

Dear ICN members and partners,

This month booking opens for Anticipating and Adapting to Change: Islington Voluntary Sector Conference 2016 – we'd love to see you there.

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

Anticipating and Adapting to Change: Islington Voluntary Sector Conference 2016

7 July 2016, 5.30 – 8.30pm, London Metropolitan University, 166-220 Holloway Road, London, N7 8DB

In its sixth year, our conference asks: What sort of city will Islington's voluntary sector wake up to in 2020? The end of core government grants for Local Authorities, the loss of social housing through the extension of Right-to-Buy, and other significant political and social changes make the future for our communities and the organisations that support them difficult to predict. We want to look ahead and start responding now. [More information and booking](#).

Members updates

Mayoral Hustings - Islington Pensioners Forum

11 April, 2 - 4pm, Council Chamber, Islington Town Hall

Pensioners are invited to hear about, ask questions on, and discuss the policies of parties in the London Mayor elections. Contact ipf@talktalkbusiness.net for more information.

Events

Alzheimer's Society at the British Museum Gallery Cafe

20 April, 10am – 12pm, Gallery Café, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

A friendly supportive café for people with dementia and their carers. [See the flyer](#) for more details.

Community Action: Taking The Power Back

29 April 2016, 10.30am – 5pm, London Metropolitan University, The Great Hall, 166-220 Holloway Road, N7 8DB

This open event for people active in their community has been put together by the directors of the **Community Sector Coalition CIC** in partnership with **London Metropolitan University**. The purpose of the day is to explore how we can build stronger communities. For more information, and to book, [visit the webpage](#).

FSI Free Fundraising and Back Office Training

24-26 May 2016, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Amnesty International UK, Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA

Training sessions cover a wide range of fundraising techniques and back office skills delivered by experienced and knowledgeable trainers. There are 384 delegate training places to help all small

charities, wherever they are, to access the skills they need to become self-sustaining. For more information, and to book, [visit the website](#).

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](#).

The **Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB)** has [reported on the third annual Crime and Safety Summit](#) at the Assembly Hall on Saturday 5 March 2016, where the theme was tackling youth violence and knife crime.

The **NHS** has confirmed [44 'footprint' areas](#) that will bring local health and care leaders, organisations and communities together. NAVCA has written a [briefing on the Sustainability and Transformation Plans](#) these areas will have to Islington will be part of the North Central London area.

From the beginning of this year, [fee-free basic bank accounts have been made available from nine major banks](#). The accounts will be available to anyone who doesn't already have a bank account, is ineligible for a standard current account or who can't use their existing account due to financial difficulty.

Abianda Young Trainers are running a programme of [seminars on gang-affected young women](#). Sign up by completing the [booking form](#).

[Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives: widening the focus on mental health](#) is the latest Annual Public Health Report for **Camden and Islington**.

Compact Voice has reported on its latest [annual survey of local Compacts](#). This year's results show that the Compact continues to be a valuable mechanism for cross-sector engagement, especially with the new commissioning bodies that have emerged in recent years.

Mencap has produced 11 [easy read guides](#) to help people with learning disabilities find out about voting, registering to vote or supporting someone else to vote.

[Joinbookdrive](#) is a new service for not-for-profit groups from **Hackney Community Transport**. The idea is simple: great value minibuses are parked at convenient locations near you and are available to hire online. Just unlock the bus with a smartcard and away you go.

If you work with someone who is self-employed, they may benefit from a [programme of free training](#) from the **Association for Community Based Business Advice**.

Funding & Support

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. There will be two information sessions, on 13 April, 5.00pm - 6.30pm, and 18 April, 2.00pm - 3.30pm,

where you can find out more about Islington Council's Community Chest and discuss your project with a Programme Officer. The deadline for applications to the first round of funding is **12 noon on Monday 9th May 2016**.

Islington Council is inviting suitable expressions of interest from suppliers for the delivery, operation and management of Crumbles Castle, Hayward, Lumpy Hill, Martin Luther King, Timbuktu, and Toffee Park Adventure Playgrounds. The advert for this contract is now published on the [London Tenders Portal](#).

The **DWP** has launched its first [ESF 2014-20 tendering round in London for employment provision for Older People 50+](#). The programme forms a part of the London Enterprise Panel's (LEP) comprehensive package of ESF employment support provision for adults.

London Catalyst and the **Hospital Saturday Fund** have come together to launch a new round of [Partners for Health](#) in 2016. Grants of up to £10,000 will be considered for social action projects tackling the effects of poverty and health inequalities in London. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is **5.00pm on Thursday 26th May 2016**.

[FreeSport](#) gives grants of up to £1,500 to sports clubs, youth groups and community organisations that provide free sport activities for Londoners. Deadline for applications: **9 May 2016**.

The Santander Foundation has become [The Discovery Foundation](#) and there have been changes to eligibility criteria and priorities. Grants of up to £5000 can be applied for at any time.

[In Kind Direct](#) redistributes products from companies to charities, social enterprises and not-for-profit organisations.

A recent **NCVO** blog discusses [the pros and cons of Social Investment](#) - loans for voluntary sector groups.

<http://www.ivar.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/CSIBriefingPoints%20from%20the%20literatureFINAL.pdf>

The [London Marathon Charitable Trust](#) provides grants of £5,000 to £150,000 towards capital projects that inspire people to lead a more active lifestyle and regularly take part in sports and physical activities. The next deadline for application is **1p m on 19 April 2016**.

Consultations

The **Department of Health** has opened a [consultation on a new strategy to improve support for informal/unpaid carers](#) and wants to hear from carers, those who have someone care for them, business, social workers, NHS staff and other professionals that support carers. The consultation will close on **30 June 2016**.

Volunteering

Islington Council is looking for local employees and residents to [volunteer to become digital champions](#) and help residents gain new digital and online skills to make their lives easier.

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

London Living Wage

The government's 'National Living Wage' (NLW) of £7.20 per hour for over 25s came into force on the 1 April, and it's worth repeating that it's effectively a rebranded minimum wage. While a significant increase in the minimum wage is welcome, it is still far from the recommended [Living Wage](#), which in London is set at £9.40 per hour. There are a number of guides to the changes: [here's one from the Guardian](#).

Meanwhile hospital cleaners in South London – already earning more than the NLW at £7.38 per hour – are [striking for a truly Living Wage](#).