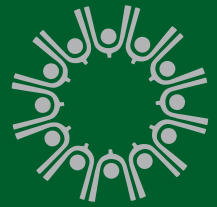


Network

papers for the Redbridge Voluntary Sector Network



Agenda

Theme: Community safety

with domestic abuse services and the Redbridge Enforcement Team
and guest speaker Andy Donald, Chief Executive of Redbridge Council

1 to 2.30 pm

Wednesday 2 March 2016

Sandwiches from 12.30 pm

RedbridgeCVS

5th Floor, Forest House,
16-20 Clements Road, Ilford IG1 1BA

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|--------|--|
| 1pm | Introduction and apologies |
| 1.05pm | Minutes of last meeting
Matters arising
Reports from Voluntary Sector
Representatives |
| 1.15pm | Andy Donald, Chief Executive of
Redbridge Council, on his vision of
the future and relationship with the
voluntary sector |
| 1.45pm | Tracy Cleverly and Gulcan Ocak on
the provision of domestic abuse
services in the borough |
| 2.05pm | Mark Benbow of Community Safety,
Transformation and Enforcement on
the Redbridge Enforcement Team |
| 2.25pm | AOB
Next meeting: Wednesday 6 April |

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More information

If you have any questions about the meeting,
contact Colin Wilson on 020 8514 9616 or at
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Minutes of the Network Meeting

3 February 2016

1. Present

- Angela Banner: Redbridge Pensioners Forum
- Karen Stone: Liberty Credit Union
- Kate Harrison: Run-Up/Redbridge Concern for Mental Health
- Frank Spring: Friends of Dunelm
- Stuart Bellwood: Councillor for Seven Kings ward
- Vera Hunt: Redbridge Voluntary Care
- Harvey Sharpe: Newbridge School
- S.H. Granditer: King of Hearts
- Jagdev Purewal: Panjabi Centre
- Hari Rattu: Imagine Redbridge
- D. A. Gender: nurse
- Sauf Devgun: Charl
- Rita Chadha: RAMFEL
- John Turkson: Redbridge Council
- Ola Kanu: RedbridgeCVS
- Liz Pearce: RedbridgeCVS
- Ross Diamond: RedbridgeCVS
- Colin Wilson: RedbridgeCVS
- Karolina Dylewska: RedbridgeCVS

2. Introductions and apologies

Colin Wilson, the chair, welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Alan Banner.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

Frank informed the meeting about a successful music event that helped to raise £800.

Ross informed the meeting that Redbridge CCG is looking into the GP contract issue, regarding the services such as letter writing that GPs can charge for. An update will be provided as soon as possible.

5. Feedback from Voluntary Sector Representatives

Ross Diamond provided feedback on the following:

Fairness Commission Report

The report was officially launched on 7 December. The Council's response is expected in March.

Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board

The board met on 17 December. The Safeguarding Adult Strategy was approved and Redbridge Concern for Mental Health was reinstated as a full member of the board.

Public and Voluntary Sectors' Partnership (PaVSP)

The meeting on 11 January heard from Lighthouse who are working with Teen Challenge and are opening a "ReUse Centre"

where cheap, high quality items such as furniture and electrical equipment (new or reconditioned) can be purchased at low prices. The PaVSP also heard from Space Hive, a crowdfunding platform which Redbridge Council is supporting to help local people raise funds for local projects in public spaces. They are currently looking for exemplar projects to support and promote. The meeting also heard an update on this year's Redbridge Council grants programme, the forthcoming grants review and Redbridge Council's Transformation programmes (which seek to address the Council's reduced funding).

Budget Consultation

On 14 January Redbridge Council met with voluntary sector representatives to share their plans for Adult Social Care budgeting in 2016/17. Some issues subsequently emerged which will be fed back to the council. Ross encouraged anyone who would like to comment on the budget proposals to let him know.

Enterprise Redbridge

The meeting on 18 January heard updates regarding Redbridge's Business Improvement Districts and from DWP regarding local employment rates.

Health and Wellbeing Board

On 25 January the Board discussed palliative and end of life care. Haven House attended and will become involved in future discussions to ensure that children's issues can be included. The Board also heard plans to develop a local "Accountable Care Organisation" to bring health and social care closer together. A business case for this is currently being developed.

Compact

NELFT has now signed the Compact. The next meeting will take place in March.

Redbridge Council

Ross has met with Andy Donald, the new Chief Executive of Redbridge Council. Andy will attend the next Network meeting to hear from the voluntary sector. Stuart Bellwood suggested that the Network meeting asks Andy Donald about how LBR plans to use its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This is funding linked to local developments (similar, but not identical to Section 106 funding which it replaces). Ross agreed to seek further information on CIL in Redbridge for a future meeting.

6. Proposed Review of Council Grants: John Turkson of Redbridge Council

Corporate Grants and Community Funds 2016-2017

John reminded the meeting that the Emerging Needs and New Initiatives Fund had been merged with the Community Fund in this round. The Council had received 30 applications and there was more money than the applicants asked for (£255k applied for out of £300k available). The Council will need to decide how to use the remaining money. In response to a question about whether the Council has views on why there was an underbid, John said that this was something that would be considered – including as part of a forthcoming grants review. Ola suggested that problems with the form (which contained some errors including a non-functioning link to submit applications) were likely to have had some impact. Rita added that some organisations are concerned with how previous applications have been treated and felt that there

may be a lack of confidence in the process. John said he hoped that the forthcoming grants review would create a funding programme that is fit for purpose.

Corporate Grants Review

John said that Redbridge Council is now starting a formal review of its grants funding for voluntary organisations. The Council is reviewing all its activities as it has to make £58 million savings over the next 3 years. John said that the grants budget this year was £590,000 and it was likely that this would be cut by 15% in 2016/17.

He also said that the current programme is based on the Sustainable Communities Strategy, a document no longer used by the Council, and any new funding programme should address the Council's new corporate priorities. He also wanted to ensure that future voluntary sector funding programmes could address the changing demographics in the borough, the need for community cohesion and the need for stable funding for voluntary organisations. It is also important that the new programme is equitable, transparent and accessible for all those who wish to apply.

John said that the review would also consider whether the Council should continue with a grants programme or move to solely commissioning services from the voluntary sector. John encouraged everyone to let him know about any suggestions of other areas that need to be considered and said that there will be both an online survey and events for voluntary organisations to input to the review, which will be led by an independent consultant. He noted that the council has reduced its voluntary sector team.

Rita suggested that the council look at bringing in more external funding including through a focus on better partnership working with the voluntary sector as part of the review. John agreed that the Council is missing out on external funding and agreed that it would be useful to have a dedicated officer who could look at opportunities. However, he said that it has proven difficult to make such a post sustainable in the past. Rita stressed the value of the work done by Community Fundraiser at RedbridgeCVS, Ola Kanu.

Liz Pearce added that there is a lack of coordination across different sectors where 3 or 4 small pots of money are granted to deliver similar pieces of work. Having someone to coordinate it would enable the borough to make bids for larger pots of money that could then be distributed through the voluntary sector or other relevant partners. Such an approach would avoid unnecessary duplication. John suggested that the Network might raise this issue during the meeting with Andy Donald.

Rita raised the issue about the role of Council's preferred providers, such as Vision Redbridge. She argued that some agencies need to go through transparent bidding processes, whereas certain other agencies do not. She said that Vision is a competitor and grant giver at the same time and is being handed additional pots of money from the Council. John said that this issue had been raised at the recent PaVSP meeting and will be considered.

Stuart Bellwood asked who the Cabinet member responsible for grants and awards is. John explained that Cllr Farah Hussain is Cabinet member for Fairness and Grants and that voluntary sector relations also fall under her remit.

The meeting asked RedbridgeCVS to write to Andy Donald asking for a hierarchy diagram explaining the changing roles within the Council ahead of his attendance at the March Network meeting.

7. Fundraising for Small Groups – Ola Kanu of RedbridgeCVS

Ola explained detailed reasons why groups need funding, citing the London poverty profile 2015. 82% of London's voluntary groups saw an increase in demand for their services in the last year, particularly for advice services and support following welfare reforms. Only 30% were confident that they would be able to meet any increase in demand for services. 23% closed services over the year and 23% expected to close services the next year.

Ola then described current funding landscape, with fewer grant opportunities, more restrictions on organisation and project eligibility, and more groups competing for less money.

She went on to describe small groups, typically heavily reliant on one main volunteer, time constraints affecting the effort needed to make a strong case for proposed projects, and ageing management committees not confident with (increasingly) online grant applications.

Ola also provided some statistics on who receives funding:

- 25% of all UK charities receive nearly 50% of all charitable income
- 85% of all UK charities have an annual income under £100,000
- 54% of all UK charities have an annual income under £10,000
- 85% of charities with annual incomes under £100,000 account for just 5.5% of the charity sector's total income

Since September 2012 RedbridgeCVS have helped local groups raise just short of £1 million by free one-to-one advice and support. Groups are able to find out if they need to strengthen basic aspects of their governance, how to identify suitable funders and funding opportunities, and receive support when making grant applications. RedbridgeCVS has also organised Meet the Funder sessions and fundraising training.

Ola provided some tips for success including:

- check whether your organisation and project fit the funding criteria
- make sure your project responds to an identified need – provide recent local evidence of this
- identify how project participants will benefit in relation to the need, and how this will be measured
- show how your project differs from similar ones
- explain your project costs, and how they relate to your description of your project
- make sure your application is clear, passionate and jargon-free
- provide supporting documents demonstrating good governance
- ask a "critical friend" to read your application well before submission

Ola invited everyone to the planned fundraising training on How to Develop a Strong Grant Application (25 May) and A Quick Guide to Developing a Fundraising Strategy (16 June).

For more information on how Ola can help you, please contact her directly on 020 8514 9617 or email ola@redbridgecvs.net.

Ola also provided a list of crowdfunding websites that can help with raising funds for various activities.

Network members discussed the fact that inner London boroughs like Newham seem to secure and attract more funding and investment as disadvantaged boroughs. Outer London boroughs need to learn from this, as the problems of inner London boroughs are now growing in outer London boroughs like Redbridge

Colin mentioned a recent article from the Guardian highlighting diversity issues. In some areas the numbers of LGBT youth groups has halved in recent years. Those small groups are facing the issues highlighted by Ola in her presentation and, as they were mostly funded by local authorities, their funding is cut due to savings councils need to make. That has an impact on equalities as it is the small groups that reach out to hard-to-reach communities.

Frank raised the issue of community homes that are not being treated as part of community and getting relevant funding, as they do not provide for wider community.

8. Enterprising Redbridge

Ross said that Sophia Hubs has received funding from Awards for All to develop a new programme, to be delivered in partnership with RedbridgeCVS and the consultants Aspiren and Urban Catalysts. The programme will offer online resources and face to face support for voluntary groups wishing to become more entrepreneurial. Ten organisations will be offered free face to face support from business coaches. For more information and registration please visit <http://redbridge.enterprisingcommunities.co/> and complete the very short and simple registration form. (If you cannot access a computer, please contact RedbridgeCVS for help.)

9. AOB

Colin reminded all groups of the benefits of joining RedbridgeCVS as members and encouraged everyone to sign up.

Ross informed everyone about the local NHS consultation on proposed changes to stroke services. On Wednesday 9 March Healthwatch Redbridge will be holding a public consultation event at Forest House. To find out more please contact Healthwatch Redbridge.

10. Next meeting

Wednesday 2 March 2016