

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE MEMBER CHAMPION FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT 2018/19**

I am thoroughly enjoying the challenge of being Champion of the Voluntary Sector and have had a very busy and interesting year attending numerous events.

I have endeavoured to meet as many volunteers and visit as many organisations throughout Havering as possible and act as an ambassador. It is important to connect people and celebrate the rich variety of voluntary work that takes place in our Borough.

One of the first events I had the pleasure of attending following my appointment was a “Meet and Greet” event at **Add-Up** on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018. The Children enjoyed a workshop at Fairkytes and then were taken for a day trip. I also attended the AGM and attended the Christmas Show in the company of the Mayor and the Deputy Lieutenant.

We are fortunate to have so many Friends of Parks Groups in the Borough who look after our green spaces. I am in particularly close contact with Mrs Lois Amos, Secretary of the Friends of Bedfords Park in my Ward and am liaising with her to arrange for volunteers via the Volunteer Centre in Romford to help with the Walled Garden at Bedfords Park on a regular basis. As Ward Councillor and Voluntary Champion I attended the Green Flag Award with Councillor John Crowder, Councillor Osman Dervish and Lois Amos.



In April, 2019 I joined volunteers on the green at Havering-atte-Bower for a day of litter picking.



The **International Day of the Disabled Person** event at Salvation Army Romford was fully booked out. Speakers included the Leader, Chief Executive Officer, and a wide range of services, including Transport for London, the NHS, and Heads of Council Services such Children's and Adult Care. The event will be repeated on 3rd December 2019. I attended this informative and interesting event as Voluntary Champion

I am also in close contact with Shelley Hart and Rebecca Mazrreku at the **Havering Volunteer Centre** and attend their meetings and events, including the Diversi-Tea during Volunteers Week to celebrate the LGBTQ Community, a Community Tea Party at the Sapphire Centre in Collier Row and Cake & a Cuppa Day in aid of the Alzheimer's Society . We have so much to thank Shelley and Rebecca for as they work tirelessly in promoting confidence with volunteers all year round and ensure that volunteers are placed where they will be happy.



24th January 2019 Havering Volunteer Meeting with all Voluntary Organisations



On 14<sup>th</sup> February, Havering Volunteer Centre held a very successful day in collaboration with Hornchurch High when students from year groups 7 to 10 took part in a day of volunteering across the Borough. Approximately 90 students took part in “Drop Down Day” where pupils dropped their timetables to litter pick, pack bags for a local charity at Tesco supermarket, plant bulbs and shrubs , tidy green spaces at Langton Gardens and Raphael’s Park and sort and clean items at a Rainbow Trust charity shop.

Congratulations to everyone who took part, the students, teachers and the Head for arranging the day. The Mayor of Havering rewarded the students who took part with a certificate to commend them on their volunteering .on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Town Hall.

I try and support as many small charities around the Borough as possible and during the course of the year have visited St Francis Hospice to support fund raising events and attended the “Light a Life “service with Andrew Rosindell MP.



In May, I joined with Councillor Jan Sargent and local residents to campaign for the RSPCA Centre



This centre needs to be reopened to ensure the welfare of the community's animals. It is an important and much loved and much needed Centre

The charitable Trust, "Future Gateway" supports children who sometimes struggle with mainstream education. The Charity aims to give everyone the opportunity to achieve qualifications and attain valuable skills. In my role as Champion for the Voluntary Compact Sector, I recently joined Councillor Jan Sargent in presenting certificates of achievement to young adults in recognition of their hard work at My Place in Harold Hill .





I attended the second annual funding fayre on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018. The purpose of this event is to bring funders, information providers and our voluntary and community sector together in order to bring more funding into the Borough.

Funders included the crowdfunding platform Space hive, Veolia Trust and the National Lottery. There were 73 attendees from across Havering which was an increase on the 41 who attended the previous year. Local solicitors and other information providers were also on hand to guide the voluntary sector.

In the afternoon, there was a chance for each organisation to provide a five minute pitch and promote their organisation. I took part in this and offered help to them as the Champion for the Voluntary and Community Sector.

At the moment Havering's voluntary sector receives very little funding from external grant providers compared to the rest of London and this annual event is very important to raise awareness of how best to access funding.

I attended a Health Champion Course, Introduction to Mental Health Course, Level 2 Nutrition and Diabetes Workshop as I feel this can enhance and contribute towards my role as Voluntary Champion.



On 29<sup>th</sup> May, I attended a Youth Activities Information Fair, which aimed to encourage young people to be part of organised groups and inspire adults to volunteer and help out with young peoples' activities. The event was well supported and amongst those in attendance were members of the Youth parliament, scouts. Havering Youth Service. St John Ambulance service, Police and army cadets. Friends of Dagnam Park and the Havering Drum and Trumpet Corps.



Thank you very much to all who volunteer in the Borough of Havering.

Every one of you who gives up some of your time to volunteer and help others is contributing towards a happier Community in Havering.

**Councillor Christine Vickery**