



Neighbourhood Mapping

Mapping your neighbourhood is an opportunity for a church group to develop its knowledge and understanding of the neighbourhood in which their church is based. This includes mapping the resources and assets already present in the area, considering any non-physical assets that may exist in the neighbourhood, including social networks, key people, informal associations, community groups etc. It can also be an opportunity to identify the key priorities that the group would like to investigate further. Priorities could include things like education, childcare or transport.

Next steps following a neighbourhood mapping exercise could include making contact with local organisations identified, speaking to the local authority about gaps in services and provision and thinking about how the church could respond to some of the priorities identified.

Resources required:

Parish or neighbourhood map

- Find a map of your area online.
- For Church of England parish maps go to: www.achurchnearyou.com
- An alternative would be asking people to draw their own map.

Online research

Online statistics can be a valuable tool for investigating your local area, especially once it's combined with your practical knowledge of the area. Here are a few useful sources of information to get you started:

- Church Urban Fund Lookup Tool – A parish-level overview of various statistics related to demographics, deprivation and social factors <https://cuf.org.uk/lookup-tool>
- 2011 Census Employment Data by Council Ward – Basic overview level statistics showing levels of unemployment, age etc. <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/ward2011/contents.aspx>
- Age UK Loneliness Heatmap – Shows demographic factors linked to loneliness, such as age, ill health and household size <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/our-impact/policy-research/loneliness-research-and-resources/loneliness-maps/>
- For more information about your local area try www.streetcheck.co.uk



Neighbourhood Mapping (continued)

Guidance:

Step 1: Mapping local resources

Gather the group/s around maps of the neighbourhood or parish and ask them to mark out all the local resources, housing, transport and other points of interest that they know about using the questions below.

After 20 minutes, gather back together as a large group and ask each group to feed back the things they have marked on the map. You could mark all of these resources on one large map as a reference point for the church.

a) Consider the following and where possible mark them on the map(s):

- schools
- shopping centres
- local shops - post offices, newsagents, off-licenses etc.
- take away food outlets e.g. fish and chip shops
- social, leisure or community centres
- libraries
- pubs
- health services and doctors' surgeries
- sheltered housing schemes and specialist accommodation for older people or people with disabilities
- services for young people and children
- voluntary and community organisations
- business and industry (small firms as well as big companies)
- parks, public open spaces, sport and play areas
- council services
- police and fire stations

b) Identify some of the housing arrangements:

- Add different housing types to the map e.g. blocks of flats, maisonettes, semi-detached
- Mark on the different ownership arrangements e.g. owner-occupied, private rented, local authority or housing association
- Regeneration areas

c) Consider and mark on the transport arrangements around the area e.g. major roads, bus routes, railway and footpaths

d) Consider and mark on the places of worship:

- Churches of all denominations
- Places of worship belonging to other faiths, such as mosques, gurdwaras, synagogues

e) Consider and mark on any places that attract people from outside the neighbourhood into the area



Neighbourhood Mapping (continued)

Step 2: Mapping potential partners

As a large group, spend about 15 minutes looking at where there are potential partners. Can we build on or support initiatives which are already in existence?

Step 3: Identify gaps and opportunities

Up until now we have spent a lot of time reflecting on what exists in your neighbourhood, but it is also important to consider some of the gaps in provision.

As a group, reflect on some of the questions below, and spend some time together mind-mapping some issues/gaps in provision that exist within your neighbourhood:

- What opportunities are there for employment in the parish?
- Where do most people go to work, if they have jobs?
- Does the neighbourhood have sufficient doctors/dentists?
- How far do you have to go to find a hospital for emergencies or out-patient treatment?
- What sort of schools are there? What are their attainment levels like?
- Do children go to school locally or do they travel?
- How and where do people (young, middle-aged and older) spend their leisure time?
- What voluntary and community organisations exist locally?
- What sorts of crimes are most common locally?
- Are there any other questions that would be important to ask?