

Faith Action in Bristol

Cinnamon Talk

My name is Adam Dyer and I am a Cinnamon Network Ambassador

It is great to be here in Bristol

The Cinnamon Network was established to mobilise and equip the local church to impact its community. We seek to strengthen the muscles of the local church. We do this by sharing best practice around the country, facilitating replications of outstanding projects and networking churches.

Early this year we were able to facilitate an audit of faith groups to establish how much was being done, often quietly, around the country.

In 57 Areas we surveyed a total of 4440 groups and received information from 2110, an impressive 47.5% response rate from cities, towns and rural areas.

From this Faith Action Audit we have been able to extrapolate the following information.

1. Churches and other faith groups contribute £3 billion of social action in the UK.
2. The 2110 groups who responded were mobilising nearly 140,000 volunteers in their local communities. That equates to an estimated 1.9 million Volunteers nationally.
3. 125,000 people are being employed by churches and other faith organisations throughout the UK to run these projects. That is a significant employment sector.
4. 220,000 Social Action projects are being run by churches and other faith groups.
5. Two thirds of these churches and other faith groups are working in partnership with statutory agencies and other organisations.

We held the National Launch in Westminster on 20th May where Archbishop Justin Welby was the key note speaker and said this:

“The CFAA report shows ... the breadth of commitment across the country, the depth of commitment and above all the strength of experience and good practice ... This is not mere do-goodery – [Cinnamon] is seeking to find the best practice and put it into action in the most professional way that can be imagined.”

This is lifting the lid on what we are doing, but also showing that we are keen to play our part alongside statutory and other voluntary sector organisations in making a difference to people most at need in our communities.

1. Partnerships

We hope this report and this event encourages further conversations at every level of the local community including with the local authority, police and other agencies

2. People

We hope people from faith communities will be further inspired to play their part in public life – as charity volunteers, community champions, local councillors, school governors or special constables

3. Projects

We hope more of these “Brilliant Amazing” Recognised Projects will be started in this area as a result of this survey. For information on all the recognised projects go to - www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk

Thank you for coming and I look forward to hearing how you use this report to develop relationships and bring even more transformation to this city.