

## Voluntary Sector Forum

28 February 2024, 10:00 – 12:00

The Salon, York House, Twickenham

### Notes of the meeting

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#### 1. Welcome & Council Update

Jon Evans (Assistant Chief Executive, Richmond Council) welcomed attendees to the Voluntary Sector Forum.

Cllr Baldwin sends her apologies.

#### Highlight initiatives:

- **Community Conversations** are an ongoing opportunity for residents, local businesses, and community organisations to come together and discuss ideas, concerns, and initiatives that can help enhance our vibrant neighbourhoods. More information can be found on the Council website: [www.richmond.gov.uk/community\\_conversation](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/community_conversation)
- **Family Hubs Programme** – The White House will become Achieving for Children’s first Family Hub in Richmond, which will provide a vibrant space for young people, families and the community to come together and access a range of services. Each Family Hub will have a Local Advisory Board, which has already commenced for the White House, and includes current stakeholders and users of the building. VCS organisations are encouraged to engage in this if they want to be part of the offer from the hub. Community organisations are encouraged to get involved by contacting Sarah Reid on [sarah.reid@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:sarah.reid@achievingforchildren.org.uk)
- **Richmond Moves** – New campaign to foster more active communities, encourage overall health and wellbeing, stakeholder toolkit available to VSC organisations. Please contact [katie.faith@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:katie.faith@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk) if you would like a copy of the toolkit.
- **Forum Survey** – Please take a few minutes to fill out a survey about the Forum, thank you.

#### Council Update:

*See slides for details*

#### 2. Sexual and Reproductive health needs assessment and strategy

Kate Jennings, Senior Public Health Lead, presented findings from the recent Richmond Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs Assessment and invited VCS organisations to get in touch with additional or supplementary information they can provide, and comment on whether the priorities highlighted are the right priorities for a new sexual and reproductive health strategy.

*See slides for details*

### **3. Launch of Climate Change Microgrants and Climate Risk Map**

Georgina Creighton, Partnership and Engagement Officer (Climate Change) invited VCS organisations to help promote and apply to the Climate Action Microgrants [Climate action microgrants - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#).

Nicola Wheeler, Programme and Policy Lead (Climate Change and Sustainability) introduced the Richmond Climate Risk Map and how it could be used by the Council, VCS organisations and the public to better understand climate risks. [DataRich – Climate Risk Map](#) – please let Nicola know if you think anything is missing from the map.

*See slides for details*

### **4. Applying the Prevention Framework within the Voluntary Sector**

Dr Nike Arowobusoye, Consultant in Public Health and Jo Ann Taylor-Villanueva, Senior Public Health Lead presented the key principles and delivery mechanisms of the Prevention Framework and invited VCS organisations to discuss and think about how the Prevention Framework can be applied to their work.

*See slides for details*

### **5. Engaging Communities in Climate Action**

Paul Jennings (CEO) introduced Habitats & Heritage and their three main stands of work: Habitats, Heritage and Sustainability, and shared examples of projects including Grove Gardens Chapel, Kilmoerey Mausoleum and Kew Road Ha-ha. Paul highlighted the support and advice H&H offers to community groups and invited VCS organisations to share H&H's initiatives with users, consider partnerships for collaborations and funding applications, and get in touch about creating green hubs or visiting their heritage sites.

*See slides for details*

### **6. Open Forum and Q&A**

- The forum fed back on the accessibility and visibility of slides
- A question was raised about how organisations can reach those most in need of help while adhering to GDPR. The Council is aware of this as an issue and are using targeted messages through GPs and ICS; LIFT platform has had success in targeted communications, but this remains a challenge.

**Date of the next meeting** is 22 May 2024