

Voluntary**Action**Islington

Annual General Meeting & Islington

Volunteer of the Year Awards 2024



Voluntary**Action**Islington

MARCO PIERRE WHITE
STEAKHOUSE BAR & GRILL

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**Annual General Meeting
2024**

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VAI'S 2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS



**Voluntary
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Islington**



VAI's Four Strategic Aims

1

CAPACITY BUILDING

To support the development, effectiveness and sustainability of Islington's VCFSE

2

VOLUNTEERING / SOCIAL ACTION

To enable and strengthen volunteering, social action and community resilience

3

PARTNERSHIPS

To facilitate stronger partnership working across the VCFSE to influence policy, decision making and system growth

4

VAI / RESOURCE CENTRE

To run VAI responsibly, effectively and efficiently as a model of good practice

1

To support the development, effectiveness & sustainability of Islington VCFSE

240 requests for organisational development support

100 community groups supported

42 funding updates, **2** funding booklets (100+ funders)

- Funding Toolkit – 265 Islington organisations registered
- 2 ‘Meet the Funder’ events with Cloudesley & the Arts Council
- 12 small groups attend roundtable to help us understand sector’s challenges & needs following Covid-19 pandemic
- 3 National Lottery Surgeries, 1 Monitoring & Evaluation Workshop

“I advise every Islington charity to work with VAI. Over the years they have helped us with numerous issues that all small charities face.” Community Organisation supported by VAI



2

To enable and strengthen volunteering, social action & community resilience

571 new volunteers & **59** new VIOs registered

164 new volunteering opportunities promoted

18 Local Wellbeing Network Meetings, **150** attendees

- 6 Volunteering Fairs - 313 residents & 57 local organisations
- Islington Mayor's Charity of the Year – successful partnership raising awareness, impact and benefits of volunteering
- Listening & Social Action Campaigns via the Local Wellbeing Network
- Community Organising with Octopus Community Network

“Volunteering has been exceptional for me. I have gained experience of working in an office environment, developing skills in administration, event organising, & data management.”

VAI Volunteer



3

To facilitate stronger partnership working across the VCFSE to influence policy, decision making & system growth

125

attendees at our VCFSE conference in partnership with London Metropolitan University & LBI

4

Community Conversation sessions in partnership with LBI: Youth Safety, Keeping the Family Healthy, Adult Community Learning, Islington's Population & Inequality

- New partnership with Healthprom to support the arrival of Ukrainians
- VAI represented the VCFSE at LBI & NCL Partnerships & Boards
- VAI Advisory Group started work with LBI on refreshing the Compact – a partnership agreement between sectors

“A very well organised event, really well put together, **lots of representation, time to network** and **make important connections.**”

Feedback from the VAI 2024 Conference



4

To run VAI responsibly, effectively & efficiently as a model of good practice

590 registered members

880 local organisations, residents & statutory partners
disseminate & receive information via our newsgroup

32 community organisations hosted within our
Resource Centre

- Affordable desk and room hire provided for micro, small and medium sized charities and community groups
- Collaborative working between hosted organisations and VAI

“We appreciate **the professionalism, facilities, and flexibility that the VAI team shows us**. The provision of the meeting rooms is a terrific resource for charitable organisations.”

Hosted organisation at VAI's Resource Centre



2023-24 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Income, expenditure and reserves 2023-24



£495K

Total Income

- Slightly higher than in the previous year (£491k)
- Due to stable grants and contributions, and positive performance



£493K

Total Expenditure

- Higher than the previous year (£438k)
- Higher due to normalised staff structure and Cost-of-Living salary increases



£2K

Net Income

- Negative performance of financial markets led to c£5k financial investment loss
- Compared to £38k net profit the previous year



£203K

Free Reserves

- Compared to 182k in 2023
- VAI's reserves policy is 3 months' annual expenditure, current reserves equate to 34% annual budgeted expenditure

Designated funds, cash balance and investments

£104K

Designated

Designated funds to invest in:

- Building improvements
- IT Infrastructure
- Possible relocation of the Resource Centre

£224K

Cash balance

A comfortable **cash balance** to address:

- Any cashflow issues
- Needs in the future

£154K

Investments

Listed investments:

- Investment values decreased slightly to £154k
- Expectation that values will rise in the future.

VAI'S 2024-27 STRATEGY



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A broad and diverse Islington VCSFE sector





How we gathered feedback and what are the current challenges?

Insights and feedback

- VAI's conferences
- Advisory group members and their networks of organisations
- Community Conversations
- Small groups roundtable & summits
- Local Wellbeing Network meetings
- Member surveys
- Feedback from 1-2-1 capacity building and organisational development
- Feedback from our volunteers and VIOs
- State of the sector reports

Current Challenges

- Unprecedented rise in service demand with increasingly complex issues
- Cuts in local government funding
- Charitable trusts inundated
- A need for organisational development support and better evidencing
- Formal volunteering is below pre-pandemic levels but there's a huge need
- Volunteering needs to be flexible but also rewarding and meaningful
- Need to amplify young people's views and engagement
- The sector needs opportunities for partnership working and networking



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Strategy Highlights 2024-27

1

CAPACITY BUILDING

- A new website and CRM
- A training hub and more bespoke fundraising and workforce development training
- Outreach plan to engage new VCFSE organisations
- Thematic events and forums for collaboration
- A directory of VAI's members

2

VOLUNTEERING / SOCIAL ACTION

- A new volunteer brokerage platform
- A volunteering viability study
- NAVCA Reaccreditation of the Volunteer Centre
- A borough wide volunteering strategy
- Further good practice resources on the website
- Cost of living programme to recruit volunteers and increase awareness of wrap around services

3

PARTNERSHIPS / COLLABORATIONS

- Islington Charity and Community Leaders Network
- Refresh and embed the Islington Compact
- Develop a borough wide VCFSE strategy
- Widen VCFSE representation across Islington Council strategic partnerships.
- Local state of the sector reports.
- Improved hub of resources for evidencing

4

VAI / RESOURCE CENTRE

- Improved Resource Centre facilities
- Review of all VAI's organisations policies and procedures (to be shared externally for community organisations)
- NAVCA infrastructure accreditation
- Annual VAI Impact Reports
- Eco and Accessibility Audits

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Jeremy Corbyn
Islington North MP

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Volunteers

Kat/

Marlene Lall

Ed/

Nisreen Abou Henda

Johnston Walker

Larysa

Esse

Yosef

Nana

Richard Singleton

Maria

Nadia



DOUBLETREE
by Hilton™

LONDON ANGEL KINGS CROSS

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Victoria Lawson
Chief Executive, LBI



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Richard Lee

General Manager, DoubleTree by Hilton
Angel King's Cross



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Older Volunteer of the Year



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This is to certify that

Colin Bulbrook

Nominated by Marie Curie

Has been commended for

Older Volunteer of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

John Thordinson

Nominated by The Canal and River Trust

Has been commended for

Older Volunteer of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Keith MacFarlane

Nominated by Whittington Park Community Association

Has been commended for

Older Volunteer of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Felicity Hart

Nominated by FCV DORCAS (Finsbury and Clerkenwell Volunteers)

Has been highly commended for

Older Volunteer of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Vera Macario

Nominated by Metropolitan Police Service

Has been highly commended for

Older Volunteer of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Carolyn Baker

Nominated by Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants

Has won the award for

Older Volunteer of the Year 2024



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Volunteering Team of the Year



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This is to certify that

Angel Shed's 20th Anniversary Volunteer Team

Nominated by Angel Shed

Has been commended for

Volunteering Team of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Hawist TRA Committee

Nominated by The Community Partnerships Team

Has been commended for

Volunteering Team of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

London Friend's Antidote Team

Nominated by London Friend

Has been highly commended for

Volunteering Team of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

London Friend's Team of Counsellors

Nominated by London Friend

Has been highly commended for

Volunteering Team of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

WeSwim - Old Street Team

Nominated by WeSwim

Has been highly commended for

Volunteering Team of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

LAWA's volunteer team

Nominated by Latin American Women's Aid

Has won the award for

Volunteering Team of the Year 2024



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Young Volunteer of the Year



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This is to certify that

Yasin Yanya

Nominated by Pro Touch SA CIC

Has been commended for

Young Volunteer of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Ropelda Sekin

Nominated by Whittington Health NHS Trust

Has been commended for

Young Volunteer of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Hani Ahmed

Nominated by Whittington Health NHS Trust

Has been commended for

Young Volunteer of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Cassie Beddor

Nominated by Maya Shimmin

Has been highly commended for

Young Volunteer of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Yusef Uddin

Nominated by Museum of the Order of St John

Has won the award for

Young Volunteer of the Year 2024



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Pat Haynes Memorial Trustee of the Year



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This is to certify that

Dr Lorraine Walker

Nominated by The Parent House

Has been commended for

Pat Haynes Memorial Islington Trustee of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Freya Johnson

Nominated by Angel Shed

Has been commended for

Pat Haynes Memorial Islington Trustee of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Samira Shariff

Nominated by Community Plan for Holloway

Has been highly commended for

Pat Haynes Memorial Islington Trustee of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Mr Stephen Mullin

Nominated by Culpeper Community Garden

Has won the award for

Pat Haynes Memorial Islington Trustee of the Year 2024



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Volunteer of the Year



This is to certify that

Darren Burgess

Nominated by Archway Upcycling Group, Gridlestone DIY Centre and Islington residents

Has been highly commended for

Volunteer of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Paul Johnstone

Nominated by Centre 404

Has been highly commended for

Volunteer of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Mark Rockliffe

Nominated by Elizabeth House Community Centre / Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Has been highly commended for

Volunteer of the Year 2024



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This is to certify that

Tony Quinn

Nominated by YES Outdoors, Brickworks, Rose Bowl, Lift, Prospex & The Thane CC, Calypso
Gymnastics, Metrobox, Go Full Steam and Islington residents

Has won the award for

Volunteer of the Year 2024



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