

Papers for the

Redbridge Voluntary Sector Network

This month: Thinking Digital

1 to 2.30pm, Wednesday 9 May 2018

Sandwiches from 12.30pm

York Room, Redbridge Central Library, Clements Rd, Ilford IG1 1EA

Agenda

1. Introduction and apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting, matters arising
3. Reports from voluntary sector representatives
4. **Community Connections Workshop: Thinking Digital**
Following on from Innovating Redbridge, Redbridge Council plan to run an interactive workshop to discuss the role of digital platforms in building community networks. This session will explore themes including:
 - Why do communities need to connect?
 - How do communities currently connect in Redbridge?
 - What is the role of digital in this?
 - How effective are current community network platforms?
 - How can Redbridge Council better share information with residents online in future?
 - How can Redbridge improve the reach of digital conversations beyond the 'usual suspects'?
5. Any other business
6. Next meeting: Wednesday 13 June, York Room, Redbridge Central Library, Clements Rd, Ilford IG1 1EA

More information

If you have any questions, contact Colin Wilson on 020 3874 4135 or at colin@redbridgecvs.net

Anyone involved with a voluntary or community sector group which is based in Redbridge or works with Redbridge people is welcome to attend Network meetings – just come along!

Minutes of the Redbridge Voluntary Sector Network

14 March 2018

1. Present

- Kate Allardyce, Forest Farm Peace Gardens
- Stuart Bellwood, Redbridge councillor, Seven Kings Ward
- Henry James, Terrence Higgins Trust
- Kim Judge, Conscious Cosmos
- Suraiya Kassamally, Age-Link
- Bob Littlewood, Redbridge councillor
- Fazal Mahmood, Terrence Higgins Trust
- Misha, Terrence Higgins Trust
- Peter Musgrave, Faith Forum
- Ruth Musgrave, Redbridge Refugee Sponsorship
- Ram Raju, Redbridge Carers Support Service
- Hari Rattu, Imagine Redbridge
- Cecelia Rufus, Redbridge Equalities
- Meenakshi Sharma, NOISE
- Sharyn Smith, Redbridge Foodbank
- Andrew Viggers, Wanstead and Woodford Migrant Support
- Patrick Williams, Redbridge Foodbank
- Shahida Begum, RedbridgeCVS
- Liz Pearce, RedbridgeCVS
- Colin Wilson, RedbridgeCVS
- Lynette Jackman, RedbridgeCVS

2. Introductions and apologies

Colin welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from:

- Alan Banner, Redbridge Pensioners Forum
- Angela Banner, Redbridge Pensioners Forum
- Ross Diamond, RCVS

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved.

4. Matters arising

GDPR

A second session of training is taking place tomorrow at RedbridgeCVS. IF there is demand we

will run a third session. GDPR comes into force on 25 May: organisations' board members need to be discussing now what action they will take to be compliant by then – or at the very least, to have a plan in place.

Crime Reduction Funding

Stuart Bellwood commented that the Council has provided £50,000 to support crime reduction projects such as Street Watch, who spoke at the last meeting. For more information see <http://bit.ly/2GeaDgC>.

Potential Office and Storage Space

Various local organisations are looking for office and storage space and the Council owns various buildings which might be suitable. A meeting took place on 1 March about one building, but it's not been possible to go ahead. Liz is pursuing other possibilities and will report back once she has further news. Cllr Bob Littlewood commented that the Council is aware that there is a lack of space for voluntary organisations in the borough, and this is something that they are working on.

5. Reports from voluntary sector representatives

Health and Wellbeing Board

Liz reported on work around the East London Health and Care Partnership or ELHCP. ELHCP, formerly known as STP, brings together the Councils and NHS bodies in the eight boroughs of east London. RedbridgeCVS together with other CVSs has met with ELHCP to see how we could work with them to help CCGs, hospital trusts and social care services to all work better together. It is hoped that other local groups can get involved. No cuts to services are proposed as part of the development of ELHCP.

The Health and Wellbeing Board received a report about the winter pressures on the local NHS. They also discussed work to reduce delayed "transfers of care", where people cannot leave hospital because social care services are not ready to support them. They also discussed the Barking, Havering & Redbridge CCG's operating plan for 2018/2019 and also the pharmaceutical needs assessment report.

The minutes of Health and Wellbeing Board meetings are available on the Redbridge Council website at <http://bit.ly/2Gj5v6W>. Anyone who is interested in any of these items, or who has any queries or feedback, can email Ross at ross@redbridgecvs.net.

There will not be any further meetings of the Board until after the local elections on 3 May.

Public and Voluntary Sectors' Partnership

The last meeting, on 17 January, heard a report

from the Health and Care Partnership and also about Project Malachi – this is the scheme to provide accommodation for rough sleepers in Ilford, on which the Salvation Army is working in partnership with RAMFEL.

The March meeting will hear from Work Redbridge (the Council's employment project) and the Council about their new approaches to community cohesion. The PaVSP will then cease, pending renewal by the administration elected on 3 May.

If the PaVSP does restart, it would expect to draft a new version of the Redbridge Compact. The Compact, which has existed for some years, is an agreement between the public and voluntary sectors on how they work together, including procedures for resolving disputes. There are also plans to host Volunteer of the Year Awards in the autumn, with the presentation taking place at RedbridgeCVS's annual Volunteering Fair.

Safer Neighbourhood Board

Liz reported that the Met Police pilot scheme that began in January last year – which brought together the boroughs of Redbridge, Havering and Barking & Dagenham into one unit – has now become permanent.

One Network member passed on comments from ward panel meeting they attended, to the effect that the merger of three boroughs was not working and officers were unhappy with it. Liz responded that the level of cuts to date, with more planned in future, meant this was the only practicable way forward.

There has been a recent increase in burglaries in the borough: both Ilford North and Ilford South MPs have held large public meetings on this issue. The development of Street Watch is in part a response to this.

Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, visited Redbridge recently and announced that his upcoming budget will include extra police funding. This will mean 1,000 extra officers across London – it's not yet clear how many will be based in Redbridge.

6. Wanstead and Woodford Migrant Support

Andrew Viggers explained that this organisation, which has been in development for some time, is now up and running. They are at the beginning of their development and their resources are limited. They are a Christian charity trying to address the problems that migrants face, and aiming to cover the whole of Redbridge, neighbouring boroughs and into Essex. They are aware of RAMFEL and would like to complement their work. Initially they

plan to provide services for free, and can offer appointments by referral only for immigration matters as well as homeless applications. Shortly they are hoping to be able to provide assistance with NHS healthcare services. Their website is <https://wwms.org.uk/> and they are based at Broadmead Baptist Church, 357 Chigwell Road, Woodford Green IG8 8PE.

7. James Tullet, RAMFEL: Migrants with No Recourse to Public Funds

RAMFEL work with vulnerable migrants, providing a range of different services around advice and destitution support. They run a food bank but legal advice is the biggest part of what they do.

There are two very distinct groups of people who fall into the no recourse to public fund (NRPF) category:

- Those who are in the UK but do not have any leave to remain (for example, they are not a British citizen and don't have a visa)
- Those who have a visa, and are on their way to settling and becoming a British citizen, but who as a condition of their visa are banned from accessing public funds.

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) normally lasts ten years unless you can prove that you are destitute. If a person is destitute, they have to seek advice from someone who is properly qualified to prove this and registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) or the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) – this is the case with all legal work around migration. It is very hard to get legal aid funding for cases involving destitution. Home Office case workers have the power to define the meaning of destitute: it takes 6 to 9 months to get a decision.

Islington Council has set up a NRPF network, which Redbridge has signed up to. They do campaigning work along with The Children's Society, which is trying to get laws changed around being destitute and accessing services. Lots of useful information and factsheets are available at <http://www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk>.

Primary health care (such as seeing a GP) and urgent secondary health care (such as hospital treatment) is available no matter what a person's status is. Doctors of the World provide advice and other services around access to healthcare for migrants: <https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk>.

Together with Healthwatch, RAMFEL have been commissioned to do a small research project around migrants' access to health care in Redbridge. They will be using the report to support

their campaigning and will try and address some of the issues locally.

A question was asked about support for people with mental health issues. James commented that it can take large amounts of money and time to get someone the support that is needed.

RAMFEL have projects that help refugees integrate and get into sustainable employment. They run a local forum for people affected by NRPF. If you are interested in their work, would like advice or would be interested in volunteering for them, more information is available on their website at www.ramfel.org.

8. Terrence Higgins Trust – HIV Prevention

THT is the biggest sexual health charity in Europe and in the UK. They do HIV prevention work in Redbridge and their aims are:

- To raise awareness of HIV and around sexual health in general
- To get people who are sexually active to test and know their HIV status

Twenty-five years ago there was very little point in knowing your HIV status because no treatment was available. The only advantage then was that you might be less likely to infect others. Today, while no cure exists, there is treatment available, and people can expect to lead healthy lives for many years.

Anyone who has been sexually active over the last 30 years has been at risk of infection to some

extent. However, stereotypes about HIV+ people continue to exist. THT work with an HIV+ woman who is a middle-class 70 year grandmother and who goes into schools, colleges and other events to raise awareness of the condition. If people were to meet her socially, most of them would never associate her with HIV.

THT are very adaptable and discreet, and are willing to attend on the terms of any organisation they visit. Alternatively, arrangements can be made for people to attend their offices based in Olympic House on an appointment-only basis. HIV is a matter of public health and the test is available to anyone regardless of your immigration status.

9. Any other business

None

10. Next meeting

We were planning a meeting in April with speakers from the Job Centre and Citizens Advice, which would focus on the introduction of Universal Credit this summer.

Unfortunately, we were unable to get a speaker for this meeting, which as scheduled during the school holidays, so it had to be cancelled.

The next meeting will now take place in May, and will include a discussion of IT issues with Council officers.

We have rescheduled the discussion of Universal Credit for the meeting on 13 June. Speakers from the DWP have confirmed that they can attend.

RedbridgeCVS is funded by:

