



WEST LONDON VOLUNTARY SECTOR NEWS ISSUE 1 – Nov 2011

This is the first edition of a new bi-monthly West London Network E-Newsletter. Its aim is to deliver the latest news for the local voluntary sector of West London, including London region and national updates every two months.

For this first edition, we are sending the e-news out widely to voluntary and community groups across West London. If you have comments, ideas or short articles you would like included in the next edition (due out in mid-January), please e-mail them to us on fuad@westlondonnetwork.org.uk.

Fuad Uddin
West London Network Manager

WEST LONDON UPDATES

New Host

West London Network (WLN) has been given new home at Ealing CVS, which successfully bid to take on the host role following the closure of CVS Hounslow in summer 2011. Work is now under way to develop and expand WLN as the sub-regional voice for the VCS of West London.

Extension to Barnet

WLN has agreed to extend membership to include Barnet and CommUNITY Barnet (Barnet CVS) has joined the WLN Steering Group.

Election of New Chair

Sylvia Francis (Third Age Foundation) has been elected as the new Chair for WLN. Sylvia replaces Clare Scott-Booth (West London YMCA) who is stepping down but will continue to remain on the Steering Group. Thanks to Clare for all her hard work as Chair.

New Steering Group Members

WLN has expanded its Steering Group to capture better representation of West London's VCS. Our new members hail from various organisations and give WLN more coverage on issues around women, employment, sports and health. In addition, Ricky Singh has been elected as a new borough rep for Ealing, Trevor Begg as a new borough rep for Hillingdon and Stephen Hawkins as a new borough rep for Hounslow. There remain vacancies for additional borough reps from Harrow, Hounslow, Brent, Hammersmith and Fulham and Barnet and we are working with Borough CVS and VCS Forums to fill those remaining places. For a full list of the current Steering Group, please [click here](#).

Digital TV – Get ready for the switchover!

WLN has successfully secured a large 11 Borough project for outreach activity on the Digital Switchover and Helpscheme support for vulnerable people. Working with other CVSs, we will be cascading this message to the wider VCS and get this to out to as many people as possible. To find out more, please [click here](#).

Big Lottery Transforming Local Infrastructure bid

An ambitious joint 5 borough bid has been submitted to the Big Lottery Fund to modernise local VCS support services in Hillingdon, Hounslow, Harrow, Brent and Ealing. A separate borough bid has been submitted by Hammersmith & Fulham. If the combined West London bid is successful, the WLN elements would include a new:

- West London Matching Mergers Service: putting groups interested in mergers in neighbouring boroughs in touch with each other.
- West London Online Stats Bank: giving groups in all boroughs free access to a range of community stats which will help with future funding and commissioning bids

Decisions on the bids will be announced by BLF in January.

Youth Volunteering

WLN is putting together a cross-borough bid to the Big Lottery to support youth volunteering across several boroughs. We aim to submit this in February. Watch out for more details in our next WLN E-News.

West London Network Forums

WLN currently supports 4 sub-regional forums. Other than the Volunteering Forum, membership is open to all voluntary and community groups in West London:

- **West London Training & Employment Forum** – Third Age Foundation have organised an event on “Working Together – Respecting Differences” for all organisations involved in Education, Employment and Training issues in West London on 5 Dec 2011, 2pm-5pm at the Irish Cultural Centre, Hammersmith. If you are interested in attending or joining the West London Training & Employment Forum, please contact Sylvia Francis on info@thirdage.org.uk. Bookings for the training session need to be made by 30 November.
- **West London Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) Forum** – Addresses the issues and needs of LGBT people across West London. Open to LGBT community groups and residents and other VCS groups and statutory organisations interested in LGBT issues. If your organisation is interested in joining the LGBT Forum, please contact Luke Martin on lgbt@ealingcvcs.org.uk.
- **West London Black, Minority Ethnic and Refugee Forum (BMER) Forum** – Open to all BMER organisations in West London, the BMER Forum is coordinated by Refugees in Effective & Active Partnership (REAP) and Southall Community Alliance (SCA). REAP is planning a workshop for BMER organisations on working with the media. To find out more or if you are interested in joining the BMER Forum, contact olesya@reap.org.uk
- **West London Volunteering Forum** – Currently made up of the volunteer centres operating in the WLN boroughs, but currently reviewing whether to open membership to other VCS organisations working cross-borough and using significant numbers of volunteers. To find out more about the Volunteering Forum, contact Lizzie Saunders lizzie@ealingcvcs.org.uk.

WLN Website

West London Network has updated our website! Visit www.westlondonnetwork.org.uk and let us know what you think.

BOROUGH ROUND-UPS

- **Ealing** – In January a major joint review will start of partnership working by the VCS and the local council, including options for VCS groups to take on increased roles on public service delivery. For more info, e-mail andy@ealingcvcs.org.uk. Ealing Community Resource Centre also currently has some permanent desks available for hire for Ealing based or cross borough VCS groups in modern offices with high quality training, meeting and interview rooms and shared modern IT and telecommunications systems - for details, e-mail alisonw@ecrc.org.uk
- **Hounslow** – An initial consultation event has been held on setting up a new Hounslow Community Network - and an E-Survey will be open soon (with a prize draw!). A new Hounslow Community Network Steering Group has been set up - if you are a Hounslow group and interested in sitting on the Steering Group e-mail fuad@westlondonnetwork.org.uk.
- **Harrow** – By April 2012 aims to have its own Community Interest Company (CIC), set up to transform project delivery of public services drawing from the voluntary, community, private, public and business sectors. For more info e-mail julie.browne@kidscanachieve.co.uk.

- **Hillingdon** – HAVS will be hosting a Meet the Minister Event on 2 December at Uxbridge Civic Centre titled *The Road Ahead*, discussing public service reform for the VCS with attendance by Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society. For more info e-mail thill@havs.org.uk.
- **Hammersmith & Fulham** – Big Lottery is making £1 million available to local people from Wormholt and White City over a 10 year period and residents will be engaged on how the money should be spent over the coming months. For more info e-mail olivia.leu@cavsa.org.uk.
- **Brent** – CVS Brent will be holding their inaugural event on 1 December with the aim of establishing a shared voice, more collaborative working and learning lessons from other communities, with a special guest from the Media Trust. For more info, e-mail info@cvsbrent.org.uk.
- **Barnet** – CommUNITY Barnet recently held their AGM with a successful turnout of 100 delegates with workshops plus a guest speaker, Stuart Ethrington from NCVO, who discussed the outlook for the VCS. For more info, e-mail anahied.hatamian@communitybarnet.org.uk

NATIONAL/REGIONAL NEWS

London Boroughs Grants Scheme

London Councils has announced plans for a further major reduction in its grants budget from 2012 onwards. In future it will also make London wide grants covering far fewer priority themes. There will be a consultation exercise starting shortly after which new applications are likely to be invited in Spring 2012 for grants covering the period 2013-2015. Watch out for more details in our next WLN E-News

London Mayors Outer London Commission (OLC)

The last meeting was held on 1 November at Ealing Town Hall and several issues were discussed, including parking policies, housing density and town centre renewal initiatives. If you would like to find out more about the OLC, [click here](#).

Community First Grants: The Government has announced a new small grants scheme to replace Grassroots Grants. Only certain wards in each borough will qualify however. For more details, visit www.cdf.org.uk.

NHS Developments in West London:

Consultations on a range of possible structural and health services changes are starting and will continue throughout the next year. Some to look out for in the near future are:

- Proposed merger Ealing Hospital and North West London Hospitals
- Proposed joint working between Imperial Hospitals and West Middlesex Hospital
- The reconfiguration of Intermediate Care Services
- Equalities and the NHS

For further information on any of the above, contact your local LINK.

CONTACTS

Fuad Uddin
 Development Manager
 West London Network
 Lido Centre
 63 Mattock Lane
 London W13 9LA
fuad@westlondonnetwork.org.uk
www.westlondonnetwork.org.uk
 Direct line: 020 8280 2287
 Fax: 020 8280 2289