

## Richmond upon Thames Council for Voluntary Service (Richmond CVS)

### Background Information for recruitment of Project Coordinator

Richmond Council for Voluntary Service is an independent infrastructure organisation whose aim is to Empower, Enable and Involve the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Richmond upon Thames by providing dedicated support. To do this we work with a wide range of charitable and voluntary groups as well as statutory bodies in the Borough including partners such as the Council, Achieving for Children and health services. We are an independent Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. We are governed by a Board of Trustees. Richmond CVS receives contracts, grants and fees from a range of bodies (eg Government, Local Authority and Charitable Trusts) and uses these to achieve its charitable objectives and deliver a range of services designed to support the work of local VCS organisations. There are more than 750+ VCS organisations in the borough.

Our mission is to provide strong, effective leadership to:

- Support a robust and sustainable voluntary sector to provide locally needed quality services
- Facilitate positive partnership working
- Strengthen volunteering and community action
- Empower community groups and individuals to influence and contribute to their community.

Our services include:

- **Providing strategic leadership, representation and a voice for the local VCS** – we provide regular updates through bulletins, holding events, meetings and networks for local groups. We also work closely with statutory partners, particularly the local authority and sit on a range of strategic boards and committees on behalf of the sector.
- **Increasing the skills and sustainability of the VCS** – we help local groups build their capacity to develop and thrive. There is a particular focus on providing information and advice on areas such as funding and governance through 1:1 sessions. We provide high quality training from specialist experts on a wide range of topics to empower trustees, staff and volunteers of local charities, community groups and social enterprises.
- **Providing a Volunteering Service** – we support voluntary organisations to recruit and retain volunteers and help people find volunteering roles in the local community through our volunteer database. We also run training for volunteer-involving organisations and have a focus on helping groups recruit trustees.
- **Supporting Children and Young People Organisations** – Richmond CVS provides the strategic lead for the Children and Young People's voluntary sector. As the strategic lead we have responsibility for supporting partnership working and commissioning that enables work of high quality, and achieves good value through integration. This strand of the voluntary sector encompasses a rich and diverse group of voluntary and community groups in our borough, and service providers include those working in education, early years, youth work, social care, arts and culture.

- **Community Involvement** – Richmond CVS has been working in the area of community involvement since 2006 when the NHS Act made the involvement of service users and carers far more significant. The overall objectives are to increase service user and carer involvement in decision making, to enhance the effectiveness of service user and carer involvement and to enhance the structures and processes that enabled them to be involved. Working in partnership with Healthwatch Richmond, Richmond CVS secured a new four year contract for this work in from April 2024.

In addition to our key services above, we deliver additional work, subject to funding that will enhance our support for Richmond's Voluntary and Community Sector. The new governance project, funded by Richmond Foundation, is one of these and we look forward to it beginning in February 2025.

*For more information about Richmond CVS, please see our website [www.richmond cvs.org.uk](http://www.richmond cvs.org.uk)*