

Voluntary Sector Forum

4 September 2024, 10:00 – 12:00

York House, Twickenham

Notes of the meeting

1. Welcome & Introduction

Cllr Nancy Baldwin, Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities and the Voluntary Sector, Richmond Council

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 Next one on 24 September at York House 6-7pm
- **Twinning Reaffirmation** – From 6 to 8 June 2025, we will host a ‘Celebrating France and Germany’ event to mark the reaffirmation of Richmond upon Thames' twinning agreement with Konstanz, Germany and Fontainebleau, France. Information evening 9 September
- **Winter Fuel Payments** are changing this year, and the government has recently announced that they will now be means tested rather than universal. We are encouraging our VCS partners are claiming all that they are entitled to e.g. pension credits, warm home discount
- **Money Hub** - Richmond Council are holding a Money Hub, provisionally booked for Friday 25th October 2024 at Whitton Community Centre. The Money Hub will allow people to talk with officers from the Housing Benefits, Temporary Accommodation and Council Tax teams, as well Workmatch, Citizen’s Advice, South West Law Centre and other relevant voluntary sector organisations. It will provide a one-stop shop, drop-in session to help households with any financial concerns. Refreshments will be provided. Please check the usual Council news channels for further details. Full of Life Fair – 27 Sept Twickenham Stadium, thanks to everyone who is taking part, please help us circulate information
- **Kingston Hospital - will be merging with Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare** later this year to form a new organisation called Kingston and Richmond NHS Foundation Trust. They are asking organisations to spread the word. They have produced a series of posters and flyers (which will be distributed with the materials from the forum) along with further information.

2. Community Safety – Vulnerabilities and Neighbourhoods and their relevance to the VCS

Miranda Hibbert, Vulnerabilities Manager, and Kiru Krisnan, Serious Violence Officer, Richmond Council

- Introduction of the Community Safety Partnership priorities areas, the Ending Violence against women and girls strategy (launching 2025)

- See slides for more information on domestic abuse indicators, Hampton Hill One-Stop Shop every Friday, quarterly VAWG Community Forum, Bystander Training, Richmond Safe Space
- information on Hate Crime, Counter Terrorism and Safer Neighbourhoods including multi-agency approach, how to report ASB, CMARAC, [Police Liaison Groups](#), Serious Violence
- Richmond Night time strategy consultation open until 30 September

See slides for details

3. AccessAble Local Offer

Nada Warner, Partnerships Manager, A2ccessAble

- Introduction of AccessAble's work and website which help people plan their journey
- If your organisation would like a Teams information session, Nada is happy to help; digital leaflet available. Organisations who would like to feature in the guide can get in touch directly

See slides for details

4. How to address equalities in funding applications

Eleni Ioannou, Policy and Review Officer, Richmond Council and Julie Gavin, Interim Director, RCVS

- All organisations have a duty to abide by the Equalities Act; Richmond Council has also adopted socio economic status as one of the protected characteristics
- Organisations are encouraged to use data from [DataRich](#) in funding applications - a video is available in the help and guidance section and the Council's Business Intelligence Team are available to answer questions (details on Datarich website)
- Projects should be accessible to all
- VCS organisations are encouraged to get in touch with RCVS to discuss how they approach EDI

See slides for details

5. The Community Resilience Project

Myles Wick, Senior Emergency Planning Officer, Richmond Council, and Julie Gavin, Interim Director, RCVS

- Introduction of the Richmond Emergency Planning Team and the Borough Resilience Forum, quarterly forum to coordinate planning and preparing for major incidents
- Aims and progress of the Community Resilience Project – GLA funded March to November 2024

See slides for details

6. Age UK Richmond's Dementia Friendly Richmond, creating an inclusive borough for those with dementia and Nightingale Service, home support for those leaving hospital

Marie-Therese Keegan, Dementia Friendly Richmond Coordinator and Helen Monteiro, Nightingale Service Manager, Age UK Richmond

- Introduction to the Dementia Friendly Richmond project, how to become a member, information session and quarterly network meetings. Examples of members' actions and activities.
- Introduction to the Nightingale Service, criteria for referral, services provided eg fitting key safes, essential home response, and information on how to make a referral.

See slides for details

7. Climate Strategy and Engagement

Georgina Creighton, Partnerships and Engagement Officer (Climate Change and Sustainability), Richmond Council

- [Richmond Climate Strategy](#) – developing new strategy for 2025-2030, opportunities to get involved including 10 Oct community group workshop
- [Richmond Resident Action Pack](#) published end of 2023 please share and get in touch if there are any updates
- Please help promote [Library of Things](#)
- [Climate Action Microgrant](#) - £100-£500 monthly rolling programme

See slides for details

8. Open Forum and Q&A

- Juliette Martin, Richmond Council - working on VCS Property Strategy to achieve greater transparency, fairness in property, opportunity to remove barriers; more updates to come; please get in touch with any questions
- Vanessa James, ETNA – update on Your Community Centre Week – collaboration between 10 Community Centres in the borough; vintage bus tours and cream tea; updated map; guide, please share
- Harriet Steele, Richmond Council - Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 expressions of interest open to volunteer – 22 Aug to 22 Sept 2025, looking for approx. 400 volunteers in a variety of roles, more information to come.
- Angela Ivey – Upcoming Fish and chips cruise raising money for charities Homestart and Mind; RichmondLive festival – music and dance 14-15 Sept behind Marble Hill House
- Lucy Byrne, Richmond AID – DWP migrating Richmond residents to Universal Credit. Anyone who received letter should be referred to Richmond AID or Citizens Advice.
- Please get in touch if there are any topics you would like to cover in future forum

Date of the next meeting is 3 December 2024