

Richmond Partnership Conference Report

Adult Social Care

3 October 2016

Richmond Partnership Conference Feedback Report

Background

This year's Richmond Partnership Conference took place on **Wednesday 15 June 2016, from 9.30am - 1pm** at The Stoop Stadium, Twickenham. The conference takes place annually and provides an opportunity for the wider partnership of local organisations to get together to review the last 12 months and look forward to the year ahead. This report provides feedback on the conference and highlights some of the areas raised by partners for action by the partnership.

This year the theme was "**What next for Village Planning**". As financial resources become increasingly limited, public sector bodies will find it more and more challenging to continue to provide the same range of services to communities in traditional ways. They will need to look at ways of working with communities and individuals so they can become more self-reliant and mutually supportive. The conference looked at:

- Stronger communities – the opportunities and challenges & what this will mean for Richmond
- What do we as partners need to do to support this change
- How do we build this into our approach to Village Planning

Delegates heard from a number of speakers such as the Council's Public Health department, Achieving for Children, Richmond Adult Community College, Richmond College and RCVS on the importance of building strong, resilient communities.

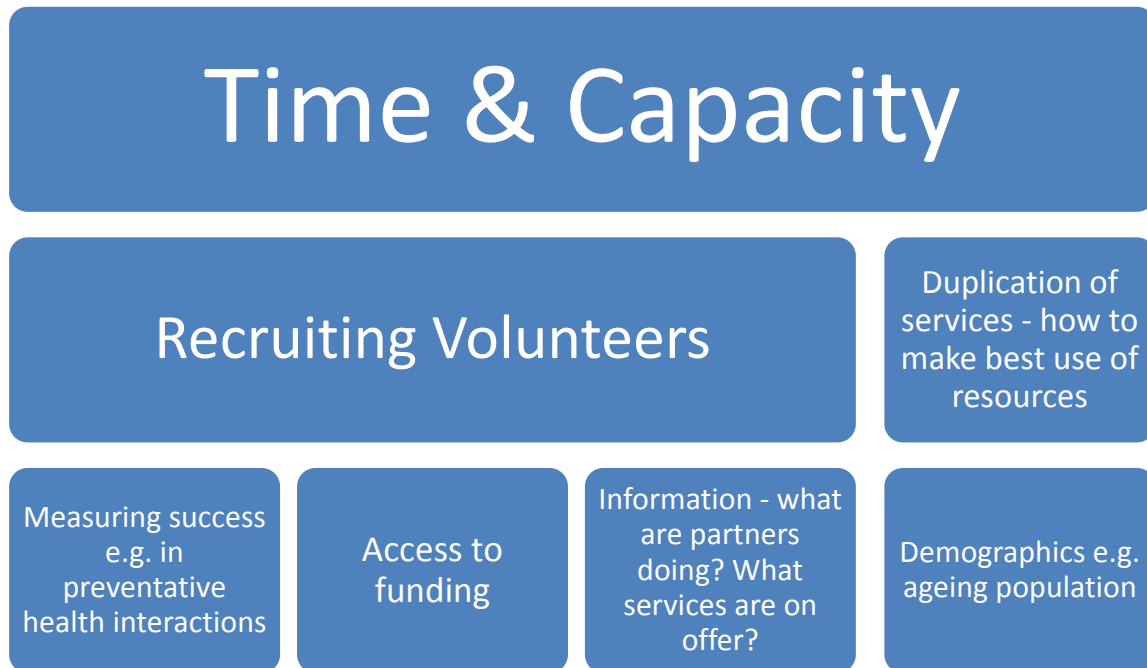
The event was attended by over 100 delegates from a range of public, voluntary, business and charitable organisations, and over 90% rated the event as good/excellent. The conference included a marketplace from over 15 partners which helped shared information on current and future activities and projects.



Conference themes

Delegates took part in two workshops to look at how as partners we can create stronger communities, the opportunities and challenges in doing so, and how we can move this forward in the next phase of village planning

Delegates were asked to set out the challenges they faced as organisations, and feedback was grouped into the following areas:



Delegates discussed how they could work more effectively together over the next year to meet deal with some of these challenges, and continue to improve their offer to the local community. A number of delegates acknowledged the additional resource provided by the Community Links team in sharing information and potential opportunities between local people, the Council and community organisations. Making more use of the team was further discussed in the second workshop.

Moving Forward

Delegates discussed the opportunities available to work in partnership over the coming year. These included ways to:

Promote

- Use community associations and buildings to promote community assets & develop hubs
- Micro-volunteering
- Promote & provide opportunities & places to upskill the unemployed/homeless/lonely for free
- Crowdfunding
- Peer researchers to engage people we are not reaching
- Promote easier access to commissioned support for smaller organisations

- Organise yearly “Big picnic in the park”, using it as an opportunity for organisations to promote themselves to the community

Share

- Share best practice
- Make more use of community centres and council buildings e.g. free drop in centre for charities and community groups.
- Partner with college students for community projects
- Work with Met police & safer neighbourhoods to identify vulnerable people & pass on information (in line with data protection)
- Share data on vulnerable people where appropriate between charity organisations (in line with data protection) to provide a better service to clients
- Improve understanding of what other groups do & better communicate to make it easier for clients who are often directed around services
- Stronger advocacy of the existing networks (through Compact) and use tools available.
- Co-chairing of Voluntary Sector Forum – less borough led more joint led

Engage

- Create a Social Enterprise charities can collaborate on to engage their clients e.g. a community café.
- Engage better with hard to reach (LGBT, BME) groups via social media/community group news/publications
- Work more effectively with PTA’s in schools to reach families & develop a young people’s voluntary mentor scheme

Develop

- Social capital – use employers skills to make a difference e.g. RHP staff volunteer for RHP’s digital inclusion project working with their residents
- Work with GP’s so voluntary organisations e.g. CAB have a presence in practices.
- Enhance training & support for voluntary groups
- Consolidate/merge voluntary organisations according to services or clients
- Develop volunteer sector hubs, sharing office space to save costs
- “Do something different” – challenge people to use community assets in a different way e.g. learning opportunities in parks.

Village Planning – what next

Cllr Pamela Fleming gave a presentation on the Village Planning programme which has since 2010 aimed to build community capacity, enabling residents to shape and where appropriate deliver local services. So far Village Planning has focused on residents’ needs for the physical environment, but it is now time to look further to developing more people focused programmes. Delegates discussed how the programme could move forward by:

- Inviting partners to community meetings to present on issues relevant to them.

- Partners feeling their voices are heard, as there are capacity constraints on attending all the group meetings.
- Nominating a charity champion (from the community) for each Village Area to feed into the process via Community Links and back to the partners.
- Encouraging local organisations e.g. RHP to promote involvement in village planning to their customers/clients.
- Using the village planning infrastructure to promote other services e.g. support for carers
- Joint working with community links team has been invaluable and we need to use the networks/ resources we have developed to move forward
- Ensuring issues which cross boundaries are addresses through Village Planning on a strategic level.

Conclusion and next steps

These results and actions will be shared with the wider partnership through the Richmond Partnership Bulletin and the Richmond Partnership pages of the Council website. Feedback will also be provided to the Richmond Partnership Executive Group at its meeting in November 2016. Discussions from the Conference will also inform the Richmond Partnership Executive Group's Forward Plan and work programme for the coming year, as well as influencing the agenda of future Partnership Conferences.