**ICNC Minutes 22 April 2015**

**In attendence:**

Mike Sherriff Voluntary Action Islington (Chair)

Chris Taylor Voluntary Action Islington

Colin Adams Octopus Community Centres

Liz Mercer Islington Carers Provider Forum

Katy Fattuhi Creative Islington

Ruth Hayes Advice Network (Chair)

Phil Watson Voluntary Sector Health Network

Mark Brennan Homelessness Network

Jean Smith Islington Children and young People’s Voluntary Sector Forum

Ros Miller Islington Faiths Forum & Mental Health and Poverty Networking Forum

Jane Chambers Age UK Islington

**Apologies:**

Janan Aljabiri Islington Refugee Forum

Jaspal Dhani Islington Disability Network

Aisha Forbes Islington BME Forum

Nicholas Watts Islington Environment Forum

**1. Previous minutes and matters arising**

It was reported that MS met representatives of the Islington Employment Commission and the council’s iWork team. Islington council aims to move services from an advice to a coaching model. The council will target the 20% of residents who are long-term unemployed.

**Action:** CT to circulate details of the forthcoming Employability Network meeting.

**Action:** JS to clarify Employment Commission aims for work with young people with Holly Toft.

**2. ICN Update: ICNC role nominations; ICNC proposals to LBI; newsletter distribution**

Following re-nominations, roles on the ICNC and the Community Chest panel were confirmed as follows:

* Chairs - Mike Sherriff and Ruth Hayes
* Vice-Chair - Roz Miller
* Community Chest Panel representatives - Aisha Forbes, Lucy Bingham, Roz Miller

Members were advised that a meeting of invited voluntary sector representatives with the Executive Member for Economic and Community Development, at which the proposals drawn up by the ICNC will be discussed, was scheduled for Monday 27 April.

**Action:** CT to enquire regarding LBI departmental structures as these are not currently clear.

**Action:** CT to ask all ICNC representatives if there are key people in their networks who would benefit from receiving the ICN newsletter directly.

Members discussed the possibility of setting up a pool of voluntary sector leaders who can offer advice, on fundraising for example, to the sector. It was thought that this could be run alongside existing Voluntary Action Islington advice sessions or delivered by telephone or email.

**3. Voluntary Sector Conference**

Members were advised that the conference will be held at London Metropolitan University on the 9 July from 5.30 – 8.30pm. Kathy Evans, CE of Children England is confirmed as the main speaker.

**Action:** CT to ask ICNC members to recommend organisations that could present on successful collaboration and/or securing new income.

**4. Care Act 2014**

The pioneering of integrated health and social care in Islington was mentioned. Referrals to the LBI care team must now be made at The Islington Customer Centre, 222 Upper Street.

It was explained that the Care Act gives new rights for carers, which are accessed through completing a supported self-assessment form. Among these rights is a direct carers payment worth £10-30 per week, which is not means tested and is unrelated to other benefits.

**Action:** LM to talk to members and distribute details of organisations that support carers.

**Action:** JS to speak to LM regarding support for young carers.

**Action:** LM to draft a letter from ICNC to care commissioner requesting publicity material on the Care Act aimed at carers.

**5. European funding**

Members were advised that the GLA and London Councils have made a joint bid for European funding to provide employment coaching. Voluntary sector organisations may be able to host coaches employed through the programme. LVSC has a portal where organisations can register as potential partners (could mean cross-borough work) for ESF/BLF bids and are running information events. Big Lottery Fund has been invited to have a stall at the conference.

**6. VCS procurement action plan**

There is no news on the review of the action plan, or on the review of Social Value, both of which have been delayed. MS has asked Giles Rankin and Alva Bailey to advise when there is news.

**Action:** members to pass examples of poor procurement to MS; MS to write to LBI to ask a representative to respond at an ICNC meeting.

**7. Forums Feedback**

Voluntary Action Islington – VAI has again requested that a VCS representative be appointed to the Health and Wellbeing Board. There have been recent briefings on Reaching Communities and London Community Funding, which will be posted on the website. There will be a networking event for trustees on 1 June.

**Action:** CT to add Health and Wellbeing Board dates to newsletter (including link to minutes).

Creative Islington – Funding has been secured to continue the Education Portal project. The network is in talks with LBI over the possibility of managing a workspace for creative groups in partnership with another arts organisation.

Carers Provider Network – the major issue for the network is the Care Act (see item above).

Octopus Community Hubs Network – Representatives of the Hubs are due to meet the Executive Member for Economic and Community Development. The network has an Away Day on Friday 24 April. The network is setting itself up to make tenders and joint bids.

CYP Forum – The forum has raised questions with the council over the short deadline for a recent tender for work with young people with SEN and the attribution of commercial sensitivity to information relevant to the re-tender to run the Youth Hubs, which likely favours the existing contract holder. Tenders for youth provision in the Community Hubs are to be invited in September to provide services from April. The forum intends to support members with changes to pensions and is open to working with other networks on the subject. Organisations are advised to check their Children’s Safeguarding policies to ensure they are up to date.

Phill Watson – Manor Gardens is full, has more organisations working on mental wellbeing and is offering small groups access to its policies and procedures as templates. The CCG is taking on responsibility for commissioning GP services. Phill met with Steve Hitchens of Whittington Health, who want to do more work with the voluntary sector.

Islington Faiths Forum – The forum is working more closely than ever with schools, currently on an art project. Funding has been secured for Peace Month in September. A football tournament has been organised to support young men at risk of offending. The forum is discussing work to offer activities to young people during holidays with Octopus. There is also work being done with muslims on hate crime.

IMHPNF – The forum is now unfunded. It is holding a 24 April event on suicide prevention. There will be a review of suicide prevention pathways in Islington.

IAA – There are new relations on criminal Legal Aid which will lead to another loss of funding for support. Meeting LBI over provision for 2016/7. Islington Law Centre, Help On Your Doorstep and Citizen’s Advice Bureau are piloting coordinated ways of asking people what they need. There will be an Advising Islington Together wrap up event in June. Delays to welfare reforms mean that funds for related advice have been used but focused provision is still required. The Alliance is working with the council to secure more funding as it comes up. A pro bono service from Dechert to help people stopped and searched to complete complaint forms was run from the Town Hall.

**Action:** RH to advise re. Stop and search programme

**Action:** RH to share film on cuts to legal aid.

Jane Chambers – Age UK Islington has won a bid to run the 'power loss' programme. People aged over 60 and relying on electrical equipment (e.g. dialysis) will go on a register to ensure rapid support in the event of a power cut. Will be questionnaire to send round.

Homelessness Forum – The forum administrator, Hitesh Tailor, has changed employment and there have been no recent meetings.

**8. Community Chest update**

It was reported that Cllr. Asima Shaikh is the new chair of the Community Chest panel and that the first meeting of the financial year was very encouraging.

**9. Safer Neighbourhood Board**

Members were advised that the Islington SNB has been commended as among the best in London. The board would like more youth representation. Perhaps the main current crime and safety issue is the death of Henry Hicks during a police chase in December. A new borough commander has been appointed.

**10. AOB; future meetings**

It was confirmed that the next ICNC meeting will be held on the 10 June 2015, from 13.30 – 15.30.