

Voluntary Sector Forum

Thursday 11 May 2017, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Salon, York House, Twickenham

Notes of the Meeting

1. Welcome

Cllr Chappell welcomed all attendees to the meeting and thanked groups who attended the Commissioning Event. A Commissioning Guide is currently being produced and be made available to voluntary organisations and commissioners.

2. Richmond Council Update

Mandy Skinner, Assistant Chief Executive (Customers and Partnerships), LBRUT gave a presentation on Council updates.

- Commissioning Event
- Civic Pride Fund Annual Report
- JSNA
- Children and Young People's plan
- Consultations
- Village Planning
- Richmond Partnership Conference
- Commissioning Update

3. Richmond CVS: Looking Ahead

Kathryn Williamson, Interim Director of Richmond CVS, outlined what they have achieved so far through their contract and looked at some of the reports produced recently both locally and nationally.

Richmond CVS asked the forum if they would like more online learning opportunities. A show of hands in the room indicated that people preferred classroom based training rather than online training.

The 'On the Edge' report recently released by Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity and Richmond Parish Lands Charity shows support for placed based giving. This is something that RCVS is keen to take forward.

RCVS asked groups to let them know of any networking opportunities that they would like them to organise.

Cllr Chappell urged groups to make use of the services that Richmond CVS provide.

4. Voluntary Sector Opportunities for Partnership and Collaboration: Focus on Accommodation

Simon Lawson, Chief Executive, Citizens Advice Richmond led a discussion on accommodation in Richmond.

Citizens Advice Richmond stated that they are looking for a new office and that typically they have found that office space in the borough costs £30/Sq ft.

The high cost is due to supply and demand – partly caused by the conversion of offices into flats and partly from a ripple effect from people moving out of central London in search of cheaper office accommodation.

There is a need to collaborate, change and do things differently. How can the sector collaborate better to make better use of space - particularly for face to face meetings in private space?

RCVS agreed to coordinate with the sector to come together and discuss this further in order to develop a strategy. RCVS has previously conducted some research into accommodation in the borough and this will be revisited as a first step.

If you are interested in being involved in further discussions around accommodation, please contact [Simon Lawson](#) at Citizens advice Richmond or [Kathryn Williamson](#) at Richmond CVS.

5. JSNA

Steven Bow, Business Intelligence Manager, LBRUT gave a presentation on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

The JSNA is a statement of health and wellbeing need quantifying size and problems in the borough. The document is owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board and is a strategic document intended to inform strategy and help tailor services.

The JSNA steering group includes Council officers, CCG and the voluntary sector and looks at what is produced and that wide range of data that feeds into the work.

The refresh of the JSNA will be produced on 5 July and can be found on the [JSNA website](#).

Questions:

It was clarified that the data is a mixture of actual Richmond data and data extrapolated from national data sets. This includes data from people who live in the Borough and also from activities which take place in the Borough (where people may not be residents). As well as the handouts that were circulated there are topic specific assessments which do go into more detail and show trends and compare the figures against London and England data.

It was mentioned that the document is well presented, but to be more useful for funding applications; could also focus on data which demonstrates where there are particular problems and issues

Steven and his team will be working with RCVS after the election to get further views on the JSNA.

IF you are interested in receiving email updates about the JSNA contact jsna@richmond.gov.uk and they can add you to the mailing list. You can unsubscribe at any time.

6. Introduction of New Director of Adult Social services

Liz Bruce, Director of Adult Social services introduced herself and described more about her role.

Liz has come from the Tri-Borough arrangement (Hammersmith and Fulham, Westminster City Council and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea) and is keen to work in partnership with the Voluntary Sector to support each other and provide services.

The top policies in Liz's work currently are around prevention, integration, personalisation, localisation and standardisation.

Voluntary organisations highlighted that it was important that the Council continues to look at its approach at commissioning services where the voluntary sector is one of the main providers, and to enable organisations to demonstrate the quality of their service and added value when bidding for contracts.

Liz highlighted that some of this information will be built into the specification and that Voluntary Sector groups need to work in partnership with the Council to understand each other.

7. Open Forum

A representative from Richmond Charities spoke about the organisation which is 400 years old and has 125 Alms Houses in 8 estates across the Borough. To be eligible for a house, someone must be over 65 and have lived in the borough for over 5 years and be in financial or housing need. The charity is looking for land to build more Alms Houses.

The charity also gives out small grants to people who are in need or distress and has given some grants to organisations. For more information about the Richmond Charities, please contact j.ameslewis@richmondcharities.org.uk.

Cllr Chappell thanked delegates and closed the meeting. Please contact Melissa Watson (Melissa.watson@richmond.gov.uk) or Harriet Steele (harriet.steele@richmond.gov.uk) if there are any questions on the meeting.

The next Voluntary Sector Forum is currently being scheduled. Once confirmed, the date will be published on the Council website and circulated.