The Value of the voluntary sector

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SEND Futures Conference 2018

Heather Mathew
Children and Young Peoples VCS Strategic Lead Manager
Win or lose, sink or swim
One thing is certain, we’ll never give in
Side by side, hand in hand
We all stand together
"I can do things you cannot. You can do things I cannot. Together we can do great things" (Mother Teresa)
Richmond CVS
www.richmondcvs.org.uk

Kingston Voluntary Action
www.kva.org.uk

Representing over 1,000 charities, community groups and social enterprises across the two boroughs - a significant proportion of which deliver to children and families across all age ranges and emotional, health and social needs.
Areas of Work

• Sensory / Stimulating / Support
  eg. music therapy, early years development, parent support

• Emotional Health and Wellbeing
  eg. for young carers, for adult carers, for children and young people’s mental health, for bereavement, national helplines

• Nurture/Nature
  eg. educational activities and social groups such as Me Too and Co, TAG Youth Club, London Wildlife Trust, Horse Rangers Riding for the Disabled, Spartan Swimming Club

• Dance and the Arts
  eg. Ballet Boyz, YMCA, Orleans House Gallery
“It takes a village to raise a child”
(Igbo and Yoruba proverb)

• Children don’t exist in a vacuum
• They are part of a family with the pressures of modern living, such as debt, housing, adult mental health having an impact on the family’s ability to thrive

The local VCS can help
eg. Citizens Advice – debt management, benefits etc
eg. Barnes Workhouse Fund /Richmond Parish Lands / Hampton Fuel Allotments for grants for white goods, assistance with utility bills, education etc
TAG
Youth Club for Disabled Young People
Delivering a programme of personal, social and educational opportunities
A Small Charity With A Big Personality
Setting the Bar

London Youth
QUALITY MARK
GOLD ACCREDITED
2018-21

AMBITION QUALITY GOLD
ACCREDITED
Providing Fun and Engaging activities
Junior Club

• Aimed at children and young people between the ages of 10 and 15

• Meets on alternate Fridays at Ham Youth Centre

• 5.30 to 7pm

• Onsite and offsite activities

• Transition for those aged 14 to our Youth Club
Aimed at young people between the ages of 15 and 25

Meets every Friday at Ham Youth Centre

7.30 to 9.30pm

Onsite and offsite activities

Projects

Sleepovers and residential holidays
Weekly Themes
• Rodeo Bull
• Cowboy and Indian Sumo Wrestling
• Line Dancing
• Tin Can Alley
• Cactus Lasso
Daniel
Delivering More
We Also

• Host the Transition and Local Offer fair

• Provide advice to other youth organisations

• A voice for children and youth people at local and national level
CELEBRATING 18 YEARS 2000-2018
Why the Voluntary Sector?

- Friendship
- Empathetic
- Responsive
- Professional
- Creative
- Reliable
- Local
- Caring
- Supportive
- Long Term
- Trusted
- Fun
- Nurture
- Rest
Why the Voluntary Sector?

• Personally motivated and local
• Trusted professionals, expertise
• Relationships, Social Network, Peer to Peer
Think Voluntary

- SPA triage/School SENCO/School Nursing/Parent Carer

- **Local Offer**  [https://www.afcinfo.org.uk/local_offer](https://www.afcinfo.org.uk/local_offer)

- **Turn2Us** – a national charity which offers online support including a benefit entitlement checker, a search for a grant for individuals that can be used by referral agencies, and an information and help function  [www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)

- **The Helpline Partnership** administers an extensive database of helplines, where you can find support quickly and easily. The information is themed and includes helplines that support children and young people, disability and emotional health.  [www.helplines.org/helplines/](http://www.helplines.org/helplines/)
If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

African Proverb
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