

Dear ICN members and partners,

This month [Universal Credit](#) begins to be rolled out for newly unemployed single people in Islington – making the release of the ICN report [‘It’s no fun being on benefits’](#) very timely.

If you have an event coming up, a new project, or anything else you’d like to share with Islington’s voluntary and community sector, please contact me: christopher.taylor@vai.org.uk. Please note that this newsletter, and past editions, are also available [online](#).

Network News and Information

The ICN, **Every Voice** and **Advising Islington Together** report [‘It’s no fun being on benefits: A study into experiences of Welfare Reform in Islington](#) was launched on the 6 October at the Advising Islington Together Conference. [Jeremy Corbyn sent a statement](#) to the conference commending the report – and [we even made the national press!](#)

Members updates

Disability Action In Islington is now open for a [Drop-In Advice Coffee Morning](#) on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10-1pm. They offer a basic advice and signposting service and can help with filling in basic forms: Freedom Pass, Blue Badge, Dial a Ride etc. Visit them at 90-92 Upper Street, London, N1 0NP.

The latest **Voluntary Action Islington** [Funding Booklet](#) has been published.

‘How can Faith Communities Respond to Disaffection and Violence among Young People?’

17 November 2015, 6 - 8.30pm, The Henry Thomas Lecture Hall at London Metropolitan University, Tower Building, 166-220 Holloway Road, London N7 8DB

Islington Faiths Forum’s annual lecture & debate returns. For full details and the programme, [see the flyer](#). To register for this event please email: info@islingtonfaithsforum.org.uk.

Islington People’s Rights 2015 AGM

17 November, 6.30pm, Resource for London, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA

Emily Thornberry MP will be addressing the [IPR AGM](#), as well as Cllr Richard Watts, the Leader of Islington Council, and Carolina Gottardo, the Director of the Latin American Women’s Rights Service (LAWRS). The AGM ends with informal refreshments and an opportunity to network with IPR Staff, Trustees, Partners and Clients. Please [register to attend](#) by the 10 November.

Islington Refugee Forum Annual General Meeting (AGM)

3 December 2015, 10am - 2pm, Committee Room 4, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD

[You are invited](#) to the Islington Refugee Forum AGM. To join the meeting, please complete the [booking form](#) and return to info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org.

Events

London Fairness Commission - Open Space event

9 November, 10am to 4pm or 6 pm to 8.30pm, Museum of London, Terrace Gallery

Following Islington's example, London has established a Fairness Commission. The commissioners are very keen to hear from the voluntary sector and those who volunteer within their local community. Open Space allows everyone at the meeting to raise the issues that matter to them, share and develop ideas and consider recommendations for the future. For details of the event and to book, [visit the website](#).

Commissioning and Women's Services

12 November, 9.30am – 2.00pm, St. Hilda's East Community Centre, 18 Club Row, London E2 7EY
This event will equip your organisation with knowledge on commissioning, give you the opportunity to network and provide you with information on building partnerships. It is open to organisations working to support those affected by sexual and domestic violence in London, with a focus on boroughs including Islington. For more information, [see the website](#).

Universal Credit and Welfare Benefits Reform

17 November 2015, Shelter Training, 4 Garrett Street, London EC1Y 0TY
This FREE Training Course aims to provide an introduction to Universal Credit in the context of the wider benefits system, so that participants will be able to successfully complete basic benefits checks and maximise income on behalf of their tenants and service users. To request places [click here](#).

ARVAC Annual Conference & AGM: Keeping it local: supporting independent community groups

19 November 2015, 11.15am – 4.30pm, London Welsh Centre, 157-163 Grays Inn Road, London, WC1X 8UE
An opportunity for academics, researchers, voluntary sector workers, volunteers and consultants to learn from speakers and each other about how community research can support local independent community groups. There will be workshops on getting started and research skills for community organisations. Entry is FREE but [advanced registration is essential](#).

Briefing: Becoming a partner in the University College London Global Citizenship programme

9 December, 10:30 - 12:00, Voluntary Action Islington, 200a Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JP
Find out about the [Global Citizenship programme](#), involving University College London students. Each participating organisation will host a team of 4-8 UCL students who are passionate about the voluntary sector. That team will learn about working life in the organisation and complete a project of your choosing whose output will add value to your organisation. [Book your place here](#).

News & Policy

For the latest news on **social enterprise**, visit our [Facebook group for local social entrepreneurs](#).

The next meeting of **Islington Health and Wellbeing Board** will be on 20 January 2016 at 1pm. Meetings are open to the public. See all information, including recent minutes, [here](#).

Healthwatch Islington has developed two workshops for its members and partners and the wider voluntary and community sector: [Community Engagement](#) on 24 November and the [Equalities Act \(2010\)](#) on 1 December. The courses are suitable for volunteers and paid employees and utilise a range of case study material drawn from health and social care settings.

Local Mental Health crisis telephone lines have recently been taken over by [Camden & Islington Foundation Trust](#). There are two new numbers: 020 3317 6333 for those already under CIFT

care; 020 3317 6777 for those who are not. Both lines are open 24 hours daily, every day and are answered by clinicians.

Islington Mind's [Enablement Service](#) offers Islington residents with mental health problems, or a history of mental health problems, personalised time-limited support to enable them to maintain or achieve independent living. People can self-refer, or be referred by a statutory or voluntary organisation or their GP. An electronic referral form is available on the [Islington Mind website](#).

Islington Clinical Commissioning Group's Social Sector Forum meeting took place on the 8 October. Papers from the meeting include the [agenda](#), [notes of discussions](#), and presentations on the [CCG's commissioning intentions](#) and the [Islington Adult Social Care & Joint Commissioning Market Engagement Strategy](#).

A [free legal advice clinic](#) is running on Thursdays, from 1-2pm, at **Caxton House Community Centre**, thanks to **Burke & Niazi** solicitors.

The **Minister for civil society** has backed campaigning as a '[legitimate and valuable activity](#)' for charities.

A number of national charities have come together to form the [Strategic Alliance on Migrant Destitution](#) and have produced a useful report: [models of accommodation and support for migrants with No Recourse to Public Funds](#).

The **Peel Centre** is hosting **Construction Youth Trust's** [free taster courses in construction](#) for 14-30 year olds.

Funding & Support

Islington Giving is launching a new funding programme and campaign, [It's Me it's You](#) that challenges voluntary and community organisations in Islington to increase access and support for people with, or at high risk of developing poor mental health. With a focus on young people during its first phase, Expressions of Interest are now invited by **12pm 11 December 2015** from organisations that can help promote positive mental health and wellbeing for young people, aged 10-27, while preventing the escalation of problems that contribute to poor mental health. To attend a Briefing Event on 20 November 2015 from 2-4pm, contact mail@islingtongiving.org.uk.

The third round of **Islington Council's** [Community Chest Fund 2015/16](#) is open, with up to £5,000 available for community organisations that work with Islington residents and have an annual turnover of less than £100,000. The deadline for applications is **12 noon on Monday 11 January 2016**. For more details, including about two drop-in information sessions where you can discuss your project with a Programme Officer, [see the flyer](#).

Islington Council is running [free workshops and training sessions](#) designed to help organisations submit better bids to councils.

HMRC has published [new gift aid declarations](#) for [one-off donations](#), [multiple donations](#) and [sponsored events](#).

The **Directory of Social Change** is running two days of [practical fundraising training and information](#) for fundraisers at all levels. There will be 34 workshops over the 19 and 20 November 2015 at Resource for London on Holloway Road.

London Voluntary Service Council has a new [Partnership Directory](#) for organisations looking for ESF (Big Lottery, SFA or DWP) partners in London. It currently lists around 160 organisations, contains an advanced search function and allows organisations to upload and manage their own listing.

The three day [Leap Confronting Conflict](#) course explores young people's patterns of behaviour and participants are able to examine the difficult situations they face, identify the benefits of taking responsibility and consider new strategies when faced with conflict. Leap are particularly interested in working with organisations in Islington.

Communities interested in opening a community shop can apply for a grant of between £20,000 and £30,000 from [Our Urban Shop](#). You will be required to be able to match fund by a range of other sources. **Deadline: 18 December 2015.**

The [Charity Governance Awards](#) celebrate outstanding governance in charities both small and large. Share your charity's work and win £5,000 to help you do more of it. **The deadline for entries is Friday 15th January 2016.**

Veolia Environmental Trust Funding can be granted within 5 core categories: Community buildings, Parks and paths, Play and recreation facilities, Nature reserve and Supporting biodiversity. The average award is between £20,000 to £40,000 with a maximum of £100,000.

The **Skills Funding Agency's Register of Training Organisations** has opened for applications. You need to be on the Register to apply as a lead partner or substantial subcontractor under the forthcoming SFA European Social Fund projects (which are due to launch imminently). It will close at **5.00 p.m. on Friday, 13 November.**

Consultations

Islington Council is consulting on an applications from a community group, the **Mount Pleasant Association**, who are seeking to be designated as a Neighbourhood Forum and to designate a Neighbourhood Area. The proposed Neighbourhood Area falls within both the boroughs of Camden and Islington. [Visit the website](#) for more information, including on what it means to designate a Neighbourhood Area and Forum. Any comments must be submitted by **Friday 20 November 2015.**

A [consultation on Crossrail 2](#) is underway. The proposed new railway would run underground through London and through Islington via Angel. The proposals are at a very early stage of development and subject to funding and approval, the earliest the scheme could be open by is 2030. Drop-in consultation events will be held at Angel Station Central Piazza, 21 Parkfield St, London, N1 0PS, on the 16 and 17 November from 12 - 8pm. The consultation will run until **8 January 2016.**

Volunteering

On 4 November some of our borough's finest volunteers were honoured at the [Islington Volunteer of the Year Awards](#) 2015.

If you've given 100 hours of your time to a registered charity in Islington (and in other boroughs), you could enjoy a range of discounts and gifts at local shops by applying for a [ValueYou](#) card.

Islington Volunteer Centre can help you to find volunteers and volunteering opportunities in the borough: www.vai.org.uk/volunteering.

London Living Wage

It's Living Wage Week and [the London Living Wage has increased](#) from £9.15 to £9.40 per hour.