



# Engaging Communities

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Transformation through  
Community Anchors

**communityalliance**  
transformation through community anchors

# What are Community Anchors?



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- Community anchors are independent community-led organisations.
- They are multi-purpose and provide holistic solutions to local problems and challenges.
- They are there for the long run, not the quick fix
- Often the driving force in community renewal



# Five roles of Community Anchors

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- **Role 1: Service Provision**
- Community anchors provide local services and act as a gateway to helping people get access to the other services they need



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- **Role 2: Resourcing**

- Community anchors help bring money and opportunities into a neighbourhood from the local authority, external funders and other agencies.



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## ■ **Role 3: Advocacy**

- Community anchors call for changes in policy in practice
- Act as a catalyst of change in public services and regeneration programmes
- Help people to get involved in groups and have a say about local issues and services
- Mobilise local democracy



# Five roles of Community Anchors

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- **Role 4: Supporting community organisations**
- Community anchors support community organisations through community capacity building, helping groups develop their skills, organisation, representation and involvement.



# Five roles of Community Anchors

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- **Role 5: Strengthening community participation**
- Community anchors support active citizenship and contribute to civil renewal



# What does a community anchor look like?

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- Community anchors come in many shapes and sizes, ranging from big and small, urban and rural, etc.
- For the Community Alliance, the defining feature of a community anchor is that it is based in a building that is either owned or managed by the community. This provides anchors with the capacity to respond to local needs as well as being an assets that is a means for income generation.





# The Abbey Centre

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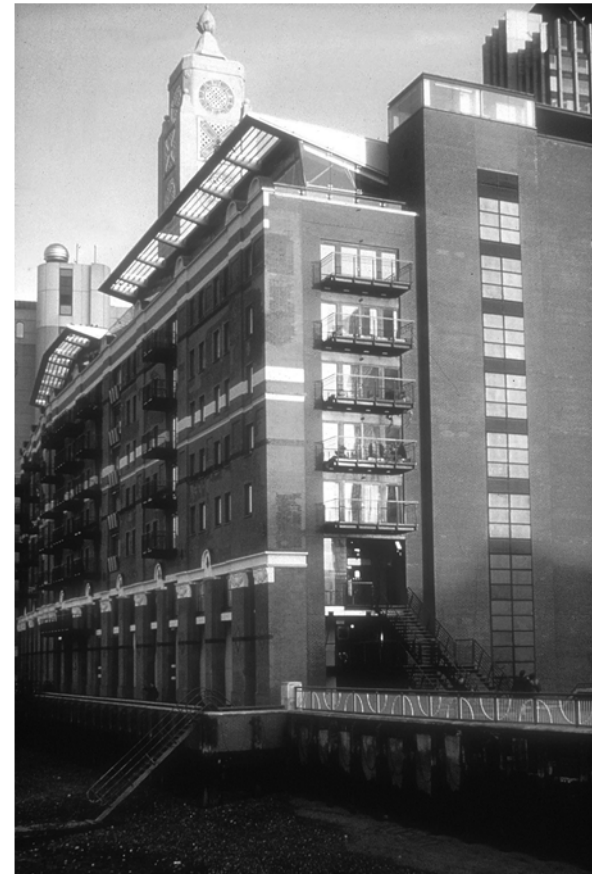
Originally founded in 1948, the aim was to rekindle the sense of community that had emerged during the end of the 2nd World War but was then felt to be in decline. Today we aim to serve our local residents at the same time as bringing together our ever evolving and diverse community.

Today, the Abbey Centre operates from a purpose built building in Westminster which serves as a highly successful conference facility that provides considerable extra funding to support community activities.

The Abbey Centre promotes the well-being of those living and working in South Westminster by providing health, life-long learning, and capacity building/enterprise services. We run projects based both at the Abbey Centre and in the surrounding community. Abbey members can be young, old, lifelong residents or new to the area and activities are often run by and for local people.

# Coin Street Community Builders

- Coin Street Community Builders (CSCB) is a development trust and social enterprise which seeks to make the South Bank a better place in which to live, to work and to visit. Since 1984 CSCB has transformed a largely derelict site into a thriving mixed-use neighbourhood. It has overseen the completion of the South Bank riverside walkway; the creation of Bernie Spain Gardens, Gabriel's Wharf and Oxo Tower Wharf; and the building of 220 new homes for people in housing need. CSCB provides a diverse range of arts and events in Bargehouse, the.gallery@oxo, and through the annual Coin Street Festival.
- The Coin Street family and children's centre provides an integrated range of family and children's programmes including out of school childcare, and family support programmes as well as a 46 place nursery. These activities and the extensive learning and enterprise support programme moved to the new Coin Street neighbourhood centre in September 2007.



# West Hampstead Community Association



- West Hampstead Community Association in NW London, is a lay volunteer-managed community organisation. It manages a community centre, a community hall, a charity shop and Mill Lane Open Space.
- In partnership with three other community centres in West Hampstead and Kilburn, a consortium charity was set up to coordinate community anchor activities.
- Services include education and training, capacity building and networking, youth development, volunteering and leisure activities

# Cambridge House

- Cambridge House is a centre in Camberwell, South London which provides local community groups with accommodation for hot-desking, offices and a range of meeting and activity rooms, support services, mentoring, skills development, access to funding, partnerships and training.
- Cambridge House engages in community development, provides community services for young people, provides advocacy services and has a law centre.





# How the Community Alliance supports community anchors

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- The Community Alliance is a partnership of three national membership bodies: *bassac*, Community Matters and the Development Trusts Association.

Together we support local community organisations across England at any stage of their development by:

- Putting them in touch with local professionals experiences in a range of management issues who can provide one-to-one advice
- Providing access to funding opportunities
- Organising networking opportunities and chances to share their experiences
- Providing information and advice

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Visit our website...

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For more information on Community Alliance news, services/products and community anchors please visit

[www.comm-alliance.org](http://www.comm-alliance.org)



# How to contact the Community Alliance

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- If you are a community anchor and would like to get in touch please call 020 7336 9492

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