



Report to Scrutiny

Item Number: **7**

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No
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Subject of Report:	Ealing Community and Voluntary Service (CVS)
Meeting:	Scrutiny Panel Review Panel 2 – Community Centres 28 January 2016
Service report author:	See below
Scrutiny officer:	Anna-Marie Rattray, Scrutiny Review Officer RattrayA@ealing.gov.uk 0208 825 8227
Cabinet Responsibility:	Councillor Ranjit Dheer - Cabinet Member for Safety, Culture and Community Services and Deputy Leader
Director Responsibility:	Keith Townsend, Executive Director, Environment and Customer Services
Brief:	Janpal Singh Basran, Member of Ealing CVS will be attending the meeting to talk about the support provided to local voluntary and community groups by Ealing CVS, and also the work of Southall Community Alliance.
Recommendations:	To consider the presentation and comment as appropriate.

1. Ealing CVS

1.1 Ealing Community and Voluntary Service (ECVS) is a registered local charity and has been supporting voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups in Ealing for over 30 years.

1.2 Ealing CVS offer a wide range of practical support services to VCS groups:

- Advice and help with funding bids
- Help with recruiting volunteers
- Training and skills courses
- Group development advice, such as becoming a registered charity or help with starting up a new group
- Model policy documents, which most funders now require
- Free stats you can use in funding bids, which most funders also now require
- Help and training around safeguarding children
- IT tips and advice
- Information on service discount schemes and savings available to VCS groups

1.3 As well as practical services Ealing CVS supports VCS partnership work and a strong local 'VCS voice'. They are the lead organisation for Ealing Community Network, which has been going for 12 years and has over 450 VCS member groups. Ealing CVS also coordinates the West London Network which brings together VCS reps across seven boroughs: Barnet, Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hillingdon and Hounslow.

1.4 Ealing Community Network realised that a lack of affordable accommodation was a key issue for many local community groups, both full-time office accommodation and for booking venues for meetings, and events. Too many groups had to work out of members' homes or informal venues, such as local cafes. In partnership with Ealing Council, Ealing Community Network carried out a Community Premises Audit, which involved funding four local organisations to act as 'eyes and ears' and identify vacant or under-used property in each area of the borough that could be used or hired by local community groups. The information collected has been collated and created into a directory, which contains details of more than 100 premises for rent or hire in Ealing borough, and is available on the Ealing CVS website.

1.5 Janpal Singh Basran, a member of Ealing CVS will be attending the panel meeting to talk about the support provided by the organisation. Mr Basran will also talk about the work of Southall Community Alliance, a registered charity, which acts as a forum to represent the common interests of the community, develop the skills and capacity of disadvantaged groups, and to provide facilities and activities specifically targeted at local community groups.

2. Legal Implications

2.1 None arising directly from this report, though in the event of recommendations being directed to a decision making body these would be accompanied with full legal implications.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 None arising directly from this report.

4. Other Implications

4.1 None

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

Pre-publication sign-off

Name	Department	Date sent	Date response received	Comments appear in report paragraph:
Internal				
Keith Fraser	Head of Scrutiny and Committees	19/01/16	19/01/16	

Report History

Decision type:	I. Urgency item?
Non-key decision	No

Authorised by Cabinet member:	Date report drafted:	Report deadline:	Date report sent:
Not applicable			
Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries:		
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