**ICNC Minutes 11 November 2015**

**In attendence:**

Ruth Hayes Islington Advice Alliance (Chair)

Chris Taylor Voluntary Action Islington

Colin Adams Octopus Community Centres

Phill Watson Manor Gardens

Janan Aljabiri Islington Refugee Forum

Roz Miller Islington Faiths Forum & Mental Health and Poverty Networking Forum (Vice-Chair)

Jane Chambers Age UK Islington

Mark Brennan Islington Homelessness Network

Nicholas Watts Islington Environment Forum

Kate Kelly Creative Islington

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

**Apologies:**

John Mackinnon Sport Islington

Despina Tsiakalou Islington BME Forum

John Muir London Borough of Islington

Mike Sherriff Voluntary Action Islington

**1. Outline of the VCS grants programme - LBI Partnerships, Place & Culture Team**

This agenda item was not covered as the LBI team were not able to join the meeting. Details of the VCS grant timetable published at the 9 November VCS Committee meeting were reiterated to members.

**Action:** CT to include agenda item for next meeting on the possibility of ICN brokering relationships between groups to transfer successful projects a parent organisation can no longer sustain.

**Action:** CT to share details of Creative Islington / VAI networking event with members as an example of a way to facilitate the above.

**2. Previous minutes and matters arising**

Members were advised that the pro bono ‘stop and search’ advice service highlighted at the last meeting is on hiatus while work is done to improve its promotion.

**Action:** RM to advertise the ‘stop and search’ service through the SNB.

**Action:** CT to include a future agenda item on how knowledge of VCS services is gathered and shared in general, rather than specifically on Locality Navigators. The Locality Navigators and Help On Your Doorstep to be invited to the relevant meeting.

**3. ICN Update**

The status of the brief research project on the value of grant funding being carried out by London Metropolitan University was discussed. Members suggested strengthening its impact by holding a briefing on the finished report for ICN members and councillors.

**Action**: CT to continue with setting up a visit to a successful VCS consortium, ideally one of both smaller and larger groups, and to share details of the possible options with members.

**Action:** CT to prompt Islington Youth Health Forum (IYHF) to connect with ICN via membership of the CYP Forum.

**Action:** CT to forward the contact details of the Chair of IYHF to RM.

**Action:** NW to contact the Islington Sustainable Energy Partnership to discuss their joining the IEF.

**Action:** CA to speak to Sanjay Dasani of Hyde Housing to look at introducing them to ICN via the Octopus Community Hubs Network.

**Action:** CT to contact potential VCS representatives of the LGBT community, as recommended by members.

**Action:** CT speak to JS about the recently formed BME women’s network.

Members considered whether the research carried out on welfare reform could be followed up by collating information on the impact of Universal Credit. Some member networks will be able to do so. Students from London Metropolitan University may be able to provide support.

**4. VCS procurement action plan**

There has been no further news about the VCS procurement action plan. Concern was raised that a recent LBI procurement workshop suggested that LBI commissioners still favour commissioning over grants.

**Action:** RM to advise CT of the details of the workshop.

**Action:** CT to add procurement to the agenda for the next meeting with Cllr. Shaikh.

**5. Forums Feedback**

IRF – The IRF AGM will be held on the 3 December at the Town Hall. There will be a further event on the Syrian refugee crisis after an initial meeting was well attended and agreed to develop a welcome pack for refugees arriving in Islington.

CI – The network is looking at developing a new business model and is trying to bring in new members. Currently its only funding is from LBI so a diversity of income is desired. A BIG Assist voucher to access infrastructure support has been secured.

IFF – The Forum will hold a lecture and debate on youth disaffection and violence on the 17 November. A further event on youth violence put on by black majority churches will take place on the 18 November.

Octopus – The network has its AGM tomorrow. It is arranging workshops to advise trustees of the need for organisations to adapt to new circumstances.

IEF – The forum held an event on the implications of TTIP for sustainability on the 3 November, with the support of Transitions Highbury and a speech from Sam Lowe of Friends of the Earth. A meeting will be convened in January or February to follow up on its success.

HF – LBI will contribute to the national rough sleeper count by providing an estimate on the 3 December. The Outreach Forum, a sub-group of the Safer Islington Partnership that brings together those working with the street population, is at risk of cuts. There will be a conference on coordinated support for homeless people approaching faith groups. The Caris winter shelters are now open. The Meal for All project at Finsbury Park Mosque is going well and is looking for volunteers.

JC – Following a TV ad campaign, more volunteers have enquired with Age UK Islington than are needed, so members were invited to contact JC with other opportunities for them. A manager for the Carers Hub has been recruited and will start in December. An event will be held for Carers Rights Day. Dates for the Carers Forum and Carers Providers Forum will soon be published. The Power Loss project will ensure vulnerable people are kept informed as a priority in the event of a power cut so that they can plan appropriately.

PW – Manor Gardens has published its Impact Report 2015.

CYP Forum – The Women Making a Difference conference went very well. Banners highlighting prominent Islington women were produced for the event and are now available for display. The forum is concerned about youth violence.

VAI – The VAI AGM on the 4 November was well attended. The Volunteer Centre has achieved accreditation again.

AA – The AIT conference on the 6 October was a success. The alliance is in the second round of an application to Help Through Crisis. Demand for services is high, with waiting lists of two months for some. There is more destitution, more people who have no relationship with the state at all and more people afraid their children may be taken into care. Next week is the IPR AGM. The Labour party has commissioned a review of Legal Aid, which will be an opportunity to give evidence of the cost of not dealing effectively with benefit claims. There will be an Advisors Forum meeting next week.

**6. Community Chest update**

**Action:** CT to get feedback from JA and KK (JA had to leave the meeting early).

**7. Safer Neighbourhood Board**

It was noted that the current SNB focus is on youth violence and helping youth organisations to fundraise.

**8. AOB; future meetings**

* Wednesday 9 December 2015; 14.00 – 16.00; Cllr. Shaikh
* Wednesday 27 January 2016; 13.30 – 15.30
* Wednesday 2 March 2016; 10.00 – 12.00; Cllr. Shaikh
* Wednesday 6 April 2016; 13.30 – 15.30
* Wednesday 25 May 2016; 13.30 – 15.30; Cllr. Shaikh