




ISLINGTON

Annual Report of the Executive Member for Community Development

Cllr Kaya Comer Schwartz
Policy & Performance Scrutiny Committee
14 March 2017

Areas of responsibility

- Voluntary and Community Sector (including VCS Grants and Community Chest)
 - Resident engagement:
 - Ward Partnerships
 - Local Initiatives Funding
 - Community Development & Resilience
 - Arts and Culture
 - Equalities and Community Cohesion (including supporting Refugees and Migrants)
 - Licensing
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Voluntary & Community Sector

Launched new VCS Strategy 2016-2020

- Developed in response to consultation with the sector and key stakeholders
- Responds to Council priorities
- Focuses on outcomes for residents
- Recognises the importance of an independent and financially resilient sector
- Places greater emphasis on strategic partnership working between the council and the VCS
- Focus on resources and infrastructure for the sector: financial, physical space and capacity building
- Adopts a whole-council approach



Voluntary & Community Sector

New VCS Grants awarded 2016-2020



Grant fund of £2.68 million per annum awarded to 50 VCS organisations

- § £1.414 million to advice organisations
- § £220,000 to borough-wide partners
- § £395,000 to delivery partners
- § £597,000 to neighbourhood partners
- § £35,000 to a volunteering partner

Long-term (three and a half year) contracts to provide stability for organisations and enable them to plan and develop their offer

Over 100 VCS leaders and Council Officers invited to a celebration and networking event



Voluntary & Community Sector



Islington Community Chest Programme

- Small grants programme in conjunction with **Cripplegate Foundation**
- 2016-17: 44 funding applications for Islington Community Chest
- Of these 30 were awarded a grant (£136,172 awarded with another round of applications in March 2017):
 - 8 projects to **Educate People and Improve their Skills and Employability**
 - **5 projects to Improve People's Mental and / or Physical Health**
 - 2 projects to Improve the Local Environment and Make Communities Safer
 - 13 projects to **Reduce Isolation and Increase People's Involvement in the Community**
 - 2 projects to **Advise and Support People**



Voluntary & Community Sector

Commissioning support

- Islington Funding Toolkit established in partnership with VAI
- Over 50 staff from Islington's VCS and the Council trained to use the resource
- Supported services to run commissioning events for VCS:
 - Play & Community – presenting their annual Commissioning Intentions to Borough-wide partners
 - Public Health – tendering for new Substance Misuse Service (Meet the Buyer event)
 - Market engagement events held by Children's Services and Housing and Adult Social Services to raise awareness amongst VCS of commissioning opportunities



ISLINGTON



Voluntary & Community Sector

New VCS Premises Programme

- VCS Premises Allocation Programme trialled at Weston Rise Community Centre
- Process to be adapted to support allocation of VCS organisations as part of the Council's Community Centre Review, and the Council's S106 planning obligations
- VCS database premises database established
- Review of Council's current allocation of premises to VCS organisations to identify opportunities to provide affordable work space for the sector

To Let: Weston Rise Community Centre

Weston Rise Estate, 187 Pentonville Road, London N1 9NZ
D1 Non Residential Space (46.52 m2 501 Sq Ft)

Due to a recent redesign of its accommodation Weston Rise Community Centre now has three office spaces available for hire for voluntary and community sector groups. The Centre Committee would like to attract and work with groups that complement the current activities within the centre and reflect the needs of local residents.



More details about this property

- The Community Centre is a well-managed facility and is run by a resident-led volunteer committee
- Renovation works were completed in April 2016
- There are 3 office spaces, 2 which could be self-contained
- The hall has a maximum occupancy of 89
- The hall is very busy and is usually booked on the weekend for birthdays, weddings and community functions. The Meeting room is used once per month on Saturday's for a local children's club and occasional meetings of the national consumer council. The hall has a regular booking on Thursday evening
- There is a fully functioning kitchen which is a shared space with the community centre management team
- Wi-Fi is due to be installed by the end of 2016
- The centre is fully wheelchair accessible and has separate female/ male and disability accessible toilets
- The centre is on the 214 TFL bus route.

Location



Closing date and viewings

Application closing date:
5pm Friday 21st October 2017.

To view the available spaces or for more information please email HCDDT@islington.gov.uk

Voluntary & Community Sector



Working with Strategic Partners

- Open Dialogue Event organised with VAI, Octopus, Cripplegate and the Big Alliance to identify support needs for VCS organisations in Islington
- Chartered Management Institute Leadership and Management programme established in partnership with VAI – 68 staff from the VCS, Council and other partners enrolled. The programme is free of charge
- ‘Cally Good Neighbours Scheme’ established in partnership with Housing Operations and Cripplegate
- Joint working with Octopus Community Network to establish an area based focus in two neighbourhoods in the context of the Housing Operations (Homes and Communities) Service Review



Ward Partnerships

- 15 ward partnerships led by ward councillors as community leaders
- Support arrangements reviewed – all ward partnerships now have an appointed coordinator

Local Initiative Fund (2015-16)

- Each ward had budget of £15,000 for small grants for a variety of activities that benefit residents in their ward
- Activities funded in 2015-16 include local festivals/ parties, outings and day trips, education and training classes, holiday activities for young people, environmental improvements and gardening projects



Community Development



Community Centres /Tenants & Resident Associations

- Currently supporting 47 community centres and 58 TRAs

Youth engagement


- Good partnership with Arsenal in the Community, Access to Sports
- **Over 1,000 contacts** with young people per week across range of programmes including:
 - Weekly activities on 9 estates on MUGAs (Multi Use Games Areas)
 - Arsenal Double Club provision on 3 estates - proposal to open two more weekly sessions at Westbourne and Mayville from April 17
- Corker Walk and Westbourne MUGA and ball court facilities opened summer 2016
- Mayville ball upgraded and will open in April 2017
- June 2016 survey of participants and parents/careers reflected a **96% satisfaction rating** with the programme

New projects for 2017

Arts on estates programme (from April 2017)

- Working with Park, Almeida and Little Angels theatre to create programmes to help address issues such as health and wellbeing, isolation, youth mental health issues
- Programme also includes support for a youth music project (Gain Control) and creating an estate based choir
- Application for further funding for this project with Arts Council (March 2017)

Estate gardening project (from January 2017)

- Three year project to be run in partnership with Urban Wild Places
 - Provides support to new and current gardening groups
 - Aim to help tackle health and wellbeing issues, isolation etc and promote intergenerational activities
 - Resident training will be offered and trips arranged for estate gardening groups.
 - From February 17, first newsletter issued to groups offering food and general growing advice
 - Project is supported by funding from the Big Lottery
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2016-2017 Islington's Arts offer

£15m+
Public sector
inward
investment

1076
Listed buildings

23
Galleries and
exhibition
spaces

16
Theatres &
dance venues

17
Other music
organisations
(touring, record
labels, studios)

1,058,454
Total theatre
audiences

18
Theatre and
dance
companies

10
Museums

3
Specials Arts HE
Institutions

4
Orchestras

42
Youth and
community arts
organisation

£198k+
Income
generated
through
filming

26,000
Residents
celebrate
together at
local arts
festivals

Arts and Culture

Achievements and Successes

- *Inspiring Islington* Arts Strategy published in January 2017
- Sets out how a strong and thriving cultural sector will:
 - Support provision of training and employment
 - Contribute to placemaking
 - Increase community cohesion
 - Reduce social isolation
 - Improve wellbeing of those residents most in need from 2017-2020
- Focus on partnership working and brokerage to align limited resources and share expertise

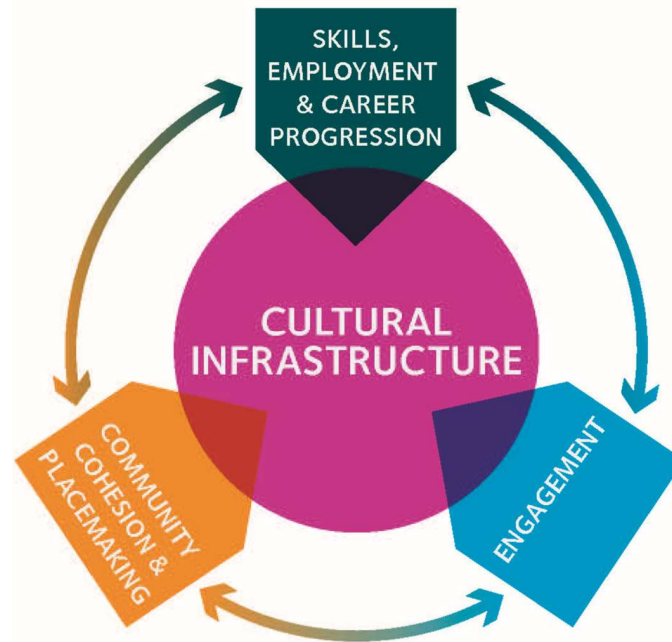


Arts and Culture

Achievements and Successes

Cultural employment programme providing 4 apprenticeships and 10 creative internships leveraging £108k+ local wage contributions plus 2 pilot learning disabled placements

Launch of Dingley Place providing affordable workspace to 200+ individual & SME members plus employability skills, training and integrated cultural programme



Formation of the Islington Cultural Education Partnership a strategic borough-wide consortium aligning resources to address gaps in arts education provision for young people

Installation of two public artworks for Caledonian Road developed in conjunction with residents to reflect the distinctiveness of the local area

Future Focus and Key Challenges

- **Maximising social and economic value:** Strengthening the cultural sector's strategic engagement with key council initiatives such as the Islington Fair Futures Commission, Islington's Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the Economic Development agenda
- **Cultural infrastructure mapping and London Borough of Culture bid:** Developing stronger links with other corporate departments to influence the way the whole Council works with Islington's cultural sector
- **National & regional policy:** Working in partnership with Planning to develop a bespoke local response to the new London Plan's cultural requirements and also with Libraries to support the Society of Chief Librarians' introduction of the new universal 'Culture Offer' in readiness for library accreditation
- **Sustainability & capacity building:** Supporting the sector to lever inward investment to ensure that the needs of residents are met and the sector is properly resourced to deliver activities - in particular sustaining Islington's vibrant calendar of local community arts festivals

Equalities

Recognising, remembering and celebrating key events

- Supported the delivery of key **Equality events** over the last year:
 - Refugee Week
 - All World History, All Year Round (Black History Month)
 - Holocaust Memorial Day
 - LGBT History Month
 - International Women’s Day.
- Marked and promoted key **equality dates**:
 - International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia
 - Bi-Visibility day
 - Inter-Faith Week
 - World AIDS Day
 - International Day of Disabled People
- The Heritage Services launched the **‘Islington’s Pride’ LGBT archive** project in January .



Equalities

Supporting a diverse workforce

- Five council staff forums: Disabled, LGBT, Carers, Women's & BME
- Each forum meets regularly and has held a range of events to support and engage their members. They have also input into HR policies and programmes i.e. the new Trans policy and the Inspiring Leaders programme
- Undertook an analysis of staff equalities data to identify those groups who are under-represented at middle and senior management level as part of the Staff Equalities objective
- Inspiring Leaders programme relaunched to support staff in under-represented groups (including Black and Disabled staff) to develop the skills and experience to progress



Equalities

Tackling inequality through our Equalities Objectives

- In 2015 the Council agreed four year Equalities Objectives around:
 - Tackling the social isolation experienced by adult social care users
 - Tackling hate crime through increased reporting and detection
 - Increasing the proportion of disabled people who are in work
 - Increasing the proportion of BME / Disabled staff at senior level
- Performance measures are included in the corporate performance indicator suite and reported quarterly
- Work around the equality objectives continues. Highlights include the development of a Hate Crime Strategy and an action plan for the progression of BME and disabled staff
- A new Children's Services equality objective has now been agreed around improving attainment for under-achieving groups
- This will focus upon improving outcomes at Early Years, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 for underachieving groups – measures to be added to the corporate performance suite from April

Equalities

Other achievements over the past year

- The annual **state of equalities** report has been updated. This provides an overview of key inequalities in the borough for groups with protected characteristics.
- Advice on individual **Resident Impact Assessments** (RIAs) is provided on an ongoing basis and the budget RIA was completed.
- **Training** on RIAs has been delivered to a number of senior management teams.
- A comprehensive **overview of policy and procedures** relating to equalities has been completed and will be distributed to all new starters and made available for current staff.



Refugees and Migrants



Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation Scheme (VPRS)

- To date, Islington has accepted 9 families comprised of 25 refugees as part of the Syrian VPR Scheme (as of January 2017). One child has been born here
- All families come from countries surrounding Syria – Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt
- Refugee Action meets the families at the airport and settles them into their new home, providing a welcome pack including clothes, household goods and toys for the children
- Week 1 includes GP and ESOL registration, finding school places and getting to know the local area
- 6 out of the 17 adults who have arrived so far are volunteering in their local community and working hard to improve their English. All the children are in school and one young adult (see below) is at college

Refugees and Migrants

Syrian VPRS case example – ‘Yana’

- Yana is 20 and fled Syria in 2013 when her brother was imprisoned and her house destroyed. She went to stay with relatives in Jordan before being selected for resettlement in the UK
- She is the youngest of six siblings who have all been separated and scattered around the globe – they stay in touch via Whatsapp but it is hard and she misses them
- Yana has settled in well in Islington. She has joined a choir run by the Red Cross and recently passed her first accountancy exams at college. She already had fairly good English but this has blossomed as she has made friends at college
- Yana says, “I’m reaching my dreams, step by step. I have so much freedom. I have no fear from anyone. I used to be scared all the time; now I have no fear. I am confident to say my ideas loudly”

Refugees and Migrants

Migrant Families Online Tool

Islington has hosted the NRPF Network since 2006, recognising the combined pressures of national immigration policy on statutory services, the VCS and residents.



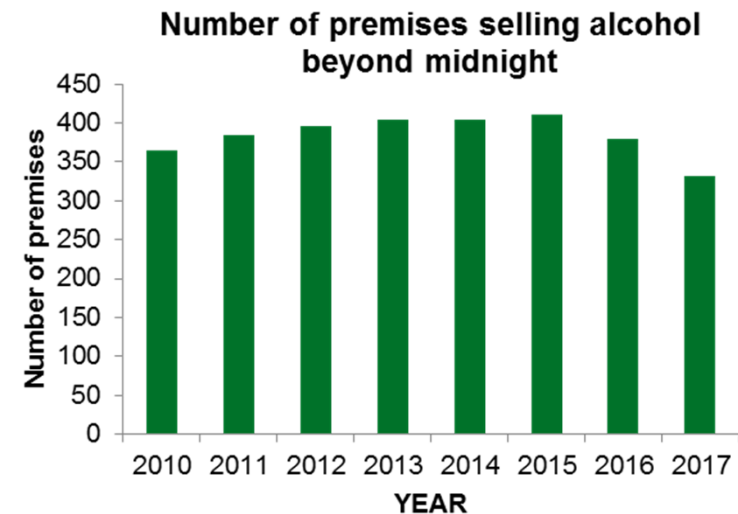
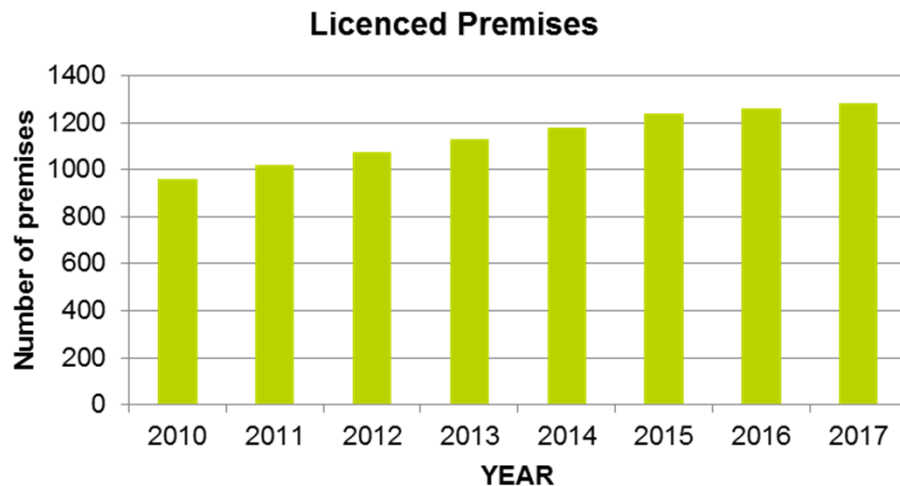
In 2016/2017, The NRPF Network has worked with Oxford University to deliver a national online tool to help protect migrant families cut off from public funds.

The tool is a statement of Islington's commitment to creating a fairer society, including reducing child poverty.

Licensing

Late Night Levy

- Number of licensed premises is slightly increasing year on year but the number open after midnight remains static
- Applications received for new licences tend to be of a high quality and compliant with our policy



Licensing

Operation Nightsafe

Parkguard headline results for Year 2 (Nov 2015 to Oct 2016)	
Assisted members of the public in need	536
Health & welfare checks (people checked due to concern for safety)	724
Medial support provided (NB action avoided ambulance call out on 77 occasions)	97
Crime prevention advice (provided to people in vulnerable position)	157
Incidents involving violent or aggressive behaviour	784
Arrests as a result of patrol intervention	23
Engagement and liaison – public reassurance, information and intelligence gathering	1598
Engagement and liaison- door supervisors & venue owners	1067
Engagement and liaison - police	343

Operation Nightsafe
@Parkguard_NTE

Follow

Team located unresponsive female at roadside nr venue. Assessed & treated by Nightsafe Medic. @MPSIslington @IslingtonBC

RETWEETS 3 LIKES 4

9:20 PM - 21 Oct 2016

3 4



Licensing

Reviews

- The licensing policy is to be reviewed this year to be in force for January 2018
- Licensing and Public Health have partnered with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and they are undertaking a number of academic reviews to gauge the success of our interventions

