

# Interim update from the Executive Member for Equalities, Communities & Inclusion

November 5<sup>th</sup> 2024

# High level update

Please read the report for a fuller account of the work happening across my portfolio.

## Key achievements

- All 3 Access Islington Hubs up and running providing in-person support across a range of areas of need and delivering Bright Lives Wellbeing Coaching
- VCS Grant Programme 2024 – 2028 launched
- Borough of Sanctuary Grants Programme launched
- Black Cultural Centre grand opening tomorrow!

## Challenges

- Rise in number of asylum seekers accommodated across our 2 hotels
- Impact of years of austerity giving rise to high levels of need in our communities and residents experiencing complex and multiple disadvantage putting a strain on our VCS partners at a time when pressure on local government funding means we can't just give out more money to organisations

## Horizon scanning

- We will undertake a strategic review of our Voluntary & Community Sector to help us think about how we build capacity and resilience in the sector and roll out support that goes beyond grant making
- Refresh of our Challenging Inequalities Strategy