**ICNC Minutes 9 October 2013**

**In attendence:**

Ruth Hayes Advice Network (Chair)

Mike Sherriff Voluntary Action Islington (Chair)

Chris Taylor Voluntary Action Islington

Ros Miller Faiths Forum

Mark Brennan Homelessness Network

Rahel Geffen Islington Disability Network

Colin Adams Octopus Community Centres

Eyasu Buba Islington Refugee Forum

Rachel Toogood Creative Islington

Phil Watson Voluntary Sector Health Network

**Apologies:**

Rob Hamilton Older People’s Network

Anita Grant Islington Play Forum

Aisha Forbes Islington BME Forum

John MacKinnon Sport Islington

**1. Previous minutes and matters arising**

It was noted that feedback from MB under item 5 of the last meeting's minutes should refer to the 'street outreach contract' rather than the 'outreach surgeries contract'. The minutes were otherwise agreed as an accurate record.

**Action:** Now that new Council Leader elected, MS to contact Richard Watts and Janet Burgess to lobby for voluntary and community sector representation on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**Action:** CT / MS to invite Richard Watts to an ICNC meeting.

**2. ICN Update**

Members were advised that ICN and Islington BME Forum have developed a project to gather case studies demonstrating the impact of welfare reform on residents. Suggestions of useful contacts and resources were made.

It was confirmed that the networks do not have sufficient resources to be a central repository for members monitoring information.

It was thought that it would be most appropriate for the VAI VCS Directory to list constituted organisations, including the type of constitution and size according to revenue bands.

It was noted that consultation on the council’s Child Poverty Strategy will open this week. A voluntary and community sector round table meeting with the council will be held on 4 November as part of the consultation process.

**Action:** CT to invite ICNC members to the Round Table discussion.

The Islington Mental Health and Poverty Networking Forum was welcomed as a new member. A November meeting to discuss representation of Islington’s older LGBT community was mentioned.

**Action:** CT to look into the ICN hosting a regular stand at the Saturday Night Project, to be manned on a rotating basis by ICNC members.

A presentation from ICN at a Resident's Taskforce meeting has been agreed, though the date is to be confirmed.

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

It was confirmed that the event had been called off due to the number and background of delegates providing an insufficiently broad representation of the borough’s VCS. Members discussed what could be learned from the response. It was agreed that the ICN will write a manifesto based on views gathered via an email questionnaire and subsequent discussion at the Voluntary Sector Conference.

**Action:** MS and CT to draft a questionnaire to gather views on a manifesto via email.

**4. VS Conference**

Members were asked to recommend organisations that can be invited to present on their innovative work, or resourcing, at the conference. The Single Homeless Project, Advice First Aid (a project of Islington Law Centre) and Disabled People Against the Cuts were put forward.

**Action:** MB to forward summary of the SHP project.

**Action:** CT to ask ICNC members to nominate organisations working or funded innovatively.

**Action:** CT to ask ICNC members if they would like a stall at the conference.

**5. Forums Feedback**

Advice Network– A steering group has been constituted for the Advising Islington Together project and will meet next week. The project will run a series of themed advice events in the community and can deliver bespoke presentations and can provide briefings and specialist sessions aimed at particular demographics. Later in the year the Islington Advice Network will be re-launched with a new website.

Creative Islington – the network is to launch a new website that organisations will be able to join and upload information to more easily. A project funded by A New Direction to connect Arts and Education sectors via an e-portal and directory will be publicised with events in January. A networking event will be hosted at King's Place in early December. Next year work will focus on funding workshops. Members were encouraged to use #discoverislington on Twitter to promote the borough.

Disability Forum – The Independent Living Fund campaign group held a street party on Islington Green to raise awareness. The Disability Action in Islington Conference and AGM will be in November. A manifesto for disabled people in Islington will be written.

Faiths Forum – For Islington Peace Month, IFF worked with schools, ran a peace poetry competition, a football tournament for young people at risk of re-offending, CreateDebate sessions and a music project.

Mental Health and Poverty Networking Forum – Funds have been secured for a second conference. Funding for the network has been applied for. It is hoped to run workshops on suicide prevention.

Voluntary Sector Health Network – The second Islington CCG community VCS engagement event on the 1 October was better attended than the first.

Homelessness Forum – The next HF meeting is on the 16 October. A new housing allocation scheme has been adopted and will be in place by the end of the year. Islington currently has no families in temporary accommodation. The council is to undertake a scrutiny review of private sector housing and may set up an estate agency for private tenants.

Octopus – The network held its AGM on 26 September. A new action plan was drawn up with four priorities: older people, volunteering, employment, and capacity building for Community Hubs. The next network meeting will be on 7 November. Involved in Black History Month.

Islington Refugee Forum – The IRF had its AGM on the 17 July. DAII and Healthwatch attended the September network meeting. The network will be putting on one-to-one surgeries on funding applications; repeating a successful London Councils project and holding a 29 November event on governance.

Voluntary Action Islington – The VAI AGM will be on the 6 November. Deborah Allcock-Tyler of the Directory of Social Change will speak and the Mayor and Young Mayor will present the Volunteer of the Year Awards. Advice sessions are on-going in partnership with BIG.

Older People’s Network – The Peel Institute is working with Octopus to undertake a mapping exercise of older people's service providers in Islington and will be carrying out a social impact study into the changing nature of older people's services over the next quarter. They will be contacting any organisations that work with older people over the coming few months and would appreciate any input groups can contribute.

**6. Community Chest update**

Members were told that funding is being disproportionately directed towards groups consisting of older and white people. There were few funded projects for BME groups and none relating to sports. No equalities monitoring is carried out on the reach of funded groups.

**Action:** CT / VAI to target advertising of Community Chest funding at underrepresented groups.

**7. AOB; venue of next meeting**

29 Jan 4-5.30pm

**Action:** CT to contact CA to discuss holding next meeting at one of the Community Hubs.