**ICNC Minutes 16th January 2013**

**In attendence:**

Ruth Hayes Advice Network (Chair)

Mike Sherriff Voluntary Action Islington

Colin Adams Octopus Community Centres

Chris Taylor Voluntary Action Islington (Minutes)

Phil Watson Voluntary Sector Health Network

Rahel Geffen Islington Disability Network

Toufik Kacimi Faiths Forum

Wayne Walton BME Forum

Emma Whitby LINk (Guest)

**Apologies:**

Anita Grant Islington Play Association / Children and Young People’s Voluntary Sector Forum

Nigel Gansell Pensioners' Forum

John MacKinnon Sport Islington

Jonathan Barnes Mildmay Community Partnership

Mark Brennan Homelessness Network

Katy Fattuhi Creative Islington

**1. Previous minutes and matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

**2. Introduction to Healthwatch – Emma Whitby**

EW gave a presentation regarding the transition of the Islington Local Involvement Network (LINk) to Healthwatch. It was emphasised that it will be Healthwatch that will be seen as the voice of the community by statutory partners, rather than the voluntary sector. Healthwatch will have a seat on the Health and Well-Being Board but there will be no seat for VCS partners.

**Action:** MS to raise the issue of the lack of VCS representation on strategic boards with the council.

**Action:** CT and EW to liaise on promoting membership of Healthwatch to ICN members and their network members and advertising LINk/Healthwatch events through the ICN.

**3. ICN Update – possible new members; March event, Influencing Public Decision-Making; ICN bulletin**

Proposals for new ICN members were discussed.

**Action:** CT to invite the Mother Tongue and Supplementary Schools Partnership, Islington Childcare Trust and Islington Mental Health and Poverty Networking Forum to join the ICN

**Action:** CT to invite the Residents’ Champion and/or Vice-Champions to attend the next ICN meeting to discuss representation of tenants and residents on the ICN.

Members were advised of the Influencing Public Decison-Making policy event to take place on the 15th March from 9am-1pm. It is being organised jointly by the Islington BME Forum and the ICN. There will be presentations from Parliament’s Outreach Service on infliencing MPs and Select Committees and from Local Works on the Sustainable Communities Act.

Members considered what information they would like to see in a regular ICN bulletin.

**4. Forums feedback**

RG: The Islington Disability network held the successful International Day of Disabled People event on the 15th of January. It was attended by 150 people.

TK: The Faiths Forum held an event based around a football tournament to engage young people at risk becoming gang members. It is fundraising for an upcoming Faith Debate.

CA: The Community Hubs will be holding an away day to discuss strategy, an action partly prompted by feedback from the Voluntary Sector Conference. They will be providing training for centre managers and, if successful, will facilitate it for ICN members.

WW: The Islington BME Forum is in the process of becoming the independent organisation ‘Every Voice’. More information will be circulated in due course. In the meantime, it would be helpful if members could report any BME related issues that arise within the knowledge of their networks to the BME Forum.

PW: Pro-formas for Expressions of Interest for service developments were circulated. A number of applications have been submitted but not all have had a response or feedback. PW is following this up with Paul Sinden. The CCG has tendered for a Care Administrators posts and are currently interviewing bidders. The Islington Voluntary Sector Health Network will be hold a meeting in March which will include a slot for the CCG with the aim of getting an update on its strategic and commissioning intentions.

MS: VAI trustees will be considering the report from the Voluntary Sector Conference at their next meeting so that they can incorporate its findings into their strategy. The VAI/Children England Children’s Infrastructure Service has been surveying and visiting Islington children’s centres and will be circulating a report in due course. Islington Council has made an expression of interest in the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) Fulfilling Lives: A Better Start initiative to benefit the Hornsey Road area.

[http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/england/fulfilling-lives-a-better-start]

RH: Legal Aid will be curtailed from April and a particular problem will be the loss of funding for the medical reports that are required to appeal a Work Capability Assessment decision. The Royal Courts of Justice and the Citizens’ Advice Bureau are working to match pro-bono legal advice to need. The Islington Advice Network is working on training regarding welfare reform and will be running an event in partnership with the Islington Refugee Forum later this month. The network is preparing a bid to the BLF Advice Transition Fund which needs borough wide support.

**5. Community Chest update: Rob Hamilton**

[The Community Chest panel has not met since the last ICN meeting]

**6. Voluntary Sector Conference – follow up**

Members discussed the draft conference report.

**7. ICN AGM**

It was agreed to hold the AGM in tandem with the next ICN meeting on 20 March. The programme will consist of a meeting of ICN Committee members followed by a networking lunch to which members of ICN networks will be invited.

**Action:** CT to add the following items to the agenda for the next meeting:

* review of chairing arrangements
* re-evaluating the role of the ICN and how to communicate that role
* review of Community Chest representation from the ICN

**8. AOB**

Date of next meeting: 20th March 2013, 10 – 12am, Voluntary Action Islington.