



Voluntary Sector Forum

Wednesday 04 September 2019, 14:00 – 15:30

The Hyde Room, York House, Richmond Road, Twickenham, TW1 3AA

Notes of the meeting

1. Welcome

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

Cllr Wilson announced the following news items:

Queens Award winners

Four local community groups, run largely by volunteers, have been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

- Ham and Petersham SOS
- FORCE
- Companion Cycling
- Friends of Barnes Common

Community Heroes' Awards 2019

Over 127 nominations were received for this year's awards. The shortlisted winners, which are available on the Council website: https://www.richmond.gov.uk/community_heroes

Twickenham Riverside Design Competition

Earlier this year, Richmond Council agreed to commission the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) to deliver an OJEU compliant design competition. With the support of the RIBA, five companies were asked to produce designs.

From 5pm on 4 September until Wednesday 2nd October 2019 we will be inviting residents to let us know what you think of their designs. Further details are on the Council website: <https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/richmondce/twickenham-riverside/>

Community Fund latest round completed

The third round of the Community Fund is now closed. A total of 22 applications were received. There were nine applications in the West Cluster, nine applications in the East Cluster, two in the Ham and Petersham Cluster and two applications which were borough wide.

- West Cluster – 4 projects validated
- East Cluster – 4 projects validated
- Ham and Petersham – 1 project validated
- Borough wide – 0 projects were validated

A total of £448,880 is recommended to be spent across these projects. This will go to the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee on 11 September. Further details are on the Council website: https://www.richmond.gov.uk/community_fund

Ward based budgets and Civic Pride Fund

The Council wants to create a local area budget in each ward to be spent on community priorities. Following discussions at Community Conversation events and at the last Voluntary Sector Forum we are working on plans to launch in April 2020.

Officers are still working through the detail of how the fund will work, but it is anticipated that there will be £10,000 available in each ward area.

The Civic Pride Fund and Community Fund will continue to run alongside the new fund.

2. Richmond Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy

Andrew Hagger (Policy and Review Manager, LBRuT) and Colin Cooper (Chief Executive, SWLEN) presented on the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy.

See slides for details

Questions/points raised:

- *The strategy mentions improving Council buildings to make them more energy efficient and greener. Will this be across all Council buildings? – The focus at first will be on improving buildings that are occupied by Council services.*
- *It was clarified that new trees will be planted across the borough in parks and on streets. Residents are also encouraged to plant trees in their gardens.*
- *Is there a plan to increase the number of public water fountains? – Yes, in parks.*
- *It was queried whether third party contractors would be bound by the strategy. - The scope is being discussed with procurement colleagues.*

3. Domestic Abuse and violence against women and girls

Mark Wolski (Vulnerabilities Manager, LBRuT) spoke about violence against women and girls in the borough and the consultation to inform the needs assessment.

See slides for details.

Questions/points raised:

- *It was queried why the definition of abuse relates to aged 16 and over. - This is the statutory definition, but it is recognised in the strategy that the issue covers all ages.*

4. AccessAble website and support

David Livermore (Director – Business Development, AccessAble) gave a presentation on the website. Further information is available on the website:

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/london-borough-of-richmond-upon-thames>

See slides for details.

Questions/points raised:

- *Information on the venue is collected by speaking to the venue and an on-site surveyor assessment.*
- *It was queried whether venues ask for advice on becoming more accessible. - Yes, a booklet of top tips is left by the surveyor and the venue is reviewed every 12 months.*

5. CILS and Social Prescribing

Richard Wiles (Head of Commissioning – Public Health, Wellbeing and Service Development, LBRuT) presented on the new Community Independent Living Service (CILS) and Social Prescribing model and how they will work together.

Age UK Richmond has been appointed as the lead contractor for the CILS service with 20+ voluntary sector organisations involved. Richmond Aid has been appointed to lead on the Information Navigation contract.

See slides for details.

Questions/points raised:

- *Will Social Prescribing be flexible enough to meet local needs if the funding is from NHS England? - Yes, it should be flexible enough. NHS England has required Primary Care Networks to establish social prescribing in their areas but is not attempting to micro-manage delivery of the programme.*
- *Will there be special provision for mental health e.g. youth provision? - It is expected that a core client area will be those with mental health issues. Children are not included in the information navigation via CILS and Richard was unsure if a decision had been made on this by the CCG as part of Social Prescribing. It is expected that*

children would fall under the specialist CAMHS services.

- *A concern was raised about the additional time pressure on GPs that Social Prescribing referrals would bring. – An NHS funded Social Prescriber will be present in each Primary Care Network (PCN). They should be a resource to GPs in the network, not an additional burden on them.*
- *It was clarified that GPs do not get paid for making referrals to the Social Prescribing service.*
- *It was clarified that the current CILS contract is 4 years + 2 years.*
- *It was asked if the review of CILS recommissioning process can be completed quickly. – yes, once the contract starts on 1 November 2019 it is hoped that the review will be fairly swift.*
- *Will there be shared back office support between the CILS and Social Prescribing services? – As much joint working as possible within statutory frameworks is planned.*
- *It was felt that the service user involvement as part of the commissioning went well and more mechanisms for service user involvement are needed.*

6. Open Forum

Questions / points raised:

- Tracey Welding from the Local Safeguarding Children's Board raised that there is a new guidance and an online form for reporting serious incidents.

See slides for details.