



Voluntary Sector Forum

Monday 13 January 2020, 10:00 – 12:00

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

Notes of the meeting

1. Welcome

Cllr Wilson (Spokesperson for Equality, Communities and the Voluntary Sector) sent his apologies for the meeting.

Mandy Skinner (Assistant Chief Executive – Customers and Partnerships) welcomed attendees to the Forum. She also announced the following news items:

AfC Recommissioning

The Council has agreed to recommission its children's services to be delivered by Achieving for Children (AfC) until 2026, following a decision at Education and Children's Services Committee meeting on 17 December 2019. After considering several recommissioning options, the decision was taken to extend the contract jointly with Kingston for another five years.

Consultations

A reminder that the Council when carry out consultations they can be all viewed on the Council's Consultation finder at https://www.richmond.gov.uk/council/have_your_say/consultation

Preparing for Brexit

The Council through Citizens Advice continues to offer EU residents to get impartial, expert advice on nationality matters or the impact of the Government's proposals and options available for them. This includes an information website and a series of public information events. For further information see the [Council](#) or [Citizens Advice](#) webpages.

Ward based budgets and Civic Pride Fund

The Council's Corporate Plan commits to 'Creating a local area budget in each ward to be spent on community priorities and this reflects the manifesto commitment by the administration.

Following discussions with Cllrs 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 still exist, and it is likely that the focus of the Civic Pride Fund will change to support projects that have more of a borough wide remit.

More information will be provided at the next Voluntary Sector Forum in March 2020.

2. Social Value: A fresh approach for Richmond

Mark Glaister (Head of Procurement, LBRuT) presented on a new procurement policy which is being developed.

See slides for details

Questions/points raised:

- *The Health and Care partnership and NHS process is moving away from competitive tendering. How does the Council's operations sit with this?*
 - *The Council works to different regulations. There is still uncertainty as to changes post-Brexit. The Council does think about the best option in each circumstance including the use of direct awards and also undertakes soft market testing.*
- *The Cultural Strategy is being produced later this year. Will social value form part of this?*
 - *Yes, Social value is expected to be an integral part of the Cultural strategy.*
- *How do you cope when health and social care need to work together and there are different regulations and methods for procurement?*
 - *We try and foster good outcomes by working together and focusing on what people need. Integrated care systems will come into place from April and some of the current issues will be worked out from this.*
- *An attendee said that they were put off writing bids that were focused on price. They see those that look at social value more achievable.*
- *It was felt that there is a nervousness in the sector on quality v price contracts. Local groups feel they do not have the economies of scale and price is often seen as having a bigger weighting.*
 - *The local themes, outcomes, measures (TOMS) framework may help address this as it can add weight to local criteria.*
- *Is there a way of building in a social value around the health and social care market?*

- *As part of the Care Act is required to develop the market for services and identifying and measuring social value can help with this.*
- *There is a concern around 80% price v 20% quality. Could this be reversed? Currently, local providers are bidding against each other and dropping prices to win bids.*
 - *here is usually a fixed financial envelope, but there is no fixed split. This is decided for each procurement exercise. Once the new TOMS comes in groups are likely to see a change.*
- *What happens when tendering is carried out jointly between Councils e.g. Sutton and Richmond?*
 - *This is usually based on the lead body and would be discussed in advance.*

3. Community Independent Living Service: Collaboration and Partnership

Lucy Byrne, Chief Executive, Richmond AID and Gavin Shand, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Age UK Richmond spoke about CILS.

See slides for details.

Questions/points raised:

- *Are there leaflets and posters available to advertise the service? – yes, these have been distributed to GP services and partners. Gavin can send these to people who are interested.*
- *Healthwatch are producing a guide to support available in the borough. CILS was listed in the previous version and they will be in touch to get the updated details.*
- *The Council's role in promoting the service is important.*
- *What is the timeframe for the transport review? – this will involve the Council, RaKAT and other local organisations and there is a preliminary scoping meeting in January / February.*

4. Getting Ready for the Launch of Social Prescribing in Richmond

Cathy Maker, Director, RUILS and Attracta Asika, Head of Primary and Urgent Care, Kingston and Richmond CCG spoke about the Social Prescribing model.

RUILS were appointed in October / November 2019. In January 2020 six link workers and a project lead for social prescribing will be recruited to start in mid-February 2020. These will tie in with the borough's six primary care networks.

There is a culture hub offer working jointly with social prescribing which can prescribe and fund culture activities.

Richmond CVS are holding engagement days in March / April for link workers to meet local organisations.

A communications plan is being developed to look at how to frame social prescribing so that individuals, voluntary sector groups and professionals understand the offer.

There will be a soft launch in mid-March with the official launch in June 2020.

A computer system for referrals is currently being developed that will connect with Care Place.

See slide for details.

Questions/points raised:

- *Free events can be listed at no cost on the VisitRichmond website (<https://www.visitrichmond.co.uk/events/submit-your-event.aspx>) The Richmond card has over 300 local offers. Social prescribing could be incorporated within these offers.*
- *Keeping the information on the database accurate will be a big issue.*

5. Climate Emergency Strategy: How can you get involved?

Andrew Hagger, Policy and Review Manager, LBRuT gave an update on the climate change strategy.

See slides for details.

Questions / points raised:

- *It is hard to have an impact in changing energy efficiency in rented spaces. Will organisations be held accountable in procurement for things they cannot control? – no there is an understanding of what can and cannot be changed.*
- *The Carers Centre had an Eco-Report carried out and lots of changes would need to be made to the building to meet the recommendations. - it is key that people do initial work to understand their emissions.*
- *Are there any resources or funding available? – there is some Council staff resource to help disseminate information and they will look at options for funding.*
- *SWLEN have undertaken environmental reviews at quite a few buildings. Contact them if you would like them to visit your premises.*
- *There are wider resources available on how to improve biodiversity as part of the local Biodiversity Action Plan. (<https://swlen.org.uk/richmond-biodiversity-action->*

plan/)

- *Let's Go Outside and Learn are holding a series of Climate Change Conversations. More information can be found on their website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/lgoal/calendar/item/41560858>*

These carbon calculator websites are free for organisation to use to calculate their emissions:

<https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/sme-carbon-footprint-calculator>

<http://www.carbon-calculator.org.uk/>

4. Open Forum

- Not everyone is computer literate so make sure information is provided in a physical format as well.
- Integrated care system meeting to understand the relationships that health partnerships should be having with the voluntary sector. Find out more from Bruno Meekings, Richmond CVS. brunom@richmondcv.org.uk
- The Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership send out a free quarterly newsletter to keep updated on safeguarding issues. Sign-up and find out how they can support you with safeguarding advice and training on their website: <https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/>
- Richmond Borough Mind have set up a Richmond Recovery Hub based in Twickenham. Information is available on their website: <https://www.rbmind.org/our-services/recoveryhub/>
- Our Barn Community are running a programme for unemployed 16-35 year olds in Isleworth and welcome those attending from Richmond. More information is on the website: <https://www.ourbarn.org.uk/what-we-do/>

Date of next meeting: 11 March 2020, 10am-12pm, The Salon, Richmond Road, Twickenham, TW1 3AA