



Volunteering Summit

14th January 2021

london plus



MAYOR OF LONDON

VOLUNTEERING SUMMIT JANUARY 2021

THANK YOU
FOR EVERYTHING YOU HAVE
DONE AND CONTINUE TO DO

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Why are we here?

- Bring together many diverse stakeholders
- Allow us to address ways to support volunteering and volunteers in the capital
- Ensure that volunteering infrastructure across the city is ready to tackle the challenges we face in 2021

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The questions for today;

What have you learnt from Wave 1 that you have been able to put into practice?

What do you think have been your borough/area/policy area strengths?

What are the opportunities to do things differently over the coming months?

How can collaboration across different structures be improved?

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Introduction – the context of this event

Volunteering in London has been crucial to enabling London's response to Covid.

Volunteering is also of huge value to the economy

<https://www.probonoeconomics.com/civil-action-exploring-civil-societys-potential-in-the-2020s>

- **Key activities** include; urgent and emergency response - food support, medicine pick up and delivery, domestic abuse support, bereavement support
- Ongoing support needs – befriending and social isolation, mental health networks, advice sector including housing and employment, debt and finance, children's and young people's activities
- **Variety of activation**; from pre-existing organisations and networks to brand new mutual aid organisations and/or national programmes (eg NHS Responders)
- **Variety of borough co-ordination**; from local authority led to voluntary and community sector led
- **Variety of volunteer** capacity that can be drawn on; and we are all worried about capacity, burnout and fatigue, how to keep our volunteers safe
- **Challenge of competing demands** and priorities; the demand for vaccination volunteers is huge – how can we ensure that we can meet existing needs whilst still supporting this important activity?

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A complex picture of
volunteer- involving
organisations



WHAT DOES THE UK & LONDON CIVIL SOCIETY LOOK LIKE?



The Voluntary Sector

Contributes more than **£18bn** to the UK economy and volunteering is worth in excess of **£50billion**.

UK Households

74% of UK households have accessed charity services in the past 12 months.



UK Voluntary Sector Paid Workforce

Approx **30%** of the UK's voluntary sector paid workforce is employed in London or the South-East.



London Volunteering 2018 - 19

Around **34%** of Londoners volunteered formally, and **53%** participated in informal volunteering.



Voluntary Organisation Income

81% of voluntary organisations have an income of £100,000 or less.



120,000
Organisations
in London



£0.5 Billion Funding
distributed annually
in London

WHAT HAS CHANGED IN THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR?



750,000 Volunteers

750,000 people registered via the NHS volunteering scheme, with over 90,000 of volunteers from London.



700 Mutual Aid Groups

Over 700 new Mutual aid groups had set up in London by the end of March 2020.



£40m+ Distributed

Over 60 Funders distributed £40m+ through the London Community Response, and over 400 funders signed London Funders statement.



87% of BAME Led Micro and Small Organisations

87% of BAME led micro and small organisations have reported that they do not have reserves to last more than three months.



56% of Organisations Reduced Activity

Over half of organisations have reported a significant reduction in the charitable activity they can deliver.

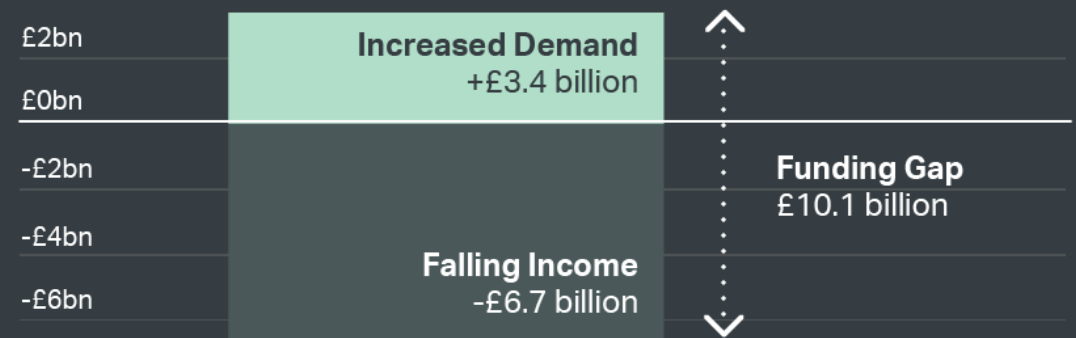


61% Charities Used Government Furlough

61% of charities have used the government's furlough scheme.

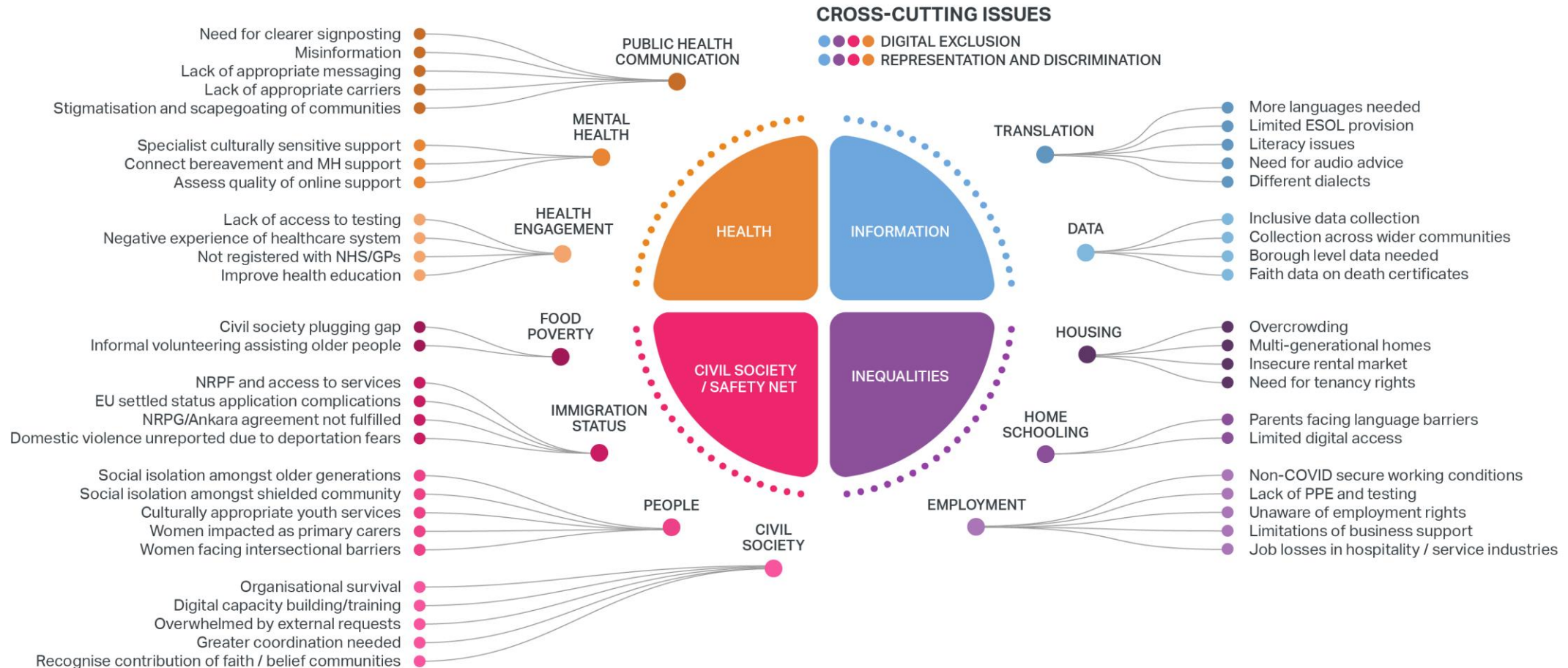
UK charities face a £10.1bn funding gap over the next 6 months

Pro Bono Economics predict that in monetary terms this means, UK charities face a **£10.1 billion funding gap** over the next six months, with incomes expected to drop by **£6.7 billion** at the same time as demand for their support rises by the equivalent of **£3.4 billion**.



MAP OF COMMUNITY VIEWS: COVID-19

Concerns gathered from 21 roundtables with groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic



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What does volunteering in Covid look like? *Emerging research from Local Trust (not London specific but London relevant)*

<https://localtrust.org.uk/insights/research/briefing-5-rapid-research-covid-19/>

Volunteering has been crucial to local and national responses to COVID-19.

- Alongside the thousands who have been deployed through formal mobilisation schemes at national and local level, many more have taken direct action within their own communities
- While many people have started volunteering during COVID-19, others have shifted their activities, and still more have had to stop
- Patterns of volunteering are uneven. Broadly speaking, those with more resources are more likely to volunteer, raising questions of equality and access.
- In 'normal' times, there is a tendency to focus on individual motivations for, and engagement in, volunteering. Crises such as COVID-19 remind us of the significance of social relations and connections to volunteering.
- Looking forward, it will be important that we find ways to ensure that the renewed interest in these forms of collective volunteering leads to it being nurtured rather than stifled.

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What has worked and changed in volunteering during Covid? *(Emerging research from Local Trust - not London specific but London relevant)*

<https://localtrust.org.uk/insights/research/briefing-6-rapid-research-covid-19>

People do not necessarily label themselves as volunteers; often they see themselves as 'just getting on with what needs to be done' in their neighbourhood and community.

- A new cohort of people have come forward to help out in their community in response to COVID-19. Volunteers have been involved in a range of these (mostly practical) responses, but there are also barriers to volunteering.
- Engaging people at the grassroots level has been more effective than national or regional command-and-control volunteer initiatives.
- COVID-19 has not necessarily created new forms of volunteering. It has, however, accelerated trends evident over the last decade, including online and 'micro' volunteering.
- There are some concerns about future expectations, and whether agencies understand the limits and boundaries of volunteering roles.

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What has worked and changed in volunteering during Covid? (2)

Ethnographic research from Social Engine – included London areas in the study

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1dJRFrRyZwzZNhHQzFqpTKN8fDcnbn3M5kKYe_vmPDi8/edit#slide=id.p1

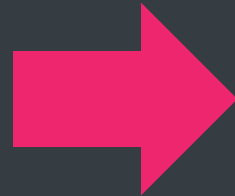
4 types of micro-level community engagement

- Everyday neighbourliness
- Practical volunteering
- Relationship based helping
- Heightened awareness of vulnerable others

More likely to continue

- New human connections/networks
- Increased trust
- Created new “defaults” and habits

On a ratchet, harder to stop, more to lose



Less likely

- Met an explicit practical need
- Heightened awareness of vulnerable others
- Light touch actions

Timebound, easier to stop, less to lose

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What do we know about need? (1) The London Community Response Survey

<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-community-response-survey>

Most recent findings from the London Community Response Survey – a survey of organisations working with the most vulnerable Londoners. Surveys carried out since April 2020 to track need and pressures on voluntary and community sector organisations.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOUR ORGANISATION IS FACING THIS WEEK? (The three biggest challenges in the last two weeks)

The top challenges in week 30th November-9th December (week 35 of the survey) were:

Capacity to meet demand

Planning for delivery over the next 6 months

Funding sustainability beyond the crisis

Staff wellbeing and mental health.

Reduction in volunteering numbers capacity was mentioned

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What do we know about need (2) : The socio-economic impact of Covid on Londoners

<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/socio-economic-impact-of-covid-19>

The socio-economic impact on Londoners of Covid has (unsurprisingly) been huge. The current lockdown will only exacerbate the levels of need that the research above (published in December) already showed;

- The number of Londoners claiming Universal Credit has more than doubled since March and is still rising
The increase in Universal Credit is greater in London than in other parts of Britain.
- In September 2020, around a quarter (25 per cent) of Londoners aged 16+ reported characteristics of poor mental health, which has decreased slightly from 31 per cent in April. The pre-pandemic estimate from this survey in 2018-20 was 20 per cent, so the prevalence has increased. (The prevalence is higher amongst younger Londoners).
- When thinking about the last week around three in ten Londoners were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food in September 2020. This was higher for older Londoners
- London has a total of 4.33 million furloughed employments potentially eligible with a take up rate of 10% - the highest amongst the regions. The UK take up rate was 8%. 73% of the top 5% of constituencies nationally in terms of take up rate are in London

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What do we know about need (3)

London's poverty

https://trustforlondon.fra1.digitaloceanspaces.com/media/documents/Londons_Poverty_Profile_2020.pdf

London's Poverty Profile 2020 key statistics

1. People

8.9 million – the population of London today

having grown 12% in the last decade



9.8 million – the projected population by 2030

1 in 3 Londoners (36%) were born outside of the UK

compared with just 11% in the rest of England



2. Living Standards

Poorest 10% of Londoners earn 1.8% of total net income

Poorest 50% of Londoners earn 23.9% of total net income

Richest 10% of Londoners earn 31.7% of total net income

One in five (21%) Londoners report high levels of anxiety



Poverty rates in Inner London are 10 percentage points higher

than in many parts of the North of England



3. Housing

8,855 people were seen sleeping rough in London by outreach workers in 2018/19

3,472 people were seen sleeping rough in London by outreach workers in 2008/09



Households in poverty in London face housing costs that, on average, amount to 56% of their net income



4. Work, Worklessness and Benefits

6.1 million jobs in the capital in 2019



67% of London adults in workless families are in poverty



5. Shared Opportunities

Violence and sexual offences are 2.1 times as prevalent

in the most income-deprived 10% of London neighbourhoods compared with the least income-deprived 10%

15.5% of 19-year-olds in Inner London do not have level 2 qualifications

(GCSEs or equivalent), compared with 14% in Outer London and 18.4% in the rest of England