

Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

Joint working with & support for
the Voluntary & Community
Sector (VCS)

Joint working with & support for the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS)

To provide an update & discussion on:

- How the Council works with the local voluntary/community sector, is strengthening their capacity and working with them to attract external investment in the borough;
- Involving and supporting voluntary organisations to bid for services.



Support for the local VCS



- Council has commissioned Bridge Renewal Trust to deliver Voluntary Sector Strategic Partner service since 2016. Provision for extension to end of 2022
- The Council's Voluntary Sector Support team was created in summer 2020. Since then, the team has worked jointly with Bridge colleagues to:
 - Grow the VCS support that's available, responding to the needs of the sector and providing additional capacity building support, volunteering development, resources and guidance
 - Develop partnership working between voluntary organisations and Council teams – strengthening links between voluntary sector organisations, and between sector organisations and statutory services
- We are developing the Community Framework which builds better insight into our communities, strong co-production and a new VCS Strategy together



VCS Strategic Partner & joint team highlights



Funding & direct support

- £2,761,688 external funding to projects serving Haringey during 2020 – 21, and over £15m since 2016
- Developing Community Chest with CCG colleagues to distribute NHS Inequalities funding to grassroots groups
- Council VCS team directly worked on £161,600+ successful funding bids
- Haringey Giving: support with applications & allocation of Together We Can & Digital Divide funding

Workshops & training

- Bid writing training for small groups
- 5 workshops with National Lottery Community Fund
- Funder workshop with Trust for London
- 'Returning to community buildings' session with Council Public Health and Health & Safety teams
- Planned training on using Public Health data and accessing commissioning opportunities

Events & meetings

- Monthly themed VCS Forums, responsive to relevant issues for the sector, developing links within sector and between sector & Council
- 'Volunteer Week' volunteer recognition event
- Annual Community Expo
- Ongoing monthly meetings between Council & local mutual aid groups
 - Community Enablement Group during height of pandemic



VCS Strategic Partner & joint team highlights



Networks & relationships

- Food Network
- LGBTQI+ Network
- Support VCS to navigate Council & statutory services
- Overview of Council-VCS relationships
- 'VCS Hear & Share' Yammer page for Council
- Latin American Network
- Planned Women's VCS Network
- Building relationships with funders, including Lloyd's Foundation
- Planned VCS-Council networking at Bridge Expo
- Linking groups working in related thematic/geographic areas

Resources

- Bridge weekly 'Community Impact' news bulletin continues, featuring 100+ funding opportunities annually, training, events, news, and resources
- Continuous development of Bridge webpages, including resources page with section on sector's role in addressing racism
- Improving access to community buildings, including mapping available community space with Haringey Community Centres Network, linking in groups looking for space
- Council cohort of ~30 community buildings managed by Strategic Property. Council's Community Model Lease offers 40% rent discount on community market rent. Joint work to manage relationships, ensure effective use of buildings, review of Community Model Lease offer



COVID-19 VCS Support



- £100k Council funding for 6-month rent break for community groups renting Council buildings
- £500k Council funded COVID-19 VCS Support grants package:
 - 50 Haringey-based organisations received funding – all eligible applicants
 - Focused on core infrastructure costs in response to sector feedback on need for this to ensure sustainability – COVID-19 project funding was available from other sources but did not cover core costs/compensate for loss of income
 - Split into two £250k pots - Pot 1: VCS Hardship (Operating Costs) Fund and Pot 2: VCS Hardship (Critical Support for those of Additional Value)
 - Combined with work with teams administering Small Business Grants Fund, Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grants Fund and Discretionary Grant Fund to ensure eligible VCS groups also accessed this funding, maximising available support



Working with VCS to
attract external investment



- The Bridge Renewal Trust as strategic partner has led several successful external funding bids
- Colleagues across the Council support with applications & project delivery
- Examples include:
 - MyEnds 'Home Cooked' youth violence reduction programme - £750,000
 - Thriving Communities social prescribing activities programme - £50,000
 - £367,265 for Haringey projects within NHS Charities bid across NCL
- Council distributed £525k of central government Covid Winter & Hardship grants to the local VCS:
 - Used to build legacy position for VCS, e.g. Community Protects, Community Newsroom
- Council worked with local groups to submit Faith New Deal & Changing Places central government funding bids



Involving and supporting voluntary organisations to bid for services



- Cross-cutting strategies to encourage VCS to partner/bid for a range of services across the Council: enabled by Procurement Strategy and Community Wealth Building policies
 - Ensuring procurement processes are accessible to local VCS through market engagement, encouragement for bids from local VCS organisations, including partnerships & consortia
- Ensuring involvement of VCS as key partners in co-production work with health (NCL CCG) and other partners, both strategic and tactical discussions
- Work with NCL CCG to develop approach to working with VCS as joint partners in delivery of shared objectives
- Practical work across Council to co-produce services with local VCS & enable VCS access to Council procurement processes:
 - Developing Community Chest with CCG colleagues to distribute funds including NHS Inequalities funding to grassroots groups – intention to develop & roll out this model as a mechanism to distribute other funding sources
 - Joint team planning VCS session on commissioning process, in partnership with NHS colleagues
 - VCS team enabled Food Network groups to access Holiday Activities & Food funding
 - Work to develop networks includes support to leverage external funding for joint activity
 - Council VCS team working internally with Council teams to build relationships & support funding distribution: e.g. Carbon Management – Community Carbon Fund
 - Red Card gambling addiction support project: supported to secure CCG funding for training for local GPs

- Haringey's VCS is incredibly diverse, ranging from small grassroots community groups to local branches of national charities
- The Council is enormously appreciative of the amazing work carried out daily in our communities by the VCS, both during the pandemic & beyond, and is committed to working together with the sector towards our shared priorities
- The VCS has incredible reach into communities, building early intervention and prevention opportunities
- Haringey's VCS is participating in wide range of partnerships with all statutory partners, and demonstrates particular strength in working with the NHS
- COVID-19 pandemic has had what is likely to be a long-standing impact on the VCS nationally, regionally and locally
- The Council is now co-producing a new VCS Strategy with the sector to set out a joint approach for the Council & sector to work together. This will cover a range of areas, including an approach to resourcing the sector including financial resourcing, use of community assets and support in kind.