

Dear ICN members and partners,

This month Voluntary Action Islington is advertising for a new Chief Executive. Please help to ensure excellent candidates for this important role by sharing widely.

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

Council officers joined the 9 December Islington Community Network meeting to discuss the forthcoming council grants programme. Details can be found in the [minutes of the meeting](#).

Members updates

Voluntary Action Islington is [advertising for a new Chief Executive](#). The closing date for applications is 9am on 18 January 2016 and interviews will be held on 25 January 2016.

Voluntary Action Islington and **Manor Gardens** celebrated Human Rights Day by signing the [Human Rights Day letter](#) along with 150 other organisations.

An informative [presentation on Universal Credit](#) was delivered by Ian Smith, from the DWP, at a recent **Islington BME Forum** event. The DWP has put together a [Universal Credit Toolkit](#).

Disability Equality Training for BME Organisations in Islington

18 January, 10am -1pm, Voluntary Action Islington, 200a Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JP
Islington BME Forum and **Disability Action in Islington** invite you to a training session for BME organisations in Islington to develop an understanding of the Social and Medical Models of Disability, inclusive disability related language, the equality framework and disability equality legislation. To register please email Despina: despina@everyvoice.org.uk.

Events

Understanding Hate Crime

19 January 2016, 9.30am - 1pm, London Voluntary Service Council, 200a Pentonville Road, N1 9JP
This free learning session will explore the nature and impact of hate crime against London's diverse communities. It will help you understand the legislation around hate crime, which can sometimes be confusing. For more information, and to book, [see the webpage](#).

Demonstrating Impact

28 January, 10am – 4pm, Voluntary Action Islington, 200a Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JP
Partnership for Young London is working together with **Voluntary Action Islington** to deliver this training course for small to medium voluntary and/or community sector organisations working with children, young people and families. The course is based around how to use a [Theory of Change](#). For more information, and to book, [visit the webpage](#).

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 has a list of the [top ten things to know about the new Tax-Free Childcare scheme](#).

Islington Council has prepared a [factsheet on prepayment meters](#) as residents using them are likely to be paying a premium for their utilities.

People in Camden, Islington & Westminster can get free, confidential and independent debt and budgeting advice from the specialist debt advice team at **RCJ Advice** and **Citizens Advice Islington**. Call 0800 802 1655 between 9am – 7pm each weekday throughout January and February 2016. [See the flyer](#) for more details.

Rethink Mental Illness offers open [mental health first aid courses](#), which are open to anybody who works, lives, studies or volunteers in Islington.

Islington Council has teamed up with a number of arts organisations to create a portfolio of [apprenticeship and internship opportunities in the creative sector](#). They are seeking applications from 16 – 24 year old, unemployed (NEET) Islington residents by **noon 22 January 2016**.

The [Recovery College Prospectus for Spring 2016](#) is now available. Courses help people suffering from mental and physical ill-health get back on their feet and are co-designed and taught by people with lived experience and medical professionals.

January is a time for making resolutions and changes so why not take advantage of **Islington Council's** [support for positive steps to be healthier in 2016](#)? There are several ways to make a big difference to your health from taking a break from drinking alcohol to getting more exercise or quitting smoking. If you're aged between 35 and 74 you can get a [free NHS Health Check](#) to ensure your lifestyle isn't negatively affecting your health.

Funding & Support

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](#).

The **Tech Surgery** provides registered charities with [free independent IT advice](#). The offer is optimised for organisations turning over between £50K and £5M.

The **Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation** accepts applications at any time for [grants to support capital projects](#) (new build, refurbishment, equipment or transport) in the following categories: Community, Education, Health and Social Welfare.

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 15 January 2016 by 5pm.**

[Voices from the Frontline](#) is a new grant programme from **Rosa**, the UK Fund for Women and Girls, aiming to increase the skills, capacity and credibility of women who wish to challenge gender inequality and promote awareness and change. The closing date for applications is the **11 January 2016.**

The **Veolia Environmental Trust** is a Distributive Environmental Body that awards grants of up to £75,000 to support the natural, social and built environment as part of the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). The next deadline is the **26 February.**

Volunteering

Islington Play Association is [advertising for experienced trustees.](#)

Volunteers are needed to help support **Shelter's** annual [Vertical Rush](#) fundraising event – a sponsored run up a skyscraper with 1200 people anticipated to take part. [Full details here.](#)

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

London Living Wage

In November, **Islington Council** became the [first to be awarded 'Friendly Funder' status](#) by the Living Wage Foundation and Citizens UK. This means that charities and voluntary organisations will only receive funding from the council's core grants programme if they pay a Living Wage.

The **Resolution Foundation** is trying to [clear up confusion](#) between the government's 'national living wage', to be introduced in April, and the Living Wage.

The new not-for-profit campaigning organisation **Living Staff Living Wage** is holding a [launch and fundraising event](#) on the 6 February from 6 - 11pm. LSLW is made up of activists from the initial Ritzy cinema workers campaign for a living wage.