

Voluntary Sector Forum

01 October 2026

Agenda

10:00-10:10 Welcome and Introduction

Cllr Katie Mansfield, Vice-chair Finance, Policy and Resources Committee and Richmond Town Centre Project Lead Member, Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities and the Voluntary Sector

10:10-10:30 Fair funding – the challenges of the Council’s funding position

Clare O’Connor, Director Climate Change, Policy and Communications, Richmond Council

10:30-10:50 Introducing the Community Sport & Physical Activity Network (CSPAN)

Ravi Arora, Chief Executive, Multicultural Richmond and Amala Poulier, Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Officer, Richmond Council

10:50-11:10 Development of an anti-poverty strategy

Ben Threadgold, Head of Strategic Projects, Richmond Council and Bethany Pepper, Cost of Living Programme Manager, Richmond Council

11:10-11:30 Community Engagement

Hannah Smith, Community Engagement Manager, Richmond Council

11:30-11:40 Update on the Voluntary Sector Property Strategy

Juliette Martin, Senior Policy and Review Officer, Richmond Council

11:40-11:50 Protecting Health over winter

Melissa Barker, Public Health Lead, Heath Protection Team, Richmond Council

11:50-12:00 Open Forum and Q & A

Welcome and Introduction

Cllr Katie Mansfield

Vice-chair Finance, Policy and Resources Committee and Richmond Town Centre
Project Lead Member, Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities and the
Voluntary Sector

Fair funding – the challenges of the Council's funding position

Clare O'Connor, Director Climate Change, Policy and Communications, Richmond Council

Government Funding

- Government funding reforms will take £29 million a year from the borough by 2028/29
- This is the biggest percentage reduction in core funding of any London borough (nearly 60%)
- The Council strongly challenged the fairness and sustainability of the funding approach in the consultation
- Now challenging again under the Sustainable Communities Act
- Also challenging the proposals on the “Mansion tax” and the Overnight Visitor Levy

Sustainable Communities Act (2007)

- Allows local authorities, on behalf of their residents, to submit proposals to Government seeking the removal of barriers that are preventing economic, social or environmental benefits from being realised locally.
- A key requirement is that councils must demonstrate resident support before a proposal can be submitted.
- Proposal will focus on
 - Allow councils to keep a greater share of income raised locally
 - Increase funding to councils who are facing greater demand for services
 - Give councils more time to adapt to significant changes in funding
 - Give councils greater flexibility to raise income from other sources

Sustainable Communities Act (2007)

- Consultation open until October 14th October
- Sustainable Communities Act Consultation - Have your say - Citizen Space
- Please do fill in and share with your communities
- Aiming to submit before end of October alongside Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Wandsworth



What does it mean for you and the residents you support?

- Will be challenging, but Council will continue to support those hardest hit and focus on improving outcomes for residents and safeguarding the future of our borough
- Council will need to look at how we work differently – ambitious transformation programme
- Focus on prevention – key role for VCS
- Focus on place – opportunity for all partners

Questions

Community Sport & Physical Activity Network (CSPAN)

1st October 2026

**RICHMOND &
WANDSWORTH**
BETTER
SERVICE
PARTNERSHIP



Year 3- Leisure Strategy Action Plan

Theme: Active People

Proposed Action	Proposed KPI
1. Strengthening pathways for inactive children and adults to take small steps or 'doses' of physical activity	Establish 2 new or enhanced referral/signposting pathways annually. Linking into the Richmond Moves Campaign , Joy App and Charitylog referral pathways
2. Ensuring all our children can have the best start in life by identifying opportunities to create a wider range of active play, sports and adventure activities available including our Family Hubs	<u>By July 2027</u> : complete a borough-wide mapping of all active play , sport and adventure opportunities for children 0-5 <u>By October 2027</u> : identify and prioritise 3 gaps in provision and implement a resourcing plan to address them.

Year 3- Leisure Strategy Action Plan

Theme: Active Communities

Proposed Action	Proposed KPI
3. Working closely with Public Health to align the delivery of our work with their Physical Activity Plan for Richmond	• Relaunch Richmond Moves Campaign in 2026 • 10 CSPAN partners actively support the campaign, contributing to an increase in resident awareness and engagement with physical activity opportunities. Measured via CSPAN reporting, Leisure Strategy Commonplace site and Sport England's Short Active Lives Survey (SALS) for 16+

Richmond Moves campaign

We're on a mission to guide you towards a healthier, happier life through physical activity.



Discover local resources and exciting activities to help you on your journey to moving more, every day, in your own way.

Read more about our [Public Health Adult Physical Activity Plan](#) and the [Richmond Moves Strategy](#).

- [Start your active journey](#)
- [Move at your own pace](#)
- [Discover local activities](#)
- [Moving with a health condition](#)
- [Help others move more](#)
- [Sign up for email updates](#)

Up to: [Physical activity](#)

Updated: 24 June 2026

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Contact us

[Telephone](#) [Online enquiry](#)

Address: Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3BZ

Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm

[View map](#)

Encourage sign up for tips on getting active around the borough with a Newsletter - direct to your in-box over 8 weeks - Active , fairly active , inactive, swimming, walking/cycling, leisure centres, mobility issues, active travel



What you can order from the Council



- ▶ Posters
- ▶ Move at Home pack
- ▶ Access downloadable banners from Council website under 'Help others move more'.

Promoting movement during everyday conversations

- ❑ **Recommend** suitable activities like the ones you run and others by ability or location.
- ❑ **Refer** residents to community resources from the Richmond Moves Activity Campaign.
- ❑ **Signpost** to activities to do at home with videos or the Move at Home pack.
- ❑ **Post** images from the campaign.
- ❑ **Share** case stories of residents in your programmes getting active to use on Council Social media & Comms - benefits, what helped them, what motivated them!
- ❑ **Contact:** Amala.Poulier@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk



Year 3- Leisure Strategy Action Plan

Theme: Active Communities

Proposed Action	Proposed KPI
4. Strengthening partnerships with and between voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations	• Deliver 1 x co-designed event and 1 x co-designed programme with VCS partners each year • Engage 4 new VCS partners annually to support CSPAN delivery

Thank You

- ▶ Please get in touch if you have any further questions or would like to support our plans.

Amala.Poulier@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

or

ravi@multiculturalrichmond.org.uk

Questions

Richmond Anti-Poverty Strategy

Building a shared response to poverty across the borough

VCS Forum

1 October 2026

Why do we need an Anti-Poverty Strategy?

Richmond is affluent overall, but need is real, uneven and often hidden

24,062

residents
experiencing
income
deprivation

21%

child poverty
after housing
costs

+30%

reporting cost of
living pressures
versus the same
period in 2019

Our timeline



Proposed strategy themes



What we are keen to know

What are the main challenges affecting the residents you support?

What services, partnerships or approaches are working particularly well to support residents experiencing poverty?

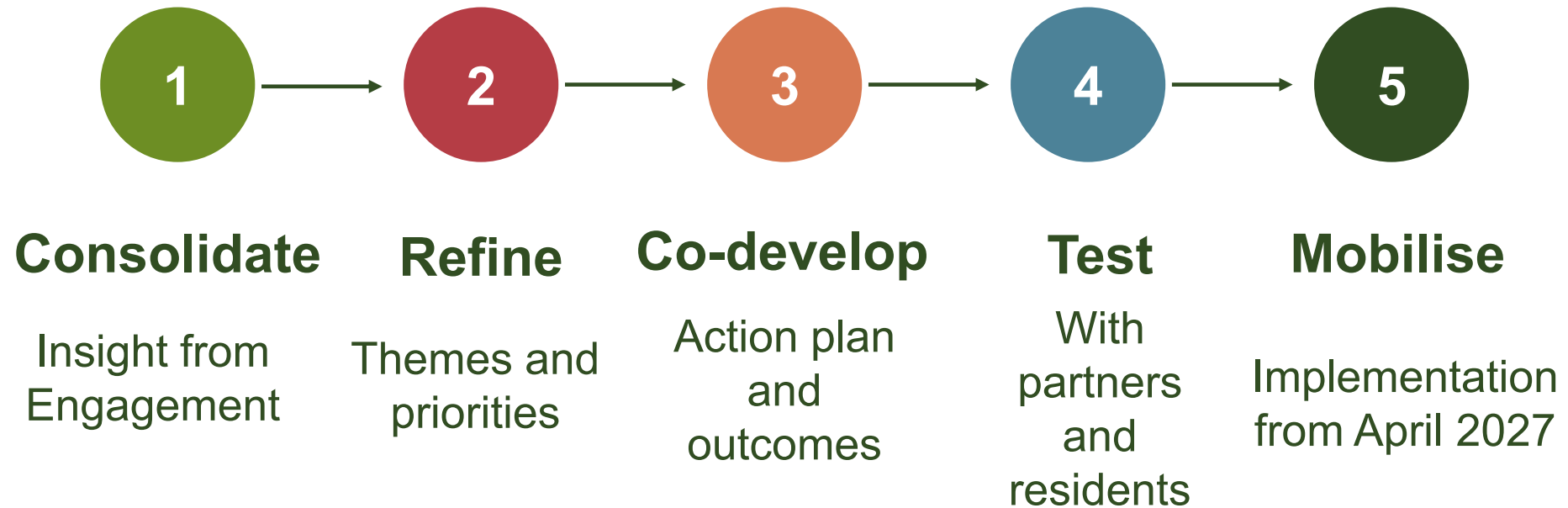
Are there any gaps in support currently available in Richmond?

What would help residents move from short-term crisis support to longer-term stability and independence?

Where could we act together to have the greatest impact?

Would your organisation be interested in contributing to the development of the strategy going forward?

Next steps



THANK YOU!

Questions

Community Engagement Team

Who we are



Hannah Smith
Community Engagement
Manager



Tom Wingfield
Community Engagement
Officer
East of the Borough



Frances Roberts
Community Ambassador
Project Officer



Debs Wilson
Community Engagement
Officer
West of the Borough

What we do



Run Community Conversations across the borough



Coordinate the Community Ambassadors Programme



Support Council teams to plan and deliver effective engagement



Connecting with residents and finding different ways to engage and involve

Listening to Residents, Strengthening Communities

We are committed to giving residents **real and meaningful opportunities** to influence decisions, services and policies

How can we best work together to create these opportunities and hear more voices?

Working with the voluntary sector

- Reach residents through trusted community networks
- Engage underrepresented and seldom-heard groups
- Share local knowledge, concerns and emerging issues
- Promote consultations, events and Community Conversations
- Provide accessible community venues
- Co-design solutions with residents and the Council
- Help communicate outcomes and maintain feedback loops
- Build residents' confidence and capacity to participate

Questions

Richmond VCS Property Strategy

Update and next steps

Richmond VCS Property Strategy Update and next steps

- Refreshing the existing Strategy for Council-owned and leased properties in use by VCS partners
- 70+ properties identified
- Focus on stronger relationships, clearer communication and more consistent property arrangements

Richmond VCS Property Strategy

Update and next steps

- Refreshing the 2011 approach to property-related rent support alongside the Strategy
- Consultation and engagement planned for late 2026

Questions



Protecting Health Over Winter

**How Voluntary and
Community Sector
organisations can help
protect service users**

Protect Against Winter Infections With Vaccination

Flu, COVID and other viral infections can be serious and life-threatening illnesses. Vaccines help protect individuals from illness and serious complications. They also help protect others who are at higher risk of getting seriously ill, such as babies, anyone who's pregnant, and older people.

Flu vaccine




Who is eligible for the flu vaccine this year?

- pregnant women
- 2- and 3-year-olds (age on 31 August 2026)
- school aged children (from reception to year 11)
- people aged 65 and over
- people with certain long term health conditions, from 6 months to under 65s
- people living with somebody with a weakened immune system due to a medical condition or treatment
- people sleeping rough or in hostels/shelters
- care home residents
- carers (receiving carer's allowance, or the main carer of an older or disabled person)
- frontline health and social care workers

Speak to your local speak to your GP practice, pharmacist or maternity service if you're not sure if you're eligible.

COVID-19 vaccine




Who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine this year?

- people aged 75 or over (or turning 75 by 31 January 2027)
- people who live in a care home for older adults
- people aged 6 months to 74 years who have a weakened immune system because of a medical condition or treatment

Speak to your local speak to your GP practice or pharmacist if you're not sure if you're eligible.

RSV vaccine




Who is eligible for the RSV vaccine?

Pregnant women, from 28 weeks, to protect your baby

Older adults are eligible if you haven't had a dose before and are

- aged 65 to 74 and have long-term lung conditions including COPD and poorly controlled asthma or a weakened immune system due to medical conditions or treatment
- aged 75 and over
- aged less than 75 and living in a care home for older adults

Speak to your local speak to your GP practice, pharmacist or maternity service if you're not sure if you're eligible.

Staying Safe During Cold Weather

Winter increases health risks, especially for older adults, people with long-term conditions, those living in cold or poor housing and people experiencing street homelessness.

Thinking ahead and preparing for what the weather may bring can make a real difference.



Cold-Health Alert summary action card for the voluntary and community sector (VCS)

This is a summary of the suggested actions for each Cold-Health Alert level. Check the [Cold-Health Alert action card for the voluntary and community sector](#) for more detail, including the required actions for winter preparedness, and adapt actions to your service as appropriate.

Summary actions for Yellow Alert

- ☐ Confirm that relevant staff are aware of contingency plans, have received the Cold-Health Alert and know how to access relevant guidance and advice
- ☐ Use the Cold-Health Alert impact matrix to inform the local risk assessment for, and response to, cold weather
- ☐ Activate Community Emergency Plans as required
- ☐ Share and emphasise the importance of [Keeping warm and well: staying safe in cold weather](#) messages to clients and staff
- ☐ Support the provision of information about health risks from reliable sources – especially to vulnerable groups and underserved populations
- ☐ Monitor temperatures in places where people who are at risk spend substantial time. Ensure staff know how to check and record these and to follow internal procedures
- ☐ Check that individuals at risk of cold-related illnesses have appropriate support arrangements in place

Summary actions for Amber Alert

- ☐ Continue Yellow Alert actions
- ☐ Work with providers and other partners to mobilise Community Emergency Plans
- ☐ Monitor at-risk individuals during cold-weather episodes, ensuring they have visitor or phone-call arrangements in place
- ☐ Ensure staff are undertaking appropriate home checks when visiting clients, for example room temperature, medications and food supplies
- ☐ Consider how local VCS organisations can provide resources (for example equipment, facilities and people), insight and advice and help share information

Summary actions for Red Alert

- ☐ Continue Amber Alert actions
- ☐ Follow all local emergency response plans
- ☐ Increase communication of key public health messages, especially to underserved populations and at-risk groups

Help residents stay safe during cold weather with following actions

- 1 **Register for Cold-Health Alerts to be notified when cold temperatures are likely to impact health. When alerted, implement local action cards for VCS**
- 2 **During cold weather, encourage service users to take actions to stay safe**
- 3 **Identify service users who may be at higher risk of becoming unwell in cold weather**
- 4 **Promote key messages about cold health and staying safe**
- 5 **Promote the flu, RSV and COVID-19 booster vaccination programmes to those who are eligible.**
- 6 **Encourage public health messages around hand and respiratory hygiene**
- 7 **If you can, register to be a community space**

We've got a variety of resources ready to support your cold weather response and messaging! From posters and infographics to practical guidance, we're here to help you, help keep residents informed and prepared.



Ventilate homes

- Encourage actions to improve indoor air quality
- Share the [Love Clean Air](#) leaflet

Signpost to [financial or fuel support schemes](#)

Signpost to [community warm spaces](#)

Share and display the [staying safe in cold weather infographics](#) and [poster](#).

Contact: healthprotection@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk and we can print them for you to display

For more information visit the [Richmond council webpage](#) or contact healthprotection@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Questions

Open Forum and Q&A

Thank you!

**The networking lunch will be served
next door**