



IPSWICH

Results of Faith Action Audit

July 2021

Ipswich?
"I'm in"

PRESS RELEASE

Audit of Churches and Christian charities in Ipswich shows nearly 10 000 assisted during the COVID pandemic.

A survey of Christian Churches and charities in Ipswich has shown that they have assisted nearly 10,000 people in Ipswich in practical ways during the COVID pandemic.

The survey was conducted by the "Ipswich I'm In" conference and responded to by 27 churches*, 11 charities and 2 educational establishments and showed that over 83% of the people helped were not members of churches. The respondents included Anglican, Baptist, Independent and Roman Catholic Churches.

The most popular services were food distribution, including "Pop-up shops" and food parcels, reducing social isolation through phone calls, visits, shopping, and prescription collecting and assisting people with mental health difficulties through *Kintsugi Hope* wellbeing groups. Other services included supporting older people and families.

Importantly, over 97% of these churches and charities plan to maintain or expand their services as we come out of lockdown.

The Venerable Rhiannon King, Archdeacon of Ipswich and Project Director for the *Inspiring Ipswich* project said **"We knew that the Church had responded in amazing ways during the pandemic but what we are seeing here is that the Church has truly left the building and reached out to those most in need in our society. To have helped over 7% of people in Ipswich over the last 18 months is a testament to all the amazing volunteers who have given selflessly to help their neighbour in their time of need"**

Simon Barrington, part of the organising team for 'Ipswich I'm In', said: **"What we are most excited about is that churches and charities are coming together as never before to be strategic and intentional about extending these services to meet an increasing need post the COVID pandemic"**.

*Estimated to be around half of the churches in Ipswich





Respondent demographics

40 respondents in total comprising:

- 10 Church of England churches
- 9 Baptist churches
- 7 Independent churches
- 1 Roman Catholic church
- 11 Christian charities
- 2 educational establishments

See back page for details

Results



Engagement

9 995 people engaged through social action projects

(7.5% of Ipswich population) of which 8,305 (83%) not church members

3 555 engaged by the churches which responded

4 820 engaged by the Christian charities which responded

1 620 engaged by the other connected organisations who responded

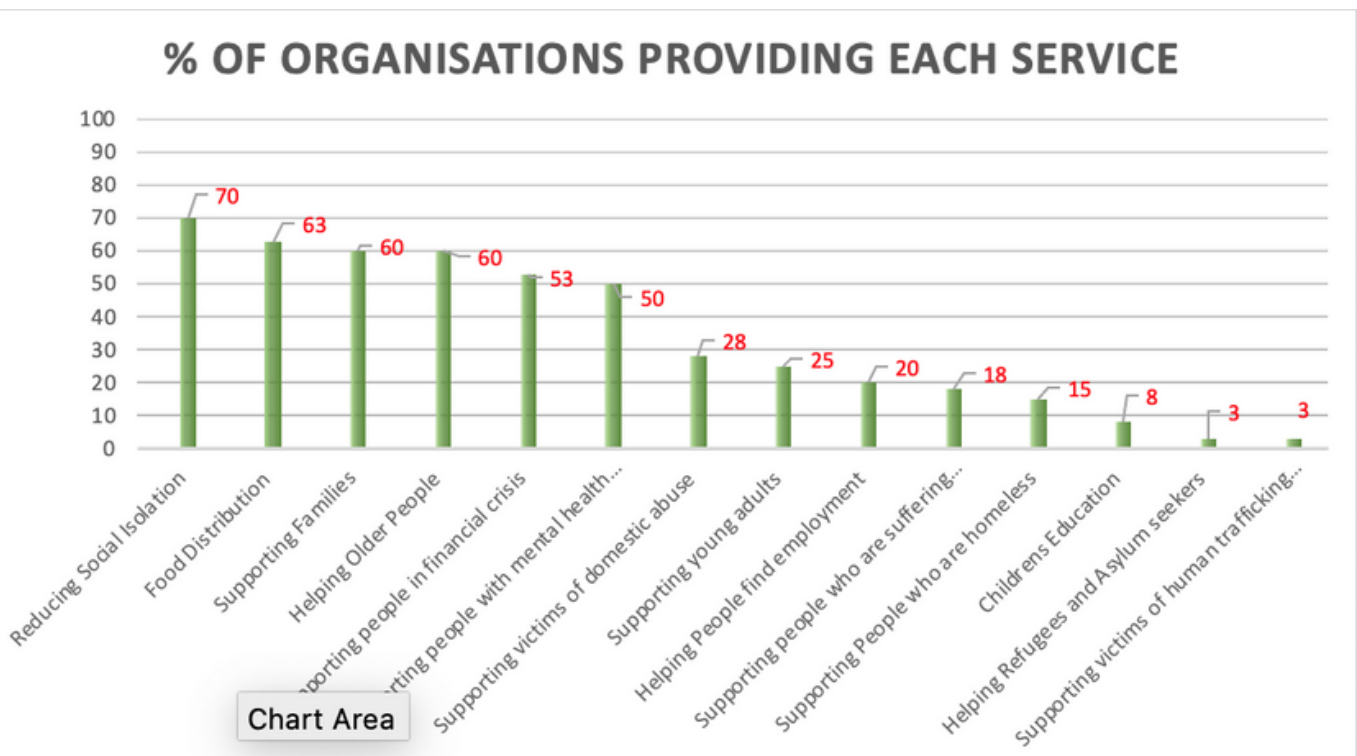


Services provided

The most popular services provided were in the areas of:

- Reducing social isolation (70%)
- Food distribution (63%)
- Supporting families (60%)
- Supporting Older People (60%)
- Helping people with mental health difficulties (53%)

Results (cont'd)



Extend, maintain, reduce ??

53% of respondents said that they planned to **extend** the services being offered post lockdown

44% of respondents said that they planned to **maintain** the services being offered post lockdown

3% of respondents said that they planned to **reduce** the services being offered post lockdown



Changes in provision after lockdown

Organisations expect to be more involved in the following areas:

- Children's Education
- Reducing Isolation
- Supporting young adults

And less involved in:

- Food distribution
- Helping those in financial crisis

Respondents

1. Time to talk mental health UK charity
2. Rushmere Good Neighbour Scheme
3. Ipswich Quakers - Religious Society of Friends
4. Community Action Suffolk
5. University of Suffolk Chaplaincy
6. Ipswich Waterfront Churches (CofE)
7. All Hallows Church, Landseer Road (CofE)
8. Holly Lodge
9. Family First
10. Rushmere Community Church
11. Suffolk Music Therapy Services
12. St Matthew, All Saints and Triangle, Ipswich (CofE)
13. Route2Freedom
14. Mission Ipswich East (MIE) (CofE)
15. St Andrew's Church, Rushmere (CofE)
16. St Mary and St Botolph Whitton (CofE)
17. Christians Against Poverty
18. St Thomas Ipswich (CofE)
19. Zoar Baptist Church
20. Ipswich Vineyard Church
21. Bentley Reformed Baptist Church
22. Bethel Apostolic Church Ipswich
23. Icenii Ipswich
24. Good News for Everyone' (formerly Gideons UK)
25. Witnesham Baptist Church
26. Whitton Baptist Church
27. St Peter's Stoke Park (CofE)
28. Holly Lodge Baptist Church
29. Lindbergh Road Community Church (CofE)
30. IP3 Good Neighbours
31. Selig Suffolk Trust
32. Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House
33. Greenfinch Church
34. Hope Church Ipswich
35. CAP Debt
36. Colchester Road Baptist Church
37. Whitton Church Ipswich
38. Westerfield, Tuddenham and Witnesham (CofE)