

## Voluntary Sector Forum

22 February 2022, 10:00 – 11:30

### Microsoft Teams

#### *Notes of the meeting*

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#### 1. Welcome

Cllr Michael Wilson (Cabinet Member for Equality, Communities and the Voluntary Sector) welcomed attendees to the Voluntary Sector Forum.

- Cllr Wilson introduced the meeting and the agenda for the Voluntary Sector Forum. He reminded groups that they could contact him at: [Cllr.M.Wilson@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.M.Wilson@richmond.gov.uk)

#### 2. Introduction of the new Head of Stronger and Safer Communities

Kiran Vagarwal (Richmond Council) introduced herself as the new Head of Stronger and Safer Communities.

- She has been in post since the 18 January 2022 and is looking forward to meeting and working with the sector.
- Kiran started her career working in the Community and Voluntary Sector, gaining over ten years' experience in this area and has a strong passion for supporting and building resilient communities.

#### 3. Integrated Care Systems (ICS) and Richmond Place

Denise Madden (Associate Director of Strategy & Transformation, Kingston Hospital) provided an update on the current implementation of the Integrated Care System (ICS).

- The Health and Care Bill introduced in Parliament on 6 July 2021 confirmed the Government's intentions to introduce statutory arrangements for integrated care systems (ICSs) from April 2022.
- The coming 3-month transition period from April to July will see the set-up of the:
  - Integrated care partnership (ICP): the broad alliance of organisations and representatives concerned with improving the care, health and wellbeing of the population, jointly convened by local authorities and the NHS
  - Integrated care board (ICB) bringing the NHS together locally to improve population health and care.
- Richmond Place Committee (transition) is made up of key local stakeholders. Local place transition teams will continue to take their refreshed health and care plans to local Health and Wellbeing Boards in the transition. Work is underway to calculate the detailed budget splits across South-West London.
- Richmond has recently had an updated [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#) (JSNA) outlining an assessment of the health, care and wellbeing needs of the community, which will be informative to the set-up of ICS.

- The Health and Care Plan is overseen by the Richmond Place Committee which will set out the vision, priorities and actions to meet the health and care needs of local people and deliver improvements in their health and wellbeing. This has three key themes: Start Well, Live Well and Age Well.

#### 4. Climate Change: 2022 Action Plan

Aimee Brough (Partnership and Engagement Officer, Richmond Council) and Colin Cooper (Chief Executive, Habitats & Heritage) provided an update on Richmond borough's climate action plan for 2022 and their work with the Voluntary Sector on climate change.

- Richmond Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and developed the Climate Emergency Strategy in January 2020, which is refreshed annually. The next strategy refresh is taking place this February 2022 with a focus on biodiversity and nature.
- November 2021 saw the Richmond Climate Week which hosted 22 events, with over 1,000 people taking part.
- Richmond Council is aiming to become Carbon Neutral by 2030 and wants to work more closely with community and voluntary groups.
- Richmond Council and Habitats & Heritage are asking the Voluntary Sector to complete a survey to develop further engagement work and activities in partnership with voluntary groups. **Please complete by 4 March 2022:** <https://forms.office.com/r/NcuGiyDpmS>
- Do feel free to contact Aimee Brough ([aimee.brough@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:aimee.brough@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)) or [Habitats & Heritage](#) if you want more information about workshops, upskilling and developing environmental policy etc.

#### 5. Platinum Jubilee: local plans and VCS involvement

Jon Evans (Assistant Chief Executive) and Will Radford (Corporate & Leaders' Support Officer) outlined Richmond Borough's plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is celebrating her 70-year reign, with events including:
  - Thursday 2 June: The Queen's Birthday Parade and Platinum Jubilee Beacons
  - Friday 3 June: Service of Thanksgiving (St Paul's Cathedral)
  - Saturday 4 June: The Derby at Epsom Downs and Platinum Party at the Palace
  - Sunday 5 June: The Big Jubilee Lunch and The Platinum Jubilee Pageant
- The Council is making funding available for grants of up to £1,000 for voluntary groups to celebrate the Jubilee, which will be launched in early March. Special consideration will be made for large grants in exceptional circumstances.
- Other funding is available: Sport England – Queen's Platinum Jubilee Activity Fund (£5mn fund, £300-£10,000 awards) and London Community Foundation – 'Let's Create Jubilee Fund' (£621k fund, **Deadline 28 February**)
- The Queen's Green Canopy "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee!" – to celebrate a tree is to be planted in every ward during the planting seasons in October and March.
- For the Queen's Big Jubilee Lunch, street closure fees will be waived for street parties (application deadline 30 April). Community picnic areas in local parks will be announced and Schools are encouraged to participate in the lead up to the Jubilee.
- The Council are encouraging Jubilee celebrations to be as inclusive as possible, so they are accessible to all residents.

- Voluntary Sector groups are encouraged to let the Council know about any planned events (contact Will Radford and [louise.nicholls@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:louise.nicholls@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)). For any general queries about the Platinum Jubilee contact [Will.Radford@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Will.Radford@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk).
- For further information and guidance on applying for a Platinum Jubilee Grant, please call 020 8831 6297 or email [voluntarysector@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:voluntarysector@richmond.gov.uk).

## 6. Fundraising and Funding Advice

Heather Mathew (Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Strategic Lead Manager, Richmond CVS) provided an overview of the current trends in grant giving, the pandemic's funding legacy and the funding needs of the Borough.

- The Voluntary Sector has seen a 1.8% growth in grant giving from foundations but a 12% fall in corporate giving, as a result of the pandemic.
- Foundations have adapted to be more flexible in supporting groups throughout the pandemic including London Funders who established a fund made up of 67 funders, who awarded £57 million in grants.
- Digital fundraising has developed, however in-person fundraising has suffered but is building up again as things open up and events are being organised.
- Richmond CVS can provide a range of bespoke funding advice for Voluntary Sector organisations including:
  - Identifying funds – Grants Online database
  - Comprehensive feedback on draft bids
  - Support to update your policies and procedures to meet funders' criteria
  - Training - [view the training calendar](#)
  - Monthly e-Newsletters which include funding news and updates - [sign up for the newsletters](#)
  - Promoting volunteer opportunities

### Open Forum

**Active Richmond Fund - Piloting Healthy Eating and Nutrition Funding** (Lee Pittock and Ben Smitton, Richmond Council). New funding is available for healthy eating and nutrition focused projects, these should cover one or more of the following outcomes:

- Providing education and skills building on healthy eating and/or nutrition
- Increasing the accessibility or availability of healthier nutritious food
- Promoting the accessibility of healthy eating and good nutrition

**Apply online at:** [https://richmond.gov.uk/active\\_richmond\\_fund](https://richmond.gov.uk/active_richmond_fund)

Contact: 020 8831 6297 or [ActiveRichmondFund@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:ActiveRichmondFund@richmond.gov.uk)

**Community Health Champions Programme** – has been set up to encourage people to take the Covid-19 vaccine, across the borough and within key wards with low vaccine uptake: Barnes, Mortlake and Barnes Common, North Richmond, South Richmond and Twickenham Riverside. The programme is looking to engage more champions and will be launching a survey to help shape the programme. Find out more at: [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/community\\_health\\_champions](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/community_health_champions)

**Good Gym** - is a charity that supports people to get physically active and they are running projects including litter picking, supporting people living with SEND, pairing older people with walking buddies etc. Good Gym are keen to build partnerships with community organisations. Contact [samjones@goodgym.org](mailto:samjones@goodgym.org) or go to the website [www.goodgym.org](http://www.goodgym.org).

**Richmond What's on Guides** – These free monthly guides are produced by VisitRichmond and Voluntary and Community Sector groups can advertise their events for free (as well as on the 'new look' [website](#) – coming soon). Each month the guides also feature a free page focussing on a local charity. If you are interested in featuring in the guides, please contact: [angela.ivey@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:angela.ivey@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk).

**Community Ambassador Project** – Sarah Campbell is the Community Ambassador Coordinator, working with social housing residents in Richmond upon Thames. Find out more about the project: [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/community\\_ambassadors](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/community_ambassadors) and contact Sarah on: [sarah.campbell@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.campbell@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

**Closing Remarks**

Jon Evans (Assistant Chief Executive) thanked participants for attending and asked attendees to share any feedback or suggestions for future meetings.

The next Voluntary Sector Forum will be planned for after the May election, sometime from June onwards.