

Voluntary Sector Forum

29 September 2022, 10:00 – 12:00

The Salon, York House, Twickenham

Notes of the meeting

1. Welcome

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

- Cllr Baldwin announced that a new CEO for Richmond and Wandsworth Councils has been appointed – Mike Jackson who starts in October 2022. He is keen to visit all parts of the borough.
- Cllr Baldwin announced that a Community Safety survey was launched yesterday to help inform the Community Safety Strategy and the actions we will take to improve the safety and quality of life for communities in Richmond. We want to hear from community and voluntary organisations as well as those who live, study, work, run a business, or visit the borough. Further information can be found on the Council consultation webpage: <https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/richmondce/cs22/>

2. Cost of Living Crisis

Jon Evans (Richmond Council) provided an update on the Cost of Living and Lorna Reid (Citizens Advice Richmond) spoke about the support they are offering. There was a request to signpost people early, before they have reached a critical point. Citizens Advice can also bring their services direct to your clients through their outreach work e.g. a group of parents, carers to provide advice in the community

See slides for details

3. Richmond Ukrainian Resettlement Update

Jamie Fisher (Richmond Council) provided an update on the Ukrainian resettlement in the borough. Information is available on the Council website:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/ukrainian_nationals

See slides for details

4. Digital Inclusion

Carol Horne (Age UK Richmond) provided an update on their Connect to Tech project offering training and support with tech. The project provides one to one support at community locations, group sessions, drops ins as well as a tablet loan scheme. Find out more on the website: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/richmonduponthames/our-services/connect-to-tech/>

5. Update on the Charities Act 2022

Julie Gavin (Richmond CVS) outlined recent changes to the Charities Act 2022 and how this could impact charities.

See slides for details

6. Open Forum

- **Clean and Green Week** - Megan Hermes, Partnership and Engagement Lead - Climate Change (Megan.Hermes@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk) talked about Clean and Green Week taking place this week. More information is available on the Council website: https://www.richmond.gov.uk/clean_and_green_week
- **Community Engagement Team** – Rajiv Bhattacharjee introduced the work of the [Community Engagement Team](#) and the [Community Ambassador Project](#) working with social housing residents in Richmond upon Thames.
- **VisitRichmond** – promotes things to see and do in the borough and can share [information about your events](#) for FREE on their website. A different charity is also featured in each month's What's On guide. If you are interested in your charity featuring, please contact: info@visitrichmond.co.uk
- **Multicultural Richmond** – is holding an open day event on 6 October and a Hate Crime event on 10 October. [Contact Multicultural Richmond to find out more.](#)
- **GamCare** – is a national charity providing support to those affected by gambling. They offer free training to organisations around spotting the signs of gambling addiction. [Find out more.](#)
- **Healthwatch Richmond** – the team has been working on a [Healthy Living in Richmond Report](#) which will be out later this year. They are also working on a project around access to GPs.