

Karen Walkden of [www.flourishing.me.uk](http://www.flourishing.me.uk) talked us through a detailed and very helpful mindmap showing trends in 2013 for faith groups.

She later added via email:

“Here in Barnet we have had a local authority funding stream (Big Society Innovation Bank) that is not open to faith groups - and one church had to do some nifty footwork to set up a CIC in order to receive funding to run a local development project.

In recent years a new Muslim group set themselves up in order to offer short breaks to families with disabled children. A much lighter touch was applied to funding this work at the time. But it is clear that they might struggle in the current climate.

Dividing services into single lots - with contracts awarded to one organisation per lot - means that larger organisations or consortia are able to secure the contracts. So smaller organisations supporting specific communities can only get local authority funding if they are part of a consortium.

I think this is one of the biggest local difficulties for faith based service providers.”