



# How to ...

## Start a Social Action Community Project

with the Cinnamon Network

### **Cinnamon Network**

Cinnamon Network began at the end of 2010 in response to growing social need, public sector reform, increasing recognition of the role of voluntary organisations and the economic cuts. 50 Christian CEOs and leaders were challenged to consider how the Christian community could deliver more local transformation at national scale and to do so at speed.

Since the early days, Cinnamon Network has partnered with projects like Christians Against Poverty, Trussell Trust Foodbanks and Street Pastors. And now Cinnamon champions over 25 Recognised Projects – brilliant church-based community projects, both big and small – aiming to provide practical support and a strong network for them to rapidly expand and grow in impact.

Cinnamon Network received an award from the Prime Minister in June 2013 who said, “By supporting churches to address the most pressing issues in their neighbourhoods, The Cinnamon Network is transforming communities for the better.” The award reflects the outstanding work done by both the recognised projects and people in local churches who willingly give up their time on the front line.

### **Project Micro-Grants**

Cinnamon Network can provide seed funding, support and training to churches to enable them to launch a social action project through one of their partner organisations. Thanks to partnership with Governments and Foundations we are delighted to be able to offer the following Micro-Grants to any local church that wants to start one of our recognised best practice projects.

Projects can include; Foodbank, CAP, Baby Basics, Romance Academy, Make Lunch, Street Pastors, Link Visiting Scheme, Parish Nursing, TLG, Who let the Dads out and many others. For a list of possible projects visit: <http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/projects/>

### **Volunteer Training**

The best possible ‘How to ...’ guide for starting a Social Action Community Project is the **Cinnamon Network Volunteer Training Course**.

This training day is not for ‘experts’, and is open to everyone: from social activists to volunteer leaders and anyone who wants to find out more about how to effectively mobilise other for social action within their local church.

The Volunteer Training day includes sessions on; Leading confidently, Recruiting and managing a team, Promotion and partnership & Fundraising and evaluation.

Training dates and locations are advertised on the Cinnamon Network website, or if you email Chris Priddy at the Diocese to express your interest in this course we will look to arrange a day within the Diocese if there is enough demand for it. <http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/cvt/>

### **Cinnamon Network Faith Audit**

At a time when budget cuts, changes to benefits and rising housing costs are affecting many communities across the country, there are groups of committed and faith-driven individuals who are stepping into the gap. The Cinnamon Faith Action Audit surveyed 2,110 groups that were mobilising 139,600 volunteers and 9,177 paid staff to support 3,494,634 beneficiaries each year. Nationally the time given by churches and other faith groups into their communities through social action projects is worth over £3 billion a year.

We want to see local churches and other faith groups more empowered, more encouraged to take up their place as they serve at the heart of the community. We also want to see their work externally recognised and properly resourced as part of the overall picture of provision in any given community. The Cinnamon Network also produced a Faith Action Audit specifically for Bristol working in partnership with Churches Together in Greater Bristol. The audit reports are available online: <http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/cinnamon-faithaction-audits/>

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