**ICNC Minutes 4 September 2014**

**In attendence:**

Ruth Hayes Advice Network (Chair)

Mike Sherriff Voluntary Action Islington (Chair)

Chris Taylor Voluntary Action Islington

Mark Brennan Homelessness Network

Colin Adams Octopus Community Centres

**Apologies:**

Ros Miller Mental Health and Poverty Networking Forum

Katy Fattuhi Creative Islington

Phil Watson Voluntary Sector Health Network

Deborah Gold Islington Disability Network

Aisha Forbes Islington BME Forum

Adrian Voce Islington CYP Voluntary Sector Network

Liz Mercer Islington Carers Provider Forum

**1. Previous minutes and matters arising**

Two points of accuracy regarding the previous minutes were raised, both on page 3: the post of governor advertised by Camden and Islington Foundation Trust was specifically intended for someone from the voluntary sector; and it is Islington Advice Alliance, rather than Advising Islington Together, that is looking for funding from Islington Council and Islington Giving.

It was confirmed that the vacant governorship at Camden and Islington Foundation Trust has been filled by Andy Murphy of Age UK Islington.

**Action:** CT to confirm to ICNC 25 October as date to attend the Saturday Night Out.

It was reported that the endorsement of the manifesto composed by ICN by all candidates at the voluntary sector hustings event has been used to lobby the newly elected council.

It was agreed to promote the Compact in January, prior to council contract renewals in the new financial year.

**2. ICN Update**

Members were informed that the Carers Provider Forum will be joining the ICN.

It was advised that the welfare reform research project schedule has been pushed back.

**Action:** CT to speak to London Met about volunteers to transcribe interviews.

**3. VAI / LBI VCS Directory**

Members were requested to advertise that the VCS Directory needs to be populated. Daisy Cooney has been employed by VAI to assist with that. In future, organisations will be able to update their own Directory records.

**4. Social Enterprise networking event**

Members were updated on arrangements for this event due on the 16 September.

**Action:** CT to ask social enterprise organisations to advertise the event.

**5. Voluntary Sector Conference**

It was advised that David Robinson from Community Links is confirmed as the main speaker, that invitations have started to be sent out, and that a programme has been drafted.

**Action:** CT to talk to Ruth regarding a possible workshop on immigration status and changes to the rules on EU nationals claiming UK benefits.

**6. Community Infrastructure Levy**

The introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy on development, which is additional to the Section 106 levy, was discussed. An element of the CIL can be used to pay for work away from the development site.

**7. VCS procurement action plan**

The agreement on forward planning in the VCS procurement action plan is currently limited to notice on when contracts will come to an end. This could be extended to include advice on whether the council is likely to re-tender for a contract or to change a contract.

Members agreed that more work around demonstrating impact would be useful. It was thought that alternatives to formal consortia building could be more useful, such as

A council grant to a VCS group/s to investigate the local possibilities for collaboration. Multiple groups could be part-funded to collaborate reciprocally, rather than on the basis of a contractual partnership.

**Action:** MS to chase council on commitment to provide a briefing on Social Value.

**8. Future of ICN: structure, profile, positioning for funding**

The ‘future of the Community Network’ proposal was discussed. There was consensus that in areas of work where networks have ceased to function, or have not existed historically, the ICN Committee could co-opt an expert from a prominent organisation in that field.

It was agreed that if the proposal is accepted, Philip Watson, CEO of Manor Gardens Centre, would be co-opted to provide a voice on health issues.

**Action:** CT to circulate the proposal for comment and endorsement.

Members agreed that the ICN is valuable for VCS collaboration in the borough, that it should continue and should be funded. A new work plan for the ICN over the next year, and an ICN lead on VCS meetings with the council were suggested in this regard.

**Action:** CT to add profile and positioning of the ICN as a major item on the next agenda.

**9. Forums Feedback**

CA – The Octopus AGM has been moved to the 17 October. They are meeting with the council regarding a network for older people. CA is meeting Cllr. Ismail. The Hubs want to improve their marketing to let more people know they’re there.

RH – RH spoke to all-parliamentary group on Legal Aid about the terrible cuts in provision. The DAII advice service, which spoke to 1000 people a year, and its staff have been lost to the borough.

MB – No Second Night Out is now at Hilldrop. Support for the Homelessness Forum is currently dependent on a particular council staff member and there is a danger that a change to their workload may mean reduced support. MB was advised to talk to James Murray and Maxine Holdsworth to ensure that responsibility for the Forum does not rest on an individual.

MS – VAI, with Sport Islington, will hold a workshop on funding for smaller sports clubs on the 22 October. Nominations were invited for the Volunteer of the Year Awards, to be presented at the VAI AGM on the 4 November. Lisa Nandy and Justin Davies-Smith will be speakers at the event. VAI is looking for a new chair.

**10. Community Chest update**

**Action:** CT to check that feedback from the last Community Chest (CC) panel meeting was circulated.

**Action:** CT to find out if CA can substitute for Lucy Bingham at the next CC panel meeting.

**11. Safer Neighbourhood Board**

MB confirmed that he has attended two Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) meetings as representative for the ICN. The SNB has appointed an Executive Board which will set the agenda for future SNB meetings. There is £34,000 available from MOPAC for a ‘Summer Night Lights’ project

**Action:** MB to raise the possibility of an ICN lead on Summer Night Lights at the SNB.

**12. AOB; venue of next meeting**

It was noted that another ICNC meeting between October and January may be expedient.

Future meetings:

22/10/14 2 - 4pm

28/1/15 2 - 4pm