

**Haringey Community Centres Network
12.7.2023 at LUOS**

Draft notes

Attendees:

Tejas Patel TJ -	Manager, Community Hub Wood Green,
Andrew Johnston AJ -	Director, The Engine Room
Leyla LeksariLL -	CEO, Living Under One Sun
Daisy Byaruhanga DB -	IVO Centre High Cross
Cllr Mike Hakarta	Haringey Council (passing by...)

Apologies

Dave Morris - Lordship Hub, Chair of HCCN
Debra Mendes – Hornsey Vale

1. Introductions

AJ gave introductions and apologies for Dave and Debra. Dave's draft email had not been seen by members present but AJ emailed others and reviewed the contents.

Action Point – all to ensure they are on the group email address and that it is saved as a safe email address communitycentres@haringey.org.uk

2. Cllr Hakarta

A very useful discussion took place with Cllr Hakarta focussing on the need for the Council to explore potential for core funding for community centres in Haringey and to respond to the needs of the community centres. Frustration was expressed at the constant turnover of staff managing the VCS service at the Council and the lack of support for Haringey Community Centres from the VCS Service Provider Bridge Renewal Trust. Cllr Hakarta encouraged us to engage with Cllr Emily Arkell who has now taken over the VCS brief following the sad passing of Cllr Julie Davies. AJ confirmed that the Council Leader and Cllr Davies had been well aware of the challenges being faced. It is hoped that the drafted letter will get a response from the Council CEO.

3. Draft letter

Chair Dave Morris had forwarded a draft letter to the Council's new CEO requesting an urgent meeting. A message had been received from Debra Mendes at Hornsey Vale indicating that they had already met the CEO and other key staff to discuss their own situation. Attendees conformed that they had seen this email and AJ's response sent expressing concern about the 'Circular Funding Model' which was being spoken about by the Council. It was clear that after three years of discussions with the Council and a range of different staff we had gotten no further forward which was very disappointing.

4. Operations

All reported on their operations – Centres are recognising the importance of Social Media and LUOS have recently taken on a Social Media officer to enhance their communications. AJ offered DB assistance in getting a better online profile and generating more income through room hire via Sharesy or other platforms. It was disappointing to hear that IVO has had zero bookings through Sharesy to date.

5. Any Other Business

Dave Morris had circulated the next VCS Forum which looked very relevant to the HCCN Network:

***Voluntary and Community Sector Forum
2 - 3.30pm, 20 July 2023 | Online***

Join us for our next VCS Forum! We will be joined by the Council's Head of Policy and Strategy, Jean Taylor, for a presentation on the Haringey Deal and lively discussion. Haringey Deal marks a substantive change in how the council engages with residents and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

A discussion took place around the new Community Centre in the design phase for Down Lane Park. LL explained how complex the requirements were from the Council and that a business plan had been submitted.

6. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that we should aim to meet in September. Dave to coordinate dates in the hope we also receive a response from Haringey by then.