

Dear ICN members and partners,

This month we're trying to be optimistic about the government's spending review. See the News and Policy section for commentary on what it means for the voluntary sector.

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

Islington Community Network representatives meet again on the 9 December for discussion with Cllr. Asima Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic and Community Development. Council officers will also present on the forthcoming council grants programme. All relevant information will, of course, be shared.

Members updates

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.

Are you Ready for Universal Credit

15 December, 12.30 - 2.30pm, Hanley Crouch Community Association, The Laundry, 19 Sparsholt Road, London, N19 4EL

Islington BME Forum are hosting this opportunity to find out more about the introduction of Universal Credit, which will first of all affect newly unemployed, single Islington residents. To register please email Despina at despina@everyvoice.org.uk.

Events

Islington Community Wellbeing Development Service – Quarterly Community Conversation

4 December 2015, 10am - 2.00pm, Islington Customer Centre, 222 Upper Street, London, N1 1XR.

The focus of the day will be **BMER and cultural competency in mental health provision in Islington**.

There will be opportunities for you to share your views in workshop discussions and a question and answer session with panel speakers. Please [see the flyer](#) for more details. Please R.S.V.P. by 25th November 2015.

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](#).

Skip Garden's Fire Feast

17 December 2015, 18:00 - 22:00, The Skip Garden, Tapper Walk. King's Cross. N1C 4AQ GB
Global Generation's Skip Garden is hosting this fundraiser. [Tickets](#) will get you music, entertainment, food and a beverage of your choosing (plus there's a cash bar).

Rethink University: Don't let Mental Health hold you back

24 January 2016, 11am – 5pm, Rethink, 15th Floor, 89 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7TP
As part of the BLF Step Up: transitions project running across Islington, Lambeth and Hammersmith and Fulham **Rethink Mental Illness** are running a new [free open workshop](#) on for anyone 16-25 who is thinking of going to university or currently a university student and is worried about their mental health.

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](#).

The government's **Spending Review** was delivered yesterday and **London Voluntary Service Council** (LVSC) are compiling an [overview of the implications for the voluntary sector](#) on a blog. There are also responses to the review from [NAVCA](#) and [NCVO](#).

Homeless Link has published the [London Winter Shelters list 2015-16](#).

Islington council has launched a campaign to provide information to residents on how they can reduce their energy bills and save money and energy this winter. See their new '[Save energy, save money](#)' website for more details.

Make It Work, a new advice service at Citizens Advice Islington aims to improve the lives of workers, self-employed and small businesses who work, operate or reside in the London Borough of Islington. Contact makeitwork@islingtoncab.org or [see the flyer](#) for more details.

Islington Council's Leisure Team has put together a document outlining [what's on offer for groups delivering sports and activities](#) in the borough.

If you are an Islington resident with an entrepreneurial idea you could get a free package of from [Firm Futures](#), a collaboration between law firm Slaughter and May, **St Luke's Community Centre** and Centa Business Services. Drop in to information days at St Luke's Centre, (90 Central Street, EC1V 8AJ) 1pm-5pm on Tuesday 8th December 2015;
Remploy - Caledonian Road branch (1st Floor, Delta House, 4-10 North Road, N7 9EY) 1pm-5pm on Thursday 10th December 2015. The deadline for applications for the first programme is **12 January 2016**.

At **Voluntary and Community Sector Support (VCSS) Camp 5**, people shared the [free, online IT resources](#) they use for social media, marketing, project management, client relationship management and more. A similar (but not the same) [list of favourite apps](#) was shared at **LVSC's Keeping it Human in a Digital Age?** event.

[Free Mind Health Resources](#) created by **The Direct Action Project @ The Peel Centre** are ready for

you to download. They can help you talk about mental health in creative, enjoyable and positive ways in your organisation and with your friends and family.

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.

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 Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) invites bids for the [Community Wellbeing Extension Project](#) by **Wednesday 16th December 2015 at 12pm**.

[Cockayne grants](#) are focused on arts projects in London that provide opportunities to artists from diverse cultures for the creation, development, performance, or exhibition in the performing (music, opera, dance, theatre) literary, or visual arts. The closing date is on the 7th of January.

The London Community Foundation is delighted to launch a new round of [The MOPAC Victims Fund](#) to benefit victims of crime across London. The **deadline for applications is Friday 15th January 2016 by 5pm**.

The **Movember Foundation's** [Social Innovators Challenge Fund](#) is offering grants for innovative 'out of the box' ideas that address the hidden issues of male social connectedness, which is an issue that has a significant impact on the health of men, including increased risk of suicide, depression and anxiety. The deadline for applications is 9th December.

Consultations

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](#).

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

London Living Wage

Islington Refugee Forum in partnership with the **London Living Wage Foundation** held a 5 November breakfast event to raise awareness and highlight the importance of the Living Wage (LW). [Read the report here](#).