

MAYOR OF LONDON

Supporting Volunteer Centres – Team London & London Plus

Visits Aug-Sep 2018



Volunteer Centres visited

Joint visits

- Volunteer Centre Bexley
- Volunteer Centre Greenwich
- Groundwork (Barnet, Brent, Hounslow, Kingston + Team Westminster)
- Voluntary Action Lewisham
- Kensington & Chelsea Volunteer Centre
- One Westminster
- Volunteer Centre Redbridge
- Enfield Voluntary Action

London Plus visits

- Tower Hamlets Volunteer Centre
- Croydon Voluntary Action
- Islington Voluntary Action
- Volunteer Centre Camden
- Richmond CVS
- Voluntary Action Harrow Coop

What you told us

- 1. Communication**
- 2. Advocacy for Volunteering & the Voluntary Sector**
- 3. Quality Mark/Standards**
- 4. Networking/Sharing best practice**
- 5. Training /Peer Support**
- 6. Data & Intelligence**
- 7. Funding & Resources**

Communication – what you need

- Clarity about the respective roles of London Plus & Team London;
- Clarity about Mayor's strategic direction;
- Improved collaboration between Team London & VCs;
- Advocacy for volunteering & Volunteer Centres at London wide & borough level;
- More networking opportunities for VCs staff;
- Knowledge sharing on sector specific issues.

Communication – what we can offer

- London Plus interface between VCs and GLA/Team London:
 - Joint events London Plus & GLA;
 - Sub-regional network days:
 - Ongoing commitment to network support.
- Analysis of volunteering in London – London Plus - data & intelligence workplan.
- London Plus website content strategy:
 - communications on latest events/reports
 - Regular VCs/volunteering features on L+ website.

Advocacy – what you need

- Investment into a pan-London approach to raise the profile of Volunteer Centres:
 - Highlighting the range and diversity of volunteering projects across the capital
 - Ensuring that commissioners aware of the value of local intelligence & impact of volunteering
- Mayor to reaffirm his commitment to the value of volunteering;
- Mayor & DM more visible at regional and sub-regional events

Advocacy – what we can offer

- GLA strategy – to support civil society across London;
- Team London to identify opportunities with London Plus to promote Volunteer Centres – e.g., inclusion in GLA focus on Social Prescribing
- Better use of data and intelligence: with support from London Plus & GLA, VCs are able to use local data for advocacy
- Discussion/network events: addressing current and future issues, raising the profile of challenges & opportunities for the sector

Quality Marks/Standards

- An official quality mark for Volunteer Centres is recognised as being important for commissioners & funders;
- Quality Mark costs involved are high, for example: NCVO accreditation;
- London Plus to convene interested partners to discuss existing issues and advocacy opportunities around standards and quality mark systems for London.

Training/Skills Sharing

Promote existing offer:

- Team London – promote training programme & events;
- London Plus to convene a training action group to coordinate the existing training offer from VCs across London.

Future Opportunities

- London Plus works with the training group to identify training opportunities & investment to develop e-learning resources and accreditation;
- London Plus identifies themes to develop peer skills sharing programme.

Data & Intelligence

- London Plus to carry out research on the volunteering demographics in London;
- Collect & profile case studies of good practice from across London VCs;
- Working with VC's to use new data to make robust arguments in support of the sector, complementing and adding value to qualitative case studies, etc.

Funding & Resources

- Flag up, in advance, funding streams for the voluntary sector;
- Regular communication with network of VCs and CVSs (newsletter, social media);
- Online platform to share information and signpost to resources – London Plus and Team London;
- New civil society page with GLA funding opportunities:
<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/communities/working-londons-civil-society>
- Mayor's new philanthropy strategy
<http://rocketsciencelab.co.uk/2018/09/14/harnessing-the-capitals-giving-part-2/>

Next Steps

We are still listening....

Break into small groups and appoint a scribe:

- What's missing?
- Any more detail to add?
- We won't ask you to feedback but will take away and add

Thank you!