

Profile of the sector

The voluntary and community sector, especially micro and small organisations, have an intrinsic part to play in tackling the borough’s challenges through the work they do on prevention, the reach they have into communities and the ability to be niche providers and try out new and flexible models of service delivery. The voluntary and community sector is a key mechanism through which communities can be enabled to do more for themselves and each other, and in so-doing, supporting individual and community resilience and the long term sustainability of the Camden community.

Within the borough of Camden there is a very diverse and vibrant voluntary and community sector: Camden is home to a mixture of registered charities, community interest companies, social enterprises as well as smaller (and often more informal) unregistered community groups and associations such as football clubs, reading groups, campaign and support groups. Many of these groups operate at the hyper-local level and are the “nuts-and-bolts” of the local voluntary and community sector.

VAC is often asked: how many community organisations are there in Camden? What do they do? Who do they work with? How much income do they have? Whilst these seem like simple questions, actually providing the answer is quite tricky!

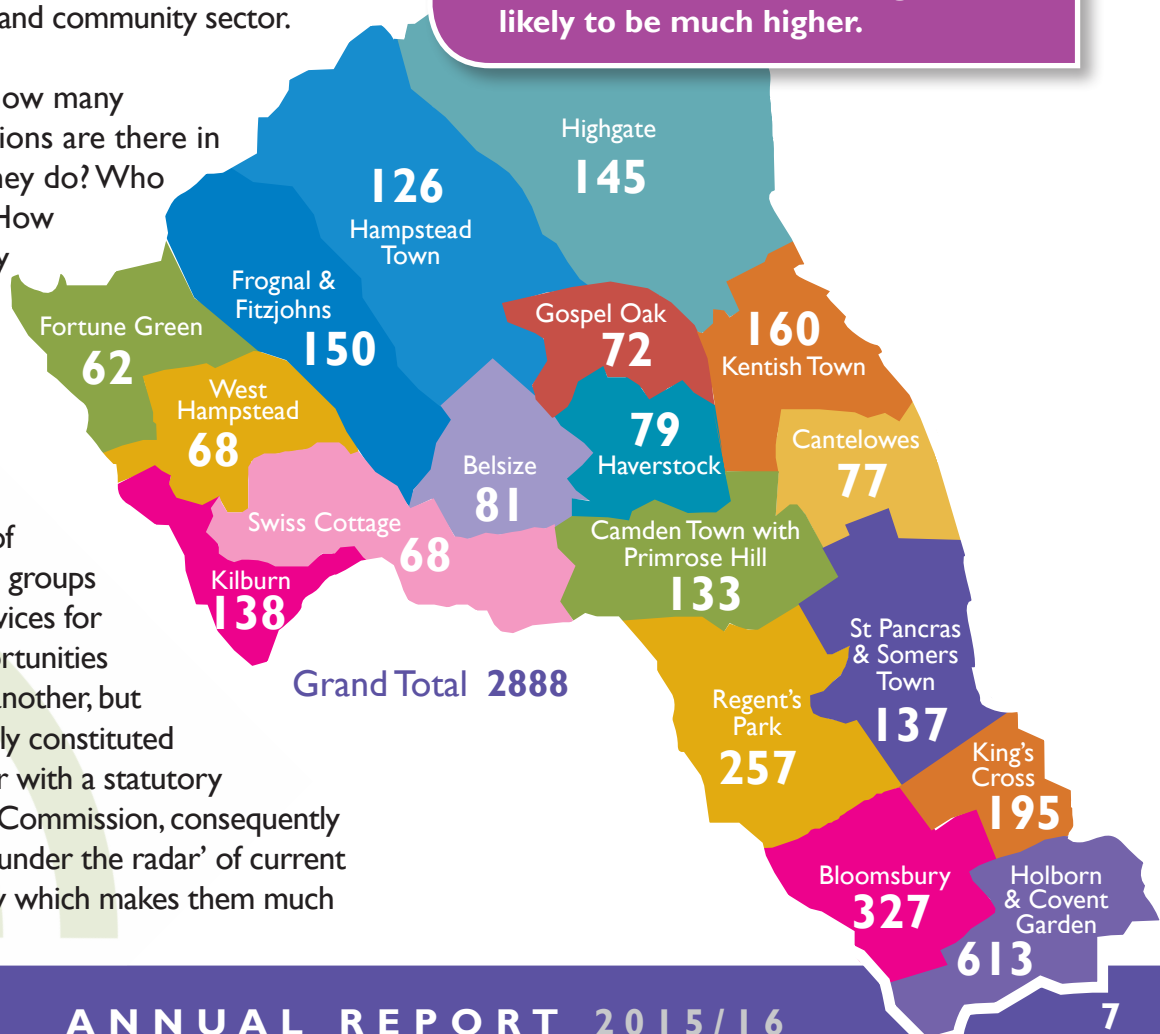
We know that many of these smaller, informal groups are providing vital services for local people and opportunities to connect with one another, but as they are not formally constituted or required to register with a statutory body, like the Charity Commission, consequently they tend to operate ‘under the radar’ of current sampling methodology which makes them much

harder to count and include in ‘sector-wide’ statistics.

In 2015-16, VAC undertook a significant piece of research to help increase the availability of statistical information about the local voluntary and community sector in Camden. This year VAC continues its research to build up a more detailed picture of the sector, especially data relating to smaller registered charities with a turnover under £500,000, and a significant number of smaller, unincorporated organisations that are not registered with any regulator.

Our findings to date:

- Over 2800 voluntary and community organisations are physically located in Camden
- Around 1252 of these organisations specifically work in Camden
- Over 753 of these are small, community associations not registered with the Charity Commission. The actual figure is likely to be much higher.



Area of Operation

WORKS IN:	NO. OF ORGS		
	CAMDEN	LONDON	CAMDEN & LONDON
Belsize	32	11	43
Bloomsbury	46	25	71
Camden Town with Primrose Hill	70	11	81
Cantelowes	43	8	51
Fortune Green	35	5	40
Frognal and Fitzjohns	48	12	60
Gospel Oak	52	4	56
Hampstead Town	54	11	65
Haverstock	59	3	62
Highgate	55	12	67
Holborn and Covent Garden	79	50	129
Kentish Town	101	19	120
Kilburn	54	19	73
King's Cross	79	13	92
Regent's Park	58	27	85
St Pancras and Somers Town	78	12	90
Swiss Cottage	33	4	37
West Hampstead	21	9	30
Grand Total	997	255	1252

- The total income for 622* charities operating mainly in Camden (excluding the top 11 charities with the highest income) is £223,147,170
- 10% of charities registered in Camden have an income over £1 million
- 59% of charities registered in Camden have an income of less than £100k
- 30% of charities registered in Camden have an income between £10k and £100k
- 29% of charities registered in Camden have an income of less than £10k

* Financial data only available in the Charity Commission data file for 633 charities.

Services

Activities of Registered Charities in Camden

