

Voluntary Sector Forum

Wednesday 13 December 2017, 1.30pm – 3.30pm

The Salon, York House, Richmond Road, Twickenham, TW1 3AA

Notes of the meeting

1. Welcome

CLlr David Linnette (Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and the Voluntary Sector) welcomed attendees to the Forum.

2. Richmond Council update

Matt Maher ('MM', Head of Communities and Partnership, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames) provided a presentation on the council's recent work. This covered [Village Planning](#), Richmond Partnership, [Children and Young People's Plan and Needs Assessment](#), and a look ahead to 2018.

See slides for details.

Questions:

- Denise Carr, Mencap: commented that it is important for new officers from Wandsworth to understand the LBRuT approach and be available to meet in the borough. MM noted this comment and described some of the steps taken to ensure all officers serving the borough are aware of its needs, for example officers involved in commissioning the Community Independent Living Service (CILS) had attended several Voluntary Sector Forum meetings, and director Liz Bruce and Chief Executive Paul Martin had also attended the Forum at an early stage.
- Denise Carr also commented that the new provider for the Supported Employment contract will need to find employers to work with in the borough.
- Graham Collins, Integrated Neurological Services: Corporate Social Responsibility could well be skills-based and relevant to the company's expertise rather than in cash form.
- MM: Engagement with major organisations in the area such as St Mary's University and Battersea Power Station Foundation is increasing, and will assist VCS organisations in both boroughs.

- Heather Mathew, Richmond Council for Voluntary Service: Organisations seeking volunteers need to take care to describe the role they are seeking to fill, and RCVS can assist in brokering this.
- Ravi Arora, EMAG: For Village Planning Fund, asked about the division of funds available between the different village 'cluster' areas. MM responded that 'top-slicing' was being considered for future rounds.

3. Safeguarding Children and the Green Book

Tracey Welding (Local Safeguarding Children Board team, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames) provided a presentation on safeguarding. This covered myth-busting, responsibilities, [local guidance in the 'Green Book'](#), policies, further support available.

See slides for details.

4. Crowdfunding: Richmond Crowdfunding Challenge and Environmental Projects

Julie Gavin (Service Co-ordinator: Advice and Training, Richmond Council for Voluntary Service) and Colin Cooper ('CC', Chief Executive, South West London Environment Network) provided presentations about two complementary initiatives. These covered an introduction to the concept of crowdfunding, RCVS's work to encourage crowdfunding through the Richmond Crowdfunding challenge opening in January, [SWLEN's platform](#) for highlighting place-based crowdfunding campaigns in the borough.

See slides for details.

Question:

- Heather Mathew, RCVS: How is 'place-based' defined? CC clarified that this means building-based projects, in accordance with SWLEN's charitable objects.

5. Richmond CVS – looking ahead to 2018 and beyond for the VCS

Kathryn Williamson (Director, Richmond Council for Voluntary Service) provided a presentation looking ahead to 2018, highlighting challenges raised and suggestions made at the RCVS conference on 29th November. Attendees then took part in a group discussion to agree ways RCVS could support the sector in 2018.

See slides for details.

Richmond CVS will follow up the matters raised during the discussions.