

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE MEMBER CHAMPION FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT 2015/16

Havering Volunteer Centre

Due to the closure of HAVCO Volunteer Centre in September 2015, the new Havering Volunteer Centre was set up in October 2016 with support from Havering Council. In January 2016 the new Trustee Board and CEO Shelley Hart took on the lease to premises 32-34 High St., Romford, RM1 1HR and started to operate from that address. The official launch took place on 2nd June 2016 and I was pleased to be one of the guest speakers. I have regular meetings with the CEO and am currently in the process of conducting on-going negotiations with the Council to fund DBS checks for volunteers.

Since the Volunteer Centre opened its doors approximately over 240 residents have signed up to volunteer and local organisations have registered their volunteering opportunities with the Centre.

Community Clean Ups

From April 15 – March 16: a total of 722 volunteers took part in 48 recorded clean ups (including the Clean for the Queen) across the Borough.

- Clean for the Queen weekend 4th-6th March: in total 13 recorded sites took place with 442 volunteers taking part.



Friends of Rise Park & Parklands Infant School supported the Clean for the Queen event at Rise Park



The Arise Metropolitan Assembly Church co-ordinated at Clean Up at Elm Park Broadway in partnership with the Elm Park Ward Councillors

Compact

During 2015 a steering group made up of a range of local statutory and voluntary sector organisations worked together to refresh the Havering Compact, the local agreement between the public and voluntary and community sectors on how to work together effectively. The Compact was re-launched on 18th November 2015.

On 29th February the Compact held its first event in partnership with Tapestry to support and build smaller charities, aid networking and collaborative working across the voluntary and community sector. 18 attendees, 11 organisations charities, organisations and partners were represented.

Following on from this event the Compact Steering Group further discussed engaging with more VCS organisations to strengthen collaborative working on prospective contracts. A workshop has been organised to take place on 5th July to explore the possibility of forming a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

Early March saw the first issue of the Compact News distributed via the Council's email updates. An advance subscription of 118 had signed up in anticipation. Subscription numbers have increased monthly and currently stand at 671.

The signed Compact agreement and terms of reference can be found on the Havering website

Active Living E-Newsletter and Communications

The Active Living email update is produced on a monthly basis and provides information on events, activities, groups and clubs, services, volunteering and funding opportunities offered to residents aged 50+ and organisations who provide services to cater for this particular section of the community.

Organisations are welcome to promote their service at no charge.

Subscription has increased at a pace from October 2014 with 150 readers to present day 4661.

LGBT+ Forum

The Havering LGBT+ Forum held its inaugural meeting on 7th June when a committee and officers were elected and constitution agreed.

It is envisaged the group will have an emphasis on safety and security, health, signposting to local services and a social element.

Events

International Women's Day took place on Saturday 12th March 2016 from 11-4pm , Ardleigh House Community Association was the host venue. The Havering theme was Health & Well Being. £1000 sponsorship was received from Tapestry, with approximately over 400 residents attending this free community event.



Complimentary massages



Event organisers and Guest Speakers

BME Forum Health Events

During 2015 the BME Forum hosted 3 community health and wellbeing events. The first event took place on Wednesday 19th May, 2015. A Dementia and Alzheimer's Awareness Event, held at The Salvation Army Hall, Petersfield Avenue, Harold Hill, RM3 9PP between 1.00pm-4pm, featuring information stalls and an interactive workshop on Dementia.

An Emotional Health and Well Being Event was held on Wednesday 15th July 2015 from 2.00pm and 5pm at the HASWA Centre, Greenfields, Kilmartin Way, Hornchurch RM12 5NB. This event hosted an informal market place style format with information stalls and interactive workshops on Emotional Health & Well Being.

ON 19th November 2015 the BME Forum hosted the first Havering International Men's Day at the YMCA, Romford. This event provided information and talks on men's health and well-being.

I have attended a variety of events as Council Champion over the past twelve months, including the Annual event at Yew Tree Lodge, several Havering MIND events, including the Christmas party, the Friends of Cotton Park "Fun Day" and a celebration at the Hindu Temple in Noak Hill.

Volunteer Recognition event

This was held on 3rd June in recognition of the many volunteers in the Borough

Library Volunteers

Since January 2016 a push on the recruitment and training of volunteers within the library service has seen an increase in numbers. A recent count in the number of volunteers showed that there are now 280 volunteers within the service, this is 97% of the target.

The volunteers were recruited through a vigorous advertising campaign; these were targeted in specific wards or library catchment areas that had a traditionally low uptake in volunteering. It was also advertised on London Volunteering websites and in the local press. The Equality and Diversity data has been incredibly positive and has demonstrated an increase in young and BME individuals volunteering. More work is being done to investigate how to improve our uptake of those with disabilities and men.

All volunteers, old and new have been given a new training offer, this includes a corporate induction that covers:

- Safeguarding
- Equality and Diversity
- Customer Service
- Health and Safety

This training is being delivered by the reader development team & is being very well received by volunteers old and new.

A new system is in place for the volunteers which operates like an online dashboard, allowing them to communicate with volunteers from all over the service and to swap shifts if necessary, this is currently being piloted & evaluated.

Funding

Since May 2015 – March 2016 the Community Development Team (formerly the Community Engagement Team) have secured £390,815.00 in external funding for Voluntary & Community organisations and groups across the Borough.

The Harold Hill Food Bank, Bower Hall, Harold Hill Bowls Club, Elm Park Community Association, Havering Islamic Cultural Centre and Friends of St. Andrews Park are just some of the local organisations and groups that have received successful grants from a variety of external funders that include: Veolia North Thames Trust, Henry Smith Foundation and the Big Lottery Awards for All.

Voluntary & Community Sector

Since the completion of the Voluntary Sector consultations in February 2016, the outcomes from that consultation have produced: the creation and adoption of the Voluntary Sector Strategy & Action Plan, the development of a Volunteer Strategy & Action Plan.

Business Continuity, Crowdfunding and Procurement workshops have been provided to the voluntary sector.

The Voluntary & Community web section has been developed on the Havering website to support and offer guidance to the Voluntary & Community Sector.

Councillor Viddy Persaud