



Market Engagement Event Invitation

Wandsworth Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure and Capacity Building Services

Wandsworth Council is inviting organisations to come together for a market engagement event on Monday 9th September. This event is for organisations who are interested in bidding to deliver a new Wandsworth Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) infrastructure and capacity building support service or being one of the delivery partners for the service. Organisations that have local experience and knowledge that can help inform the design of this new service are also welcome to attend.

This event will be in-person at the Wandsworth Civic Suite, Wandsworth High St, London SW18 2PU, opening at 10am for a 10.30am start. Refreshments will be provided, and all attendees will be invited to participate in table discussions, with Council Officers, to give their views and feedback on the new service specification and different ways that the service can be delivered. The event will close at 12:30pm.

Organisations need to register and can sign up here:

[Wandsworth Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure and Capacity Building Services Market Engagement Event](#)

A maximum of two delegates per organisation.

Background

Wandsworth has a thriving, diverse and dynamic voluntary and community sector providing voice, leadership, and support to the many different communities in the borough. The Council is committed to working with and for the voluntary and community sector in a way that celebrates its contribution and impact.

The Council, in partnership with the South West London Integrated Care Board (ICB) is seeking to commission a new voluntary and community sector infrastructure and capacity building support service for Wandsworth.

As part of this new approach, and to inform the design of the new infrastructure and capacity building service, the Council commissioned an independent voluntary and

community sector needs analysis of the sector in January 2023. This helped the Council understand the local needs of the voluntary and community sector and what they might need to continue evolving as strong, vibrant and sustainable organisations, embedded within our communities.

The final report and the committee report agreeing the key recommendations, can be found on the VCS page on the Council's website here - [How we work with the voluntary sector - Wandsworth Borough Council](#)

The needs analysis was focussed mainly around five key themes – Leadership & Advocacy, Partnerships & Collaboration, Volunteering, Organisational Development and Funding & Resources. These themes are described on the [National Association for Voluntary and Community Action website](#).

One of the key recommendations from this report is below:

“Co-develop the specification of a new VCS support service for Wandsworth which largely builds on the existing assets, infrastructure and support needs identified in this needs analysis”

An important component of the new support service will be ensuring the sector is aware of key local priorities, areas of need, are able to proactively build and strengthen the voluntary sector and its connections with wider partners, providing input and feedback on behalf of the sector where required.

Examples of local priorities include: London Borough of Culture 2025, Borough of Sanctuary accreditation, Family Hubs, Leisure strategy and Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024 – 2029 – 19 Steps to Health and Wellbeing.

The Event

The purpose of the market engagement event is to seek feedback from interested bidders and bidding partners on the following areas:

1. Feedback on the key outcomes and deliverables as outlined below, including:
 - a. Are they clearly described?
 - b. Are they achievable and what are the different ways they could be measured?
2. What are the different service models that could be explored to best deliver the service? This could include a single provider, multiple providers or an alliance of organisations working together to deliver the service.
3. Reflecting on the common values identified by the voluntary sector as part of the needs analysis including trust, transparency, diversity, creativity, collaboration and inclusivity. How can these be built into the specification?

As part of the event the Council will inform organisations on:

1. The recent consultation for this specification and the new VCS strategy which will sit alongside it.
2. Provide information around the proposed procurement route and on how to bid for contracts.
3. Answer any questions you may have about the process, provide information on next steps and timeframes.

OUTLINE (DRAFT) SERVICE DESCRIPTION

1. Leadership and Advocacy

Outcomes

- 1.1. Wandsworth is a vibrant, inclusive, and thriving place to live and work, where partners are connected and collaborate to support and empower communities. This attracts and sustains diverse leaders to the Wandsworth voluntary and community sector who champion collaboration and partnership working.
- 1.2. Voluntary sector organisations are supported, recognised, and celebrated. They have a strong voice and are able to influence local policies, decision making and services.
- 1.3. There is increased voice and participation of service users in voluntary and community sector organisation's strategies and service planning and delivery.

Objectives

- 1.4. Voluntary and community sector organisations are enabled to have a strong voice in the development of borough-wide priorities, and there is breadth of representation (including grassroots organisations and marginalised groups).
- 1.5. Voluntary and community sector organisations are supported to respond, adapt and change, where necessary, to local priorities as they emerge and the evolving needs of the local community.
- 1.6. Voluntary and community sector organisations are supported to have the skills and knowledge to engage with, and influence, decision making, service development and delivery.
- 1.7. Voluntary and community sector organisations are supported to connect with each other and a range of partners, to share resources and collaborate on projects.

- 1.8. Voluntary and community sector organisations are supported to understand and connect with the different local engagement mechanisms to use residents' voices, insight and experience to shape future priorities.
- 1.9. Voluntary and community sector organisations are supported to gain skills and share knowledge and practice about service user engagement and participation.
- 1.10. Voluntary and community sector organisations are able to participate in different opportunities throughout the year, including, but not limited to, peer-to-peer learning and networking.
- 1.11. Voluntary and community sector organisations are supported to work with partners to identify gaps in provision and to work collaboratively to solve these as a wider network.

2. Volunteering

Outcomes

- 2.1. A diverse cohort of Wandsworth volunteers is activated, supported, and celebrated.
- 2.2. A range of different volunteering opportunities are developed, supported, and well communicated.
- 2.3. There is accessible help and support for the voluntary and community sector on the recruitment, induction, and training of volunteers.
- 2.4. There is a co-ordination of different touch points with local businesses and other partners, so there is a strategic ask with volunteering opportunities.

Objectives

- 2.5. A range of different volunteering opportunities are widely promoted across the community, using an accessible online platform.
- 2.6. Voluntary and community sector organisations are able to access training and support for volunteers, including DBS support. This will include recruitment and retention, safeguarding training, and training for trustees.
- 2.7. Voluntary and community sector organisations are able to participate in volunteer fairs and events, to raise awareness of needs of organisations and increase numbers of volunteers. For example, accessing college fairs and utilising promotion during national volunteering week in June.
- 2.8. Voluntary and community sector organisations are supported to connect with local businesses and other key partners, to promote a variety of volunteering opportunities, as well as other ways to partner. For example, sharing skills, resources, and space.

3. Community Development and Practical Support

Outcomes

- 3.1. Supporting the development of an ecosystem, consisting of a flexible infrastructure and capacity building support service, which enables voluntary organisations to thrive, be connected, and participate in the wider design and delivery of the borough's priorities.
- 3.2. Anchor organisations and institutions are supported to share knowledge, experience, and skills across new and grassroots voluntary and community sector organisations.
- 3.3. Regular communications take place across the sector and in a variety of forms, promoting the sharing of information, resources, assets, and local case studies.
- 3.4. Organisations can access up to date information on available activity and delivery spaces across the borough, from which they can deliver their services.

Objectives:

- 3.5. Tailored programme of capacity building support and organisational development for voluntary and community sector organisations with a particular focus on new and grassroots organisations, and those supporting communities of interest.
- 3.6. Provide a range of bespoke skills development and training opportunities and one-to-one advice and guidance, on relevant subjects including but not limited to:
 - Charity best practice
 - Charity governance and Trusteeship
 - Leadership development and business planning
 - Financial management
 - Fundraising (bid writing, tendering, fundraising strategies)
 - Safeguarding
 - Data analytics
 - Communications: including social media and web development
 - Quality assurance
- 3.7. Support a wide range of organisations to connect with each other and key partners, encouraging collaboration and partnership working.
- 3.8. Provide regular and timely communications and networking events across the year.
- 3.9. Provide an up-to-date database of buildings (room hire, activity space, etc.) and resources (for example, template policies, venues to hire).

- 3.10. Proactively engage with the sector across the year to check in on and understand needs, knowledge gaps and issues.
- 3.11. Proactively engage with the sector across the year to build relationships across the range of organisations and raise awareness of new and smaller ones.
- 3.12. Support new and smaller organisations with building their networks, partnerships and knowledge on accessing training, governance support relevant Council and health contacts.
- 3.13. Work collaboratively with the sector and key partners on mapping potential spaces that could be used by groups across the borough. Help groups connect with these spaces.
- 3.14. Promote and support the sector to access the Council's training offer, data tool 'Data Wand' and any local and external training opportunities e.g. Advice First Aid Training, NSPPC.
- 3.15. Maintain and update an online map/database of Wandsworth VCS organisations to improve signposting, communications and networks/partnerships.
- 3.16. Provide access to an online library of resources e.g. how to guides, useful websites, case studies, template policies, awareness events, toolkits etc.
- 3.17. Consistently connect VCS organisations so they are able to proactively explore and promote opportunities to share resources with each other, such as assets, knowledge and skills.

4. Partnerships and Collaboration

Outcomes:

- 4.1. The Wandsworth voluntary and community sector is actively encouraged, equipped, and empowered to partner with each other, the Council, health, businesses and other key partners, to achieve better outcomes for the borough.
- 4.2. Knowledge is shared between different partners and relationships are built, to foster collaboration and partnership working.
- 4.3. There is a better shared understanding of the Council's and local partners' short and long-term priorities, including future commissioning intentions.

Objectives:

- 4.4. An annual agreed programme of accessible events, engagement opportunities, meetings and networking opportunities that are held in a variety of geographical locations and virtually, which address different themes and topics of interest.
- 4.5. There is regular sharing of information on partner updates, changes, and future planning, in person and virtually.

- 4.6. Voluntary and community sector organisations and wider partners are supported to understand how to develop strong partnerships, across a variety of themes and demonstrate shared values and aspirations.
- 4.7. There is an accessible directory of voluntary and community sector organisations, which is kept up to date and widely promoted.
- 4.8. The Voluntary and community sector is enabled to participate in relevant consultations and priority setting for the borough, in partnership with the Council and NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB).

5. **Funding and Resources**

Outcomes

- 5.1. Increased investment of in borough and out of funding, and non-cash resources (e.g. volunteers and physical assets) into the local voluntary organisations.
- 5.2. Voluntary and community sector organisations are supported to be financially resilient and sustainable.
- 5.3. Increased awareness and partnerships with local and national funders, to share opportunities and increase investment in the local voluntary sector.
- 5.4. A range of voluntary and community sector organisations, particularly grassroots ones, are aware, confident, and successful in developing their fundraising strategies.

Objectives

- 5.5. Voluntary and community sector organisations have access to targeted one-to-one funding advice and bid writing support.
- 5.6. Voluntary and community sector organisations have opportunities to share and raise common barriers and issues when accessing and applying for funding, and supported to identify clear steps that address and mitigate these in the future.
- 5.7. Voluntary and community sector organisations receive regular communications and opportunities that connect them with local and national funders. With this, support is given to the sector to advocate to national funders in how they understand and connect with the Wandsworth landscape and context.
- 5.8. Voluntary and community sector organisations are supported to partner with each other and wider networks, to explore creating and putting forward joint applications and bids.
- 5.9. Voluntary and community sector organisations are supported to understand what funding is available and helped to design and present projects to funders – including working with the Council's Community Engagement Team with Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) projects.