

A Year of Change



We are delighted to introduce this year's annual review, which illustrates RedbridgeCVS's excellence and commitment to supporting, developing and promoting the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Redbridge.

This past year has been a year of transition and change; a new strategy, a new direction and a new way of working under new leadership. It has been both exhilarating and challenging as we have embarked on a bold and ambitious journey to build an organisation for the future.

Embracing new technology has transformed the way we operate and collaborate. Making better use of digital technology has made us a more agile organisation, ready and able to adapt and respond to the challenges ahead. It has also given us the capacity to refocus our time and efforts on the digital needs of our members, with the launch of a new IT support project for the local VCS.

This year we have introduced a new team structure designed to strengthen collaboration and ensure that our members benefit from more joined up, coordinated support, tailored to their needs. By bringing together our capacity building support into one Community Development Team, we are well positioned to expand our reach and increase our impact as our sector is faced with unparalleled pressures and demand amid dwindling resources and a difficult funding landscape.

Towards the end of the year as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, our team responded quickly and creatively to support our members and communities to navigate a new and unprecedented challenge. The response to our COVID-19 volunteering scheme was phenomenal - within days, hundreds of residents had signed up to support the local response effort and our Volunteer Centre Team worked tirelessly to place volunteers with our members and partners providing critical support on the frontline.

As we look to the future and prepare for new challenges ahead, RedbridgeCVS will continue on a journey of transformation and change. Guided by the principles of innovation, collaboration and inclusion, we look forward with determination to both the challenges and opportunities in the year to come.

With thanks to our funders, partners and members, and to our Trustees, staff and volunteers for their continued commitment and support.



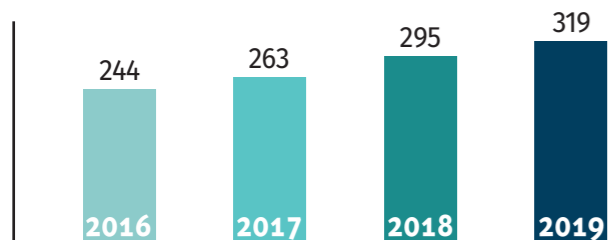
Jenny Ellis
Chief Officer



Val Cummins
Chair

Membership

- 319 local charities and community groups are members of RedbridgeCVS.
- We provide services to help them develop their work, and we provide information about our members to local people and our public sector partners.



Information

- We hosted eight Redbridge Voluntary Sector Network meetings
- We produced 49 email bulletins, sent to over 800 local people and voluntary groups
- Our website includes news, an events calendar, jobs adverts and funding opportunities – it was accessed by around 10,500 people each month

Our website included...



- We also provided regular Twitter updates, received by over 1,300 followers
- We provided and maintained a database of local voluntary and community groups

Development and training

- We delivered 15 training sessions to 101 learners

“Safeguarding training helped me learn how to spot and report all types of abuse.”

Fit for Fun instructor

- We provided support for 75 voluntary and community organisations around good governance, policies, procedures and funding applications

Our support helped Redbridge groups raise

£632,088

for local projects

Partnerships

- We played the role of Compact Champion, ensuring the positive use of the local Compact to enhance the partnership between local voluntary and statutory sector agencies
- We represented the voluntary sector as part of 22 local bodies, including:
 - Redbridge Borough Partnership
 - Child Friendly Redbridge Steering Group
 - Redbridge Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Redbridge Safer Communities Partnership
- We also provided formal support for the elected voluntary sector representatives of the:
 - Public and Voluntary Sectors’ Partnership
 - Safer Neighbourhood Board

Volunteering

- Volunteer Centre Redbridge:
 - hosted a successful Volunteers Fair
 - delivered a National Volunteers Week campaign
 - completed a programme of community outreach events

Volunteer Centre Redbridge referred over

400 volunteers

to local organisations

“Thank you, as always, for your continued support – it is a privilege working with you and your team.”

Salvation Army

Volunteer Centre staff at Wanstead Fair



Responding to the pandemic

This Annual Review covers the period to March 2020, so we’ll include our response to the pandemic next year.

Planning for the Future

Our Strategic Plan 2020-2023 outlines our strategic aims and objectives over the next 3 years. These include:

Facilitating an independent and influential voluntary and community sector

We will:

- Develop and communicate an accurate narrative of the changing social and economic environment in Redbridge
- Develop the capacity of the sector
- Represent the sector to statutory bodies and funders
- Promote collaboration and innovation

Supporting resilient and socially connected communities

We will:

- Use technology to inform, engage and connect
- Develop a broad range of volunteering opportunities reflecting the diversity of the community and its needs
- Develop new opportunities for active citizenship

Building a sustainable and flexible organisation

We will:

- Develop new sources of income
- Work towards becoming more environmentally responsible

A copy of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan is available on our website and on request from the RedbridgeCVS office.



Health Promotion and Partnerships

- Our health partnerships work enhanced collaboration between voluntary groups and the NHS to improve health and wellbeing for local residents.

HIV

- Working in partnership with Positive East, we delivered 32 HIV Awareness sessions reaching out to 1,172 people from at-risk communities.

“It’s excellent that RedbridgeCVS are providing an HIV testing venue for the community.”

Imagine Group

TB

Our trained team of 16 Health and Wellbeing Buddies:

- delivered 50 TB awareness sessions
- directly reached out to 1,131 Redbridge residents from communities at risk of contracting TB

Over 600 people took part in our online TB quiz.

“The TB session was very well delivered and Justyna was very knowledgeable. Our service users really enjoyed the interactive part of the quiz and it helped them to consolidate the knowledge.”

Roma Support Group

Our community sessions reached
1,172 people on HIV
1,131 people on TB

Fit for Fun

- Our Fit For Fun exercise programme delivered activities to 40 local groups. 607 participants, who would otherwise be unlikely to take part in regular or organised physical activity, took part through their community groups.



Avanti Court Mums' Group

“Very good and fun, keeps you fit. Six days I’m inside my house. Seventh day I’m out and exercising and meet lots of friends.”

Shahida, 71

Social Prescribing

- Our Social Prescribing team helped clients across all 42 GP practices in Redbridge to access non-clinical support in the community.

Our Social Prescribing service supported

275 people

“Sometimes all it takes is someone to remind you that you can do it and that’s what they did for me.”

Social Prescribing Client

Helping local people find work

- Our Employment and Skills Team delivered support services including employability support, information, advice and guidance to unemployed residents in Redbridge and across east London following its successful bids to be a lead partner on two multi-borough London Councils/ESF contracts. These contracts proved highly challenging, but the team supported 190 individuals who are unemployed with their journey into work.

