

BARNET COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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BACKGROUND

Why has this new database been built? Doesn't one exist already?

The aim of the Barnet Community Directory is to hold contact details and an organisation overview of every not-for-profit organisation that serves Barnet residents, including national organisations. Unlike previous databases, the Barnet Community Directory is editable by organisations themselves. This means organisations can easily keep their information up-to-date and add projects, campaigns and anything extra, whenever it comes up, and anyone using the Directory will have updated information at their fingertips.

If you have an enquiry about merging or partnering other databases, please email BarnetDirectory@groundwork.org.uk

What can I use the Barnet Community Directory for?

The Directory is a searchable database and online contact tool that supports any organisations serving Barnet residents. You can search the Directory by organisation name, keyword or description to find organisations who provide the service you're looking for. Try searching "Disability" for an example.

Who can use the Barnet Community Directory?

Anyone can access and search the Directory to find out more about organisations in the area simply by visiting <https://vcs-database.barnet.gov.uk/#/>

If you are part of an organisation, you can find out more information at the "For organisations" FAQ.

RECORDS

What is a record?

A record is a page of information about an organisation, as shown on the Directory. It includes the name and a description of the organisation, contact details, social media handles, information about which existing networks they are part of, and the areas they work in. Records also show whether staff at an organisation are DBS checked, and if they are looking for volunteers. Records can also be linked to a number of projects that include more information about the services they provide. To find out more about projects see below.

Who updates the information on the records?

Any information added to the Directory stays under the ownership of the organisation that adds it. Each organisation has at least one administrator who is able to update and manage their record. If you notice information that needs updating on a record or if you believe an organisation no longer exists, please use our [help form](#) to let us know, and we'll pass the message on.

PROJECTS

What is a project?

The Barnet Community Directory holds details about the organisations working in Barnet, but also the things that it does – whether it's the main purpose of an organisation or perhaps a one-off event. If you want to find out what an organisation does, projects are a good place to start. You can search for projects by using the search function, or access an organisation's record, scroll down the page and click on anything listed under "Projects". Projects are automatically included in search results, and can be identified by a "calendar" icon.

CHECKING

Is the information checked, and if so by whom?

Records get moderated by Groundwork London to make sure it is clear what the organisation does and correct any typos. However, the record is ultimately owned by the person and organisation who submitted it, and can be changed or updated as many times as the owner likes.

DATA SHARING

What happens to the information on the Directory?

Information on the Directory is viewable like any other website, though you won't be able to search for specific organisation records on Google. The information for all organisations will be made available as a download as part of Barnet Council's Open Data scheme.

[You can download all the public data from the Barnet Community Directory here](#)

What is Open Data?

Open Data is non-personal shared information available to anyone, to use and share for their own purposes. For instance, the [Met Office](#) share their weather data for weather researchers to use for pattern-analysis. Open Data has many benefits – think of all the times you've wished you had a list of all the organisations in Barnet! – And since it never involves information which can be used to identify a person, it's entirely safe.

None of the information shared can be used to identify any particular person, and it does not include any information which might be deemed "sensitive".

You can find out more via the [Open Data Institute](#)

TROUBLESHOOTING

I am unable to use the search function on the website.

This may be resolved by opening the Directory on another internet browser. You may also find clearing your browser cache data helps. For more information on how to do this search on the internet according to what browser you are using.

There's an error on the site. What should I do?

Submit a [help form](#) to us! Click "help" at the bottom of the page and select "An organisation has inappropriate information", and we'll do our very best to sort it.