

Richmond upon Thames Council for Voluntary Service (Richmond CVS)

ABOUT RICHMOND CVS

Richmond CVS (The Richmond Upon Thames Council for Voluntary Service) is an independent infrastructure organisation whose purpose is to "Empower, Enable and Involve" the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations across the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. In working to achieve this purpose the organisation engages with a wide range of charitable and voluntary groups as well as statutory bodies in the Borough, including the Council itself, Achieving for Children and health services.

The vision for the organisation is:

Strong, vibrant communities at the heart of local life.

To achieve this, the Mission is to provide leadership to:

- Support a robust and sustainable voluntary sector in the local provision of quality services that reflect the priorities of the Borough:
- Facilitate positive partnership working
- Strengthen volunteering and community action, and
- Empower groups and individuals to influence and contribute to their community

To achieve this 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 enable them to be involved. Working in partnership with Healthwatch Richmond, Richmond CVS secured a new four-year contract for this work in April 2024.

For more information about Richmond CVS please see our website www.richmond cvs.org.uk