**ICNC Minutes 18th April 2013**

**In attendence:**

Ruth Hayes Advice Network (Chair)

Mike Sherriff Voluntary Action Islington (Chair)

Chris Taylor Voluntary Action Islington

Toufik Kacimi Faiths Forum

Marta Aparicio Voluntary Action Islington (Minutes)

Mark Brennan Homelessness Network

**Apologies:**

Anita Grant Islington Play Association

Nigel Gansell Pensioners' Forum

Rahel Geffen Islington Disability Network

John MacKinnon Sport Islington

Jonathan Barnes Mildmay Community Partnership

Colin Adams Octopus Community Centres

Katy Fattuhi Creative Islington

Rob Hamilton Older People’s Network

Phil Watson Voluntary Sector Health Network

**1. Previous minutes and matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record. No points of accuracy.

MS has raised the issue of VCS representation on strategic boards but hasn’t had a response. MS is pushing for proper discussion with the VCS before the new cuts arrive.

**Action:** CT to meet with Emma Whitby to liaise on promoting membership and events of Healthwatch to the ICN members and their networks.

**2. Engaging with tenants and residents – Theresa Coyle**

[ Theresa Coyle came to the ICN AGM after the meeting and talked about the Residents Taskfore]

**Action:** MS will explore how to develop relations with Tenants and Residents.

**3. ICN Update – possible new members; case studies**

The Mother Tongue and Supplementary Schools Partnership and Islington Child Care Trust have been approached as possible members. They responded positively and CT will follow up. Other groups, such as the Mental Health and Poverty Networking Forum, Older People’s Providers Forum and, LGBT groups have been contacted as potential members.

The Council has invited feedback on the draft VCS Procurement Action Plan from the ICN. CT will collect comments and forward to the Council.

**Action:** CT to circulate the draft VCS Procurment Action Plan to ICN members.

**4. Voluntary and community sector manifesto for local election candidates**

The Manifesto from the last election has been circulated to members. It was agreed that it is important that the Community Hubs make a strong contribution. It was agreed to hold an event in Autumn to consult grass-root groups on what they would like to see in a VCS Manifesto.

**Action:** ICN members to begin logging issues for the manifesto.

**Action:** CT to liaise with TK regarding Islington London Citizens involvement.

**5. Forums Feedback**

MS – Adrian Voce is the new independent chair of the Islington Children and Young People’s Voluntary Sector Forum. He comes to the role with substantial experience as Director of Play England, as well as significant involvement with local organisations.

RH – Legal Aid changes come into force from April 2013. It will reverse the position that legal aid has been available for almost all civil cases. The cuts will have a big impact in those families who don’t have access to legal aid.

**Action:** RH to send ICNC members the advice pack and template letters produced by the Law Centre.

TK – Had a well attended Lecture and debate about Religious, Belief and Families. The Mental Health and Poverty Networking Forum event was really popular and the feedback was outstanding. A report will written about the outcome. There will be a big event in September where the IFF will present a speech.

MB – From April 2013 the Resident Support Scheme provides crisis funding to Islington residents but it is unclear how it will be governed. Applications to shelters are going down but it is unclear why. No second night out is being rolled out nationally.

**6. Feedback and discussion re. Welfare Reform Roundtable**

At the roundtable it was suggested that it would be useful to have case study template to gather and present first hand experience of the effects of reforms. It was agreed that the ICN should pick this up.

**Action:** CT to contact TK for case studies.

**Action:** CT to consider taking on a volunteer to help with this matter.

Next Round Table on the 3rd of June will be on Public Health.

**7. Community Chest update: Rob Hamilton**

No Community Chest Panel Rep. were present at the meeting.

[CT will follow up the last Community Chest Meeting]

**8. Review of work plan and ToR**

The main pieces of work for the year will be drawing up the Manifesto, informed by the Autumn event, (consultation for the manifesto will also steer ICN work) and the Islington Voluntary Sector Conference 2013. There will be three further meetings in the year. No changes to ToR were suggested; it was agreed to continue operating with them.

**9. Election of Community Chest representatives**

Roz Miller, Rahel Geffen and Aisha Forbes are the new representatives.

**Action:** CT to email the outgoing representatives to thank them for their hard work and commitment.

**10. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Mike Sherriff and Ruth Hayes were the nominees for Chair and agreed to continue to Co-Chair the ICNC. And to appoint a Vice-Chair.

**11. AOB; dates of 2013/14 meetings**

* **3rd July** from 4pm to 5.30pm
* In **October**: TBC
* In **January** : TBC

**Action:** CT to circulate meeting dates.

**Action:** CT to arrange a place and date for the Autumn event.