

## Voluntary Sector Forum

6 September 2023, 10:00 – 12:00

The Salon, York House, Twickenham

### Notes of the meeting

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#### 1. Welcome

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

Cllr Baldwin highlighted the following events and initiatives:

- **Richmond Live** – free festival celebrating music and dance in the borough on 10 and 17 September at Marble Hill Park
- **Community Conversations** – [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/community\\_conversation](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/community_conversation)
- **Homes for Ukraine Support** – information leaflets available, please get in touch if you would like some - [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/ukrainian\\_nationals](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/ukrainian_nationals)

#### 2. Cost of Living Workstream Update

Bethany Pepper (Cost of Living Programme Manager, Richmond and Wandsworth Councils) gave an update on the Council's Cost of Living Programme and introduced the second phase of the programme which includes building longer-term resilience and developing solutions with the voluntary sector to put support where residents are. Bethany also shared the latest Cost of Living data and insights.

*See slides for details*

Voluntary and Community Sector groups are invited to the Cost of Living Workshop on Monday 16 October 10am to 12pm. Input on the following questions would be appreciated:

- What do you think it would be useful for us to focus on at that session?
- What issues do you feel are most pressing?
- Are there specific areas you would benefit from support on that haven't been covered so far?

#### 3. Council Grant Funds

Clarinda Chan and Rajiv Bhattacharjee (Richmond Council) presented on the four Council grant funds currently open to applications:

- [Cost of Living Fund](#)
- [Civic Pride Fund](#)
- [Active Richmond Fund](#)
- [Community Fund](#)

*See slides for details*

#### **4. South West London Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance**

Sara Milocco (South West London (SWL) Voluntary and Community Sector (VCSE) Alliance Director) introduced the alliance, how it works and its priority areas. Kathryn Williams of Richmond CVS is the Richmond representative on the board. Priority areas for the alliance include mental health, frail and older people, long term conditions, green agenda and workforce development.

To keep up to date with news about the alliance and funding opportunities when they become available, please sign up to the [Richmond CVS e-news](#).

*See Slides for more details*

Feedback and comments included the capacity of smaller organisations to engage and the challenges around having pan/joint borough initiatives for local organisations.

#### **5. Richmond as a Borough of Sanctuary**

Helena McGinty (Head of Refugee Services, Richmond and Wandsworth Councils)

Richmond Council is exploring how it can become a borough of Sanctuary to provide support, dignity and welcome to refugees and people seeking sanctuary. More information about the City of Sanctuary movement is on the website: <https://cityofsanctuary.org/>.

#### **6. Richmond CVS Autumn offer for VCS groups**

Julie Gavin (Capacity Building Manager, Richmond CVS)

The trustee recruitment event on 20 September is full, but RCVS works with organisations on Trustee recruitment all year round. Please refer to RCVS website (<https://richmondcv.org.uk/>) for database, resources and links to external resources.

Trustee Network 26 September – speaker Darcy Mayer on the importance of a good financial strategy

*See slides for more information on upcoming training*

#### **7. Health and Wellbeing Strategy Consultation and Full of Life Fair**

Katherine Foreman (Communications Manager, Richmond Council)

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy Consultation is in progress and ends on 21 September.

The annual Full of Life Fair provides residents in later life, as well as carers, with the local information and resources they need to live physically active, healthy, happy and independent lives. This year's fair will be held at Twickenham Stadium on Friday 13 October 2023 from 10am to 4pm. Registration for the event is now open. Please share this with any service users who may be interested in attending: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/richmond-upon-thames-full-of-life-fair-2023-tickets-698982394157?aff=oddtcreator>

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

- A question was raised regarding the availability of funding for electrical car charging points
- It was commented that voluntary organisations would welcome multi-year funding and ask funders to consider the proportionality of monitoring and evaluation
- Access to Low Income Family Tracker data – because of data protection, the Council is not able to share detailed data but can share high-level reports.
- 11-15 September – Your Community Centres Week