

London Borough of Islington

VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE
14 November 2013

Minutes of the meeting of Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD on 14 November 2013 at 6.00pm.

Present:

Councillors: Barbara Sidnell and Richard Watts

Observers: Councillors: Theresa Debono

Also present: Councillors: None

Councillor Sidnell in the chair

111 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)
Received from Councillors Kaseki (observer) and West.

112 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (A2)
None.

113 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A2)
None.

114 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2013 (Item A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

115 LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND (Item B1)
A revised version of Appendix A was laid round, which set out full details of the bids received, which would be interleaved with the formal record of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

(a) That awards be approved as set out in revised Appendix A to the report of the Executive Member for Tenants, Residents and Communities and attached to these minutes, subject to the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Community Partnerships) being satisfied that all necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.

(b) That, subject to the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Community Partnerships) being satisfied that all necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved, authority be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Community Partnerships) to agree the allocation of up to £1,000 each for funding proposals for Christmas-related events received in the run up to the Christmas period.

(c) That it be noted that the Executive Member for Tenants, Residents and Communities would be informed of all events approved under delegated authority.

(d) That the budget amendment for Junction Ward, resulting from project funding being returned, detailed in Appendix A, be noted.

Reason for decision

To assist in developing and sustaining a healthy voluntary and community sector in Islington.

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/note of dispensations granted

None.

116 ISLINGTON COMMUNITY CHEST GRANT AWARDS – ROUND TWO 2013/14 (Item B2)

RESOLVED:

That Islington Community Chest grant awards be approved to the organisations detailed in Appendix A of the report of the Executive Member for Tenants, Residents and Communities.

Reason for decision

To assist in developing and sustaining a healthy voluntary and community sector in Islington. Islington Community Chest enables funding to be directed towards meeting the needs of low income residents and disadvantaged communities.

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/note of dispensations granted

None.

117 “WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH AND POVERTY RELATED ISSUES” – PRESENTATION FROM ROSALIND MILLER, ISLINGTON FAITHS FORUM AND POVERTY NETWORKING FORUM (Item C1)

Rosalind Miller, Islington Mental Health and Poverty Networking Forum and Islington Faiths Forum, gave a presentation on “Working together to address mental health and poverty related issues”.

She described how the Forum had evolved as a result of Islington Faith Forum (IFF) members reporting an increase in the numbers of people with mental health and poverty issues coming to faith venues. The IFF decided on a programme of mental health and poverty training for staff and volunteers at the venues as a way of assisting people with mental health issues. Following a successful bid to the Health and Belief Programme 2011, the training was extended to BME and refugee groups. A later grant from London Catalyst organisation, which the IFF sought to match fund, brought in further funds to support the work. The Islington Mental Health and Poverty Networking Forum was officially established in September 2012 and comprised 30 partner organisations from the third and statutory sectors who worked together to address existing and emerging mental health and poverty needs in the community. She described the work of the Forum in lobbying the Government, particularly to highlight how changes in welfare reform were affecting vulnerable adults, work with local councils in the vicinity of Archway Bridge to deter suicides and work with local mental health services to explore care in the community and to support referrals. There would be a workshop on suicide prevention in February 2014, funded by Islington Public Health, and a conference in March 2014.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the presentation be noted and that Rosalind Miller and the Islington Mental Health and Poverty Networking Forum be thanked for their work in the community.

(b) That the Forum be encouraged to include local community hubs and housing estates in the Borough in their work.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm

Chair