

ANNUAL REVIEW

2021 -2022



The impact and importance of the voluntary and community sector has never been so clearly evident as it has during the pandemic.

Our members have been at the heart of the response in Redbridge - from providing essential services and support for residents, to the enormous role that voluntary and community groups and volunteers have played in supporting the vaccination programme and take-up.

Yet as more and more people rely on the sector for support, the future remains uncertain for many local organisations.

In this year's annual report we hope to illustrate the important role that RedbridgeCVS has played in ensuring that the local voluntary and community sector is able to survive the challenges of the pandemic, and in helping our members to build their resilience and regain some stability so that they are able to meet future challenges and rising demand.

Another important aspect of our work has been the role we play in enabling communities to influence the decisions that affect them. This year we have continued to forge new relationships, make new connections, and build stronger partnerships.

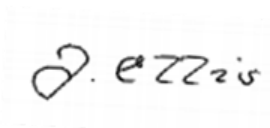
We have seen some big changes in the way that health and social care is designed and delivered, bringing with it opportunities to work more closely together across organisations, sectors and borough boundaries to improve health and wellbeing for local people and communities.

As integrated care systems develop, we have been working closely with our infrastructure and wider sector partners across North East London to advocate for a meaningful and influential role for the voluntary and community sector in system leadership and governance.

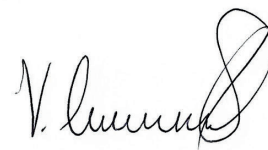
In many ways 2021-22 has been a year of hope and possibility as we begin to emerge from the pandemic and look to the future, but it has also been another challenging year of uncertainty and change.

The successes and achievements set out in this report would not have been possible without the hard work and determination of our team. We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our staff, volunteers and trustees who make RedbridgeCVS what it is and continue to give their all for our members and communities.

Finally, we would like to thank our members, partners and funders for their continued commitment and support.



Jenny Ellis
Chief Officer



Val Cummins
Chair

Supporting a thriving voluntary and community sector

The voluntary and community sector continued to play a vital role in supporting residents and communities through the pandemic and RedbridgeCVS responded quickly and flexibly to meet the needs of our members.

Income generation was a significant challenge for our network as voluntary and community groups faced increased demand and pressure on services alongside loss of some income streams.

We provided development support for **37** groups, including information and advice on legal structures, business planning, governance, policies and procedures, IT and communications.

We delivered **39** training courses supporting the learning and development of **378** staff and volunteers from local voluntary and community groups, with **100%** of participants reporting that they achieved their learning goals.

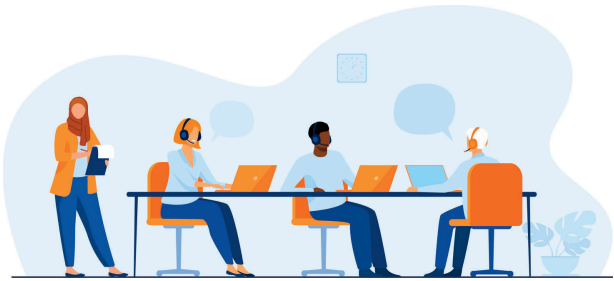
During the year we supported **37** voluntary and community groups with **71** funding applications, helping them to raise **£616,115**.

“All training I have attended either online or in person has been expertly delivered, well-paced and most informative. Ola ranks among the top 1% expert trainers for me. I'm never bored in her class.

For the very first time, even though I have attended a few funding trainings, I clearly understood the difference between outputs and outcomes, how to work from the bottom of the triangle up instead of top to bottom.”



Volunteer Centre Redbridge recruited **207** volunteers to support the work of local voluntary and community groups. They provided expert advice and guidance for **67** groups covering a range of topics including volunteer recruitment, management and recognition.



We also launched a new digital volunteering platform to make it easier for residents to search and apply for volunteering opportunities online.

The new platform allows volunteer-involving organisations to add and edit opportunities and manage enquiries and applications all in one place.

Filter the list

Keyword

e.g. Trustee or Age UK

Duration

☐ One-off ☐ Ongoing

Age

☐ 17 and under ☐ 18 and over

Interests

Nothing selected

Activities

Nothing selected

Volunteers required

☐ Weekday mornings
☐ Weekday afternoons
☐ Weekday evenings
☐ Weekend mornings
☐ Weekend afternoons
☐ Weekend evenings

95 local volunteering opportunities in Redbridge

Search by postcode

Search

Mentoring

Adanna Women's Support Group

As a Mentor you are to offer guidance, support and form a positive one-to-one n

“Redbridge CVS has changed the way we outreach for volunteers. In Hainault Forest, we are currently averaging 10 volunteer sessions a month with more sessions being added in the near future.”



Partnerships and collaboration

Working with London Youth and the London Borough of Redbridge, we supported a pilot project funded by the City Bridge Trust.

The aim of the pilot was to better understand the barriers faced by small youth organisations in Redbridge in relation to accessing funding, to connect small youth organisations with London-based funders, and to inform the development of appropriate and accessible funding streams.

RedbridgeCVS supported the co-design and promotion of a small grants fund for voluntary and community groups working with young people in Redbridge.

In April 2021, RedbridgeCVS partnered with the **London Borough of Redbridge** to host the first of a series of listening events to ensure that women's voices were involved in shaping plans to make the borough a safer place for women and girls.



Women from a range of voluntary and community groups participated in the first of a series of community conversations which informed the development of the council's community safety plans.

Working in partnership with **Ilford Salvation Army** and the **London Borough of Redbridge**, we supported the establishment of a donation centre at Ilford Town Hall. It received hundreds of donations of essential items to support recently arrived Afghan refugees in North East London.



The development of **Integrated Care Systems** (ICS) across England is a major change in the way that health and care will be delivered for everyone. The voluntary and community sector will be a key partner in these new systems. Redbridge is in the **North East London** (NEL) ICS.

We have been working with our local voluntary sector infrastructure partners and other stakeholders across NEL to advocate for a meaningful role for our sector.

As part of this, we commissioned an analysis of existing voluntary and community sector networks and structures, their influence and potential, to inform the development of a new '**VCSE Alliance**' in North East London.

The Alliance will be a key part of the new ICS and a mechanism for the voluntary and community sector in NEL to shape decisions and have a say on important matters which impact our members and local people.

Improving health outcomes and tackling health inequalities

RedbridgeCVS's Young Advisors are a team of local young people aged 15–24 who work with community leaders to help them better engage young people in community life, decision making and improving services.

In 2021-22 the team co-designed a youth social prescribing model for Redbridge and shared their recommendations with local health partners. The team also mapped local youth assets and carried out peer research to better understand young people's views on gaps in provision, where they look for information about services and barriers to access.

Their findings were set out in a report and used to create an interactive digital map of services for local young people, which was shared with local youth groups, schools and other public services.

Our **Adult Social Prescribing Service** continued to experience increased demand for support. In 2021-22 the service helped **347** people to improve their health and wellbeing by connecting them with a range of community services and support. **72%** of clients reported sustained improvements to their mental wellbeing six months after using the service.



Our **Fit for Fun** project worked with **40** local groups to deliver fitness sessions in the community, which reached **713** individual participants who would otherwise be unlikely to take part in regular organised physical activity.



In **2021-22** RedbridgeCVS's Health and Wellbeing Buddies delivered **65** peer outreach and awareness sessions, reaching over **800** people, increasing awareness and understanding of **HIV, TB** and **Covid-19**.

During the year, **100%** of participants reported improvements to their physical health and **69%** reported improvements to their mental health.

Of the participating groups, **96%** reported that they had continued to take part in regular organised physical activity **3** months after the programme ended.

RedbridgeCVS

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