

## Civil Society Roots 3: Identifying cold spots

The [Building Strong Communities](#) recovery mission is developing a programme to strengthen support for community-led groups.

The programme is taking a place-based approach, by focusing on 10 ‘cold spots’ - areas in which funders struggle to reach community-led groups. The aims are to fund and support place-based organisations that are led by and for communities impacted by structural inequalities. This includes Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Londoners, Disabled Londoners, LGBT+ Londoners, Women and Older Londoners.

The programmes place-based approach recognises boroughs as the primary ‘place’.

*This review and its findings are based on the best available evidence, and we recognise there is activity taking place that could not be captured due to lack of publicly available data.*

### **This document summarises findings from a rapid evidence review**

In order to map cold spots, the GLA commissioned Renaisi to deliver a rapid evidence review of community-led organisations and the civil society support available to them across London.

Specific objectives were to:

- Map community-led organisations across London
- Explore support available for these groups (incl. funding) and identify where there are gaps
- Analyse the data to determine where community-led groups most need strengthening

### **What do we mean by community-led organizations?**

Community-led organisations in this instance refers to organisations where a large proportion of senior staff and board members are from the following cohorts – BAME, Disabled, LGBT+, Women and Older people.

### How were cold spots identified?

Renaisi used a mixed-method approach comprising of both qualitative and quantitative research. The sources used were:

- [London Community Response](#) data
- [Community Spaces at risk](#) data
- [360giving](#) data
- [Civic Strength Index](#)
- Reports from regional community-led infrastructure organisations
- Information gathered through interviews with community-led infrastructure organisations

## What did the data mapping show?

Renaishi identified several criteria which they used as indicators to map cold spots. These were:

1. Areas with fewer community-led organisations
2. Areas where community-led organisations receive less funding
3. Areas receiving less civil society funding overall
4. Areas receiving less civil society support (non-funding)

## What were the 10 final cold spots?

Renaishi combined the datasets to reveal which areas scored *lowest across all indicators*. Renaishi used a weighted scoring system to do this. As such, each borough area received a score for the following indicators:

- Number of BAME-led organisations based on BAME population
- Number of women-led organisations based on overall population
- Number of disabled-led organisations based on disabled population
- Number of LGBT-led organisations based on LGBT population
- Per capita 360 Giving funding
- Per capita LCR funding
- Existence of a CVS
- Civic Strength Index score for social support
- Civil Strength Index score for community action
- Civic Strength Index score for financial resources

Renaishi also wanted to account for underlying need in the borough area. To do this, Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) was included in the weighing, (boroughs were also scored based on the number of LSOAs in a borough that were among the 3 lowest IMD deciles).

When the scores were combined, the cold spots featured as so:

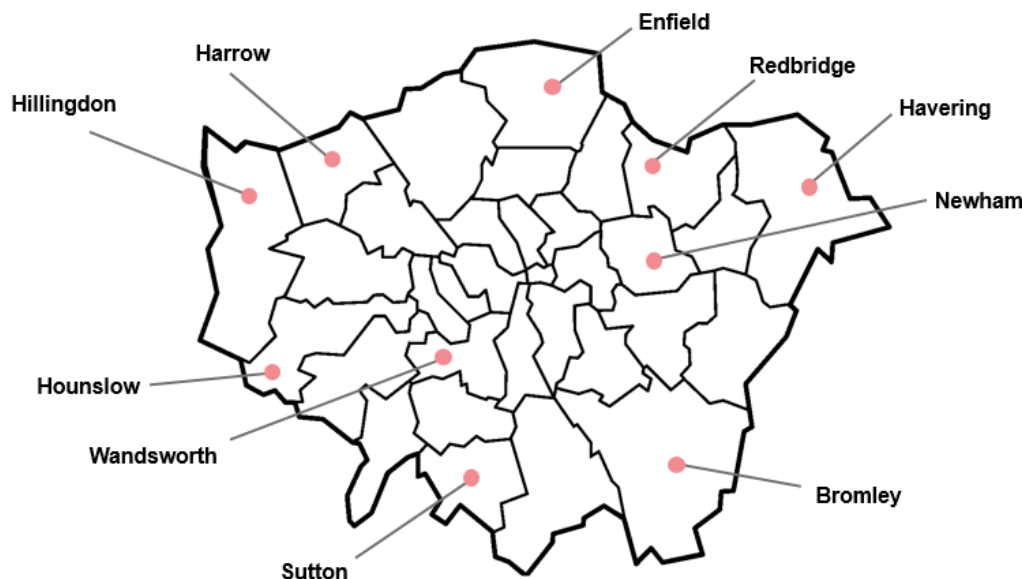
London borough	BAME	Women	Disabled	LGBT+	360G	LCR	IMD	Community action	Financial resources	Social Support	CVS	Overall Sum all
Hillingdon	5	10	10	0	10	9	3	4	8	10	10	72%
Hounslow	3	5	4	4	10	9	3	10	8	10	10	69%
Sutton	3	9	7	10	10	9	1	7	10	5	5	69%
Havering	2	7	9	2	10	8	2	5	10	10	10	68%
Enfield	2	5	7	3	10	8	8	9	8	10	5	68%
Redbridge	4	7	5	10	10	8	2	10	3	10	5	67%
Wandsworth	2	6	8	4	10	8	2	8	9	10	5	65%
Harrow	3	6	9	2	10	8	1	7	10	5	5	60%
Newham	2	3	3	2	10	6	10	5	7	5	10	57%
Bromley	3	8	6	2	10	9	2	8	10	0	5	57%

The table ranks the 10 cold spots in descending order, listing the Hillingdon area as the ‘coldest’ spot at the top. Across the different columns, each borough was given a score for the different indicators. The higher the score, the colder the borough is deemed to be. For example, Hillingdon received a score of 10 – the lowest possible score – for the number of disabled people-led organisations in the borough compared to the size of its disabled population. Newham in comparison received a score of 3, indicating that the number of disabled people-led organisations in Newham is more proportionate to its disabled population.

[Click here to view scores across all London boroughs \(excluding City of London\).](#)

**This review identified ten ‘cold spots’ indicated on the map below<sup>1</sup>:**

The 10 identified boroughs sets out a strong list of areas supported by data and reflected in sector understandings of the gaps in civil society support for community-led groups. This is particularly reflected in the dominance of Greater London boroughs in the distribution of identified cold spots.



**Conclusion / what’s happening next?**

The GLA will develop a grant and capacity building programme in the identified boroughs. The programme aims to increase the support available for Londoners impacted by structural inequalities, including Black and Minority Ethnic people, Disabled people, LGBT+ people, Women and Older Londoners.

The programme will fund and support activity that:

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<sup>1</sup> More information about these cold spots were scored and weighted is indicated below

- Builds relationships and networks
- Develops or strengthens collective voice and advocacy
- Increases capacity and skills

In February, the programme will be launched with an Ideas Camp, inviting local people and groups in the identified cold spots to come together and meet others interested in creating change locally, discuss priorities and get support to apply to the fund.

For more information on the evidence review and programme, please contact [civilsociety@london.gov.uk](mailto:civilsociety@london.gov.uk).

[Renaisi](#) is an award-winning social enterprise that has been helping people and places to thrive for more than 20 years. This report was written by Anna Waldie and Rachel Sturgis.