

Dear ICN members and partners,

This month it's time to warm up your bid-writing muscles as grants and tenders galore open for applications, most significantly from the council.

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

Following a final discussion with Islington Community Network, **Islington Council's [VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2016-2020](#)** has launched. Over the next four years the Council will be protecting the central grants programme funding for work undertaken by the Voluntary & Community sector, despite continued cuts to its funding from government. The programme has been divided into five strands:

- Delivery Partners (Grants of up to £20,000)
- Strategic Borough-wide Partners (Grants of up to £40,000)
- Strategic Neighbourhood Partners (Grants of up to £60,000)
- Strategic Volunteering Partners (Grants of up to £20,000)
- Strategic Advice Partners (For specialist advice organisations, offering grants of up to £550,000 per strand)

There will be a number of Q&A sessions for each programme. The deadline for all applications is **Friday 4th March 2016 12:00 (noon)**.

Members updates

Voluntary Action Islington has successfully applied to City Bridge Trust for the two year [Strengthening Volunteering Project](#) that works with local organisations to develop and improve the induction and management of volunteers. Organisations interested in being involved in the second stage of this project, beginning in April 2016, should email Yvette Ellis: yvette.ellis@vai.org.uk.

Connecting local community organisations and businesses

3 March, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Voluntary Action Islington

Voluntary Action Islington is collaborating with **Islington Chamber of Commerce** on this speed networking event to connect local businesses and voluntary organisations. It is specifically aimed at smaller businesses and community organisations, who are often not in a position to be involved in larger corporate social responsibility initiatives. Places for this event are limited, so please forward the name of your organisation or business, name and role of the person who would be interested in attending and email contact details to Elinor.hopson-hill@vai.org.uk by Friday 12th February to apply.

Multi Faith and Community Services Celebration

16 March 2016, 9.45 – 14.00, Assembly Hall, Islington Town Hall

Islington Faiths Forum (IFF) would like to invite faith and community partner groups to come and hold a stall for the day, to promote their services and exhibit information on community

services. There will be live entertainment and inspiring story slots so please refer any local group who would like to perform or present. Please [see the flyer](#) for more details and complete and return the [reply slip](#) to register your attendance.

Events

Camden & Islington LGBT History Month 2016

February, various venues

Camden and Islington will host the country's largest programme of events for LGBT History Month. The launch event of the London National LGBT History Festival will be held at Islington Town Hall on the 5 February. The Mayor of Islington will open the free event and speakers include Peter Tatchell, Professor Jeffrey Weekes, Roz Kaveney, Angela Eagle and many more. For a full list of events, see the [Camden & Islington LGBT History Month 2016 programme](#).

Community buildings - what you need to know and where to find it

10 February 2016, 4.45 – 7.00pm, 7 Bedford Row, London, WC1R 4BS

VAI's **Building Assets** social enterprise is running a free seminar with Russell Cooke solicitors which will help managers of community buildings, trustees and management committee members to: be aware of the key issues when taking on, running or leaving your premises; identify and manage risks; and find and use sources of good advice and guidance. RSVP: Contact janetk@building-assets.co.uk, 020 7832 5883, or the events team on charityevents@russell-cooke.co.uk.

FREE alcohol awareness and advice training

22 February 2016, Morning session: 9.30am to 12.30pm, Afternoon session: 2pm to 5pm, Voluntary Action Islington, 200a Pentonville Road, N1 9JP

HAGA, the alcohol action charity, are offering two free training sessions for Islington professionals, volunteers and residents. The training will support you in having healthy conversations about alcohol. You will learn how to use an alcohol screening tool and give brief advice to support people to cut down or stop drinking. Book for the [morning](#) or [afternoon](#) session.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Transformation Plan VCS Engagement Meeting

24 February, 10 am, LIFT, 45 White Lion Street

Islington Clinical Commissioning Group has developed this plan in partnership with the Local Authority and other key partners, setting out how to further develop mental health services for children and young people. The plan aims to develop 'services delivered by the Voluntary and Community Sector to improve access and take up of services, with a focus on delivery of outreach services.' More information and contact details to RSVP will follow.

LGBT and Mental Health – Addressing Public Attitudes: Promoting Acceptance, Dignity and Social Inclusion.

29 February 2016, 9.30am and 2.00pm, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD

The third Quarterly Community Wellbeing Conversation run by **Islington Community Wellbeing Development Service** will give opportunities for you to share your views in workshop discussions and a question and answer session with panel speakers. [See the flyer](#) for more details. Please R.S.V.P. by 12 February 2016 to help with our catering plans as lunch will be provided.

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 April 2016 at 1pm. Meetings are open to the public. See all information, including recent minutes, [here](#).

Islington Community Education Provider Network has developed an [Integrated Workforce Development Training Programme](#) to bring health and social care closer together to improve the standard of care for patients and service users. All training provided by CEPN is free and open to all staff across Health and Social Care, including the voluntary sector.

Monday 29 February - Sunday 6 March 2016 will be [Islington Reads](#) week, including World Book Day on Thursday 3 March. If you have any book inspired events you are planning please contact the **Islington council** run campaign and they will promote them for you during the week.

The **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** has published the latest of its annual [Monitoring poverty and social exclusion](#) reports. The data in the report may be useful when developing proposals and funding bids.

Get the best out of your website by seeing how it's used: this [video tutorial on Google Analytics](#) (a free to use tool) from the **Technology Trust** will help you find the data.

A useful spreadsheet detailing the days, times and places where [Islington Emergency Food Provision can be found](#) has reached me via the council's **SHINE** team.

Research suggests that on council estates an average of 40% of households have at least one prepayment meter, which some people prefer as it can help them budget and stop them getting in to debt with their bills. **SHINE** has made [some short films about prepayment meters](#) and the problems that can arise with their use.

You can also sign up for an energy and water debt training course with **SHINE**. Contact them on 020 7527 8203 or at shine@islington.gov.uk for more details.

Whittington Health have compiled a [list of local pharmacies that provide Stop Smoking support](#).

The Erasmus+ funded [Abused No More: Safeguarding Youth and Empowering Professionals](#) website will address existing gaps in the provision of legal education for young minority ethnic women affected by gender-based violence (GBV) including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), rape and forced marriage.

Funding & Support

Following consultation, **Cripplegate** will be continuing its [Main Grants Programme](#) and in addition will be launching a new Development Partner Programme and has written a [brief guide to the changes](#). The [Community Chest grant programme](#), in partnership with Islington council and overseen by a panel including Islington Community Network members, is open for applications for 2016/17. The deadline for applications to the first round of funding is **12 noon on Monday 9th May 2016**.

Islington Council's [Community Festivals Fund 2016/17](#) is open for applications until **12 noon on 24 Feb 2016.**

MAXIMUS is interested in tendering as a prime contractor for European Social Fund Opt-In opportunities and is [inviting Expressions of Interest](#) from experienced local organisations which might want to be supply chain and/or specialist provision partners.

The **First Utility Foundation** has a [grant programme](#) offering between £3,000 - £20,000 per annum for work on improving the lives of people with disabilities; to help the elderly; and to support vulnerable families and children. Grants may cover core costs. The deadline for initial applications is 29 February.

Islington Council is inviting Expressions of Interest for:

- [Direct Action Project](#) by 7/3/2016 for service starting 1st June 2016.
- [Community Health and Wellbeing Promotion Service](#) by 26/02/2016 for service starting 1st June 2016.
- [Mental Health Supported Housing Service](#) by 17/02/2016 for service starting 1st July 2016.

Workshops, training and information sessions are available from **Islington Council** in response to identified needs to aid suppliers, including from the voluntary and community sector, to put forward better bids. Forthcoming free workshops are:

- Completing a PQQ – Tuesday 9 February 2016
- Completing an ITT – Tuesday 23 February 2016
- Consortia Bidding – Thursday 17 March 2016

If you are interested in attending please complete the [booking form](#) and send it to procurement@islington.gov.uk.

The **Skills Funding Agency** has launched its first [ESF 2014-20 tendering round](#) in London covering a number of strands under the ESF Youth Programme. The deadline for applications is **5pm Friday 5th February 2016**.

The **Natwest [Skills & Opportunities Fund](#)** offers grants up to a maximum of £35,000 to help people in disadvantaged communities develop, create or access skills and opportunities that will enable them to get into work or start a business, now or in the future. Applications will remain open until **19 February at noon**.

GLL Sport Foundation is the largest [athlete support programme](#) in the UK, with benefits including: access to over 250 GLL and partner operated sport and leisure venues across the UK; access to sport science and physiotherapy; and - £200 - £1,250 financial awards. Applications are open until **20 February**.

Volunteering

Healthwatch Islington is holding [elections for its Steering Group](#), there are six seats up for election. Individuals and representatives from local community organisations are welcome to stand. See the [role description](#) and [application form](#) for more details. Applications must be submitted by **10am on Wednesday 24 February 2016**.

Islington Volunteer Centre can help you to find volunteers and volunteering opportunities in the borough: www.vai.org.uk/volunteering. **Islington and Shoreditch Housing Association** [is also now an accredited Living Wage Employer](#).

London Living Wage

University College London Hospitals have become [the first London Living Wage NHS employer in the capital](#).

Local MP (and lately leader of the Labour party) Jeremy Corbyn has said that a Labour government could [ban companies from paying out dividends to shareholders unless they pay all their workers the Living Wage](#).