

Advice Sector Data Expedition

Each of the six team's work is summarised below:

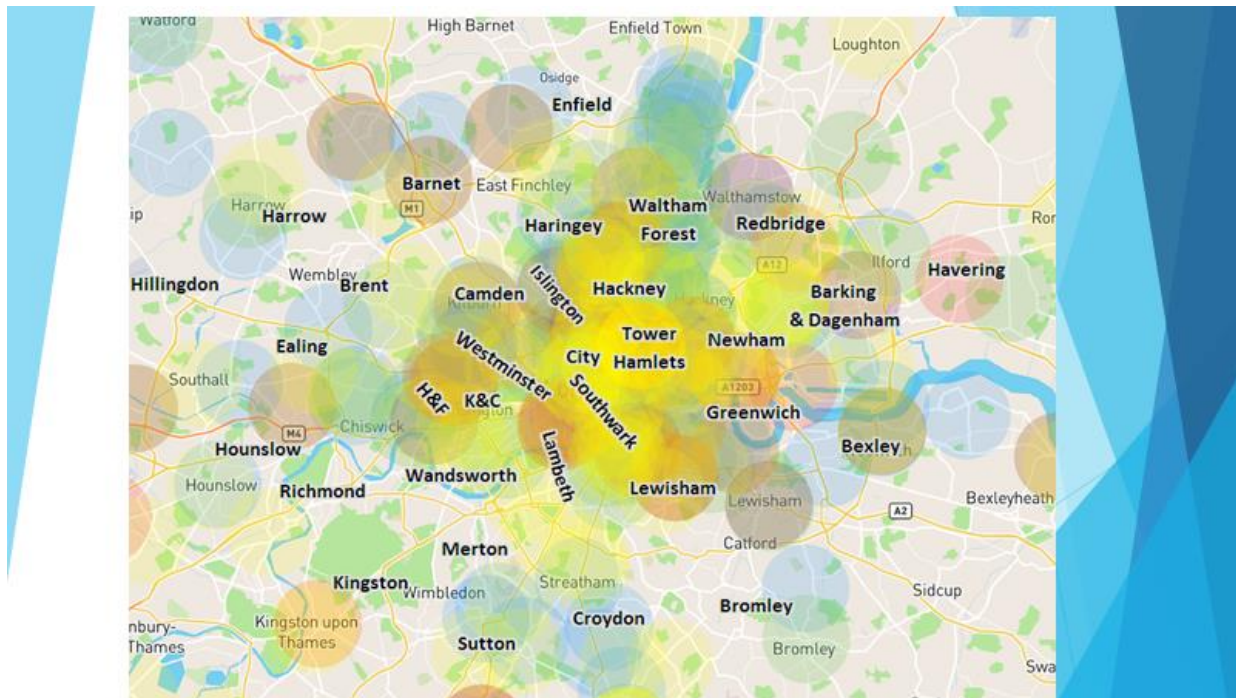
Blue Team

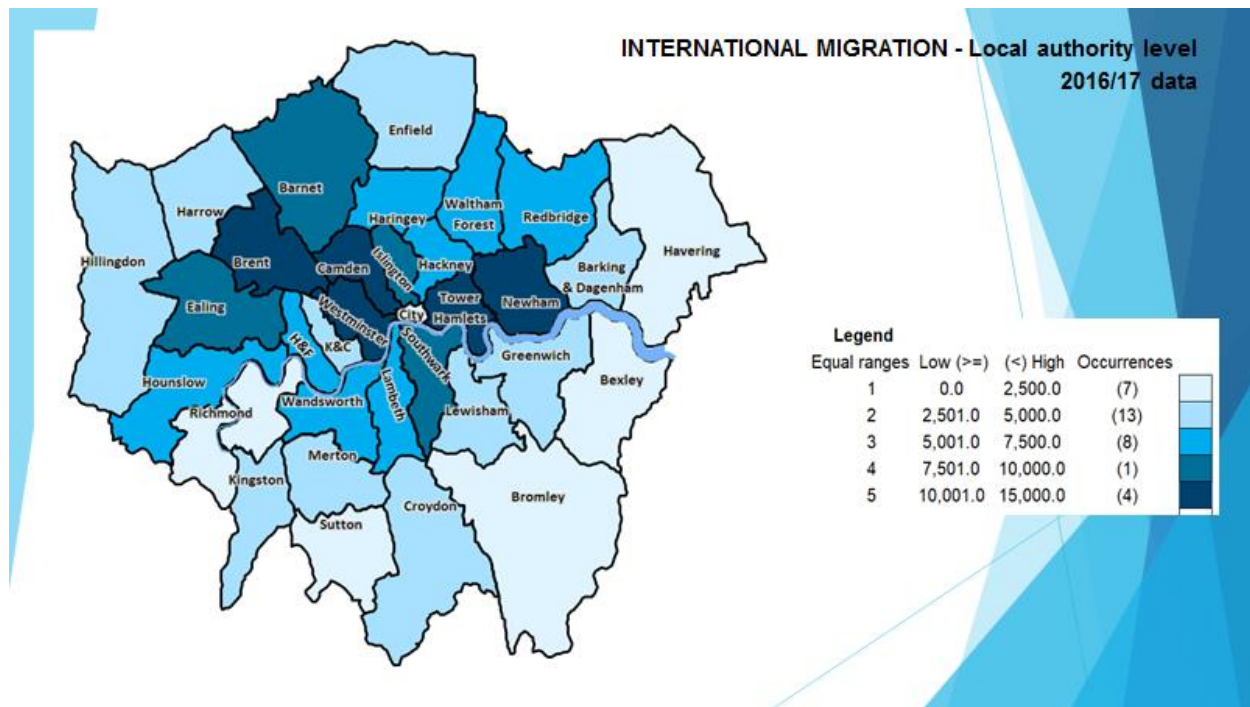
The Blue Team chose to focus on the theme of Immigration Advice, identifying three data sources from which they could map Immigration Advice services in London. The data was pulled from :

- Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC)
- 360 Giving GrantNav
- What Charity

The team used a variety of tools and techniques including data scrapping, find that charity's postcode look up function and Mapbox.

The team then used data on international migration figures into London borough's in order to compare the distribution of services with the migration figures. They used the Excel borough mapping tool on the London Datastore to map these trends. See below the two Data Visualizations the team produced, which when viewed together highlight a disparity between a high level of migration into West London Boroughs (Ealing, Brent and Barnet), and a dearth of provision in the same boroughs.





Purple Team

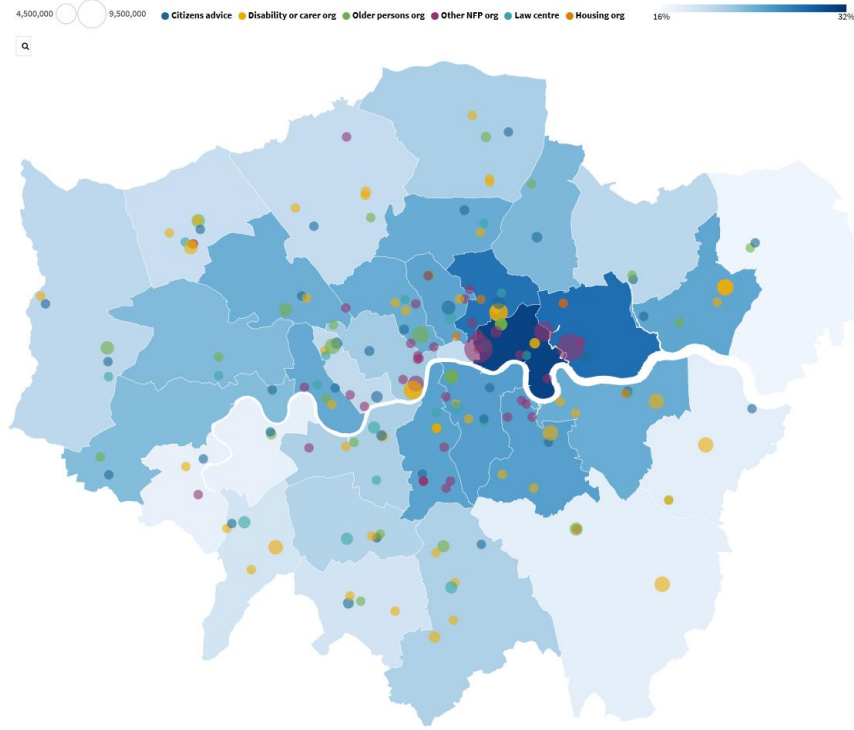
The Purple Team decided to explore the notion of ‘cold spots’ in terms of funding and do a comparative exercise between two London Borough’s with similar population sizes. Using their expert knowledge, the 360Giving Insights tool and the Trust for London’s Poverty Profile, the team identified vast differences in the amount of funding recorded for advice services in the London Borough of Bexley in comparison to the London Borough of Islington. The team did highlight the limitations of this finding, due to 360 Giving data not accounting for all funding in each of the borough’s and the fact that Islington hosts a number of Charities Head Offices who may deliver services beyond their borough boundaries. The Purple Team also drew on data found in reports done by London Funders and were able to demonstrate the importance of lived experience and knowledge when analysing data.

Green Team

The Green Team decided to focus on looking at Advice deserts and whether provision of advice reflected the level of need across London and how this varied across boroughs. The team used the following datasets to identify advice giving organizations and levels of need:

- AdviceLocal, a database of advice agencies
- London’s Poverty Profile
- DWP Stat Xplore
- London Datastore’s means-tested benefits data
- Money Advice Service Over-indebtedness
- Find That Charity

London advice provision vs need Over indebted %

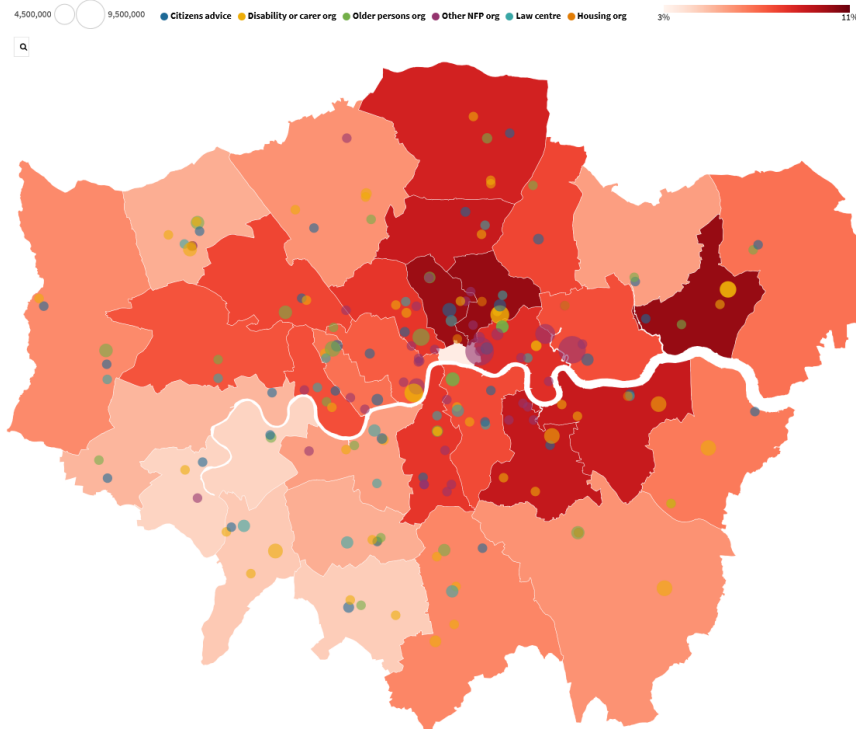


Source: Advice Local, Charity Commission, Money Advice Service, DWP, London Poverty Profile - Law clinics and local authority provision excluded

The team worked this data into a useable state by using Open Refine, GSS codes for London Boroughs and Flourish studio for the data visualization shared below.

The map below highlights the groups findings. The spots are coloured based on the type of organisation and their size is reflective of the organisation's income. The boroughs are shaded according to percentage of the population in debt, those darker shades denote a higher proportion of debt.

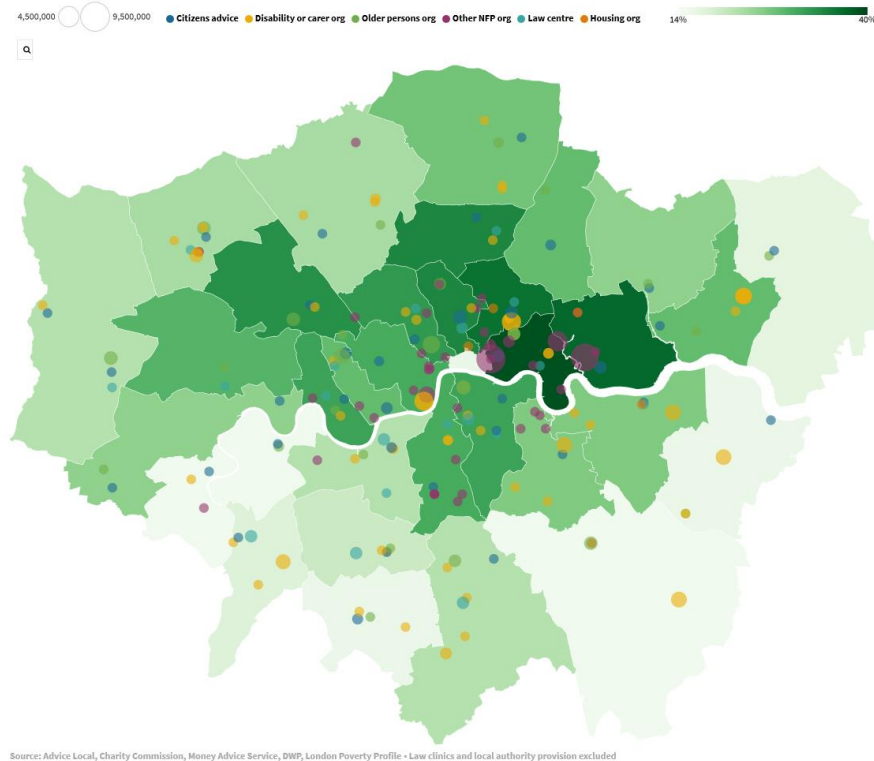
London advice provision vs need Out of work benefits claimant rate



Source: Advice Local, Charity Commission, Money Advice Service, DWP, London Poverty Profile - Law clinics and local authority provision excluded

This map highlights the distribution of advice provision in comparison to the rate of out of work benefits claimants.

London advice provision vs need Poverty rate (from London Poverty Profile)



This map again shows the distribution of advice provision in comparison to the Poverty rate as calculated by the London Poverty Profile.

Pink Team

The Pink Team decided to take one London Borough, Barking and Dagenham and determine indicators of need and whether the advice provision matched. They took a multi-faceted approach looking at Benefit applications; advice spending in the borough; demographics and local organisations in the borough.

The team also identified Barking and Dagenhams Social Progress Index, which is a borough produced and managed dataset. They used a variety of proxy measures for levels of need for advice including the break-down of housing types, foodbank users, JSA Claimants, homelessness, housing benefit and DWP Stat-Xplore Data.

The team developed various graphs exploring these proxy measures, using excel pivot tables and more complex tools to analyse Stat-Xplore data.

Yellow Team

The Yellow Team decided to focus on housing advice specifically and decided to use eviction rates as an indicator of a high need of housing advice. They used various datasets including statutory homelessness rates by borough, possession order rates, number of evictions per borough and papers written by The Law Society on the 'Housing Legal Aid Deserts'.

The gathered this all together to answer the specific question 'How can the advice sector utilize data to identify boroughs with an increased level of need for Eviction advice?' They did a range of work to bring the above datasets together to determine groups at risk of eviction; homelessness rates; advice provision in these boroughs and therefore those with high risk and low provision would be the ones identified as needing increased level of Eviction advice.

Orange Team

The Orange team chose to focus on London's Changing Advice Needs and how the advice sector is responding. They decided to focus on Local Authority funding as through lots of discussion they decided to make the (informed) assumption that this would have an impact on the need for sustainable advice services.

They used The Trust for London's Poverty Profile to identify the four lowest performing boroughs, the four highest and three with unexpected figures. They also used Council budgets, 360 Giving and team knowledge to begin to unpick their question.

Retrospectively they realized that their question and their process was rather complicated especially as Local Authorities accounts data is difficult to find, download or analyze. They realized it would have been easier if there were open data standards across Councils so finding and accessing the data would have been easier to download and analyze.

The team came up with several recommendations which would support exploring their theme further. These include, Councils being more transparent with their data and recording it in a standardized format; a shared outcomes start mapping multiple needs for clients; the use of sector and expert knowledge is key in really understanding and providing context for the data. Ultimately the team decided a world without good quality data and a consistent open data standard is like a railway without tracks, trains and signals.