-adventures-and-need-your-help)

The charity, Hackney Pirates develop literacy and creativity amongst young people by giving them one-to-one attention provided by volunteers, working on an plethora of projects including developing music videos and theatre productions, as well as creating T-shirts, CDs and Hackney post cards. They have worked with 150 young people, 500 volunteers and given over 12,000 hours of time. To cater for the growth of the organisation, they are launching a crowd-funded campaign to raise £20,000 in order to move into a brand new building.Not merely an ideal location for their literacy workshops, the ‘Ship of Adventures’ will be a hub of creativity, with a retail area and events space incorporated into the venue, which will moor up on Kingsland High Street in the heart of Hackney. It will act as a public front to the organisation, not only providing a new space for the community but also raising awareness for the Hackney Pirates. In return for supporting the cause, there are a number of rewards available in return for certain levels of contribution – ranging from £5 - £1000. A Seadog will receive the young pirates guide book to Hackney, a Jolly Roger will receive a guided tour of the area, from tourist spots to some of the lesser known treasures on offer. A Quartermaster will get an invite to the VIP launch of the ship and the use of the space for their own private event, and a Buccaneer will enjoy a candle lit boat dinner amidst an evening of exciting conversation and educational innovation in a beautiful setting.

[***Thames Concerts***](http://www.kingstonguardian.co.uk/archive/2013/04/08/10334484.Music_charity_s_shock_at_grant_loss___but_council_says_application_was_month_late/)

Thames Concerts is a registered charity that has put on musical performances in the borough of Kingston for more than 50 years. But it has not been awarded the £6,000 it applied for from RB Kingston this year’s concert series between September 2013 and February 2014. More than 35 groups and organisations received money. Thames Concerts admitted that due to changing management and staff shortage the application for the grant had been submitted late, but said the council were aware of this ad had given no indication that the grant would be totally withdrawn as a result. Although the organisation has got reserves, they are going to be heavily reliant on corporate sponsorship and the goodwill of people and will have to cut back on educational and outreach work, as a result of not receiving the funding. A spokesman for Kingston Arts (KA) said: "KA is dismayed by the drastic cut in the council’s grant to Thames Concert Society and is indeed concerned for the organisation's very survival. The cut appears to have been the result of what is really a technicality, namely a just-missed deadline for grant applications (owing to a changeover in the leadership of the organisation). It strikes KA as extraordinarily short sighted and non-supportive that no-one in the council should have noticed this slip and at the very least have picked up the phone to check on Thames Concert Society." A council spokesman said: “Voluntary sector grant applications opened on October 8, 2012, with deadline for this year’s community investment fund on November 30. Thames Concerts’ application arrived on 21 December.”

[***Raw Material Music and Media***](http://www.southlondonpress.co.uk/news.cfm?id=8142)

Raw Material Music and Mediaworks with hundreds of young people across Lambeth and provides employment training and career progression for youths and young offenders. It was one of six of the borough’s arts groups were set to receive 50% of the Government’s Performance Review Grant (PRG) funding, worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, after helping to secure the grant as part of the Creative Action Partnership. But the Government slashed the PRG funding in half, leading Lambeth First, the lead recipient, to divert funding to other services, such as those working with unemployed youths, young offenders and domestic violence schemes. Raw Material Music and Media are finding it much harder to get funding in the present climate; all their previous sources of funding have ended and not been renewed and LB Lambeth has not announced funding within its children’s services budget. With the increased costs of maintaining their centre, providing up to date equipment and resources, and employing sufficient staff to effectively manage the work, Raw Material Music & Media have found recent funding cuts from Arts Council England and the loss of 100% from LB Lambeth’s Arts and Cultural services funding as well as its schools education support programme, the PRG and Future Jobs Fund, difficult to manage There is currently no available funding for employment support and Raw Material is continuing with this work using reserves [They have carried out major internal building work, renovation and improvements in the centre with £30,000 grants from SITA and](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends66%5C0001020066_AC_20120331_E_C.pdf)

#### [BIFF award to ensure the centre is able to deliver the best facilities and has increased capacity because of the increased call for the voluntary and community sector to provide work experience placements for unemployed young people. However, there are no resources provided for this service, which is in effect free. Demand for services is increasing but as income and grants have been cut, staff have all taken up to a 20% cut in rate of pay.](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends66%5C0001020066_AC_20120331_E_C.pdf)

[***Peckham Space***](http://moderngov.southwarksites.com/documents/s39866/Report%20-%20Transitional%20Support%20for%20Peckham%20Space.pdf)

Peckham Space is a purpose-built public gallery on Peckham Square dedicated to commissioning location-specific artworks made in partnership with community groups. Peckham Space was created by a partnership between Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London (UAL) and Southwark Council. The building opened to the public in June 2010 with a programme of public events. From November 2013 the programme at Peckham Space will continue to be funded by UAL and the Arts Council. However, 2013 marks a significant change for Peckham Space. To date, the gallery has been funded by a range of organisations including: University of the Arts London’s Higher Innovation and Education Fund as well as investment from the Widening Participation strand; Arts Council England’s Grants for the Arts; Southwark Council’s Cleaner Greener Safer and Community Council as well as a range of small Trusts and Foundations.2013 will see the gallery make the transition to operate independently from the University of the Arts London. This transition will see Peckham Space being constituted as an independent charity with a continued relationship with UAL via the Widening Participation programme. From 2013 the gallery will diversify and increase its income streams to include: a Donors Scheme to encourage a culture of individual giving;a Hire Scheme which will primarily be for youth service sessions to takeplace at the gallery; Consultation Services to deliver public art strategies; and Research Partnerships with academic organisations. In addition to this the new company will be able to apply to large scale trusts and foundations that were not possible whilst Peckham Space was hosted by the University. Peckham Space has already established itself as an independent not for profit company (Peckham Space Limited) and is recruiting a new board of trustees that will work to ensure that it delivers this organisational change during the transition year 2013-14 with the intention that it diversifies its funding streams and sustains itself without continued over-reliance on funding from the council or other public agencies. The intention is that with the support of the trustees and the new skills set that this will entail, Peckham Space will successfully deliver a high calibre cultural programme embedded into the community in Southwark that will continue to contribute to the cultural industries as a growth area for the local economy. LB Southwark agreed to award of a one-off grant of £41,000 to Peckham Space Limited in 2013-14 to support its transition to an independent organisation without long-term reliance on council funding. This council funding will support the one-off costs of the transition to the new independent organisation and the development of fundraising and sustainability strategies for the future. Funding from UAL will allow the gallery to continue to provide programmes and activities in this period

[***CoolTan Arts***](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/14773/90_percent_dont_qualify_for_mental_health_personalisation_says_charity_ceo)

90% of people with mental health problems are not qualifying for a personal budget, costing more money and often leading to further problems, according to CoolTan Arts. The mental health and arts charity reported that a large majority of sufferers are not being accepted for a personal budget. This meant that they could no longer afford to come to CoolTan’s day centre in Southwark. They reported that 46% of their users were funded through a Service Level Agreement with the council but only 15 of those had been assessed as eligible to have a personal budget. As a result 18 people had gone back into hospital, one person had gone missing and four people had committed suicide.

[***Carefree Kids***](http://www.carefreekids.org/index.php?Itemid=51)

Carefree Kids was established in 2004 and aims to help improve the emotional well-being of babies, children, young people and their parents/carers, mainly but not exclusively in the London Borough of Waltham Forest. Run by local people in non-bureaucratic ways, and using volunteers, the charity provides therapeutic play, dramatherapy, dance/movement therapy, arts therapies, training for school and other staff, study days and conferences. Carefree Kids works from a low-cost office space and uses donated and recycled items whenever possible.   By delivering most work through volunteers, the organisation avoids the need to raise money to pay fees, and make it possible for most local schools to be able afford their services. However, in the current economic climate of cut backs they have seen their income from paid for services, donations and trust funders decline. The salary of their full-time Co-ordinator is the biggest amount of money that they have had to fundraise for, but the Board are also keen to keep their two part-time administration staff who have proved essential as the number of schools Carefree Kids works with has increased. One fundraising model was the launch of Friends of Carefree Kids on 16th April 2011. The Friends commit to a small annual donation or subscription of £20 per year that supports Carefree Kids charitable activities.

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

Westminster City councillors were considering a report to the Council’s Budget Task Group which proposes cutting the entire £350,000budget for arts and culture.  The Council had proposed to cut the programme by £150,000in 2013-14 and by a further£200,000 in 2014-15. Community and youth arts projects run by Paddington Arts, Union Dance, Westminster Mindand Dream Arts would all be affected, along with around ten other voluntary and community sector arts organisations. Examples of the kind of work supported by the council, and which would 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; and dance and choreography tuition for young people of mixed ability, organised by Union Dance. The cuts could also threaten the longer-term future of some smaller arts groups. Larger arts organisations could absorb the loss of these small grants, which would only be a tiny proportion of their overall funding, relatively easily For smaller arts groups working mainly in Westminster, however, these cuts could mean the loss of more than 20% of their income, which would have a real impact on their long-term future, and would limit their future ability to bring new grant-funding into the borough.

[In a follow up article Westminster City Council confirmed it would go ahead with its 100% cut to arts funding despite a petition in opposition to the proposal. The petition called on the local authority to reject the proposal and was signed by more than 500 people.](http://www.thestage.co.uk/news/2013/05/westminster-denies-petition-against-100-arts-cuts/)

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

[***Greenwich Council for Race Equality***](http://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/bexley/9880108.Greenwich_Council_for_Racial_Equality_fraudsters_spared_jail__Reaction_to_sentences/)

Greenwich Council for Race Equality has been forced to close after 43 years because two members of staff fraudulently stole £47,000 from its funds.

[***Haringey Irish Cultural and Community Centre***](http://www.haringey-irish.com/)

The Centre was set up in 1987 and provides an Advice and Support Service, a social club and a community resource for a wide variety of Irish groups. In the space of a year the Centre has gone from a healthy surplus of £30,000 to deficit. The deficit is set to get worse in 2013-14 as their main funder Haringey Council changed the system of voluntary sector funding from core grants to commissioning. The change had to do with a move away from supporting posts to support for activities and services. The amount of funding was also cut from £55,000 to £40,000. There was a cut in funding from the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Project (ESP) that supported both the Advice & Support Service and the Day Care & Lunch Club. While some of the Haringey grant had gone to fund both the Advice & Support Service and the Day Care & Lunch Club it had not been enough to replace the amount of ESP grant that was lost.
All income streams, however, were down on the previous year in 2012-13. Use of facilities was down from £131,196 to £110,183, a reduction of £21,013. Bar income was down from £273,894 to £258358 a fall of £15,356. Income from the Car Park was down from £34,172 to £32,617 a reduction of £1,555. The 50/50 draw made £4,653 compared to £8,522 the previous year. Haringey Council’s decision on circular funding/peppercorn rents is critical to the future of the organisation. They are proposing to better market the Centre and keep a close eye on costs with an emphasis on reductions in wastages for the future.

[***Oremi Centre***](http://www.spn.org.uk/index.php?id=1247)

Oremi Centre is a black mental health day care service that has been around since 1997. The contract is now being put out for open tender by the council

[***Merton Asylum Welcome***](http://swlondoner.co.uk/content/15031616-merton-asylum-charity-struggles-funding-after-government-cuts)

Merton Asylum Welcome, a charity which provides support to recently arrived refugees and asylum seekers in Wimbledon, is suffering from the effects of government cuts. The charity has seen a 22% rise in the number of people seeking their support, at a time when its funding is being heavily cut by central and local government. Financial constraints meant the charity could not retain the services of Carol Pegg Tsivanidis from the Citizens Advice Bureau, who was a long-standing partner and advisor for the charity.

[***Supporting Travellers and Gypsies (STAG)***](http://www.staglondon.org/2012/03/01/315/)

#### Due to cuts in Blackfriars Advice Centre funding and lower numbers for the Wednesday morning gypsy and traveller sessions these ended on 31st July 2013. Blackfriars would still provide a service for Travellers in the area and STAG are committed to making sure that Travellers can still get the support they need. Blackfriars will still have a STAG-link worker, who will visit sites to make sure that people know about the advice service available and to talk about changes in benefits.

## Children and Young People

[**West Euston Partnership**](http://www.camdennewjournal.com/news/2013/aug/children-still-waiting-study-centre-after-regents-park-library-axe)

Children from Netley Primary school, have been let down over promises to create new facilities for them at the home of the West Euston Partnership charity. When the Robert Street library closed earlier this year, the West Euston Partnership (WEP) won a three-year contract worth £55,000 to run a study centre for school pupils. But now, partly due to the charity moving to new premises, the WEP say they are not able to fulfil the plans without extra funding – leaving youngsters with nowhere to do their homework. WEP had an open-access drop-in area for people to use computers and that children were welcome. But the money offered by Camden Council to run a  dedicated student study centre was not sufficient to upgrade their computers and establish a space in their new offices, which are due to open in September near their current building in Hampstead Road. Because of the move, there had been quite a lot of additional costs involved and that has now raised concerns over whether WEP could do what they originally planned. Camden Council have said they would be working to ensure the new centre was up and running in time for the new term. If they were unable to reach agreement with West Euston Partnership they will see if alternative providers who previously expressed an interest could offer this service from the start of the school term or provide it directly until a new contract could be agreed.

[***Croydon Auto and Bike Scheme***](http://www.thisiscroydontoday.co.uk/New-Addington-youth-project-facing-closure/story-17586187-detail/story.html#axzz2dlwxXUE6)

Croydon Auto and Bike Scheme (CABS) reaches out to at-risk 13 to 19-year-olds by teaching them motorbike maintenance and riding skills, as well as covering issues such as drugs, sexual health and conflict management. Earlier this year, CABS was recognised for its work with £15,000 from Channel 4's Secret Millionaire programme and since its inception in 1996, the project, run by the Croydon Youth Development Trust (CYDT), has worked with more than 1,500 young people From 2014-15 the council wants to axe the project's £70,000 grant, raising doubts about its future.

[***Welcare***](http://www.thisiscroydontoday.co.uk/Child-contact-centres-Croydon-Sutton-close/story-18492100-detail/story.html#axzz2ehBRNHvI)

Two centres providing vital "safe havens" where children from broken families can meet their parents in safe and supervised conditions, closed at the end of May 2013. The Welcare charity said that cuts in its funding and a reduction in the number of children being referred to it for support had made it impossible to keep its child contact services in Croydon and Sutton. The services based in Mitcham Road, West Croydon, and Robin Hood Lane, Sutton, stopped operating on May 31. The decision affected around 90 families and 170 children. Many of the parents locally involved with Welcare paid for the service but in recent years the charity had found it increasingly hard to raise money to remain on a sound financial footing.The situation had been made worse in 2013-14 by the withdrawal of £20,000 of funding from Sutton Council, which had decided to carry out its contact work in-house.The Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) hasdalso reduced its funding by £10,000 and Croydon Council had also cut the number of children it referred to Welcare. The charity needed £200,000 a year to pay staff and cover other operating costs but the trustees have looked closely at the finances and found that in 2013-14 they would have been left with a deficit of £98,000.

[***Hackney Pirates***](http://www.meoko.net/news/hackney-pirates-to-build-ship-of-adventures-and-need-your-help)

The charity, Hackney Pirates develop literacy and creativity amongst young people by giving them one-to-one attention provided by volunteers, working on an plethora of projects including developing music videos and theatre productions, as well as creating T-shirts, CDs and Hackney post cards. They have worked with 150 young people, 500 volunteers and given over 12,000 hours of time. To cater for the growth of the organisation, they are launching a crowd-funded campaign to raise £20,000 in order to move into a brand new building.Not merely an ideal location for their literacy workshops, the ‘Ship of Adventures’ will be a hub of creativity, with a retail area and events space incorporated into the venue, which will moor up on Kingsland High Street in the heart of Hackney. It will act as a public front to the organisation, not only providing a new space for the community but also raising awareness for the Hackney Pirates. In return for supporting the cause, there are a number of rewards available in return for certain levels of contribution – ranging from £5 - £1000. A Seadog will receive the young pirates guide book to Hackney, a Jolly Roger will receive a guided tour of the area, from tourist spots to some of the lesser known treasures on offer. A Quartermaster will get an invite to the VIP launch of the ship and the use of the space for their own private event, and a Buccaneer will enjoy a candle lit boat dinner amidst an evening of exciting conversation and educational innovation in a beautiful setting.

[***Shepherd’s Bush Families Project***](http://www.shepherdsbushfamiliesproject.org/index.html)

Shepherd’s Bush Families Project and Children’s Centre was established in1988 to help families who are homeless or have other unmet housing needs and suffer social and economic hardship in Shepherds Bush and the Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham. They work with families to promote the emotional, physical, social and intellectual development of infants, children and young people by providing of a range of high quality, stimulating educational and recreational daytime services and activities which will enable them to flourish and develop both at home and school or college. They now **rely on grant aid & donations and need to raise £250,000 a year to continue their work** due to the loss of considerable funds (95% of previously allocated funds) through the Local Authorities reconfiguration of children’s centre with very little prior notice, and the ending of their £100,000 per year Tudor Trust grant in 2012.

[***Haringey Young People Empowered***](http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2011/jul/29/young-people-gangs-youth-clubs-close)

Hype ([Haringey Young People Empowered](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=24704795011)), a youth-led group that tackles gang and postcode violence through activities such as football tournaments held in neutral areas, said its future is uncertain. The council is charging the organisation to use rooms that used to be free and future funding is unlikely. The young people involved are starting to drift away. [Godwin Lawson](http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/mar/27/knife-stabbing-godwin-lawson-gangs) was a Hype member and a footballer who played for Oxford United. In March last year the 17-year-old was back in London to see friends and family when he was attacked by a gang. He had one stab wound straight in his heart and he died straight away

[***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)

Sheila Keeling, development manager at Hornchurch ADHD charity Add+Up, said competition for grants had increased. Some staff at Add+Up have even started working on a voluntary basis because the organisation could no longer afford to pay them.“So many groups are going for external funding – we’re in so much competition now,” said Ms Keeling. “We get the same level of funding from the council but our costs have increased. We’re the only ADHD charity in the south-east. If we aren’t here, nobody is going to pick up our children – and young people with ADHD are at high risk of becoming involved with anti-social activities.”

[***Girl guiding in Havering***](http://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/girlguiding_could_be_closed_down_in_havering_due_to_council_funding_cut_district_commissioner_1_2265563)

A Havering Council funding review could “close Girlguiding down in the borough”, a guide leader has warned. Carol Nunn, district commissioner for Girlguiding in South Hornchurch, wrote to parents saying the council intended to withdraw funding for the use of school halls by uniformed groups from September 2013. But the council said no final decisions had been made, and added it would help uniformed groups find alternative affordable accommodation. Without council funding the cost of hiring the South Hornchurch school hall would rise from £6.33 to £85 per meeting.

[***Lewisham Opportunity Pre-School***](http://savelops.com/)

Lewisham Opportunity Pre-School (LOPS) has been in operation as an inclusive pre-school for the last 30 years allowing differently-abled children to begin their education together at nursery level. So far the school has been funded by council grants and topped up by charitable donations and fundraising.  Lewisham Council are now cutting the grants to the school quickly and deeply and expecting charitable donations and fundraising to make up a greater part of the funding. LOPS is Ofsted Outstanding and is held up as a beacon of good practice by Lewisham Council who encourage other nurseries in the borough to send their teachers and keyworkers to observe its working / learning environment. The school, therefore, now needs to make need to make a reasonable amount of money (£15,000) very quickly just to enable pupils to complete the last term of the year, April – July 2013. Otherwise the school looks set to close after the Easter term, staff will be made redundant and children will be left with no nursery placement.

[***Home-Start Sutton***](http://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/local/suttonnews/10668985.Family_charity_Home_Start_Sutton_faces_closure/)

A charity which has supported families with problems for almost 30 years faces closure after the council pulled its funding. Home-Start Sutton helps families, with at least one young child, with everything from mental health problems to domestic abuse and bereavement. The charity, which focuses on early intervention, has 80 volunteers who visit families in their home every week offering emotional and practical support. However, after the council cancelled their funding in July 2013, Home-Start Sutton has been unsuccessful in securing on-going support. Over the years Sutton council provided between £60,000 - £100,000 to the charity but if this is not replaced soon, the charity will face closure before the end of 2013 –despite supporting 98 families since April 2013 alone. Most of the charity’s eight members of staff had been there for almost a decade. Two were to be made redundant in September 2013 while the rest were due to have their hours reduced then.

[***Family Focus***](http://www.suttonguardian.co.uk/news/10586517.Family_support_charity_faces_closure_unless_new_premises_is_found/)

The family support charity, Family Focus, could face closure unless it secures new funding and new premises. Family Focus was based at the Cheam Resource Centre for 25 years until Sutton Council took over the building and moved in a new children's nursery. The support group, which offers help and classes to parents struggling with young children, used to be run by the council and relies heavily on it for a significant chunk of its funding. But as local authorities budgets are squeezed, the charity has seen its funding cut. Their running costs are about £55,000 a year, and the council funding covered between £20,000 and £30,000 of it, but with no premises the organisation might have to close. The group needed to find a venue available in the daytime every Wednesday during term-time which had one main large room for the children to play, one smaller room for group sessions, a kitchen area and an outside area.

[***Carefree Kids***](http://www.carefreekids.org/index.php?Itemid=51)

Carefree Kids was established in 2004 and aims to help improve the emotional well-being of babies, children, young people and their parents/carers, mainly but not exclusively in the London Borough of Waltham Forest. Run by local people in non-bureaucratic ways, and using volunteers, the charity provides therapeutic play, dramatherapy, dance/movement therapy, arts therapies, training for school and other staff, study days and conferences. Carefree Kids works from a low-cost office space and uses donated and recycled items whenever possible.   By delivering most work through volunteers, the organisation avoids the need to raise money to pay fees, and make it possible for most local schools to be able afford their services. However, in the current economic climate of cut backs they have seen their income from paid for services, donations and trust funders decline. The salary of their full-time Co-ordinator is the biggest amount of money that they have had to fundraise for, but the Board are also keen to keep their two part-time administration staff who have proved essential as the number of schools Carefree Kids works with has increased. One fundraising model was the launch of Friends of Carefree Kids on 16th April 2011. The Friends commit to a small annual donation or subscription of £20 per year that supports Carefree Kids charitable activities.

[***Westminster Befriend a Family***](http://www.befriendafamily.co.uk/)

In the two financial years (2010-11 and 2011-12) expenditure greatly exceeded income and Westminster Befriend a Family was forced to use reserves to continue its work, The charity had been providing early intervention support to address the physical, emotional and learning needs of vulnerable families in Westminster for 23 years. Although all of their services were delivered by a team of 200 volunteers, they had developed an extensive paid staff team, which was keeping expenditure at unsustainable levels. The charity decided to meet these challenges head on in 2012 by carrying out a fundamental restructuring programme to achieve significant on-going cost-efficiencies without impacting on the delivery of services. This resulted in a reduction in salaried staff from eight to four and reducing remaining staff to part-time working. The outcome was a 27% reduction in resources the organisation expended over that year, even taking into account the entire one-off costs of redundancy. Westminster Befriend a Family also recruited social work interns to maintain their capacity and support the work of their volunteers. Indeed, the organisation managed to increase the number of families they worked with, over that year whilst significantly reducing their expenditure, as a result.

In 2012 they had succeeded in diversifying their funding sources through organisation of the charity’s first successful fundraising event, the Westminster Befriend a Family Vintage Fair which raised £4,000 in grants and donations, raised the profile of the organisation and engaged the local community. They also established their first charity text campaign, ‘[Every Second Counts’](http://www.befriendafamily.co.uk/every-second-counts/), which had also been a success, raising funds and awareness of the charity’s work, developing a revised marketing strategy and engaging a wider base of potential donors As a result of these initial successes Westminster Befriend a Family set themselves the goal of decreasing their reliance on external sources of financing and incorporating their own self-sustaining fundraising drive to raise £400,000 to support their services in 2013-14. Again, they met with success. Cubitt House is a family run business of prestigious hotel rooms and public houses, that invests a substantial amount of time, resources and commitment to support worthy causes in the community. [In 2013 it announced that it would be supporting Westminster Befriend a Family by helping to raise funds to support their services.](http://www.befriendafamily.co.uk/2013/03/12/its-a-family-affair/) In addition they had more fundraising success [when instructors at Fitness First Victoria agreed to organise a fundraising fitness fest to raise funds for the organisation, while the corporate company, Land Securities had allowed the use of the outdoor roof terrace area of Cardinal Place Shopping Centre for the day in August](http://www.befriendafamily.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Newsletter-2-Summer-2013a.pdf).

## Civic and community development services

[***Kentish Town City Farm***](http://blog.38degrees.org.uk/2013/08/13/an-update-on-kentish-town-city-farm/)

Kentish Town City Farm has lost a portion of its funding from Camden council, but despite this, the council are still funding the farm to stay open – on the understanding that they’ll work to find increased funding from other sources too. The groundswell of support in a recent online campaign to “save the Farm” demonstrated the depth of affection the people of Camden and the wider London community felt. While the campaign was initiated by a concerned user was well intentioned, it had led to some confusion. And There had been council cuts and the Farm was under pressure to look for new sources of funding and to save money where it could in the present financial climate. In order to cope with the pressure, the Farm’s board of trustees has been in close and constructive dialogue with Camden Council to ensure that the doors stay open. As part of those discussions the Farm has received assurances from Camden Council’s finance chief, Theo Blackwell, that support will remain over the difficult years ahead*.* Whilst the online campaign to “save the farm” was well intentioned, the Farm felt that its future interest was best served by positive action to generate income in new ways, which could include individual giving, increased charitable trust donations and business sponsorship.

## Crime and Community Safety

[***Haringey Young People Empowered***](http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2011/jul/29/young-people-gangs-youth-clubs-close)

Hype ([Haringey Young People Empowered](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=24704795011)), a youth-led group that tackles gang and postcode violence through activities such as football tournaments held in neutral areas, said its future is uncertain. The council is charging the organisation to use rooms that used to be free and future funding is unlikely. The young people involved are starting to drift away. [Godwin Lawson](http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/mar/27/knife-stabbing-godwin-lawson-gangs) was a Hype member and a footballer who played for Oxford United. In March last year the 17-year-old was back in London to see friends and family when he was attacked by a gang. He had one stab wound straight in his heart and he died straight away.

[***Raw Material Music and Media***](http://www.southlondonpress.co.uk/news.cfm?id=8142)

Raw Material Music and Mediaworks with hundreds of young people across Lambeth and provides employment training and career progression for youths and young offenders. It was one of six of the borough’s arts groups were set to receive 50% of the Government’s Performance Review Grant (PRG) funding, worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, after helping to secure the grant as part of the Creative Action Partnership. But the Government slashed the PRG funding in half, leading Lambeth First, the lead recipient, to divert funding to other services, such as those working with unemployed youths, young offenders and domestic violence schemes. Raw Material Music and Media are finding it much harder to get funding in the present climate; all their previous sources of funding have ended and not been renewed and LB Lambeth has not announced funding within its children’s services budget. With the increased costs of maintaining their centre, providing up to date equipment and resources, and employing sufficient staff to effectively manage the work, Raw Material Music & Media have found recent funding cuts from Arts Council England and the loss of 100% from LB Lambeth’s Arts and Cultural services funding as well as its schools education support programme, the PRG and Future Jobs Fund, difficult to manage There is currently no available funding for employment support and Raw Material is continuing with this work using reserves [They have carried out major internal building work, renovation and improvements in the centre with £30,000 grants from SITA and](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends66%5C0001020066_AC_20120331_E_C.pdf)

[BIFF award to ensure the centre is able to deliver the best facilities and has increased capacity because of the increased call for the voluntary and community sector to provide work experience placements for unemployed young people. However, there are no resources provided for this service, which is in effect free. Demand for services is increasing but as income and grants have been cut, staff have all taken up to a 20% cut in rate of pay.](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends66%5C0001020066_AC_20120331_E_C.pdf)

[***Southwark Stop Hate UK***](http://www.speakingupsouthwark.org/search/label/news)

Southwark Council might end its funding for Stop Hate UK. This is because a low number of people from Southwark have used Stop Hate UK’s services since the charity started working in borough in November 2011. The council says more people need to use Stop Hate UK to make it worth paying for.

## Deaf and disabled people’s services

[***Bipolar UK***](http://www.bipolaruk.org.uk/assets/uploads/documents/news_bipolaruk/2013/2013_Bipolar_UK_Crisis_Appeal_Press_Release.pdf)

Bipolar UK which supports individuals and families affected by bipolar faces the threat of closing life-saving services as its income suffers in the economic downturn.

Bipolar UK supports more than 65,000 individuals every year providing crucial services including information and advice, self help groups, a mentoring service, a

youth service and a web-based discussion forum for those affected. The charity mainly receives funds through donations and a large number of small grants from charitable trusts but their income is not keeping pace with the increase in demand for their services that has occurred in recent years. 2012 was unprecedented in terms of the number of individuals contacting the charity for help and accessing their services. Increasingly they are finding that individuals’ first contact with them is at a time of crisis involving intervention with emergency services. They were £100,000 short of the amount of money they needed to continue providing services at the beginning of 2013.

[***DANDA***](http://www.danda.org.uk/)

**The national Charity currently operating as DANDA, which supports adults on the autistic spectrum, is in the process of being closed down. A new group, DANDA London, will be created, to continue the aims and objectives of the existing charity organisation in the capital.**

[***Hft and Self Unlimited***](http://www.hft.org.uk/News-and-events/News/Learning-disability-charities-announce-merger/)

Learning disability charities, Hft and Self Unlimited, announced in May 2013 that they were to merge. Both charities provide support for adults with learning disabilities across England. Between them the organisations provide a wide variety of support including; supported living services; supported employment opportunities and working with personalised technology to support people with learning disabilities to be more independent. The merged organisation will be known as Hft and will have an annual turnover of almost £70million, supporting almost 3,000 adults with learning disabilities and employing more than 3,000 staff. Hft’s existing Chief Executive, Robert Longley-Cook, became Chief Executive of the merged organisation. The reason for the merger was cited as being to ensure the organisation was more sustainable in an uncertain economic climate

[***The Osbourne Partnership***](http://www.barkinganddagenhampost.co.uk/news/post_people_why_i_quit_the_theatre_and_joined_a_charity_that_s_an_asset_to_the_community_1_2352596)

The local authority gave up the lease on the Osbourne Partnership’s centre in 2012. The charity, which supports people with learning disabilities into work, had previously paid a peppercorn rent of £1 a week. They were faced with finding new premises, taking over the lease or closing down. They decided to take on the lease – but that cost £1,000 a week. They have a small grant from the council to provide 100 placements a week and run a skills franchise for Barking & Dagenham College. They also obtained a £5,000 community grant from Santander and in 2013 they expanded by opening a community café after successfully obtaining grants, including £98,000 from the National Lottery.

[***Brent Mencap***](http://disabilitynewsservice.com/2013/06/councils-cuts-put-trio-at-risk-of-debt-eviction-and-harassment/)

In June 2013 three people with learning difficulties won permission from the high court for a full judicial review of the decision by Brent council to cut the “floating support” they received through the government’s Supporting People programme.

Lawyers for the claimants say the council made the decision without carrying out any assessment of the potential risk to service-users, a proper equality impact assessment, or a consultation on the changes.

The court ruled that it was “arguable” that the council failed to have due regard under the Equality Act to its public sector equality duties, and that it had failed to consult about the proposed reduction in service.

People with learning difficulties in Brent who were receiving two to four hours of support a week were set to see this cut to just one-and-a-half hours, including the support worker’s travel time.

The case followed a complaint in January by the charity Brent Mencap, which had previously provided the support the trio received under Supporting People.The charity believed that the cuts to Supporting People hours were hidden from Brent councillors, service-users and the public.The decision to award a new contract for floating support to residents with learning disabilities was taken in November 2012. The service was previously provided by Brent Mencap, but the new contract was awarded to Riverside Housing Limited following a competitive tendering process.

“Riverside Housing was chosen because they demonstrated they could deliver the service more efficiently and at a lower cost than the other organisations who submitted tenders.”

[***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)

Sheila Keeling, development manager at Hornchurch ADHD charity Add+Up, said competition for grants had increased. Some staff at Add+Up have even started working on a voluntary basis because the organisation could no longer afford to pay them.“So many groups are going for external funding – we’re in so much competition now,” said Ms Keeling. “We get the same level of funding from the council but our costs have increased. We’re the only ADHD charity in the south-east. If we aren’t here, nobody is going to pick up our children – and young people with ADHD are at high risk of becoming involved with anti-social activities.”

[***Centre 404***](http://www.islingtontribune.com/news/2013/jul/lifeline-disabled-charity-faces-uncertain-future-writer-jean-willson-says-carers-are-o)

Holloway disabled organisation Centre 404’s Big Lottery funding will run out in 2015 and they are asking that the council step in and provide their financial support. The centre provides support for more than 1,000 families with members with learning disabilities, of which the majority are in social housing, on low income or receiving benefits. There were 265 adults with learning difficulties in Islington, who would have each cost the borough £56,000 per year if they had received full council care – instead they are mainly looked after by family carers supported by Centre 404.  The cumulative effect of changes to welfare benefits, the “bedroom tax”, and cuts to legal aid mean that life would only get tougher. Less funding means that carers are becoming overwhelmed, stressed and exhausted.

[***Oremi Centre***](http://www.spn.org.uk/index.php?id=1247)

Oremi Centre is a black mental health day care service that has been around since 1997. The contract is now being put out for open tender by the council

[***Lewisham Opportunity Pre-School***](http://savelops.com/)

Lewisham Opportunity Pre-School (LOPS) has been in operation as an inclusive pre-school for the last 30 years allowing differently-abled children to begin their education together at nursery level. So far the school has been funded by council grants and topped up by charitable donations and fundraising.  Lewisham Council are now cutting the grants to the school quickly and deeply and expecting charitable donations and fundraising to make up a greater part of the funding. LOPS is Ofsted Outstanding and is held up as a beacon of good practice by Lewisham Council who encourage other nurseries in the borough to send their teachers and keyworkers to observe its working / learning environment. The school, therefore, now needs to make need to make a reasonable amount of money (£15,000) very quickly just to enable pupils to complete the last term of the year, April – July 2013. Otherwise the school looks set to close after the Easter term, staff will be made redundant and children will be left with no nursery placement.

[***Merton Mind***](http://www.mertonconnected.com/node/193491)

Merton Mind closed on 30 June 2013 after thirty five years of service to people with mental ill health and their carers in the London Borough of Merton. The trustees are in the final stages of winding up the charity’s financial and legal affairs and will then place the unspent reserves in a holding account until April 2014, after which they will be disbursed according to the stipulations in Merton Mind’s constitution.

[***CoolTan Arts***](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/14773/90_percent_dont_qualify_for_mental_health_personalisation_says_charity_ceo)

90% of people with mental health problems are not qualifying for a personal budget, costing more money and often leading to further problems, according to CoolTan Arts. The mental health and arts charity reported that a large majority of sufferers are not being accepted for a personal budget. This meant that they could no longer afford to come to CoolTan’s day centre in Southwark. They reported that 46% of their users were funded through a Service Level Agreement with the council but only 15 of those had been assessed as eligible to have a personal budget. As a result 18 people had gone back into hospital, one person had gone missing and four people had committed suicide.

[***Waltham Forest Disability Resource Centre***](http://wfdrc.org.uk/2013/06/new-for-2013/)

At the beginning of 2013 Waltham Forest Disability Resource Centre reported that after ten years the local authority had taken back the two seconded members of staff it had provided to the organisation. At the same time the council also reduced their funding was  by £60,000. This had left the Centre with a very small staff team Their transport funding had also recently been cut and the Centre was having to ask people to pay £3 a journey. However, although the transport service had been running for 3 days a week, insufficient numbers of people were using it to be able to cover its full costs, so it might have to be cut back further.  Another effect of the £60,000 cut in funding was that Waltham Forest Disability Resource Centre had had to start charging service users £3 per day to attend the centre.  Unfortunately they reported that some former service users had decided that this was too much to pay and had stopped coming to the Centre.

## Drug & Alcohol services

[***Croydon Auto and Bike Scheme***](http://www.thisiscroydontoday.co.uk/New-Addington-youth-project-facing-closure/story-17586187-detail/story.html#axzz2dlwxXUE6)

Croydon Auto and Bike Scheme (CABS) reaches out to at-risk 13 to 19-year-olds by teaching them motorbike maintenance and riding skills, as well as covering issues such as drugs, sexual health and conflict management. Earlier this year, CABS was recognised for its work with £15,000 from Channel 4's Secret Millionaire programme and since its inception in 1996, the project, run by the Croydon Youth Development Trust (CYDT), has worked with more than 1,500 young people From 2014-15 the council wants to axe the project's £70,000 grant, raising doubts about its future.

## Employment & Skills services

[***Hft and Self Unlimited***](http://www.hft.org.uk/News-and-events/News/Learning-disability-charities-announce-merger/)

Learning disability charities, Hft and Self Unlimited, announced in May 2013 that they were to merge. Both charities provide support for adults with learning disabilities across England. Between them the organisations provide a wide variety of support including; supported living services; supported employment opportunities and working with personalised technology to support people with learning disabilities to be more independent. The merged organisation will be known as Hft and will have an annual turnover of almost £70million, supporting almost 3,000 adults with learning disabilities and employing more than 3,000 staff. Hft’s existing Chief Executive, Robert Longley-Cook, became Chief Executive of the merged organisation. The reason for the merger was cited as being to ensure the organisation was more sustainable in an uncertain economic climate

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The local authority gave up the lease on the Osbourne Partnership’s centre in 2012. The charity, which supports people with learning disabilities into work, had previously paid a peppercorn rent of £1 a week. They were faced with finding new premises, taking over the lease or closing down. They decided to take on the lease – but that cost £1,000 a week. They have a small grant from the council to provide 100 placements a week and run a skills franchise for Barking & Dagenham College. They also obtained a £5,000 community grant from Santander and in 2013 they expanded by opening a community café after successfully obtaining grants, including £98,000 from the National Lottery.

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[BIFF award to ensure the centre is able to deliver the best facilities and has increased capacity because of the increased call for the voluntary and community sector to provide work experience placements for unemployed young people. However, there are no resources provided for this service, which is in effect free. Demand for services is increasing but as income and grants have been cut, staff have all taken up to a 20% cut in rate of pay.](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends66%5C0001020066_AC_20120331_E_C.pdf)

[***Training for Life***](http://www.london-se1.co.uk/news/view/6435)

Training for Life, the charity which runs the Downside Centre in the Downside Fisher Youth Club building, has gone into administration. The charity, which is best-known for its Hoxton Apprentice and Dartmouth Apprentice restaurants, specialises in on-the-job training for the long-term unemployed.The [Downside Fisher Youth Club](http://www.london-se1.co.uk/places/downside-fisher-youth-club) building in Coxson Place off [Druid Street](http://www.london-se1.co.uk/street/druid-street) was refurbished by Training for Life between 2006 and 2008 under a deal between the two charities which at the time shared a trustee in common. In return for the £3.2 million refurbishment of the centre, Training for Life was granted a 25-year lease to use the building during the day on weekdays and all day at weekends.The youth club continued to use the building on weeknights. The centre's sports and leisure facilities, including the [swimming pool](http://www.london-se1.co.uk/news/view/5127), were open to the local community through Training for Life, most recently under the [Downside Centre](http://www.london-se1.co.uk/places/downside-centre) brand name. However, the relationship between the two charities has not always been easy and [Simon Hughes](http://www.london-se1.co.uk/community/mp/simon-hughes) MP has previously brokered negotiations between the two groups. Legal notices on the door of the building dated 5 November 2012 stated that Training for Life's lease on the Bermondsey building has been terminated by the Downside Settlement. Mazars LLP were [appointed as administrators](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/60327/notices/1706966/) of Training for Life on 8 November 2012. Training for Life's Barking Apprentice cafe in east London has [closed](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=385175571559594&id=201754683235018) but the Hoxton and Dartmouth restaurants continue to trade at present. several former Training For Life executives hope to form a new charity to try to address the problem of long-term unemployment.

## Environment

[***Kentish Town City Farm***](http://blog.38degrees.org.uk/2013/08/13/an-update-on-kentish-town-city-farm/)

Kentish Town City Farm has lost a portion of its funding from Camden council, but despite this, the council are still funding the farm to stay open – on the understanding that they’ll work to find increased funding from other sources too. The groundswell of support in a recent online campaign to “save the Farm” demonstrated the depth of affection the people of Camden and the wider London community felt. While the campaign was initiated by a concerned user was well intentioned, it had led to some confusion. And There had been council cuts and the Farm was under pressure to look for new sources of funding and to save money where it could in the present financial climate. In order to cope with the pressure, the Farm’s board of trustees has been in close and constructive dialogue with Camden Council to ensure that the doors stay open. As part of those discussions the Farm has received assurances from Camden Council’s finance chief, Theo Blackwell, that support will remain over the difficult years ahead*.* Whilst the online campaign to “save the farm” was well intentioned, the Farm felt that its future interest was best served by positive action to generate income in new ways, which could include individual giving, increased charitable trust donations and business sponsorship.

## Health & care services

[***Bipolar UK***](http://www.bipolaruk.org.uk/assets/uploads/documents/news_bipolaruk/2013/2013_Bipolar_UK_Crisis_Appeal_Press_Release.pdf)

Bipolar UK which supports individuals and families affected by bipolar faces the threat of closing life-saving services as its income suffers in the economic downturn.

Bipolar UK supports more than 65,000 individuals every year providing crucial services including information and advice, self help groups, a mentoring service, a

youth service and a web-based discussion forum for those affected. The charity mainly receives funds through donations and a large number of small grants from charitable trusts but their income is not keeping pace with the increase in demand for their services that has occurred in recent years. 2012 was unprecedented in terms of the number of individuals contacting the charity for help and accessing their services. Increasingly they are finding that individuals’ first contact with them is at a time of crisis involving intervention with emergency services. They were £100,000 short of the amount of money they needed to continue providing services at the beginning of 2013.

[***GMFA***](http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2013/04/11/london-gay-mens-health-charity-gmfa-faces-uncertain-future-after-funding-cut/)

GMFA reported in April 2013 that it would no longer receive funding for its London HIV information services. [The Terrence Higgins Trust (THT), Britain’s largest HIV and sexual health charity announced in March that around £1.2 million had been cut from the Pan-London HIV Prevention Programme.](http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2013/03/15/terrence-higgins-trust-half-of-hiv-prevention-funding-cut-in-london/) GMFA and THT have been notified that they will no longer receive funding for their London HIV information services, including GMFA’s websites and the sex and health magazine, FS, as well as THT’s press advertising campaigns. There are more gay men living with HIV in London than anywhere else in the UK, and the numbers continue to rise. As a result of the cuts GMFA now faced an uncertain future. Its websites are relatively cheap to run, costing far less than any other pan-London HIV prevention activity, and reach more gay men than any of the other projects to but GMFA couldn’t afford to keep them going at the same level without any funding. The cuts mean that there would now be no London funded general information resources and they represent another major cut in HIV prevention funding, at a time when HIV diagnoses amongst gay men are increasing.

[***Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice***](http://www.bvsc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Spotlight-July-13.pdf)

Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice provides free specialist end of life care for people with life-limiting llnesses, as well as providing support for their families, friends and carers. The Hospice does not charge for its services, and only one third of its funding comes from the NHS, which means the Hospice has to rely on the support of mainly local people, businesses, community groups and its net-work of shops to raise £4million annually to continue its work.

[***VCS groups providing the Falls service in Bromley***](http://www.bromleyccg.nhs.uk/about/ourboard/Papers/Enc%203%20-%20Falls%20and%20Fracture%20Prevention%20Service%20Procurement.pdf)

Falls services in Bromley have been provided routinely by various agencies, including South London Healthcare Trust, Bromley Healthcare, the London Borough of Bromley, VCS organisations and Community Pharmacy. Each of the providers work independently and the budgets are held separately leading to services that are fragmented, lack cohesion and do not provide an integrated, standardised approach creating inequitable access for residents and duplication of provision. The total cost of the current falls pathway was estimated at £6,350,000 of which £6,175,00 was accounted for by health related issues and the remainder for social factors. Only £19,347 was currently spent on a falls-specific service. Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group have now decided to commission a new Falls service for

£301,000 per year with estimated net savings of £247,000 per annum. However [they have decided to progress with a single tender waiver for procurement and offer the new service as a contract extension to Bromley Healthcare, a social enterprise formed by staff previously employed by the NHS.](http://www.bromleyccg.nhs.uk/about/ourboard/Papers/Enc%203%20-%20Falls%20and%20Fracture%20Prevention%20Service%20Procurement.pdf)

[***The Armoury***](http://www.camdennewjournal.com/news/2013/apr/healthy-future-royal-free-charity-steps-save-armoury-gym-closure)

The Armoury, a community gym in Hampstead was saved from closure by the Royal Free Charity which stepped in to save it from closure, after learning that it had been put up for sale at £1.5million by Camden Council. With its help, the charity-run Armoury has been granted a new 10-year lease to continue helping 2,000 poor and disadvantaged members stay healthy in 2013-14.

[***Croydon Auto and Bike Scheme***](http://www.thisiscroydontoday.co.uk/New-Addington-youth-project-facing-closure/story-17586187-detail/story.html#axzz2dlwxXUE6)

Croydon Auto and Bike Scheme (CABS) reaches out to at-risk 13 to 19-year-olds by teaching them motorbike maintenance and riding skills, as well as covering issues such as drugs, sexual health and conflict management. Earlier this year, CABS was recognised for its work with £15,000 from Channel 4's Secret Millionaire programme and since its inception in 1996, the project, run by the Croydon Youth Development Trust (CYDT), has worked with more than 1,500 young people From 2014-15 the council wants to axe the project's £70,000 grant, raising doubts about its future.

[***Bereft***](http://www.ealingccg.nhs.uk/media/2798/Paper%202%20Draft%20minutes%20Governing%20Body12%2012%2012.pdf)

Bereft is a low-cost bereavement support service offering one-to-one counselling to any bereaved Ealing borough resident over the age of 16, who chooses it. They are currently funded by the Health and Social Care Grant which covers some, but not all, of their operating costs. They are also heavily reliant on the donations made by our clients per session. The majority are able to afford something according to their means, but some are simply unable to, so those who can’t pay don’t. In 2013 the charity had noticed an increase in patients referred by their GP or other NHS professionals holding the assumption that the service is free. They were also concerned about future funding through the Health & Social Care Grant from 2014-15.

[***Borough of Harrow Swim Club***](http://www.harrowtimes.co.uk/news/10425660.Swimming_club_faces_possible_closure/)

The Harrow swimming club is under threat of closure following the announcement it will no longer be allowed to train at a school pool. Members of the Borough of Harrow Swim Club fear it may shut down due to the closure of the John Lyon Sports Centre to non-school users from June2013. In response to the announcement from the sports centre, on the site of John Lyon School in Middle Road, Harrow, the swimming club has launched a petition calling for the planned closure not to go ahead

[***St Luke’s Hospice***](http://www.harrowtimes.co.uk/news/10372752.Charity_shop_tax_leaves_hospice___15_000_out_of_pocket/)

A Kenton hospice says terminally ill people will suffer because a change in council policy means it has to pay an extra £15,000 in tax. St Luke’s Hospice in Kenton will now have to pay full business rates on its 13 charity shops across the borough after Harrow Borough Council abolished the rebate it receives. The charity says the money it has lost could have paid for 250 home visits.

[***Oremi Centre***](http://www.spn.org.uk/index.php?id=1247)

Oremi Centre is a black mental health day care service that has been around since 1997. The contract is now being put out for open tender by the council

[***Merton Mind***](http://www.mertonconnected.com/node/193491)

Merton Mind closed on 30 June 2013 after thirty five years of service to people with mental ill health and their carers in the London Borough of Merton. The trustees are in the final stages of winding up the charity’s financial and legal affairs and will then place the unspent reserves in a holding account until April 2014, after which they will be disbursed according to the stipulations in Merton Mind’s constitution.

[***The Wimbledon Guild***](http://www.wimbledonguild.co.uk/news.html)

The consultation period around the closure of the residential and nursing home , Rosemary Lodge was successfully completed. All information was reviewed by the Board of Trustees at The Wimbledon Guild and the decision has been made to close the Lodge.The Guild is working with residents and families to find the right solution for each person, who was a former resident and it anticipated that this programme would be completed by the end of summer 2013. Full HR support was being provided to all staff members, some of whom had already found new employment. The number of staff at Rosemary Lodge will be gradually reduced over the coming months as residents and their families find alternative accommodation.There are currently 43 staff at Rosemary Lodge affected by the closure, working in full and part-time positions.  These jobs will be made redundant as they work towards the closure at the end of summer and all staff affected were being offered full outplacement support and training.

[***Caremark Harlow, Epping and Redbridge***](http://www.caremark.co.uk/locations/redbridge/local-news/caremark-redbridge-launch-24-hour-live-in-care-package-habito)

Caremark Harlow, Epping and Redbridge have launched Habito a live in care package for customers who would like to remain living in their own home but feel they need more assistance with day to day living. All care workers are CRB checked and fully trained. The service user’s own personal care and support worker will live in their home and be there to help and assist in a professional and dignified way at all times.

[***Redbridge branch of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research***](http://www.ilfordrecorder.co.uk/news/redbridge_leukaemia_charity_closes_for_good_after_38_years_1_1165971)

Redbridge branch of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research A Redbridge charity has closed after failing to find new members willing to take over key roles. The final audited accounts were sent to members, signalling the final act in the group’s 38-year history. The winding up of the group also spells the end of the annual Bikeathon. The event, held in Valentines Park, raised thousands for the charity each year, which went directly to aiding research into Leukaemia and lymphoma. The branch had raised £2,172,283 since it was founded in 1973.

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90% of people with mental health problems are not qualifying for a personal budget, costing more money and often leading to further problems, according to CoolTan Arts. The mental health and arts charity reported that a large majority of sufferers are not being accepted for a personal budget. This meant that they could no longer afford to come to CoolTan’s day centre in Southwark. They reported that 46% of their users were funded through a Service Level Agreement with the council but only 15 of those had been assessed as eligible to have a personal budget. As a result 18 people had gone back into hospital, one person had gone missing and four people had committed suicide.

## Housing & Homelessness

## [*Shelter*](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/governance/news/content/14414/legal_aid_cuts_could_cost_100_shelter_jobs)

Shelter closed one-third of its face-to-face services and lost 75 staff at the end of March 2013 as a result of the halving of government legal aid support. [Shelter](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/directory/company/380/shelter) is facing a halving of its legal aid funding in 2013-14, which in 2011-2012 was worth £6million. It plans to provide more legal services online and over the phone.

[***Advice4Renters (formerly Brent Private Tenants’ Rights Group)***](http://www.advice4renters.org.uk/files/3613/7175/1811/NEWNotice_to_Potential_New_Clients_-_May_2013.pdf)

Advice4Renters’ (previously Brent Private Tenants Rights Group) free advice service is funded by the Legal Aid Agency, who administer the Legal Aid Scheme on behalf of the government.

They fix the number of people that we can be supported each year. They have cut the numbers of people that can be supported each year and this means that Advice4Renters only have about half the number of appointments that they had had in previous years. The Government’s cut to the legal aid budget has also had a direct effect on their work, as they are now limited in the types of problems that they can be funded to help people with. From 1st April 2013 they can only support cases about:

• Serious disrepair which means there is a serious risk to the health or safety of an individual or a member of their family because of the disrepair or defect in the accommodation

• Homelessness people who have wrongly been refused help by the council

• A landlord’s issuing of a notice to leave, the start of court proceedings to get possession of the home or has applied to court for an eviction

• An illegal eviction or if there is a need to apply to the court for an injunction to stop a landlord or somebody causing harassment. Advice4Renters does not have the funding to help clients with other housing issues, such as seeking information about their rights under a tenancy agreement, trying to recover a tenancy deposit-seeking transfers or needing help with housing benefit problems.

[***Broadway***](http://www.financialdirector.co.uk/financial-director/interview/2277711/interview-broadway-director-of-finance-nick-lee)

The City of London spend more than double per person than any other council in the country on mental health £195 per head is spent on social care services for people under 65 with mental health needs. Camden – the second highest spender in terms of per capita for mental health services – spends £67 per head.. Most of the money goes on helping the homeless. The City of London commissions its own homeless person’s charity, called Broadway, which works with over 7,000 people every year to provide housing and support 95% of its income from government funding. According to its latest annual accounts, Broadway was running at a larger than planned operating deficit of £219,000 set against a background of reductions in statutory funding. The charity has had to contend with funding cuts over five successive years from local authorities, councils and the Department for Communities and Local Government. They have had to drive down costs and invest in new areas to find funding from elsewhere; chiefly by increasing voluntary donations from the public. So far, support costs have been driven down to 12% from 18% of turnover

The group merged with Threshold Housing Advice in late 2011. The catalyst for the merger was partly the economic situation of both organisations, though merging the two advice services created a stronger offering. Broadway has had to invest in fundraising, marketing and communications, spending £90,000 on two posts - including upgrading its head of fundraising - and on a partnership with a housing association in Gosport. In 2011-2012, Broadway was able to increase its voluntary income to £382,039 from £253,285 and a "fairly consistent return" from the investment in fundraising to £500,000 over the next two or three years is expected. However, the business has to cope with the time lag between the investment and the return.

Reserves have gone from over £2million of free cash reserve down to around £1.2million over four years as a result of this "deliberate investment".

To improve its financial position, Broadway decided to sell Corner House, its property in Broadstairs, which was previously used to offer clients respite breaks and learning trips. Additionally, to safeguard existing services and remain cost effective, the charity has had to review staff costs, by far and away its largest expense item. They have come off the national pay scale and moved to a market testing approach. For the last three years they have only paid to the median, and adjusted pay scales if wages are out of line.

[***Shepherd’s Bush Families Project***](http://www.shepherdsbushfamiliesproject.org/index.html)

Shepherd’s Bush Families Project and Children’s Centre was established in1988 to help families who are homeless or have other unmet housing needs and suffer social and economic hardship in Shepherds Bush and the Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham. They work with families to promote the emotional, physical, social and intellectual development of infants, children and young people by providing of a range of high quality, stimulating educational and recreational daytime services and activities which will enable them to flourish and develop both at home and school or college. They now **rely on grant aid & donations and need to raise £250,000 a year to continue their work** due to the loss of considerable funds (95% of previously allocated funds) through the Local Authorities reconfiguration of children’s centre with very little prior notice, and the ending of their £100,000 per year Tudor Trust grant in 2012.

[***Hounslow Federation of Tenants and Residents Association***](http://hounslowfoodbox.org.uk/news/hounslow-launches-first-community-foodbox/)

Hounslow Federation of Tenants and Residents Association has worked with LB Hounslow to set up the Hounslow Community Foodbox: the first resident-run Food Bank in the country which aims to involve residents and local groups in preventing and relieving poverty by working together, as well as creating new employment and work experience opportunities. It was the second foodbank to open in Hounslow in a month.The launch event on 26th April 2013, attracted a number of Hounslow based charities and organisations, all of whom the Foodbox organisation hoped to work with. Attendees gained an understanding of the new project and how it would provide emergency supplies for local residents in crisis, in response to the Government’s welfare reforms. The ASDA superstore in Hounslow is the main partner for the service and will provide a collection point for shoppers to donate non-perishable items. Hounslow Council, HFTRA and local groups working with those in need, will help to identify families and other residents in crisis and in need of emergency food. [There has, however, been some controversy about this foodbank as its website states that those who have ‘chaotic lifestyles’ and/ or those whose benefits have been sanctioned will not be eligible to receive its help.](http://www.theinformationdaily.com/2013/06/05/if-foodbanks-reject-the-undeserving-where-can-they-go)

[***Local Space***](http://www.localspace.co.uk/mediaFiles/downloads/69834528/Annual_review_2013.pdf)

Local Space was created in 2006 in a partnership between the London Borough of Newham and a group of housing professionals. The model rested on the gifting of 450 properties from Newham Council to Local Space, which then raised around £200 million to acquire and improve 1,000 homes across East London. These homes were all used to house homeless people in good quality temporary accommodation using revenue streams generated from housing benefit. The model was extremely successful and resulted in several similar enterprises being set up over the next few years. In addition, Local Space merged with Passmore Urban Regeneration to provide locally based key worker accommodation within Newham. The fundamental model on which Local Space was built was highly innovative at the time. However, the funding frameworks for housing have changed dramatically in the six years since Local Space was created. Government subsidy, in the form of grants from the Homes and Community Budget, have been reduced significantly, making it difficult for regeneration and improvement to take place. At the same time, we’ve seen a squeeze on the levels of rent covered by housing benefit, with the introduction of benefit reforms. In addition, the emphasis on the provision for temporary accommodation has been replaced by long-term commitments to sustainable accommodation. Pilot schemes on the south coast that Local Space has undertaken with Hastings Borough Council have also demonstrated that the key financial assumptions which would once have made these schemes possible are no longer true. As a result of this shift, the board of Local Space has resolved to withdraw from future work in the coastal areas, and to re-examine the financial and legal options so that they can deliver additional affordable homes within Newham and the other east London housing authorities. If this was an easy task, the private sector would be doing it now. What is actually happening is that the private sector is providing poor quality, expensive, insecure accommodation which is often overcrowded and in some cases dangerous and unhealthy. Local Space intend to work with partners to provide an alternative to this, and to contribute significantly to better housing and better places for homeless households and people on limited incomes, whether they’re in work or not.

***[Christian Kitchen](http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/care/charity-launches-legal-action-over-soup-run/6527066.article)***

Charity Christian Kitchen, which runs a soup kitchen in Mission Grove, Walthamstow, and two of its users have instructed public lawyers Irwin Mitchell to seek an urgent judicial review against Waltham Forest Council to stop it revoking their license and moving it to a spot 50 minutes away.  They say the out-of-town venue the council wants to move them to, just off the busy North Circular Road, is unsuitable and would lead to the soup run’s closure. The soup kitchen is a vital charitable service for homeless and vulnerable people in the area and the organisers and users of the service were left with no choice but to take legal action to stop the move which they believed would lead to its closure. The council had wanted to close the soup run immediately, but had allowed it to continue while the legal action was resolved. It and says that it must move the soup run on because it is in a residential area and there have been complaints about anti-social behaviour connected to it. The council said the police had demonstrated the scale of the problem at a meeting in February this year saying 15 ‘problematic core street drinkers’ had been identified as users of the soup run and since June 2012 there had been a total of 58 arrests attributable to these individuals for a range of offences including violence against the person, theft and drunkenness. However, Christian Kitchen questioned these figures, stating that a freedom of information request had shown the ‘council has had no direct complaints about the soup kitchen in the previous 12 months. The soup run had been run seven days a week for more than 25 years on the same site and served between 50 and 100 meals a night.

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender

[***GMFA***](http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2013/04/11/london-gay-mens-health-charity-gmfa-faces-uncertain-future-after-funding-cut/)

GMFA reported in April 2013 that it would no longer receive funding for its London HIV information services. [The Terrence Higgins Trust (THT), Britain’s largest HIV and sexual health charity announced in March that around £1.2 million had been cut from the Pan-London HIV Prevention Programme.](http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2013/03/15/terrence-higgins-trust-half-of-hiv-prevention-funding-cut-in-london/) GMFA and THT have been notified that they will no longer receive funding for their London HIV information services, including GMFA’s websites and the sex and health magazine, FS, as well as THT’s press advertising campaigns. There are more gay men living with HIV in London than anywhere else in the UK, and the numbers continue to rise. As a result of the cuts GMFA now faced an uncertain future. Its websites are relatively cheap to run, costing far less than any other pan-London HIV prevention activity, and reach more gay men than any of the other projects to but GMFA couldn’t afford to keep them going at the same level without any funding. The cuts mean that there would now be no London funded general information resources and they represent another major cut in HIV prevention funding, at a time when HIV diagnoses amongst gay men are increasing.

## Religion / belief

[***Greenwich Islamic Centre***](http://www.greenwichislamiccentre.org.uk/gic-uptodate.php)

Greenwich Islamic Centre (GIC) are planning to expand the current centre, and its facilities, as there is desperate need for larger premises to accommodate the ever growing Muslim population. The Mosque was originally built to cater the needs of handful of local Muslim families, however during the past 10 years the Mosque congregation has grown rapidly and now it is serving the needs of almost 15000 families of the Borough of Greenwich as well as 4000 Muslims from the neighbouring Borough of Bexley. They do not receive any grant funding and will rely on donations and sponsorship to fund this. The Centre acquired a dilapidated building and land at 131-Plumstead Road in May 1981. An architect was engaged to design a Mosque and Community Centre at this site to cater for the religious needs of growing Muslim Community in the Borough of Greenwich. In 1981 a planning application was submitted for the construction of this Centre. The permission was granted by the Council in early 1985. Due to limited funds it was decided to construct the Mosque in two phases. A contract was signed and phase- I construction started on June 4th, 1985.Phase – I construction was completed in 1988, and the Centre was registered as a Place of Religious Worship, in accordance with the Place of Worship Registration Act 1855. Phase 2 of the construction is estimated to cost £3million but the Centre has only fundraised £170,000.

## Older People

[***VCS groups providing the Falls service in Bromley***](http://www.bromleyccg.nhs.uk/about/ourboard/Papers/Enc%203%20-%20Falls%20and%20Fracture%20Prevention%20Service%20Procurement.pdf)

Falls services in Bromley have been provided routinely by various agencies, including South London Healthcare Trust, Bromley Healthcare, the London Borough of Bromley, VCS organisations and Community Pharmacy. Each of the providers work independently and the budgets are held separately leading to services that are fragmented, lack cohesion and do not provide an integrated, standardised approach creating inequitable access for residents and duplication of provision. The total cost of the current falls pathway was estimated at £6,350,000 of which £6,175,00 was accounted for by health related issues and the remainder for social factors. Only £19,347 was currently spent on a falls-specific service. Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group have now decided to commission a new Falls service for

£301,000 per year with estimated net savings of £247,000 per annum. However [they have decided to progress with a single tender waiver for procurement and offer the new service as a contract extension to Bromley Healthcare, a social enterprise formed by staff previously employed by the NHS.](http://www.bromleyccg.nhs.uk/about/ourboard/Papers/Enc%203%20-%20Falls%20and%20Fracture%20Prevention%20Service%20Procurement.pdf)

[***Positive Network***](http://www.positive-network-centre.com/press-room)

Positive Network, for the first time since being funded by Merton Council for the last 10 years, faced the prospect of the removal of their Council funding grant of £34,000, which has enabled the group to   support older people from diverse communities to stay fit and well at home and able to manage their affairs.  Some are wheelchair users or receive home help, or another form of social care support but most have multiple long term conditions that need carefully managing to enable them to stay well in their home. Determined to stay open and press on Positive Network still intend to put up a fight to try to remedy the situation.  The cuts will leave many of their service users at home, isolated, alone, and vulnerable which is the quickest route to their eventually moving into costly residential care.

Six adult social care groups, previously funded by the council, have reacted with shock, dismay and anger after bids for funds were rejected supposedly due to new criteria outlined in the council’s Ageing Well initiative.   However the criteria is still based on those requiring a service for the most needy.  The scheme dictates that only groups deemed to help keep the elderly living in their homes for longer, delaying the need for council funded social care, will receive funding from the council’s three year £3million adult social care grant. Positive Network argue that they fulfil this requirement on a daily basis.

Groups that similarly lost funding from April 2013 included Merton Mind, Friends in St Helier, Positive Network, the Asian Elderly Group of Merton, the Merton and Wandsworth Asylum Association Welcome, and the Merton Goans Senior Citizens Association. These groups are all based pre-dominantly in the East of the Borough where there is a greater need, less affluence and a shorter life expectancy than in the South West, yet the South West of the borough received the bulk of the funding, with Merton Community Transport, Merton Mencap and Carers Support Merton gaining increased support.  The biggest gain is for Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare which has seen funding more than double from £112,290 to £289,650. Users, volunteers and staff are now facing uncertainty with some groups fearing they may have to close.  The move is expected to save the council £500,000 over three years based on an estimated 182 people being able to stay in their homes for an extra year, but has not taken into account the Impact on the service users of the groups they are not funding.

[***The Wimbledon Guild***](http://www.wimbledonguild.co.uk/news.html)

The consultation period around the closure of the residential and nursing home , Rosemary Lodge was successfully completed. All information was reviewed by the Board of Trustees at The Wimbledon Guild and the decision has been made to close the Lodge.The Guild is working with residents and families to find the right solution for each person, who was a former resident and it anticipated that this programme would be completed by the end of summer 2013. Full HR support was being provided to all staff members, some of whom had already found new employment. The number of staff at Rosemary Lodge will be gradually reduced over the coming months as residents and their families find alternative accommodation.There are currently 43 staff at Rosemary Lodge affected by the closure, working in full and part-time positions.  These jobs will be made redundant as they work towards the closure at the end of summer and all staff affected were being offered full outplacement support and training.

[***Caremark Harlow, Epping and Redbridge***](http://www.caremark.co.uk/locations/redbridge/local-news/caremark-redbridge-launch-24-hour-live-in-care-package-habito)

Caremark Harlow, Epping and Redbridge have launched Habito a live in care package for customers who would like to remain living in their own home but feel they need more assistance with day to day living. All care workers are CRB checked and fully trained. The service user’s own personal care and support worker will live in their home and be there to help and assist in a professional and dignified way at all times.

## Poverty

[***Oxfam***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-23422538)

Oxfam's income fell £17.6million to £367.9million in the year to 31st March 2013 with its two main sources of money, shops and fundraising, down on the previous year. The charity's annual report shows that the shops' net income fell 9.9% to £20.1million, while fundraising fell 5.6% to £267.8million.Oxfam blamed the fall on tough economic times, and said many shops had reported a decline in donations. Total spending on charitable activities, at £290million, was a slight increase on last year. But Oxfam spent an extra £3.6million responding to humanitarian emergencies.

***[Christian Kitchen](http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/care/charity-launches-legal-action-over-soup-run/6527066.article)***

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## Volunteering

[***Girl guiding in Havering***](http://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/girlguiding_could_be_closed_down_in_havering_due_to_council_funding_cut_district_commissioner_1_2265563)

A Havering Council funding review could “close Girlguiding down in the borough”, a guide leader has warned. Carol Nunn, district commissioner for Girlguiding in South Hornchurch, wrote to parents saying the council intended to withdraw funding for the use of school halls by uniformed groups from September 2013. But the council said no final decisions had been made, and added it would help uniformed groups find alternative affordable accommodation. Without council funding the cost of hiring the South Hornchurch school hall would rise from £6.33 to £85 per meeting.

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

Due to funding cuts, Hounslow Volunteer Centre is no longer able to offer its Volunteer Support Programme service. The 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.

## Women

***[Girl guiding in Havering](http://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/girlguiding_could_be_closed_down_in_havering_due_to_council_funding_cut_district_commissioner_1_2265563)***

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[***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 by LB Islington (a 35% reduction). Solace Women’s Aid continues to seek funding opportunities to plan, develop and extend services. This can be complex and demanding as the sector is in a period of major change with insecurities over longer term funding due to the commissioning of services by local and central government, the recession and the cuts to public spending. For these reasons SWA has put in place strategies to diversify its funding streams and to change its management structure. [A net deficit in the Income and Expenditure account of £44,947 was created in 2011-2012](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends50%5C0001082450_AC_20120331_E_C.pdf), In April 2012, Domestic Violence Support Services in Barnet merged with Solace Women’s Aid following a successful tender for Barnet’s new Domestic Violence service. The contract, involved a partnership with Jewish Women’s Aid, Barnet Asian Women’s Association and Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP). Solace Women’s Aid bought and converted a 10 bed refuge for this service in April 2012. During 2012 they worked consistently with 20 other London Violence against Women and Girls providers to form the London VAWG partnership. They successfully submitted a partnership bid to London Councils in October 2012 as the lead partner for a pan-London advice and counselling service, which began delivery in 2013-14 with overall funding (shared between the partners) of over £1.3million, but funding for Solace alone still does not reach the £380,159 it received from London Councils in 2010-11, and the organisation is having to look at gaining funding from individual local authorities.

# Appendix 1: London boroughs and funding for advice services

(information from LB Ealing advice service review 2012)

| **Borough** |  | **2010/11** | **2011/12** | **2012/13** | **2013/14** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Barking & Dagenham | Generalist Advice | £205,000  | £196,500  | £196,500  | Decisions about future funding beyond this date have not yet been made | There has been a movement away from the grant funding of all such services supported under this programme. The larger (over £10,000) services are now commissioned on a three yearly basis. Innovation grants of up to £10,000 are still paid as annual grants. Barking and Dagenham Community Legal Advice Centre. The Council made a decision to focus its support for generalist Advice Services in a contracted service tendered in association with the Legal Services Commission. This contract was awarded to a Partnership made up of Edwards Duthie Solicitors and the Barking and Dagenham Citizens’ Advice Bureau. The Barking and Dagenham Community Legal Advice Centre contract is for a period of 2 years 11 months from the start date of 3 May 2010.Future FundingThe Council is financially committed to the Community legal Advice Centre until 31 March 2013. Decisions about future funding beyond this date have not yet been made, or budgets agreed. |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | - | - | - | - |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £9,999 | £9960 | - | Decisions about future funding beyond this date have not yet been made |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £17,999 | £9,407 | - | Decisions about future funding beyond this date have not yet been made |
| Barnet | Generalist Advice | £388,557  | £358,458 | - | - | The Council is currently funding, by way of a grant extending to 31 December 2011, Barnet Citizens Advice Bureau Service (BCAB) to provide generalist advice services and Barnet Law Service (BLS) to provide specialist law services and a second-tier legal advice service supporting, and taking referrals from, front-line advice agencies. The combined grant to the two organisations for the period 1 April to 31 December 2011 is £358,485.In line with a policy decision, the council has tendered for a new Community Advice Service against a more clearly defined specification, developed over a two-year period. The new contract, which has been awarded to BCAB in partnership with BLS, will commence on 1 January 2012 and end on 31 December 2014.\*\*The budget for the provision of community advice between now and March 2014 reduced steadily in line with the reduction in local authority fundingSpecialist legal services are an integral part of the contract with BCAB / BLS, the Council does not commission any jointly with LSC.  |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | £78,067 | - | - |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £704,209 | £708,355 | £349,906 (Currently joint tendering for these services with neighbouring borough for 2012/13, 270K. Figure referenced is Barnet’s available budget) | £270,000 (Currently joint tendering for these services with neighbouring borough.Figure referenced is Barnet’s available budget) |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £278,811 | £196,747 | £259,793 | - |
| Bexley | No Response |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brent | Generalist Advice | £359,427 | £359,427 | Subject to consultation |  | We have not made funding decisions for 2012/2013 and 2013/14, |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | £208,347 | £183,346 | Subject to consultation |  |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concer, Mind etc | £300,000 | £300,00 | Subject to consultation |  | Mainly general advice benefiting disabled people and elderly. Grant (annual with a proposal to move to commission a 3 year arrangement) |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £351,216 | £175,608 | Subject to consultation |  |  |
| Bromley | Generalist Advice | £25,6350 | £256,350 | No decisions taken at present |  | Contract |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | - | - | - |  |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £1,876,670 | £1,189,070 | No decisions taken at present |  | Grant and Contract includes in-house and external provision |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £462,897 | £438,685 | No decisions taken at present |  | In-house services Mottingham Learning Shop. Cotmandene Learning Shop. |
| Camden | No Response |  |  |  |  |  |
| Croydon | Generalist Advice | £586,000 | £293,000 | £293,000 | £293,000 (till 30/9/14) | The council does not have any in house generalist advice services.  However, part of the role of the council’s face to face contact centre, Access Croydon, is to signpost customers to appropriate services where they are not provided by the council |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | - | - | - | - |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | See comment |  |  |  | In addition, the council supports advice services within wider specialist services through organisations such as Age UK Croydon and the Croydon Disability Association.  However, the advice element is an integral part of the overall service and is not separately costed |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | 167,000 | 180,000 | To be determined | To be determined |  |
| Enfield | Generalist Advice | £406,758 | £406,758 | No decisions have yet been made regarding next year's funding.  |  | 3 year contract which ends on 31st March 2012.  |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | - | - | - | - |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £266,800 | £315,800 | £84,000 | £35,000 |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £82,900 | £149,983 | £115,000  | £47,917 |  |
| Greenwich | Generalist Advice | £405,960 | £420,305 | £518,000 | - | The funding is sourced via the Council’s Voluntary Sector Grants BudgetBudget provisions for 2013/14 will be subject to the outcome of the Government’s CSR, and therefore unconfirmed at this stage |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | £446,760 | £43,845 | No decisions taken at present |  |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | - | - | - | - |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £569,780 | £617,180 | £241,330 | £241,330 | The Council has an in-house Welfare Rights Advice Service. For 2013-14 £241,330 Planned.Funding allocations during 2011/12 were subject to an interim arrangement, followed by a competitive re-commissioning process, and based on a reduction in budget of approx. 30%. The interim arrangements operated from 1st April – 11 November 2011. The re-commissioning process was based on funding awards from 12 November 2011 – 31 March 2013. The Council’s budget provision for community-based advice services will be determined as part of its Budget Setting process for 2013/15, and subject to the outcomes of the Government’s CSR. |
| Hackney | No Response |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hammersmith | Generalist Advice | £318,263 | £318,263 | - | - | Legal advice services funded from the 3rd Sector Investment Fund (the council’s main grants programme) are funded under the service area of Economic Wellbeing & Opportunity. Along with legal advice, a range of other services are funded under this service area, including financial capability, employment support and business support. - Services were funded from October 2010 for a 24 month period, with current funding agreements due to end in September 2012.- Funding for Economic Wellbeing & Opportunity for the period October 11-September 12 is £814,813. At the Cabinet meeting in July 2011, this budget was revised to £750,000 for the period of October 2012 – September 2013, and £750,000 for the period October 2013 to September 2012.- The balance of funding has contributed to the establishment of a 3rd Sector Investment Fund reserve. In 2012-13, the reserve fund will be allocated to 3rd sector organisations via the council’s Fast Track SmallGrants scheme. 3rd Sector Investment Fund is a commissioned grant and organizations are funded through a Service Level Agreement.- The council has developed a pilot project that co-locates debt/financial management as part of an employment support initiative delivered in partnership with Hammersmith JobCentre Plus. The service is delivered via 1.3 fte council posts- In-house – no external organisations are funded for the service above  |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | £32,500 | £32,500 | - | - |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | - | - | - | - |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | - | - | - | - | . |
| Harrow | Generalist Advice | £295,069 | £300, 962 | No decisions taken at present |  | Decisions for 2012/13 and 2013/14, The budgets for all council services will be considered within the climate of current financial constraints but no decisions have as yet been made regarding the level of funding administered by council departments who grant fund or commission advise services. The Council will be moving to a commissioning model for services provided by the Third Sector for 2013/14 and beyond. There is no in-house servicenon-statutory generalist advice service. |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | - | £13,230 | No decisions taken at present |  |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £926,373 | £241,025 | No decisions taken at present |  |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £91,211 | £91,211 | No decisions taken at present |  |  |
| Haringey | No Response |  |  |  |  |  |
| Havering | Generalist Advice | £126,680 | £136,480 | No decisions taken at present |  | Funding is via grant. Not considering reducing or increasing at this moment. Final funding decisions have not been made 2012/13 – 2013/14 |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | - | - | - |  |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £272,032 | £126,870 | No decisions taken at present |  |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | - |  | £30,129 |  |  |
| Hillingdon | Generalist Advice | £325,149 | £280,000 | No decisions taken at present |  | 2010/11- £300149 plus £25,000 economic downturn. Funding decisions will be made for 2012/13 by Cabinet in December 2011 |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | - | - | - |  |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £248,459 | £245,000 | No decisions taken at present |  |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | - | - | - | - |  |
| Hounslow  | Generalist Advice  | £225,000 | £213,750 | £213,750 | £213,750  | Funding is via contract. 2013/2014 figures a 5% reduction in funding, but this has not yet been confirmed.  |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | £75,000 | £71,250 | £71,250 | £71,250 |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £40,000 | £109,250 | £38,000 | £109,250 |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £315,000 | £315,000 | - | - | The council currently has an in-house welfare benefit and money advice unit. However, it has recently been agreed that this service will cease on 31st March 2012. The budget for theservice for 2010/11 is £315,000. |
| Islington | Generalist Advice | £178,000 | £300,000 | No decisions taken at present | No decisions taken at present |  |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | - | - | - | - |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £432,950 | £459,500 | £516,000 | £376,750 |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £2,516,000 | £1,600,000 | £1,405,000 | £810,000 | Housing & Adult Social Services directorate has the Welfare Rights Team. The funding per year is: 2010/11 - £537K , 2011/12 - £595.5K, 2012/13 Onwards it is anticipated staying at the same level as 2011/12 funding, but this will depend on decisions regarding future year savings which may reduce funding for the service. Children’s Social Care – IAG service gives specialist advice to young people, information is as follows:2010/11 - Actual expenditure: £1.979m2011/12 - Projected expenditure: £1.005m2012/13 - Projected budget: £0.81m2013/14 - Projected budget: £0.81m |
| Kingston | Generalist Advice | £277,366 | £277,366 | Funding decisions have not yet been made | Funding decisions have not yet been made | Funding decisions for 2012/13 and 2012/14 have not yet been made; there is a commitment to continue funding to organisations now in the first or second year of their three-year agreements and as far as we are aware, there is no intention to reduce funding through the Corporate Grants Programme |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | - | - | - | - |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £61,457 | £61,457 | Funding decisions have not yet been made | Funding decisions have not yet been made |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £56,059 | £56,059 | Funding decisions have not yet been made | Funding decisions have not yet been made |  |
| Lambeth | Generalist Advice | £538,494 | £538,494 | £600,000 | £600,000 | The funding for the general advice services has been set at £600,000 for the financial years 2012 - 13 & 2013 – 14. The detail of how the funding will be spread amongst the organisations is subject to an ongoing procurement process in collaboration with all of the current providers due to be completed by March 2012 |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | £124,206 | £124,206 |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £1,423,547 | £670,000 | £650,000 | - |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £487,007 | £347,000 | - | - | In-house benefits advice £322,000-2010/11 & £347,000 –2011/12 |
| Lewisham | No Response |  |  |  |  |  |
| Merton | Generalist Advice | £421,775 | £426,105 | £105,304 | No decisions taken at present | Funding extended to the end of June 2012 (pro-rata) from the Corporate Services department as we prepare to establish a Strategic Voluntary Funding stream. No further decisions have been made.For 2012/13 and 2013/14No decisions have been made, and it is currently being considered as part of our ongoing work with the Voluntary Sector Review |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | £41,245 | £54,582 | £9,750 | No decisions taken at present |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £130,500 | £137,500 | No decisions taken at present | No decisions taken at present |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | - | - | - |  |  |
| Newham | Generalist Advice | £284,820 | £73,578 | No decision has been made | No decision has been made | In 2011/12 (up to July 2011)- Newham Advice Consortium received £73,578 |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | - | - | - |  |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | - | - | - |  |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £116,989 | £120,889 | £119,937 | Not Known | In-house Welfare rights and housing benefit officer for Newham Housing tenants. In-house Leasehold debt and welfare officer for Newham leaseholders  |
| Redbridge | No Response |  |  |  |  |  |
| Richmond | Generalist Advice | £414,000 | £387,430 | No other funding decisions have been agreed | No other funding decisions have been agreed | Improved Financial Well-being for Vulnerable Groups Affected by the Recession in Richmond upon Thames£22k, 12 months up to March 2011No other funding decisions have been agreed for 2012 onwards. The funding for generalist advice services is via a grant agreement.  |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | - | - | - | - |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £100,000 | £100,000 | £100,000 | Funding not yet agreed | In the commissioning of specialist advice services the Council will firstly be considering local needs and priorities in consultation with stakeholders. At this stage the Council is therefore neither considering an increase or a decrease on the overall level of expenditure but will use the outcomes of the needs analysis to inform future investment. |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £60,000 | £60,000 | £60,000 | £60,000 | The funding for the two specialist advice services to Richmond AID and Age UK Richmond are via grant agreements.In-house staff from the Housing Options Team provide specialist housing advice work including the boroughs tenancy relations officer (TRO) function. Levels of funding are as provided in the table below |
| Southwark | Generalist Advice | £719,145 | £683,145 | £668,145 | No decision has been made | £350,000 CAB |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | £357,079 | £325,233 | £325,233 | No decision has been made | £204,233 – Southwark Law Centre |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £648,156 | £684,488 | £162,865 | No decision has been made |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £264,087 | £254,364 | £55,840 | No decision has been made | In respect of “in-house” services, Southwark Benefits Advice Hub provides welfare benefits advice and support including completing applications for all welfare benefits to those most vulnerable residents of the borough. This assistance is provided by visits to customers’ homes, surgeries and telephone contactThe Hub also provides support including representation at tribunal for welfare benefit cases with the exception of Housing/Council Tax Benefits hearings. |
| Sutton | Generalist Advice | £403,252 | £379,874 | Unknown | Unknown | We do not currently know the exact levels of funding for 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 nor whether there will be any funding reductions We do not have any "in-house" non-statutory generalist advice service. Specialist advice is funded by the Legal Services Commission in Sutton |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | - | - | - |  |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | - | - | - |  |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | - | - | - |  |  |
| The Royal Borough Of Kensington and Chelsea | Generalist Advice | £723,250  | £700,407 | No decisions taken at present | No decisions taken at present | Decision on funding to be allocated in 2012/13 is expected in December 2011 |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | £44,120  | £44,120  | No decisions taken at present | No decisions taken at present |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £364,870  | £355,290 | No decisions taken at present | No decisions taken at present |  |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £387,100  | £188,146  | £136,700 | £136,700 |  |
| Tower Hamlets | Generalist Advice | £273,659 | £273,659 | Funding decisions have not yet been made | Funding decisions have not yet been made | Current funding is via a mainstream grant with a three year service level agreement Funding decisions for voluntary sector advice provision for 2012/13 and 2013/14 have not yet been made nor have any decisions regarding the level of reduction/ increase |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | £145,207 | £145,207 | Funding decisions have not yet been made | Funding decisions have not yet been made |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £72,845 | £72,845 | Funding decisions have not yet been made | Funding decisions have not yet been made |   |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £311,207 | £704,021 | £392,814 | £392,814 | The Council has an "in-house” advice service that provides housing advice to people who live in private sector or registered social landlord accommodation in Tower Hamlets The Housing Advice service is a statutory function required of all local housing authorities although it now includes a money advice element which is not part of the statutory requirement - the latter is made up of 2 officers and 33% of the Team Principal's time and 5% of the Team Manager's plus 33% of general costs which all equates to £102,938 |
| Waltham Forest | Generalist Advice | £327,706 | £419,270 | £419,270 | Contract runs from May 2011 - March 2013 and includes an option to extend until 2014. | Contract |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | £88,608 | £19,200  | £19,200 | Contract runs from May 2011 - March 2013 and includes an option to extend until 2014. | Grant |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | 86,000 | £105,033 | £114,582 | 114,582 | Grant and Contract |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | - | £114,583 | £125,000 | Contract runs from May 2011 - March 2013 and includes an option to extend until 2014. | Contract |
| Wandsworth | Generalist Advice | £442,000 | £464,000 | £464,000 | £427,804 | £393,804 in 2014/15 and subsequent years; funding is via contract. Wandsworth does not have any in-house generalist advice service |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice | - | - | - | - | Specialist advice is funded by the legal Services Commission |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £1,228,834 | £983,000 | See comment | See comment | From 2012-13, some careers guidance functions will remain the responsibility of local authorities but responsibility for careers guidance in schools will transfer from local authorities to schools and possibly colleges (subject to a bill now going through Parliament)and so the local authority will not be funding this area. |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc | £97,200 | £96,941 | £96,491  | £96,491 | Parent Partnership in- house service providing advice to parents. Parent Partnership Service is a specialist (and statutory) advice service. The gross budget for 2010-11 was £97,200,2011/12 budget was £96,491. Indicative budget for 2012/13 £96,491 and 2013/14 £96,491 budget has not yet been confirmed.  |
| Westminster | Generalist Advice | £534,000 | £534,000 | £534,000 | Decision not made | Contract |
|  | Specialist Legal Advice |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Specialist Advice per Client Group i.e Age Concern, Mind etc | £363,829 | £365,162 | £150,755 | Decision not made | Grant and Contract |
|  | Other Specialist – Debt / Money Advice etc |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Barking & Dagenham Economic Development News January 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)