

# Wandsworth State of the Sector 2021 / 2022

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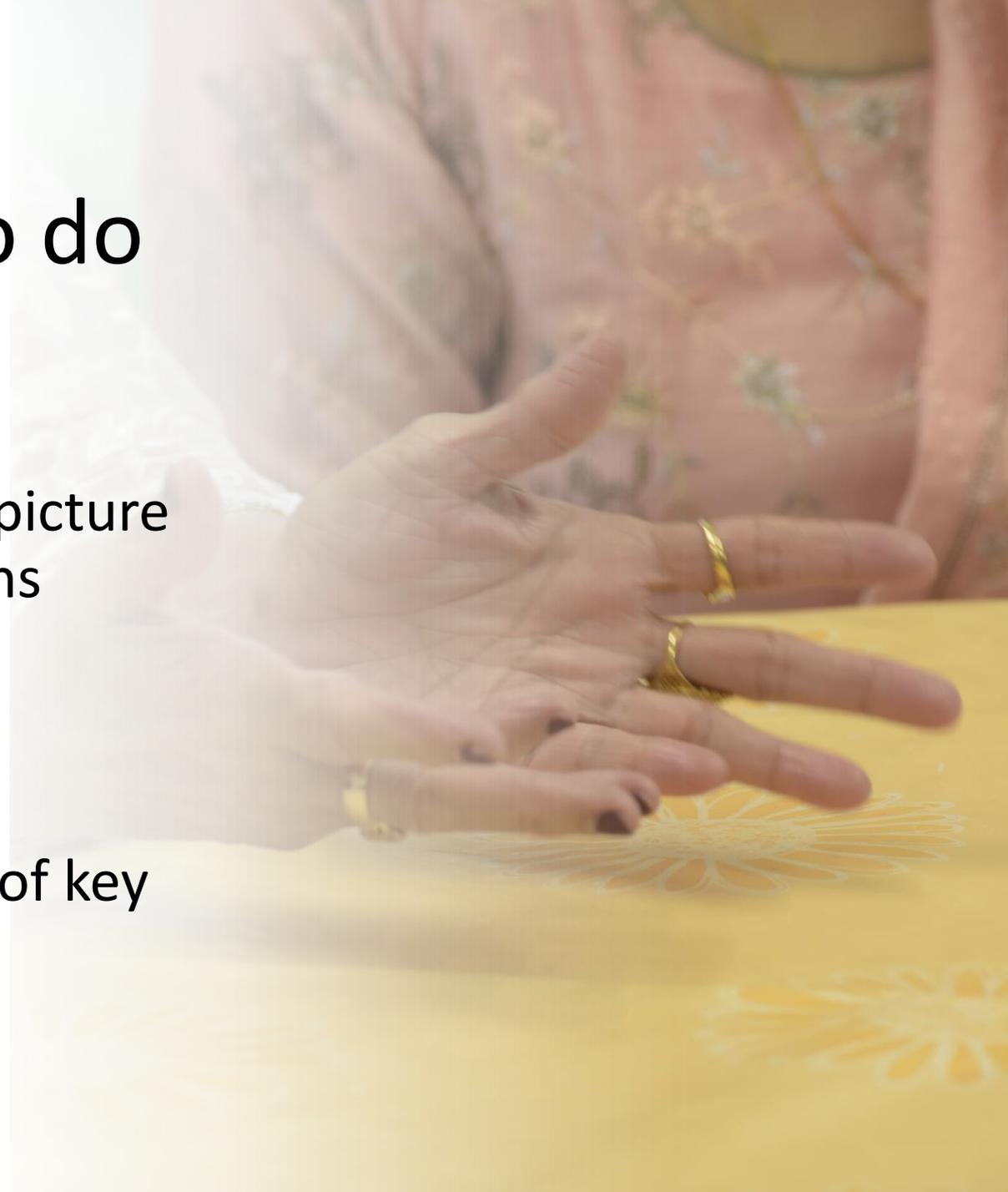
International Arts  
Commissioned by  
Wandsworth Care Alliance



# What we are attempting to do

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- An up to date data picture for VCS organisations partners and commissioners
- Explore the impact of key external issues



# What we are attempting to do

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- Increase understanding of how organisations are being supported / supporting / might be supported in the future.
- A picture of the sector: its strengths and weaknesses





# The limitations: a snapshot in time

- 556 Registered Charities
- Plus CICs
- Plus other Social Enterprises
- Plus informal groups
- Plus commercial or social organisations with a charitable output
- Plus other volunteers volunteering

# The Methodology

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Data Analysis

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Survey: the WCA 147

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Individual interviews: we ask 1-2-1

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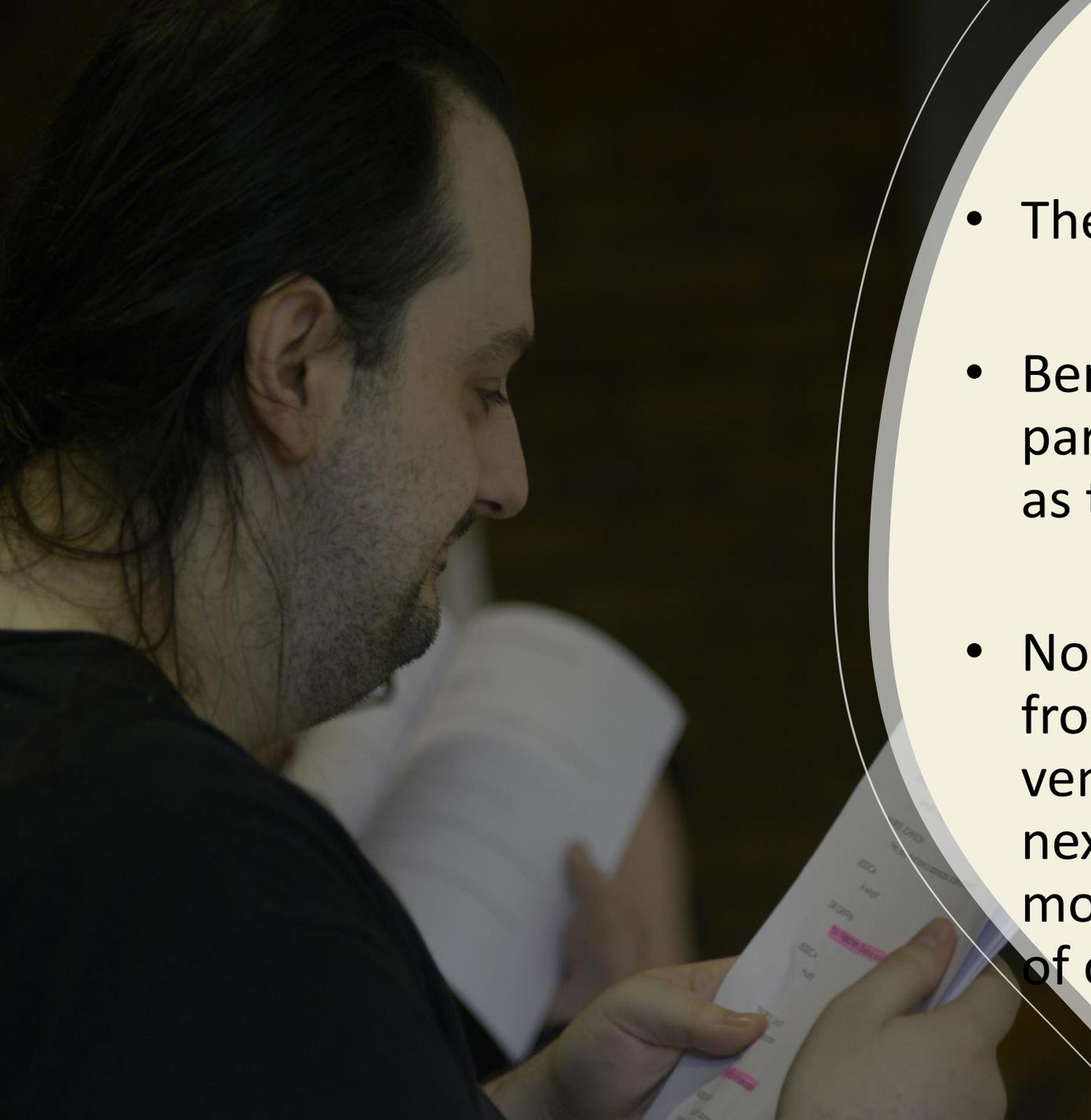
Conversation groups: amongst peers;  
we listen`

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Observational analysis: how as well  
as what

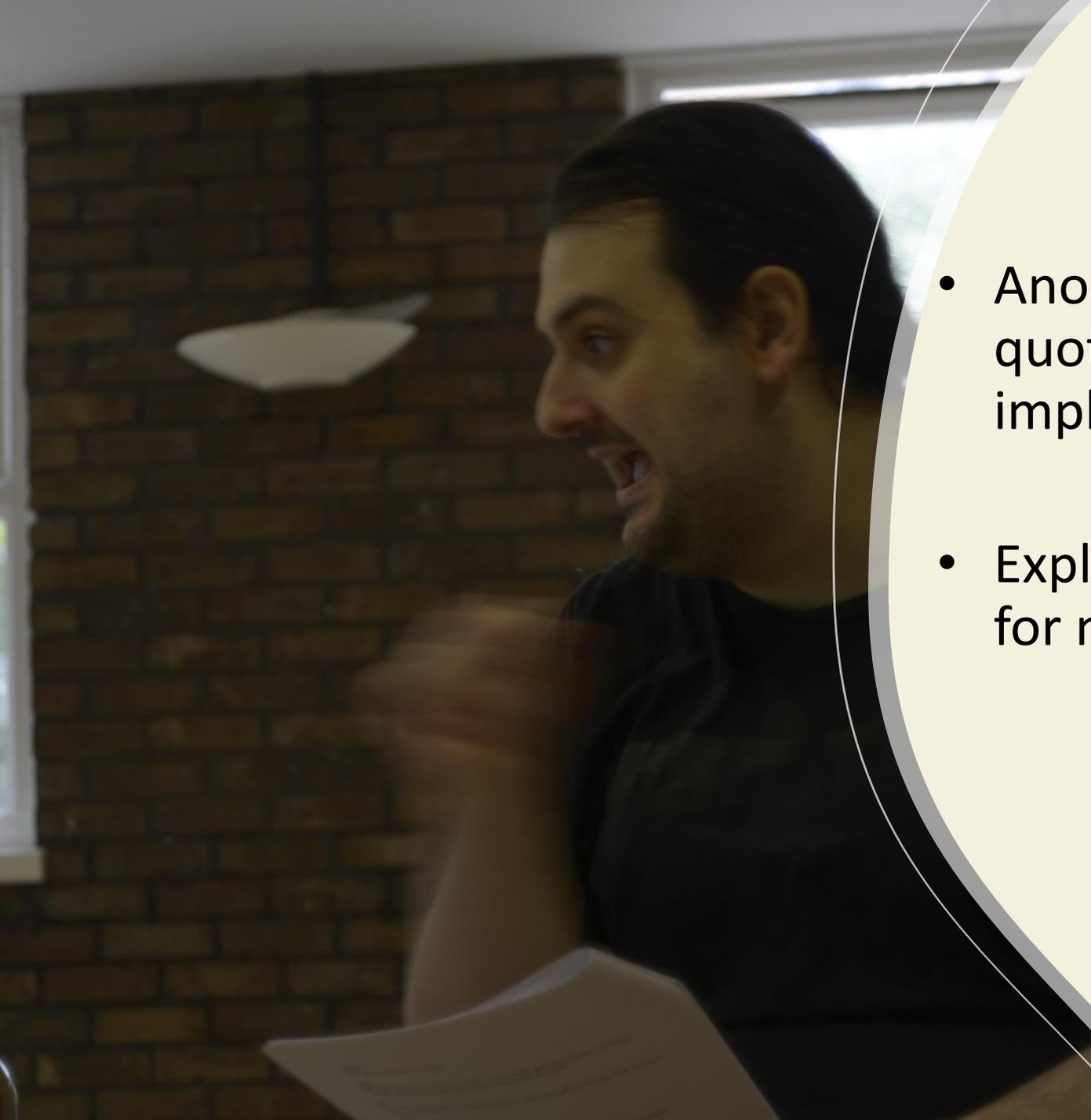
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Video Audio Photo representation:  
a different truth; the voice of  
beneficiaries.



# Notes:

- The Intersection
- Beneficial to participants as well as the research
- No single approach: from 2 -10; from venues to café; from next month to tomorrow. A diversity of organisations

A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark t-shirt, is shown in profile from the chest up. He is smiling and looking towards the left. He is holding a stack of papers in front of him. The background consists of a brick wall and a window with blinds. The lighting is somewhat dim, suggesting an indoor setting.

# Notes:

- Anonymously quotable: explicit and implicit
- Explicit permission for media work

# Wandsworth the context

## State of the Sector 2022 Voluntary Sector in Wandsworth

### THE SIZE OF THE SECTOR

**556\*** registered charities



**1,390\*** total sector size



### RESOURCES

**285.43**

million income

for sector (NCVO)



**43,844\***

average (NCVO)

75%

25%

**25%**  
reduction

in total income 2020  
compared with 2019



### SURVEY RESPONDENTS



**80%**

work in a neighbourhood  
or across the borough only

**47%**

in existence over  
20 years

**37%**

have 2 staff or fewer

**70%** have changed the work  
they work as a result of  
covid permanently



**98%**

participate in a network



# The snapshot in time

- From towards the end of Lockdown
- To the beginning of a Cost of Living Crisis
- And just includes a political change in local government

# Findings:

The 16 summary  
key findings  
include:

- A substantial sector but not compared with neighbours (per capita).
- High levels of optimism (and pride): not matched by underpinning for cost of living crisis ahead.
- *“So many extraordinary things happen here”*
- *“Optimistic? Yes, 8. A solid 8.”*



*“The cultural understanding here is a barrier”*

- The impact of Lockdown a mixed picture: for better for worse; some changes look to stay.
- Sector groups traditionally tend toward self-sufficient: concern emerging for support around “compliance” and growing around sustainable funding.
- Diverse & vibrant - but concerns about “our community, our issues” being understood by those outside of it. This applies to everyone.



*“sports clubs...its quite inspiring...they do their bit for humanitarian aid”*

- Only part of the sector recognises itself or others. Arts organisations, sporting clubs with youth ops etc. are neither seen nor see themselves as part of the sector.
- A voiced belief that we would find antipathy from the sector and the L.A. – but this view a minority of longstanding larger groups; new small community groups either positive or not engaged at all.



- Environmental sustainability low on sector's agenda (outside its own groups).
- Frequent wish for sharing opportunities with other groups (arts and food an unexpected interest). Not about further networks.
- Tendency for large well funded organisations to have a louder voice than smaller ones and to assume they speak for those. This is not always so.



# Some emerging issues

- Referrals becoming more complex
- Mental health a notable issue for some
- Some groups hard to re-engage
- Volunteers in shorter supply
- Staff shortages in some areas
- Funding more of a struggle post covid – funders spent a lot during the pandemic

***You can feel a sense of underlying anxiety in the community”***



# Recommendations

- Scope to develop size and resources of the Wandsworth sector in line with that of neighbouring boroughs.
- Celebratory activity: “telling the story” loudly and clearly about the success and impact of the sector.

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- **Promotion of interactivity between groups beyond formal networking to encourage sharing of ideas, resources, information.**
  - **Development of a dialogue between the local statutory sector, local infrastructure organisations and the sector more generally about future proofing the sector**
  - **Recognition of making greater use of the repeated interest in the value of food and art in bringing people together in person.**

*“coming out of covid, we’ve got to make more use of resources within the community and work together more and partner more”*



*With thanks to everyone who gave so generously of their time for this research*





john baked bean.mp3