

Appendix 2

Collaborating with the sector to deliver VCS priorities for 2026-27

The council's VCS Action Plan has been drafted to respond to and support the delivery of HCC's 2026-27 priorities. These priorities set out the key areas and activities the VCS will work on to support Haringey's residents, and the council Action Plan describes in turn how the council will work to support the VCS as a sector, focusing on strategic areas including funding and coordination, around each of the priorities.

Priority	Key actions for the Council	Outputs	Existing Provision
1. Cost of living	Tackling the cost of living crisis is a cross-cutting priority requiring work across a number of services and sectors. VCS groups working on this priority are often right at the frontline of supporting residents in poverty and crisis and are often themselves very grassroots organisations operating with minimal funds and overheads. For actions under this theme to be effective it is particularly important that we understand better how we are working together to tackle the crisis and whether we collectively need to change approaches to be more effective and ensure resources reach the most vulnerable. In support of this priority, the Council will therefore focus on the following actions: Mapping VCS services commissioned across the council and partners including the NHS and ICB to reduce duplication and maximise the impact of funding awarded to support cost of living initiatives	- Shared overview of commissioning activity and other relationships - Regular communication on commissioning reviews and opportunities for the VCS (internally between services and partners, and externally with the VCS) - Optimum usage of community assets in support of tackling cost of living crisis - Joint partnerships to access more funding and support for the sector to bring more external resources into the borough to ameliorate cost of living challenges	- Welfare IAG - Early Help & Prevention - Haringey Support Fund - Haringey Here to Help & Cost of Living Guide - Welfare and Financial Support Teams Household Support Fund: - Cost of living voucher scheme for vulnerable residents - Holiday support for children receiving Free School Meals

	• Development and implementation of Community Assets Social Value policy (more detail below under Priority 5) to ensure all groups benefit from an equitable and transparent approach to allocations and charges • Identify opportunities to influence the funding landscape with regional and national funders to achieve greater stability for the sector: funding for overheads and simpler applications and reporting		• Warm Welcome provision • Discretionary support towards Council Tax liability • Discretionary Housing Payment scheme • Income maximisation campaigns: • Partnership with GLA to support pension-age benefit uptake • Targeted benefit uptake campaigns • VAWG • Public Health • ICB • Housing advice • Care provision
2. Crime & Community Safety	Tackling crime and community safety is a long-standing concern in Haringey and it is important that the Council ensures VCS voices are heard and listened to in proactive, strategic conversations, including with partners such as the police, on this issue. Effectively designing out crime requires deep understanding of how communities work, for which VCS knowledge and connections are crucial. In	• Safe, accessible public spaces are protected in the Local Plan and in placemaking projects. • VCS voices are heard and listened to in relevant partnership bodies, for example through HCC	• Shaping WG • Shaping Tottenham • New Local Plan • Development of the Neighbourhoods model • Clear, Hold, Build

	support of this priority, the Council will therefore focus on the following actions: • Continue to ensure HCC and VCS organisations are involved in planning and development conversations on Shaping WG & Tottenham, the Local Plan, Neighbourhoods – taking a place based, whole community approach to health, wellbeing and safety and ensuring public spaces are safe and accessible • Ensure HCC and relevant VCS groups are engaged in conversations with Public Health, Community Safety and other services and forums with responsibility for community safety outcomes to improve co-production and feedback loops	attendance at the Community Safety Partnership • HCC and the VCS have connections in relevant parts of the system to advocate, influence and initiate plans, including Community Safety, Youth Justice, Early Help and Public Health	• Partnership Problem Solving Group (PPSG) • VAWG • Youth Justice
3. Mental Health & Wellbeing	There is a network of NHS, council and VCS services which makes support available at all stages—from everyday mental wellbeing, through psychological therapy, to crisis and emergency intervention – and for different demographics. However, there remains more to do, as there is evidence of growing need and demand. Ensuring the services are joined up and well-signposted is important, as is ensuring statutory services gain insight from communities about levels and types of need. In support of this priority, the Council will therefore focus on the following actions: • Ensure continued representation on decision-making boards like the Health and Wellbeing Board, other partnership bodies and VCS forums to grow a shared understanding of needs, and	• VCS input at relevant decision making points, informing more joined-up and better sign-posted provision.	• Commissioned VCS provision including Haringey Wellbeing Network • Key forums where mental health and wellbeing programmes are discussed and planned • Health and Wellbeing Board • Live Well partnership board and sub-groups • VCS Forums

	joined up thinking on commissioning and lobbying where appropriate. • Draw on the mapping exercise described under Priority 1 to inform a clear picture of what is available to support positive mental health and where there may be gaps. Update our website with the information and ensure information is shared with VCS organisations. • Continue to collaborate with VCS organisations on initiatives to improve mental health and wellbeing such as great mental health day		• Racial Equity in Health and Social Care Group • Haringey Health Champions Oversight Group • SENDPower Parents & Carers Group • Childrens Mental Health and Well Being Steering Group • Adult Mental Health Programme Board
4. Employability, Skills, Education & Training	The VCS can play a crucial role in helping marginalised residents gain access to skills and employment as a first line of support especially for migrant and refugee communities. This priority identifies the importance of ensuring that local economic sectors such as the creative industries are accessible to all our diverse communities, and the London Borough of Culture is a key mechanism to help achieve this aim over the next two years. In support of this priority, the Council will therefore focus on the following actions: • Develop and launch London Borough of Culture Volunteering and training/ apprenticeship programmes that define roles, responsibilities, skills and training to ensure residents from across the borough are supported to take part in	• Volunteering and training/ apprenticeship programmes launched for LBoC • Haringey Works connect with relevant VCS groups to broaden reach to residents • Culture Collective Artists Network grows into a strong and representative forum for artists and creatives in Haringey.	• Cabinet in the Community events • Launch of Culture Collective Artists Network • Young people's participation via Youth Council/UKYP • Haringey Works and Learns programmes including Connect to Work • Safety Valve Programme

	LBoC and use volunteering as a pathway to employment • Ensure Haringey Works engage directly with HCC and relevant VCS Forum meetings to make sure existing provision – largely externally funded through the GLA and government grant – is well advertised and any barriers to access are understood		
5. Health & Social Inequalities	As the HCC priorities document highlights, health and social inequalities are the result of intersectionality between inequities arising from issues related to cost of living, housing, mental health and disability and other challenges. The Council has a long and proud history of challenging inequality and discrimination. We can and must build on this history by renewing our commitment to collaboration with the VCS who are champions of equity and fairness on behalf of the different communities with whom they work. Ensuring sustainable and equitable access to community assets is important here and there are also opportunities through the emergence of the Neighbourhoods Health model to address health inequalities through greater collaboration and more preventative work. In support of this priority, the Council will therefore focus on the following actions: • Establish whether there is appetite for, and if so commence development of, a new Community Strategy for Haringey in partnership with the VCS to further embed our collaborative working	• Mapping of existing Council-VCS relationships to inform commencement of engagement with the sector around developing a new Community Strategy • Equitable access to community spaces to support health & wellbeing and tackle inequalities at a local level • Join up across the partnership on health and care planning at the neighbourhood level	• Piloting of the VCS subsidy with two community centres • Joint working between VCS, Property and Communities services • Development of the Neighbourhoods model • Racial Equity in Health and Social Care Group • Oversight through Neighbourhoods Governance of Haringey Borough Partnership including Neighbourhoods and Inequalities Board and new

	across the whole community sector and tackle entrenched inequalities in a systemic way • Development and implementation of Community Assets Social Value policy to ensure an equitable and transparent approach to property allocation and rent charges is used consistently across the VCS • Ensure HCC and VCS organisations are involved in planning and development conversations on the Neighbourhoods Model – taking a place based, whole community approach to health • Continue to work with NHS partners to deliver health inequalities programme and projects that work with the VCS and grassroots organisations		Delivery Group for community-based prevention in Neighbourhoods
6. Housing	Access to a safe and affordable home is not a luxury, it's a right for every member of Haringey's community. Unfortunately, as a result of the housing crisis, too many of our residents lack this basic security despite the Council's significant housebuilding programme. Whilst the Regulator of Social Housing lifted the Regulatory Notice in December 2025, housing services needs to continue its improvement journey, being led by our engagement with our tenants and residents to ensure our priorities are aligned. By working with our VCS partners, Housing Services have been able to provide more accessible and targeted engagement opportunities, such as engaging with our Somali communities, to ensure engagement is	• Continue to improve the Council's housing service as per its improvement plan and engagement with tenants and residents, as demonstrated in the Annual Review of Haringey's Resident Engagement with our tenants and leaseholders. • Identification of opportunities to collaborate with HCC and VCS partners to highlight the wider challenges around housing affordability and housing needs.	• Service engagement with Community Networks and VCS Forum • Existing Resident Engagement mechanisms with Council tenants • Oversight through existing Governance, including internal governance boards and the Housing Planning and

	as diverse as possible to help improve access and services for everyone. An Annual Review of Haringey's Resident Engagement with our tenants and leaseholders is also produced, with the impact report for 2023/24 scrutinised by the Housing, Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel with residents in attendance. This report outlines how our residents' voices have helped shape services and improved performance, including case studies to demonstrate qualitative outcomes. In September 2025, Cabinet agreed to adopt our refreshed Tenants and Leaseholders Engagement Strategy for 2025-2028, which was co-produced with our Resident Voice Board and sets out what we have achieved together but also outlines an action plan to further develop the framework and outcomes. This will continue to be led by our residents. The challenge of affordable housing supply is a national and London-wide one and the Council welcomes the opportunity to work with the VCS to highlight what needs to change. Haringey commissions a range of housing-related support and advice services to prevent homelessness, promote independence, and tackle social inequalities. These include: • Floating Support & Housing Advice • Information, Advice & Guidance (IAG) • Specialist Support for Vulnerable Groups	• HRS Commissioning team to continue to support the commissioning and contract management of HCC as well as continuing to strengthen networks and support coordination across services. • Continue working closely with VCS organisations to support the successful move through of people living in temporary accommodation into long term accommodation.	Development Scrutiny Panel. • New Local Plan • Community Carbon Fund • Challenge Fund • Relationship with National Lotteries • Partnership with HCC
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	We also run a monthly VCS Forum bringing together voluntary and community sector partners to discuss emerging challenges, share best practice, co-design collaborative solutions, strengthen networks and improve coordination across services. In support of this priority, the Council will therefore focus on the following actions: • Ensure housing services continue to engage with our residents and co-produce and co-design services through the Resident Voice Board and other resident groups to improve services for Council tenants and leaseholders. • Identify opportunities to influence the funding landscape for housing provision with regional and national funders, as well as working with HCC and the VCS to lobby on national housing policy where appropriate to achieve greater stability for residents		
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