

Dear ICN members and partners,

This month there is important news on how ICN is resourced – watch this space for news of its future.

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 application to Islington Council's Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Grants Programme for funding to support Islington Community Network was not successful. Current funding will run until the end of September and Voluntary Action Islington is discussing with ICN members how elements of the work now done through ICN might be done in future, given that resources will be much reduced.

Over 80 people attended Anticipating and Adapting to Change: Islington Voluntary Sector Conference 2016. The "informative and enlightening" event opened with some "really good speeches" highlighting both important national policy issues and the changes in local need before breaking out into discussions on a range of interesting subjects. A full report will follow.

Members updates

Voluntary Action Islington is conducting the [State of the Sector Survey 2016 - Islington's VCS](#). Participants will enter a prize draw with the chance to win £50 of stationery – as well as helping to identify the needs and aspirations of Islington's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and the communities it serves, so that VAI can develop relevant and high quality services for local organisations.

Events

Hillrise Summer Festival

13 August 2016, 12 - 4pm,

This year's fun day at **Caxton House Community Centre** will include: Monkey-Do tree climbing, Wild Fangs exotic animal show, Arsenal penalty shoot-out, terrarium making, face-painting, floral headdress making, badge decorating, bingo, raffle and tombola, arts and crafts, and much more!

[Download the leaflet](#) for more information.

Managing short and long term sickness absence

24 August, 10am - 1pm, Voluntary Action Islington

This **London for All** course aims to increase your confidence and ability to manage staff absence. It is for Voluntary & Community Sector trustees, directors, managers, team leaders, supervisors or anyone who feels uncomfortable dealing with and managing difficult conversations or putting across tough messages. For more information, and to register, [visit the website](#).

Tollington Ward Partnership Men and Women's Fashion Show for older people

14 September 2016, 10.30am - 3pm, The Assembly Room, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street N1 2UD

Entertainment at this free event will include a Fashion Show, Dancers, Poetry, Tai Chi, Music and a vocalist, Refreshments plus a lot more. [See the flyer](#) for more details.

What Price Free Speech?

22 September, 7 - 9pm, Islington Town Hall

Manor Gardens Welfare Trust is hosting this Keynote Lecture on the topic of Free Speech and how vital it is to maintain a vibrant, dynamic and tolerant society. The Speaker is Nick Cohen, journalist, author and political commentator. After, Comedian Kate Smurthwaite will give her perspective on free speech. For more information, and to book, [visit the webpage](#). Tickets are £5 and include light refreshments.

Fundraising Training and Dragons Den events for BAME organisations

22 September, 1.30pm - 8.30pm, Resource for London, 356 Holloway Rd, London N7 6PA

Black Fundraisers UK and **Race on the Agenda** (ROTA) are running this event, which will include an afternoon training session on Bid Writing from Trusts and Foundations and an evening Dragons Den event which will give you a fantastic opportunity to pitch your idea to the UK's most sought after funders or to pick up invaluable tips that would enhance your own fundraising. For more information and to book a place for one or both sessions, [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** is on the 19 October 2016, 1pm at Islington Town Hall. Meetings are open to the public. See all information, including recent minutes, [here](#).

Free **NHS Health Checks** are available for people aged between 40 and 74 years to assess heart health and the risk of developing diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, stroke and dementia. You'll be given an overall score of your risk of getting heart disease or stroke. Speak to your GP, call 020 3282 7886 or visit <http://nhshealthcheck.com/islington> to book an appointment at a convenient location near you. Not eligible for NHS Health Check? Ask about Lifestyle Checks for adults.

Through Neighbourhood Planning local people can create a plan that allows them to develop planning policies that reflect the priorities of their area and have real legal weight. The whole community then decides at a referendum vote whether the local authority should bring the plan into force. **My Community** hosts a [website explaining how Neighbourhood Planning works](#).

The **Frontline Immigration Advice** project is supporting organisations to be able to provide [more immigration legal advice](#).

iStreetWatch is a new tool to **track racist and xenophobic harassment in public spaces**. The site has been created in response to the rise in hate crime following the referendum result.

Islington's [Summerversity](#) programme of activities for children and young people is up and running for 2016.

Funding & Support

Round two of **Islington Council's** [Community Chest grant fund](#) is open for applications. Grants are for up to £5,000 per annum. The deadline for applications is 12 noon on **5 September 2016**.

Islington Council organises regular [Supplier Training Workshops](#) to help suppliers to put forward better bids. These go on through the year and the next is *Completing a Tender* on Friday 23 September 2016.

Garfield Weston Foundation has found that small charities are risking crisis because they are too [afraid to apply for core costs](#). The foundation encourages applicants to include core costs in their bids.

One in two people [don't give to local charities because they are unaware of them](#) and charities are being encouraged to use new technology to pick up donations, with fewer people carrying spare cash and more using contactless payment cards and [donating via apps](#). Getting to people through their [mobiles is recommended](#) to get the best out of storytelling; messaging platforms, such as WhatsApp; and the next generation of payment methods.

UK Community Foundations (UKCF) has created a £525,000 [New Beginnings Fund](#) to support refugees joining UK communities. The fund is particularly interested in groups who are working to get their local communities involved in volunteering and supporting their work to promote integration and welcome new arrivals.

The [Near Neighbours Grants programme](#) offers between £250 and £5,000, as seed funding for local groups and organisations working to bring together neighbours, and to develop relationships across diverse faiths and ethnicities to improve their communities. The programme covers some parts of Islington.

The [Stepping Stones Fund](#) is a unique social investment readiness facility for charitable organisations in Greater London. **City Bridge Trust** is inviting applications to Round 3 of the programme, with up to £700,000 of funding to be awarded. The deadline for submission is **15 August 2016**.

[Making the Most of Free Time](#) is a funding opportunity providing more activities for Islington's young people. **Islington Giving** are now inviting project proposals for activities and opportunities at times and places young people want them, including at weekends and in the holidays. Expressions of Interest are now invited from organisations or partnerships of organisations working with and providing activities for young people that can help widen the spread and range of high-quality activities on offer to young people living in Islington. Details are available on [Islington Giving website](#). Deadline **12th September 2016**.

Transform Foundation gives £18,000 grants to cover strategy, design and development to [build an amazing website](#).

Consultations

The **Cabinet Office** is seeking views on proposed new policy directions for the allocation of Big Lottery Funds. The [Big Lottery Fund Public Consultation](#) closes at **12am on 12 August 2016**.

Volunteering

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

London Living Wage

Research by the website TotallyMoney.com shows that not one of the London's postcodes offers affordable housing (where rent is no more than 50% of income) for workers making minimum wage (£7.20 an hour for workers aged 25 and over). But even for those earning the London Living Wage (£9.40 an hour) the only postcode that would offer affordable one-bed rentals would be Abbey Wood, a South East London suburb in Zone 4.

The above news backs up the findings of a [review of the Living Wage](#) by the **Resolution Foundation**, which recommends an improved methodology for the Living Wage campaign, and expects this to lead to a significant increase in the Living Wage.

Cleaners working in a building owned by the second richest man in the world have [won the London Living Wage](#) after an unprecedented 43 days of consecutive strike action.