

2016

Pray Haringey: Social Action Overview



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Pray Haringey

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Context

Haringey is hugely diverse with great opportunity. The local authority's Corporate Plan sets out the priorities for the borough and what they will do to help achieve these. Haringey's corporate plan has 5 priorities;

OUTSTANDING FOR ALL Children, young people and adults are healthy, thrive and achieve their potential	CLEAN AND SAFE Create a clean and safe borough with stronger communities and partnerships	SUSTAINABLE HOUSING, GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT Building a basis for communities to thrive
Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education	A clean, well maintained and safe borough where people are proud to live	Drive growth and employment from which everyone can benefit
Enable all adults to live healthy, long and fulfilling lives		Create homes and communities where people choose to live and are able to thrive

However, the council cannot achieve these priorities on their own and are keen to work with local partners.

The purpose of this Social Action Review (SAR) is to highlight how the activity of the Christian community in Haringey dovetails with the priorities and objectives expressed in the Corporate Plan. It is our hope that this report will not only showcase the reach and impact of the Church but it will also demonstrate the vital role that local non-statutory partners play in helping to create a safer, stronger Haringey.

The Church in the Community

Throughout Haringey, the Church (as a collective) is (and always has been) at the forefront of serving the local community - including those who are most vulnerable or less integrated in main society. We are motivated by our faith, our love of Jesus Christ and a desire to help improve outcomes for those in need. The social action undertaken by the Church covers a breadth of services including working with families, providing debt advice, coaching people back into work, offering emergency food parcels and helping to provide a safe space. The following table outlines at a glance some of the community focussed activities of the Church (*the left hand column are some of the objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan*).

Priority 1 Outstanding for all: Every child & young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education	
All children will have the best start in life supported by strong relationships and be ready for school	Children's Storehouse take good quality used cots, cot bedding, high chairs, prams/ buggies, safety gates, clothes, toys and books for 0-7yr olds and distribute these items for free to families who are referred to them.
Children and young people across Haringey excel at school, making the most of their potential	One example of how the Church is helping Haringey achieve this objective: Harringay United Church (Baptist) has incorporated a homework club as part of their youth provision. When Chestnut Park Youth services closed in 2006, HUCB picked up the mantle and started a youth club for 10-16yrs from the community. The church employs a part-time youth worker to oversee the youth at the weekly club.
There will be excellent education and training opportunities for young people aged 16 plus, enabling all to develop the right skills and experience for good quality, sustainable employment	There are a number of open access services dedicated to children and young people dotted across the borough: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Woodberry Down offers a weekly youth provision which aims to tackle exclusion, reduce NEETs and increase literacy. They do this via social activities, coaching, mentoring, careers advice and guidance. Their volunteers are professionals in the education and training arena. 2. Bruce Grove youth club hosts on average 70 young people (11-21) from various ethnicities every week. In addition to recreational activities, they hold cooking classes, gardening, and music production. They have worked hard to successfully build cohesion especially amongst the Traveller and Somali communities. They also liaise with Job Centre Plus to help provide career advice and secure employment. 3. 'Hope in Tottenham Mentoring' is a free mentoring service sourced from volunteers from faith groups across Haringey with social capital to help young people of Haringey aged 16-24 get into work. This service was set up in 2011, aimed at addressing the high levels of unemployment in Tottenham and East Haringey
Priority 2 Outstanding for all: Enable all adults to live healthy, long and fulfilling lives	
A borough where the healthier choice is the easier choice	The Church plays an integral part in creating physical, social and cultural environments for elderly citizens: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Gospel Centre runs a Senior Citizens group. Affectionately known in the church as "Grey Power", the Monday Afternoon Group is open to anyone. Around 20+ senior citizens from diverse backgrounds attend and participate in singing hymns, read the Bible, outings to the seaside, boat trips on the River Lee etc 2. Harringay United Church Baptist organises a Tea Party for the senior citizens in the community who have mobility restrictions. This is done in partnership with Contact the Elderly and together they help those to attend who cannot leave home unless they have assistance, escort them to the tea party and help them to socialise thus reducing their isolation. 3. Ichthus Abide run a weekly coffee morning for carers and those they are caring for. This provides a space

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	<p>for carers to share and provide mutual support for each other.</p> <p>4. Eldon Road Baptist Church hosts a coffee morning for those with learning disabilities and their carers.</p>
<p>Strong communities, where all residents are healthier and live independent, fulfilling lives</p>	<p>To help ensure that residents have better access to and make better use of information and advice, the Christian community runs the following services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Salvation Army (Wood Green) runs a weekly Legal Advice drop in clinic. Anyone can drop by and be seen by a solicitor. 2. Embrace UK Community are a local charity run by Christians with the aim to relieve poverty among disadvantaged groups including refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. They provide of information, advice and guidance on welfare benefits, housing, immigration, education and training, health related issues such as HIV/AIDS and mental health. 3. The Liberty Help Centre aims to give a helping hand in Tottenham. They offer counselling on bereavement, marriage, parenting, home repossession, drug/alcohol addiction, educational/job directions and any other challenges of life. They support clients with benefit and housing issues by calling the relevant government agencies for immediate solution. 4. The Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen is based at Muswell Hill Baptist Church. It is open five nights a week, Sunday through Thursday. It normally serves a two course meal to between 30-40 people each night, a total of 8,000 meals a year. Not all the clients are homeless. They all have needs that cause them to come for the shared meal together at the soup kitchen. Their age range is from teenagers to pensioners.
<p>Priority 3 Clean and Safe: A clean, well maintained and safe borough where people are proud to live and work</p>	
<p>We will work with partners to prevent and reduce more serious crime, in particular youth crime and gang activity</p>	<p>The Church has an innovative approach to prevention and support in the form of Street Pastors. These are a group of volunteers from Christian churches of all denominations across Haringey. They serve the night time economy of the borough by patrolling the streets from midnight onwards and providing a presence ministry which aims to bring peace to our streets. They assist the vulnerable and provide reassurance to those who feel unsafe at night. There is an intensive training programme for all volunteers and a minimum requirement of monthly patrolling.</p>
<p>Priority 5 Sustainable Housing, Growth & Employment: Create homes and communities where people choose to live and are able to thrive</p>	
<p>Prevent homelessness and support residents to lead fulfilling lives</p>	<p>Rough sleepers in Haringey are among the most vulnerable groups in the borough; many have high support needs resulting from dependence on alcohol and drugs or have mental health issues.</p>

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Highway House in Tottenham, London, was set up to provide shelter, food, recreation, internet access, counselling, employment training and pastoral support to homeless people and rough sleepers. The Highway House shelters up to 50 homeless men at a time. Since the inception of the Highway House in July 2009 they have sheltered over 750 men and women (mainly men) from 55 different nationalities. Many of whom do not have recourse to public funds and have misused alcohol and drugs at some point in their lives. The Highway House is opened to residents 24 hours a day seven days a week.2. Haringey Winter Shelter is a church based 'rolling shelter' that provides emergency accommodation to Haringey's street homeless, those at immediate risk of rough sleeping locally and 'hidden homeless' during the winter months of December to March. Its successful operation relies purely on the goodwill participation and sacrifice of several Haringey churches. When operating, 12 to 14 beds are provided every night for guests referred by statutory agencies. The format is: admitted in the evening, given a full 3-course meal, washing facilities, bed etc, and a full cooked breakfast in the morning before they leave. Stemming from this, a charity has been set up "All People All Places" to administer and manage the winter shelter and also help to rehabilitate the guests – helping them to find work, long term accommodation, and help with move-on and navigating the "system". All the churches who help with this project receive little or no financial help. |
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Examples of other essential services provided by the Christian community in Haringey:

The Haringey Foodbank is a network of churches and organisations working in association with the Trussell Trust. Churches, like the Gospel Centre, dedicate one of their rooms at the church as a storeroom for Foodbank and they're open for business so to speak on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings. They have about 4 or 5 volunteers from the community who help staff it together with about 4 volunteers from the church. All the food comes from donations (including from some local shops like Dunns in Crouch End) and for the past two years from North Haringey Junior school, who have mobilised their children and their parents to collect food to help. Most of the time we are giving food to people who have been referred by statutory agencies, but no-one who comes asking for food ever leaves empty-handed.

English as a Second Language (ESOL) - as part of our commitment to build a cohesive and inclusive Haringey, the Church provides space and resource to those residents studying the English language.

Conclusion

The Church operates at multiple levels in the community and is a major provider of services and support to local residents. Acting almost as a 4th emergency service, we're keen to continue to use our social capital and financial investment to help the local authority achieve its objectives, and help the people of Haringey.

The social action undertaken by the Church cuts across many themes, and our faith motivates us to help people from all walks of life. This brief provides insight into just some of our work but only scratches the surface of what we do. While we have attempted to paint a picture, our work is a moving canvass as we are constantly finding creative ways to meet the diverse needs of our diverse community.

The Church has extensive networks, multi-faceted services and innovative approaches to the unique challenges facing the borough. This puts us in a prime position to help facilitate positive community conversations that support residents to make socially responsible and sustainable choices. However, in the spirit of true partnership with the local authority, we will need Haringey to consider creative ways for us to access resources, thus enabling us to do more.

Pray Haringey comprises of many different denominations but we share one common goal; to demonstrate the love of Christ to our fellow man.

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