

# Voluntary**Action**Islington

## Policy Briefing - Ward Partnerships

March 2011

### Background

New Ward Partnership arrangements are likely to be in place in Islington from May and June. These mean the cessation of the current four Area Committees, and moving to fifteen councillor lead “partnerships”, which will increase the importance of councillors in relation to the development of their wards.

### Key points

- No funding will be allocated to support the partnerships. They will be supported by a “link” officer from the council.
- In areas with no current neighbourhood steering groups in place the partnership will consist of ward councillors and a council link officer.
- Extension of ward partnership membership will be decided depending on the preferences of councillors.
- Ward councillors will be agreeing priorities for Ward Improvement Plans in March – this is a list of projects and priorities for the ward.
- A £320,000 Local Initiative Fund will be administered by the Council’s Executive VCS Sub-committee, informed by the ward partnerships

### For the VCS

These partnerships move more influence in to the hands of ward councillors and it will be very important that organisations in each ward lobby their councillors on important issues.

Partnerships could essentially consist of just the councillors and an officer. It is at the discretion of that group whether to extend membership or consult groups from the local voluntary and community sector.

---

### More information:

[http://www.vai.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/110328-ward\\_partnerships\\_report\\_exec.pdf](http://www.vai.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/110328-ward_partnerships_report_exec.pdf)

### For questions or comments please contact:

Duncan McLaggan  
Project Officer – Policy and Networks  
Voluntary Action Islington  
E: [duncan.mclaggan@vai.org.uk](mailto:duncan.mclaggan@vai.org.uk)  
T: 0207 832 5829