

Dear ICN members and partners,

This month you're invited to help celebrate those who give time and effort to others by making nominations for the [Islington Volunteer of the Year Awards 2016](#).

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](mailto:christopher.taylor@vai.org.uk). Please note that this newsletter, and past editions, are also available [online](#).

## Network News and Information

During the summer, proposals are being drawn up for continuing ICN activity after September, when direct funding ends. Decisions based on these will be made at an ICN Committee meeting on 27 September.

## Members updates

**Islington Pensioners Forum** celebrated 30 years of vigorous campaigning for pensioners and others at their AGM on the 21 July. And they did it with cake.



**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

### **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.

### **Supersized September Volunteering Fair 2016!**

22 September, 1 – 4pm, Voluntary Action Islington, 200a Pentonville Road, King's Cross, N1 9JP

**Islington Volunteer Centre** is joining forces with Volunteer Centre Camden to supersize this fair and bring you even more organisations and opportunities. Volunteers can meet organisations looking for volunteers in Camden and Islington. There's no need to book - just pop in. If you are a non-profit that wants to recruit volunteers in Camden or Islington at the fair, then [book your free place](#).

### **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

This event, from **Black Fundraisers UK** and **Race on the Agenda (ROTA)**, includes training on Bid Writing from Trusts and Foundations in the afternoon and a Dragons Den in the evening where you can pitch your idea to funders and pick up invaluable fundraising tips. For more information and to book a place for one or both sessions, [visit the webpage](#).

### **Cultivating Emotional Well-Being and Resilience**

5 October, 9.30am - 1.00pm

This course, run by **Worth-it Projects**, is for all professionals and voluntary sector organisations supporting children, young people & families. Participants will spend time focusing on their own well-being alongside exploring strategies to improve children & young people's emotional health and resilience. This training session is filled with effective tools and strategies underpinned by solution focused, evidence based, Positive Psychology Coaching techniques. Please [see the flyer for more details](#).

### **World Mental Health Day – Open Talk**

10 October, 10:00am - 1:00pm, Manor Gardens Welfare Trust 6-9 Manor Gardens, London N7 6LA

**Islington Refugee Forum**, and member organisations, SFT Foundation Trust and Manor Gardens Welfare Trust, invite you to a talk will be about 'psychological first aid': basic pragmatic psychological support by people who find themselves in a helping role whether they be parents, health staff, teachers or community workers. Lunch will also be provided. To confirm your attendance, please complete the [booking form](#) and return it by 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 to [info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org](mailto:info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org). For more information, [see the flyer](#).

### **Mental health IS your business!**

***Islington is taking mental health out of the shadows – make it your business to shine a light on mental health.***

13 October, 2 - 4.30 pm, The Lift, White Lion Street

This interactive event, following World Mental Health Day on 10 October, will give you an opportunity to learn about council services available locally to support your understanding of mental health. Please bear in mind that this event is aimed at public-serving workplaces and is not open to the public. Places are limited, so please [sign-up via Eventbrite](#).

## **News & Policy**

For the latest news on **social enterprise**, join 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](#).

There's lots going on at **St Luke's Centre** this September as part of their new *Growing Connections* project. You're welcome to join the weekly gardening group, open to everyone, or some of the family trips to gardens around London. There's also a cookery class and social bbq in the park just for men. You'll find [more information on the website](#).

The **Islington Council** Employer Engagement Team has a range of employer relationships that support long term unemployed Islington residents. There are currently employment opportunities in front-line care support services. If you have clients interested in learning more, please contact Marion Phillips: [marion.phillips@islington.gov.uk](mailto:marion.phillips@islington.gov.uk), 07826 904 634, 0207 527 3465.

The **DWP** has produced a [factsheet about Discretionary Housing Payments](#) (DHP). These provide extra money when a council decides that someone needs extra help to meet their housing costs. You can keep up with news and information from DWP through their newsletter, [Touchbase](#).

**NAVCA, National Voices** and **Volunteering Matters** are setting up learning and support networks for anyone in the voluntary sector involved in helping people and local voluntary organisations make Personal Health Budgets work. Free learning and development days will initiate the networks. For more information about the networks and events, [read the briefing](#).

[Making Every Contact Count](#) (MECC) is a way of working being rolled out by **Camden and Islington councils** for anyone in the public or voluntary sectors who come into contact/meet the public through their work. A package of free training has been developed to make the most of each and every opportunity to help local people improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life.

The **NHS [Complaints Advocacy service](#)** is free, confidential and independent, and can help people to raise concerns about NHS Care or treatment.

As part of the **Sobell Sports Centre** Saturday Night Out, which invites young people to an evening of activities on the last Saturday of every month, [free studio/venue space](#) is being made available to local groups working with young people aged 11-15. Contact [alexis.smith@gll.org](mailto:alexis.smith@gll.org) to take advantage of this amazing offer.

## 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.

[Making the Most of Free Time](#) is a funding opportunity from **Islington Giving** that invites project proposals for activities and opportunities at times and places young people want them, including at weekends and in the holidays. The deadline for applications is **12 September 2016**.

**Help The Homeless** gives [grants up to £5,000](#) for capital costs of projects aiming to help homeless people return to the community and enabling them to resume a normal life. Only registered charities with a turnover of under £1m per annum can apply. The next deadline for applications is **15 September**.

The newly set up **DWF Foundation** gives one-off grants of up to £5000 for work around Homelessness, Health & Wellbeing, Employability and Education. [Apply at any time](#).

[Grants of between £5,000 and £10,000](#) are available from the **Rose Foundation** for building projects under £200,000 in the London area.

The **London Councils** [grants programme 2017-21](#) will fund work tackling homelessness or sexual and domestic violence by organisations that can work across more than one London borough. The closing date for applications is **15 September 2016**.

**Origin Housing** has partnered with Crowdfunder to provide match funding of up to £1000 for community projects that benefit Origin residents and communities, when they run a Crowdfunding campaign through [crowdfunder.co.uk/originhousing](http://crowdfunder.co.uk/originhousing).

**Giving World Online** offers charities access to [business surplus goods for free](#). Giving World is also looking for [delivery partners](#).

## Consultations

A second [independent review of Personal Independence Payment](#) is underway. As part of the review, a Call for Evidence is now open for feedback on how the assessment is working. This call for evidence will collect information relevant to how the PIP assessment is operating both for new claims and Disability Living Allowance (DLA) reassessment claims. The call for evidence runs until **5pm Friday 16 September 2016**.

**Islington council** is consulting on two sets of local planning policies, which are called Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), and are used in making decisions on planning applications for different types of development:

- [Draft Planning Obligations \(Section 106\) SPD](#)  
The council can enter into a Section 106 agreement, otherwise known as a 'planning obligation', with a developer where it is necessary for the developer to provide contributions to offset negative impacts caused by construction and development. The developer may contribute on-site community provision, local infrastructure or simply money, and examples include the provision of affordable homes, new open space, funding of school places or employment training schemes.
- [Draft Urban Design Guide SPD](#)  
The Urban Design Guide provides guidance on how urban design principles should be applied to ensure that new development successfully contributes to making the borough a better place. It supports implementation of Local Plan policies in relation to design and is applicable to all new developments in the borough, including alterations and extensions to existing buildings.

Any comments must be submitted by **5pm on Friday 23 September 2016**.

## Volunteering

The [Volunteer of the Year Awards](#) for Islington 2016, sponsored by Double Tree by Hilton Islington and the Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar and Grill, is now open for nominations. Outstanding volunteers will be celebrated in six categories. Prizes and certificates will be handed out at the VAI AGM on Wednesday 2nd November 2016 at 6.30pm.

**Scarabeus Aerial Theatre** ([www.scarabeus.co.uk](http://www.scarabeus.co.uk)) is looking for two new trustees. For more information, you can [read the leaflet](#), or contact [clare@scarabeus.co.uk](mailto:clare@scarabeus.co.uk). Applications should be made by **16 September 2016**.

Do you have any one-off volunteering roles that are short on numbers? Do you have any regular open to the public volunteering sessions that could do with additional support? **Islington Volunteer Centre** is particularly looking for opportunities where teams of volunteers and possibly families can volunteer. If you have any such roles planned, or in the pipeline, please send details to [volunteer@vai.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@vai.org.uk) or return the [Volunteer Opportunity form](#).

**Islington Volunteer Centre** can help you to find volunteers and volunteering opportunities in the borough: [www.vai.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.vai.org.uk/volunteering).

## London Living Wage

The [Queen has been exposed](#) as paying below the London Living Wage to cleaning staff.