



Community Conversation

# Voluntary Sector Forum

## 30 January 2023



## VOLUNTARY SECTOR FORUM AGENDA

### Networking and Refreshments 09:30 – 10:00 (Winter Garden, York House)

#### 10:00 – **Welcome and Introduction**

10:10 Cllr Nancy Baldwin – Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities and the Voluntary Sector

#### 10:10 – **Richmond Food Partnership: sustainable, healthy and affordable food for all**

10:25 Andrew Hagger, Policy and Review Manager, Richmond Council

#### 10:25 – **Energy Saving Support**

10:40 Toby Costin, CREW Director, CREW Energy

#### 10:40 – **Cost of Living: Local Response and Update**

11:00 Jon Evans, Assistant Chief Executive, Richmond Council

Alix Wilson, Interim Assistant Director of Resources (Revenue Services), Richmond Council

#### 11:00 – **Voluntary Sector and Cost of Living: Panel Discussion**

11:40 Panel members:

- Jon Evans, Assistant Chief Executive, Richmond Council
- Alix Wilson, Interim Assistant Director of Resources, Richmond Council
- Phil Barron, CEO, Richmond Parish Lands Charity
- Katy Makepeace-Gray, Director, The Barnes Fund
- Kathryn Williamson, Director, Richmond CVS
- Vanessa James, Centre Director, ETNA Community Centre

#### 11:40 – **Open Forum and Q & A**

12:00

### Networking and Refreshments 12:00 – 12:30 (Winter Garden, York House)



Community Conversation

# Welcome and Introduction

**Cllr Nancy Baldwin**

Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities and the Voluntary Sector, Richmond Council

# Richmond Food Partnership

Sustainable, Healthy and Affordable Food for All

Voluntary Sector Forum

30 January 2023

Andrew Hagger



# OVERVIEW

- Our Proposal
- Why?
- The Co-Benefits
- The RFP in practice
- Case Study
- Support the Voluntary Sector
- Next Steps
- Questions



## OUR PROPOSAL

The Richmond Food Partnership (RFP) will be based on three principles:

1. **Sustainable** – reduce the climate and environmental impact of food
2. **Healthy** – nutritious and healthy diets
3. **Affordable** – reduce food costs

The RFP will **enable access to sustainable, healthy, and affordable food for all**



# WHY?

## The Cost of Living Crisis

- Average cost of food and non-alcoholic drinks increased by 16.2% between October 2021 and October 2022
- Highest rate of food price rises since 1977
- Over 93% of food banks have reported a rise in demand

## Climate Change and Environment

- 9.5 million tonnes of food was wasted in the UK in 2018 = £19 billion a year and 36 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions
- In the UK, dietary greenhouse gas emissions are roughly twice as high for meat eaters than vegans

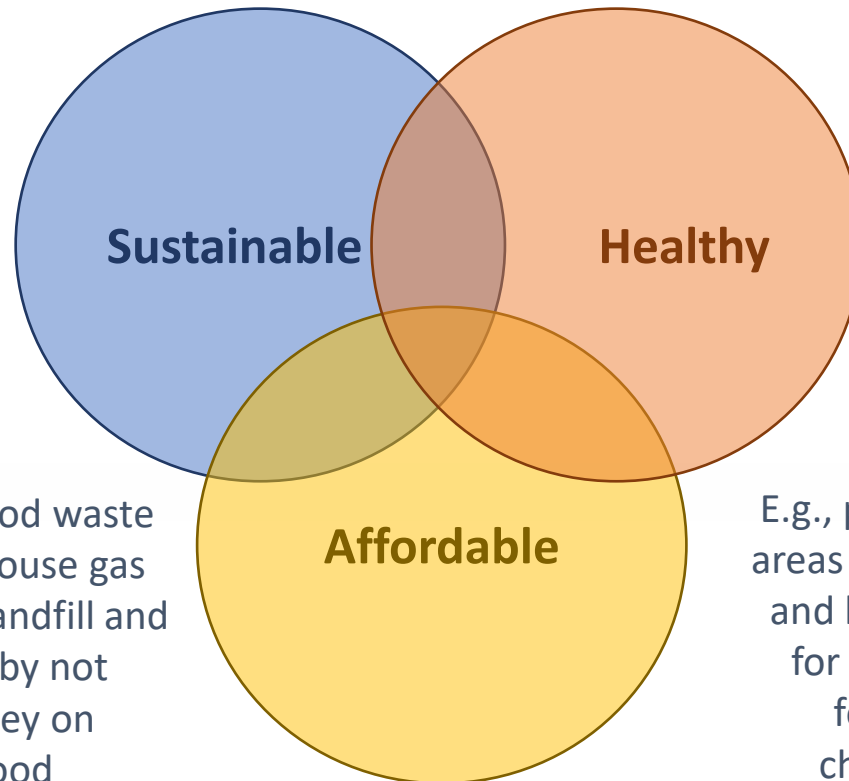
## Health

- Adults: 25.9 % are obese and 37.9% are overweight in England
- Children: 23.4% of 10-11 year olds are obese and 14.3% are overweight in England
- Prevalence of excess weight (obesity and overweight) is higher in the most deprived areas in England
- Children in the most deprived areas of England are twice as likely to be obese and four times as likely to be severely obese compared with children in the least deprived areas



# THE CO-BENEFITS

E.g., reducing red meat consumption reduces greenhouse gas emissions and associated health risks (such as high cholesterol, heart disease, and cancers)



E.g., reducing food waste reduces greenhouse gas emissions from landfill and saves money by not wasting money on uneaten food

E.g., people living in more deprived areas tend to have less healthy diets and higher rates of obesity (calory for calory, unhealthy, processed foods are cheaper) – these challenges can be addressed together







## THE RFP IN PRACTICE

- Cost of Living Crisis will be central to the RFP, helping address the urgent need for many people to access food
- The RFP will build out from a central focus of affordable food for all to ensure this food is also sustainable and healthy
- The co-benefits will be maximised to ensure the RFP runs as efficiently and effectively as possible
- The RFP will be voluntary-sector led, with support from the council



# CASE STUDY

## ISLINGTON FOOD PARTNERSHIP

- “A broad coalition of local organisations and individuals working together to develop an ambitious and sustainable food network for Islington”
- What it does for **local residents**:
  - Gives information on local community food services
  - Gives opportunities to influence local food strategies and services

- What it does for **partner organisations**:
  - Collaborates on funding bids and fundraising initiatives
  - Gathers and shares data and information on food across the Borough
  - Designs and works together on projects and ideas
  - Shares expertise and good practice
  - Works together to help shape and influence local and national food policies



# SUPPORTING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

- Identifying and maximising links between voluntary sector organisations
- Managing the demands around affordable food
- Broader coordination across the borough on food issues
- Funding support and identifying opportunities for funding
- Maximising and increasing the impact of interventions by working as part of a broader collaboration
- Sharing of information, expertise and best practice
- Collaborative working to influence local and national food policies



## NEXT STEPS

- Share your ideas and expertise
- Attend a workshop with local experts and voluntary organisations
- Use the outcomes of the workshop to inform the RFP strategy and plan
- Identify partner organisations and board members



# QUESTIONS

If you would like to share your ideas and/or attend the workshop,  
please contact Nicola Wheeler on:  
[nicola.wheeler@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.wheeler@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)





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# Energy Saving Support

**Toby Costin** - CREW Director, CREW Energy



**The energy crisis and actions  
businesses can take to increase  
efficiency and save costs**

# Better Futures+



**Energy Crisis Workshops** and mentoring with specialist energy consultants



On site **Energy Audits**, financial modelling and 1to1 sessions with energy consultants \*



**Climate Essentials**  
12-month subscription to a **carbon management platform** \*



**Webinars and workshops** with industry experts and live case studies



**Peer Learning** and networking sessions



**Consultancy**  
40 sessions with specialist sustainability consultants on any topic \*

**Supporting 600 businesses in London by April 2023**

\*Eligibility Criteria:  
2-249 Full Time Equivalents  
£100k-43million revenue/grants/investment







## CREW Energy

- ▶ CREW is a SW not for profit community group.
- ▶ We can help you scope your project, find funding, introduce innovative solutions and project manage.
- ▶ We have experience of installing solar PV, battery storage, EV charging, heat pumps, LED lighting, smart heating controls and heat transfer solutions.
- ▶ We have a community outreach team that helps people with energy advice and behavioural change.

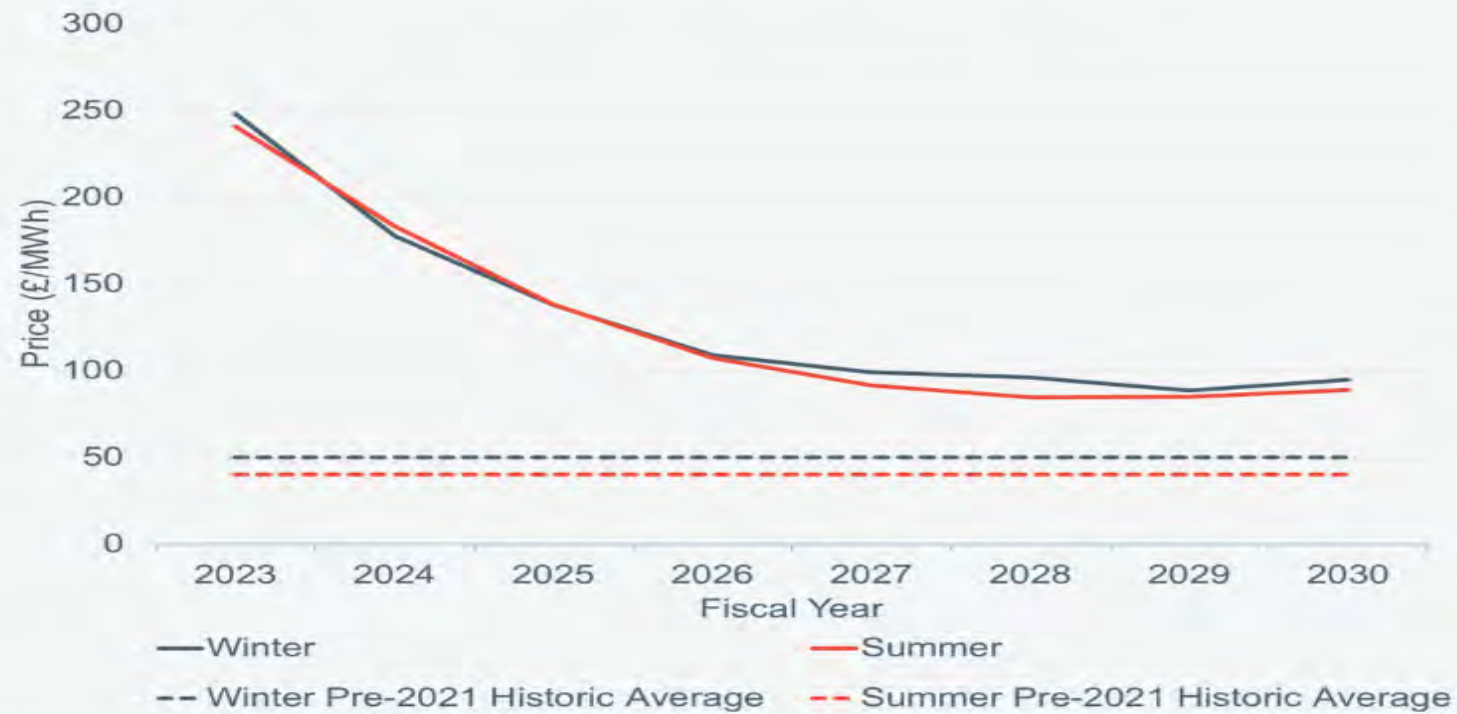
# Why are we in this crisis?



- ▶ Long term gas price is just 50p
- ▶ **Prices rose before war due to Asia's decarbonisation** from coal to gas
- ▶ Expect price swings every time Asia has a cold winter
- ▶ Lack of UK storage makes us vulnerable

# Long term price-long term problem

Figure 1: Power price forecasts – average price per fiscal year



Source Cornwall Insight Benchmark Power Curve

# Government Support

- ▶ Prices capped until April
  - ▶ Electricity at 21.1p per kWh wholesale price. Delivered price around 30p
  - ▶ Gas at 7.5p per kWh whole price, delivered price around 10p
- ▶ From April the Government will introduce the Energy Bills Discount Scheme for one year
  - ▶ Support will only kick in if electricity prices breach 30.2p per kWh and gas prices at 10.7p per kWh.
  - ▶ Maximum price support will be 19.61p and 6.97p respectively
- ▶ Government support will need to be refunded over time so extending the period of high prices.

# Step 1: Easy Wins

## Behavioural change

- ▶ Reduce standby by time and switch off computers and printers at night
  - ▶ Typical computer use 5 w per hour in sleep mode and 100 w when in use
  - ▶ Save £10 per year on standby, £200 in full energy mode
- ▶ Optimise brightness of monitors
  - ▶ A reduction for 100% to 70% can cut energy usage by 20%
- ▶ Last person turns off the lights at night or install microwave sensors
  - ▶ 20 twin T8 tubes left on for 12 hours overnight would cost £8.06 per night
- ▶ Reduce the flow temperature of your boiler to improve efficiency.
- ▶ **Fix draughts, don't plug in additional heaters.**
  - ▶ Each fan heater now costs 60p per hour or £ 4.8 per day.
- ▶ Staff kitchen, air handling, heavy machinery.

## Step 2: Affordable Wins

- ▶ Technologies that are affordable but will have a big impact on your emissions and will pay back quickly

Technology	Payback
LED lighting	1-3 years
Smart building controls	2-4 years
Loft insulation	3-5 years
Hydromx heat transfer solution	2-4 years

## Step 3: Larger Investments

### Solar Panels

- ▶ Visual evidence of your green credentials
- ▶ High energy prices ensure shorter paybacks
- ▶ Decoupling from energy inflation
- ▶ Potential for 3rd party funding



### Heat Pumps

- ▶ Perhaps the biggest carbon reduction
- ▶ Currently £5000 subsidy from UK Government
- ▶ Gas prices outstripping power prices
- ▶ Heat pumps currently 2.3p cheaper per kWh than a gas boiler
- ▶ Reduced maintenance cost



# Capital Allowance

- ▶ 130% Super Deduction allowance rebate runs until April 2023  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/super-deduction>
  - ▶ Solar panels
  - ▶ Thermal insulation
  - ▶ Electric Vehicles
  
- ▶ Capital Allowances via the Energy Technology list  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/energy-technology-list>
  
- ▶ These include:
  - ▶ Heat pumps
  - ▶ Heating, Ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC)
  - ▶ Air handling
  - ▶ Building controls
  - ▶ Refrigeration equipment
  - ▶ Solar thermal



# Funding options

- ▶ Government grants
  - ▶ Boiler upgrade scheme <https://www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme>
  - ▶ The EV Chargepoint grant <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles>
  
- ▶ Installer finance
  - ▶ Pay as you save scheme
  
- ▶ Green Loans
  - ▶ British Business bank <https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/>
  - ▶ Barclays Green Loan
  - ▶ Virgin Sustainable Business Loan
  - ▶ Lloyds Clean Growth Financing Initiative

# Energy Contracts, Brokers and Measurement

- ▶ Are you on a fixed price contract?
  - ▶ Ideally contract as long as possible
  - ▶ Retail vs. Wholesale prices
    - ▶ Retail, little opportunity to negotiate
    - ▶ **Wholesale...can negotiate, access to longer contracts**
  - ▶ Energy Brokers can give access to wholesale market via a portfolio / basket approach
  - ▶ Fix in April or October
  - ▶ Crew use Utility Aid
- ▶ Measurement
  - ▶ Do you understand you energy bills?
  - ▶ Do you have smart meters / access to intraday data?
  - ▶ Analyse these for anomalies

Get in touch,  
we're nice!



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**Toby Costin**

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[@crewenergyldn](#)



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# Questions?





# Cost of Living: Local Response and Update

**Jon Evans** - Assistant Chief Executive, Richmond Council  
**Alix Wilson** - Interim Assistant Director of Resources  
(Revenue Services), Richmond Council

# Cost of Living Crisis

**Voluntary Sector Forum**  
**30<sup>t</sup> January 2023**

# How is the Council Responding

- Approved £3m support (allocated £1m)
- Requires close working with partners
- 8 priority themes



# Cost of living hub



Virtual Hub

[richmond.gov.uk/services/cost\\_of\\_living\\_hub](https://richmond.gov.uk/services/cost_of_living_hub)



Online support calculator, tailored to the borough.



Leaflet to every household and multi-channel comms campaign.



# Warm Spaces

- Directory on Hub showing all local spaces
- Encourage you to **register** your space
- 27 organisations have registered so far
- Council has warm spaces in 18 locations including libraries and youth centres
- Now reviewing future offer.

# Warm Homes

Energy  
Advice –  
SW LEAP

- [Swleap.org.uk](http://Swleap.org.uk)
- Provide energy advice to those in fuel poverty
- Could be a home visit but also provide advice at energy cafes, in community settings, over the telephone or by email if preferred.

Winter  
Warmth  
Service –  
Thinking  
Works

- [Thinkingworks.co.uk](http://Thinkingworks.co.uk)
- Free to residents in need; support may include:
- FREE carbon monoxide detector, radiator reflector panels or smoke alarms
- Small home improvements and boiler checks
- Advice/referrals for heating/insulation grants

# Financial Resilience

Household  
Support Fund

Local  
Assistance  
Scheme

Citizens Advice  
– new Crisis  
Prevention  
Case Worker

Resilience Team  
– supporting  
Housing Benefit  
recipients

Work Match –  
Money  
Management

# Food

- Promoting Free School Meal uptake
- Promoting Healthy Start uptake – [healthystart.nhs.uk](https://healthystart.nhs.uk)
- Food offer in some warm spaces

# Community Resilience

## Support for VCS

- £150k VCS grant fund
- Closed for new applications; 13 grants awarded

## Support for Business

- Support offer to small/medium enterprises due to launch –
- Providing sites visits, audits and follow up advice on being resource efficient/savings costs

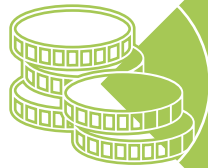
# Wellbeing & Inclusion

- We know the wider impacts of COL including on mental health.
- Examples of additional funding include
  - Domestic Abuse: New Economic Abuse & Mental Health Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
  - Support into employment: 'Employ Richmond' Fair

# Data & Analysis



Using data to inform targeted income maximisation campaigns



Developing a single view of debt to support debtors early



Local data on cost of living available on [datarich.info](http://datarich.info)

# Your feedback is essential

- Plans were a starting point for action.
- Now reviewing impact and feedback.
- What issues are the most pressing?
- What support would make the most difference?





# Voluntary Sector and Cost of Living: Panel Discussion

- **Jon Evans** - Assistant Chief Executive, Richmond Council
- **Alix Wilson** - Interim Assistant Director of Resources (Revenue Services), Richmond Council
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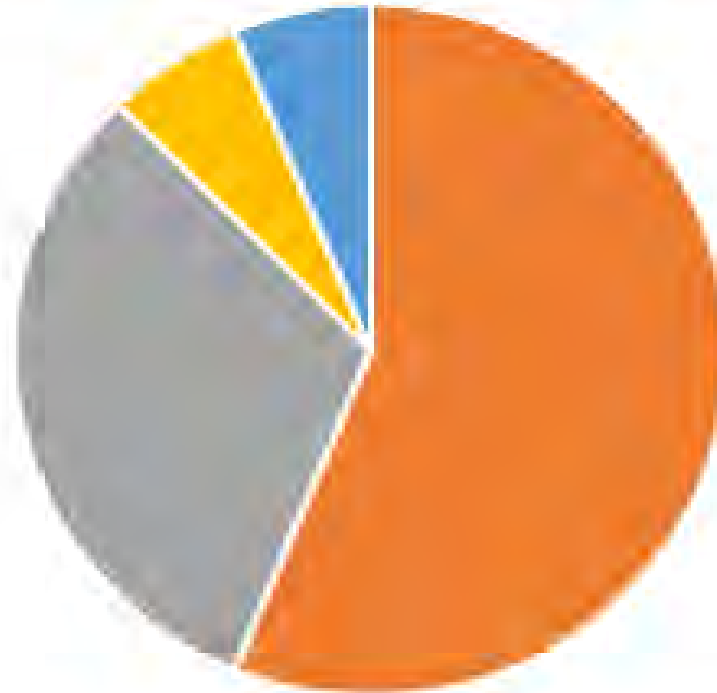
# **Cost of Living Crisis- summary feedback from VCS providers**

**Kathryn Williamson, Director Richmond CVS**

## Pre-event survey:

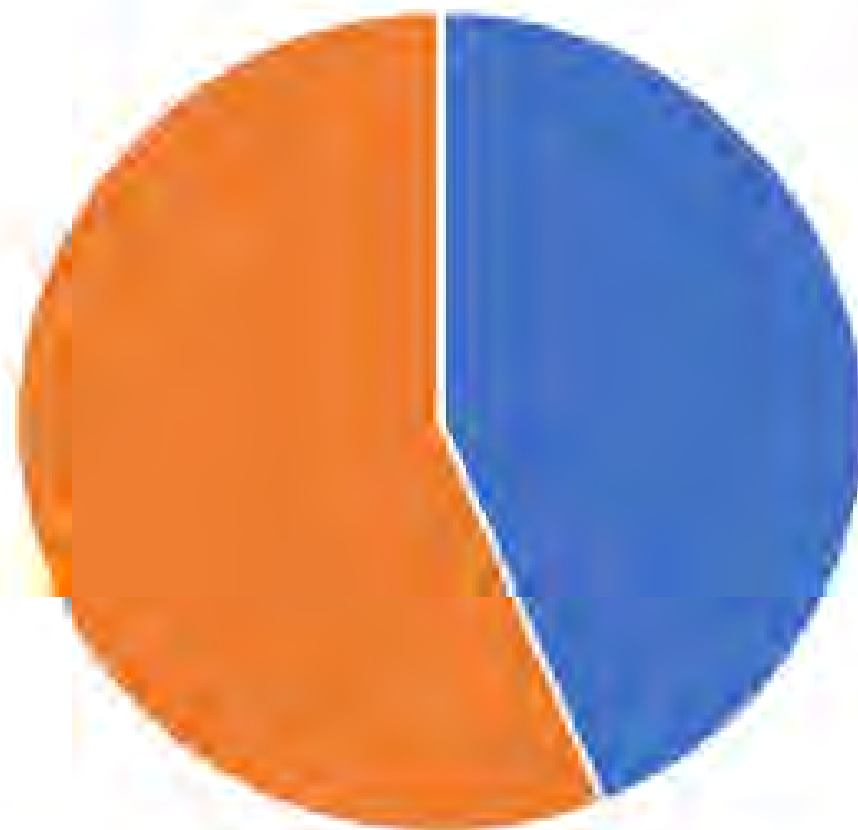
Is Cost of Living impacting on clients? – 100% yes

Is this causing increased demand on your services?



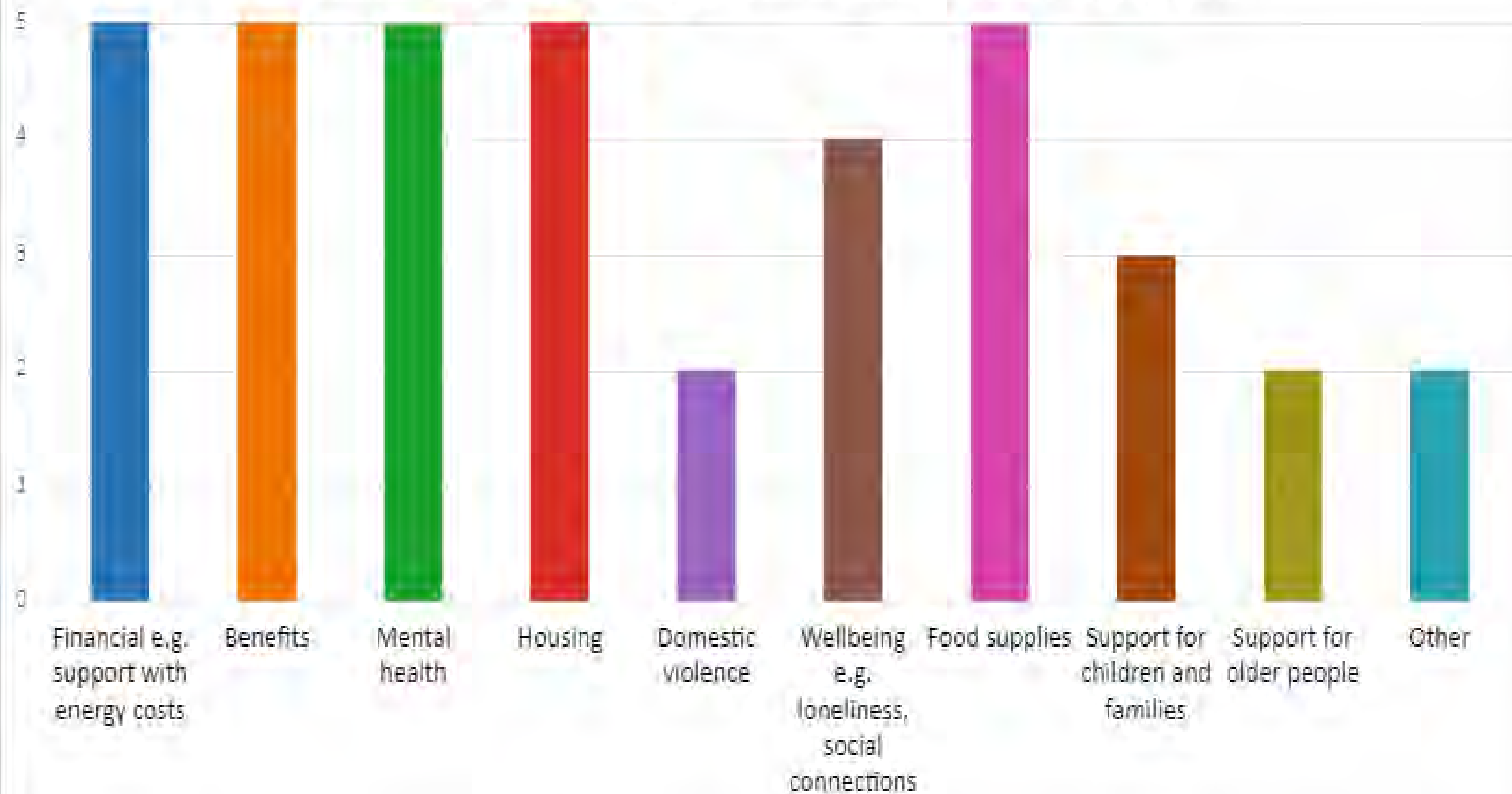
- Yes and we are struggling to cope already
- Yes and we expect it to get worse
- Yes but we are managing
- No, not at the moment
- No, it is not relevant for what we offer

## Do you know where to refer people when they need support you cannot offer?

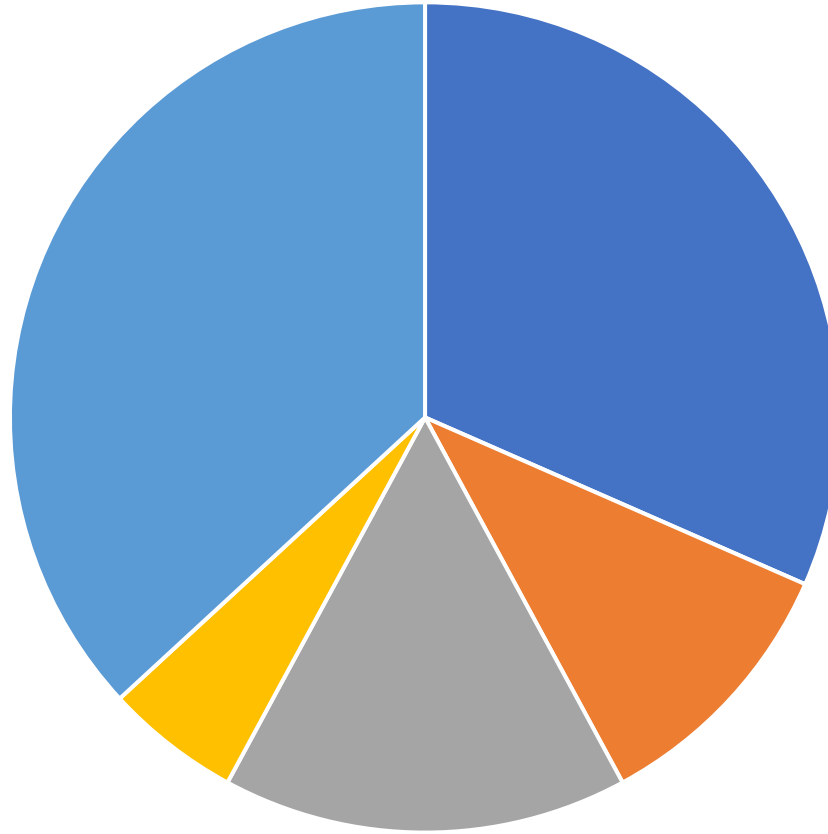


- Yes, we are confident we can refer people to the relevant service
- It's variable, depending on what they need
- No, we struggle to refer people to the relevant service

## Which areas do you struggle with in terms of referrals/support?



## Are you seeing the CoL crisis impact your staff/volunteers?



- Yes, it is impacting on staff/volunteers from a financial perspective and we are trying to offer support
- Yes, it is impacting on staff/volunteers from a financial perspective and we would welcome support with this
- Yes, supporting our clients/customers is having a negative impact on our staff/volunteers wellbeing and we are trying to offer support
- Yes, supporting our clients/customers is having a negative impact on our staff/volunteers wellbeing and we would welcome support with this
- No, fortunately the impact is minimal at the moment

# Priorities from NCVO's Road Ahead 2023

Ongoing impact of the cost of living on the VCS

- Rising costs of running an organisation
- Income may be at risk
- Less public sector income
- Increasing demand from service users

# Priorities from NCVO's Road Ahead 2023

Supporting staff, trustees and volunteers

- Recruiting staff may be challenging
- Pay will affect recruitment and retention
- Flexible working and supporting wellbeing is key



We want to enable Richmond's  
fantastic voluntary & community  
groups to remain resilient in 2023

[action@richmond cvs.org.uk](mailto:action@richmond cvs.org.uk)

[www.richmond cvs.org.uk](http://www.richmond cvs.org.uk)



Empower

Enable

Involve



# Voluntary Sector and Cost of Living: Panel Discussion

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# Open Forum and Q & A



# DIGITAL RESOURCES GUIDES

[Digital Resources Guide part 1](#)

[Digital Resources Guide part 2](#)



Drop us an email to discuss.

[beckyd@richmondcvvs.org.uk](mailto:beckyd@richmondcvvs.org.uk)

Or call us on

[020 8843 7945](tel:02088437945)