

Focus of Social Action to improve the lives of the vulnerable

Individual

Family

Community

National

International

The Child

- Attachment theory – The crucial importance of a secure, loving relationship in the early months and years of a baby's life which then governs their physical and emotional development, ability to form healthy relationships and achieve a happy fulfilled life

The Family

- Police forces and other public agencies spend a disproportionate amount of spend and effort on a relatively small group of families and individuals who display a range of complex social, emotional and medical needs leading to higher rates of school exclusion, addiction, serious medical conditions and offending and anti-social behaviour
- Greater Manchester experience - such families tend to have lived in the same neighbourhoods for many generations, periods in prison just increase seriousness of offending and repeating patterns of domestic violence

The Community

- *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer....All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts of The Apostles)*

- “Judge not and you will not be judged “ – seeking to understand and not condemn – it is not a battle between good and evil many are badly damaged by poor starts in life
- “Set prisoners free” – many are prisoners of addiction, dysfunctional relationships, mental illness trapped in patterns of damaging behaviour while others are prisoners of modern slavery
- “Help the blind to see” – many are so trapped in their circumstances they cannot see a way out
- “Only those who have walked in these shoes “ – importance of lived experience those who have been through difficult times are best at helping others now in the same position
- Citizens not customers – we all have to play our part

Connecting those in need with those who want to be of service

- We Stand Together – Westandtogether.org
- Redeeming Our Communities - ROC.uk.com
- Safe Families for Children- safefamiliesforchildren.com
- Scouts, boxing clubs, community allotments, mentoring, lunch clubs
- Caritas

Strengths of Faith Groups

- Mission and purpose
- Organisation
- Safe places for community activities
- Sanctuary for those at risk and those who may mistrust state agencies
- Local connection
- Expertise and life experience

- We have always lived in families and communities and the Christian notion of family and community is the strongest basis for care and nurturing and provide the longest lasting answers to the problems faced by those in need.
- So many of those who have been damaged by life experiences find the greatest benefit from being of service and feeling that they can pass on their own lessons to others and regain self-esteem
- Active communities where people know their neighbour, watch out for one another and are active in community life are the happiest and healthiest - the alternative is people living in increasing isolation and withdrawing into mistrust of the "other"

- To care means first of all to empty our own cup and to allow the other to come close to us. It means to take away the many barriers that prevent us from entering into community with the other. When we dare to care then we discover that nothing is foreign to us but that all the hatred and love, cruelty and compassion, fear and joy can be found in our own hearts
- Henri J Nouwen