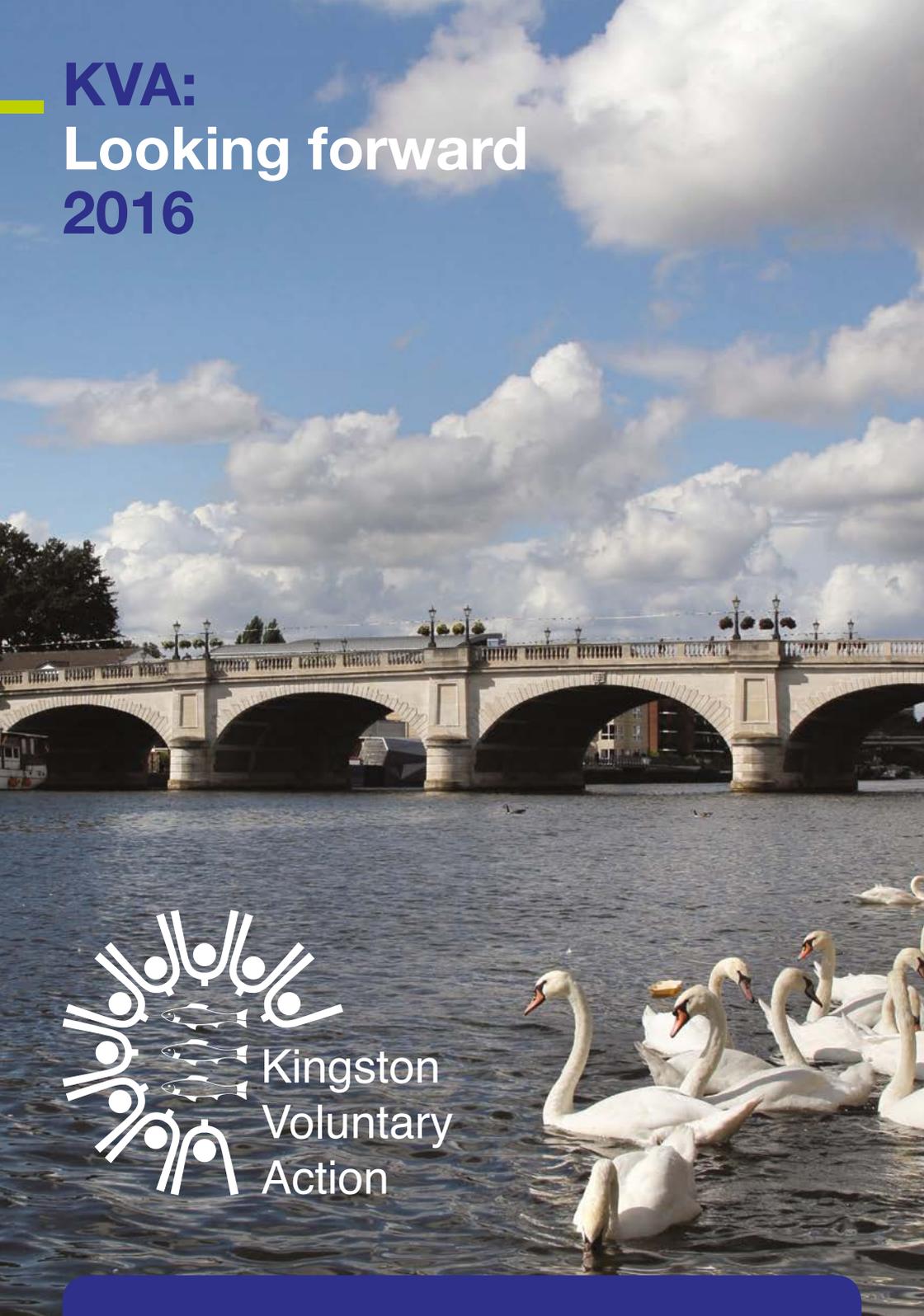


KVA: Looking forward 2016



Looking forward

Working to support the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Kingston is a great pleasure and a great challenge. The variety of organisations and needs means that Kingston Voluntary Action must offer a diverse package of support both to the VCS we work with but also to those who wish to engage with them. We may find ourselves helping one organisation by fixing their computer, while for another we may be required to offer one-to-one strategic advice, or assist them in finding volunteers or trustees.

One thing that we know they all have in common is that, like many charities and community groups elsewhere, they are working in a challenging and changing funding landscape, coupled with continual, and in many cases, growing need. In this setting, KVA's role continues to be key, as we work hard to support Kingston charities and community groups to offer the best services that they can, to provide Kingston residents with the support they need to lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

We are building on our strong record of partnerships with key bodies and organisations to ensure that we can best support Kingston's charity and community groups to reach their highest potential. Working with Richmond Adult and Community College,

Kingston Adult Education and other specialists and education providers, KVA will be building a suite of training and development support designed specifically to meet the needs of voluntary and community groups in Kingston. While we always have the needs of these groups first, we hope that these sessions will be of interest to small businesses in the area, and that this will foster cross sector connections in a learning environment. As any organisational capability relies on its staff and volunteers, we need to ensure they have the training that can allow them to work at the highest level.

Following the creation of the first network of Kingston VCS delivering a key strategic outcome (active and supported communities) for the Royal Borough of Kingston council, we will be using what we have

learned about the support these groups require when moving into outcome based commissioning, to continue our support for those are transitioning into this type of funding. We will also use this learning to support other Kingston VCS who may wish to make this move, ensuring that Kingston charities understand the requirements of a move into commissioning and feel confident in exploring this.

We know that in this coming year there will be big challenges and pressures for voluntary and community organisations in Kingston and those that they work with. Kingston Voluntary Action will continue to ensure that we are providing the right support to enable them to meet these challenges and thrive.



Hilary Garner
Chief Executive

Kingston Voluntary Action

Siddeley House, 50 Canbury Park Road, Kingston, KT2 6LX

Telephone: 020 8255 3335

Email: info@kva.org.uk Web: www.kva.org.uk Twitter: [@KingstonVA](https://twitter.com/KingstonVA)

CIO number: 1160403

The Vision: Kingston communities are active, strong and connected.

KVA works as enablers and brokers, providing catalysts for change. We are always looking to build and develop our services. Using information from a stakeholder review earlier this year, and research funded by the Big Assist, we have reviewed and honed our key strategic outcomes as an organisation to outline the changes we want to see taking place in Kingston and that we will be working towards in the years to come. We ensure that KVA's services and focus aligns with borough plans, including the key outcomes that Royal Borough of Kingston council are commissioning services against.

We want, and will work towards, a Kingston:



Where the community and voluntary sector is strengthened

Kingston's voluntary and community organisations are in a stronger position to meet the needs of local people. With increased capability to deliver their mission, including building on their ability to proactively identify and respond to community need and increase resources coming into Kingston.



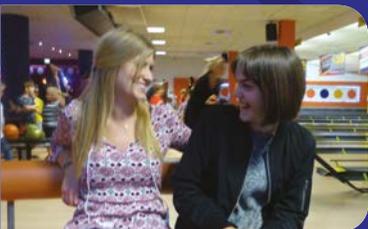
Where the community and voluntary sector meets community need

Local policy and services better meet community needs, with an increased community voice influencing policy and increased collaboration across the sector and with relevant agencies. We ensure that the contribution of the sector is recognised.



Where those who live, work, study or visit in Kingston are engaged in their community

More local people are engaged in their community, including more people taking up volunteering opportunities and empowering communities by increasing their potential to engage through vehicles such as networks and social action groups.



About Kingston Voluntary Action and our work in 2015/2016

Kingston Voluntary Action (KVA) is the local infrastructure body for Kingston charities and community groups.



We work to improve the quality of life for all of Kingston upon Thames' communities by supporting voluntary and community action in the Borough.

We do this through working directly with Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations to strengthen them, their work and their voice, helping to facilitate coordination and join up services, and also acting as a consultant and VCS

representative with stakeholders interested in the work of Kingston VCS.

We ensure that our internal ethos reflects our external focus on development and training. In the past year we have taken on a placement student from Kingston University and an apprentice.

Finally we recognise that our ability to perform all these services, relies on KVA having the necessary resources and

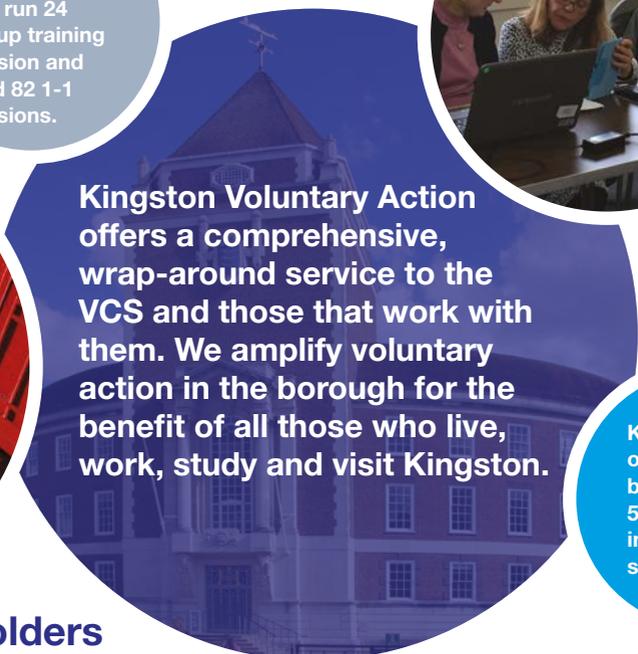
capability. We will be focusing on continuing to develop the skills of our staff and leadership, increasing the reach of our services and the numbers of people engaging with them, and building the profile of KVA and the sector.

KVA sits as the VCS representative on a number of boards and forums including the Kingston Strategic Partnership Board, Safer Kingston Partnership, Equalities Forum, Strategic Housing Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board, Children's Strategic Partnership and Local Safeguarding Children Board.





In the past year Superhighways has run 24 group training sessions and held 82 1-1 sessions.



Kingston Voluntary Action offers a comprehensive, wrap-around service to the VCS and those that work with them. We amplify voluntary action in the borough for the benefit of all those who live, work, study and visit Kingston.



KVA sends out fortnightly bulletins to over 500 individuals in the sector and stakeholders.

Stakeholders

We work with VCS stakeholders in Kingston, including commissioners and statutory bodies.

Providing strategic advice and consultancy to stakeholders on how Kingston VCS can best be supported and utilised to benefit the people of Kingston. This includes:

Representing Kingston VCS

We attend Kingston strategic events as a representative of the VCS ensuring that a VCS voice is heard in key decision making.

Acting as a means to disseminate information to the VCS sector

We engage with potential commissioners and funders to identify and then cascade

opportunities to the VCS sector, providing advice on how Kingston VCS can best be informed about potential opportunities.

Consultation support, using expertise and knowledge of the sector

Providing consultation support on the needs of the voluntary sector in Kingston and how the sector can be best utilised to support residents.

Mapping VCS services

We provide knowledge on existing VCS services and support, to reduce duplication

of services and identify areas of need.

Open communications space

Providing a communications stream for stakeholders who wish to consult directly with the sector, through network meetings and digital communications

Cross sector collaboration

KVA works to broker relationships between the VCS and other sectors. Developing and supporting partnership working that benefits all.

Our direct support

We work to create, sustain and develop voluntary sector and community groups. Offering a comprehensive wrap-around service to charities of advice, guidance, training, networking and resource. This includes:

Capacity building

Providing advice and practical support across a broad range of topics including accounting where we help organisations to develop high quality, low cost accounting practices; business planning advice on a one to one basis; supporting charities strategic development, planning and foresight; helping with governance issues and supporting good management structures and support. Additionally we support groups to identify appropriate funding and work with them to strengthen their bid writing capability.

ICT support

This is delivered through our **Superhighways project** which is now extending from six to ten boroughs, and includes help with digital communications and tools to measure and present impact. KVA also runs a digital health project which works to support Kingston residents and charities feel confident online, providing free computers and training, and a new website which can

signpost residents to relevant health information and tools, www.kingstondigitalhealth.org.uk

Volunteer support

This is delivered through our project, **Go Kingston Volunteering**. We help find the right volunteers to support the work of Kingston charities and work with charities to ensure they are giving a high quality experience to their volunteers, through the attainment of the Kingston Quality Award (This standard is now being used by organisations outside of the VCS sector, such as Kingston Hospital and Kingston First).

Our volunteer centre also includes the Kingston Buddy Scheme which is a befriending project that matches volunteers with individuals with learning disabilities so they can enjoy their social time and leisure activities.

Thematic networking and information

Through our key networks on Health and Wellbeing; Children and Young People; Trustees and Voluntary Sector Forum. These often provide a space for commissioners and statutory bodies to consult directly with the VCS sector. Ensuring that the VCS voice and expertise gets to key decision makers to help them

plan services that people want and need.

Relevant information and opportunities

KVA seeks to provide local charities with the information that will support their work, sending out regular updates with information, including on funding sources, commissioning opportunities and fundraising skills development.

Coordinating collaboration and project development

Research by KVA in 2016 found that half of surveyed groups planned to deliver joint services in the next 2 -3 months. KVA supports groups to find the right partners and develop a way of working that is positive for all organisations involved.

Hands on support

When necessary KVA forms new organisations or takes on existing ones under its management structure, to ensure a community need is being met. In 2009 KVA took on **Kingston Eco-op** which is a project providing work experience, learning and social opportunities to adults with learning disabilities and severe mental health issues.

In 2016, KVA developed a partnership with Richmond Adult and Community College for Kingston Eco-op clients to access learning courses, including Maths, English and Photography courses. This led to an exhibition of Eco-op client photography in the college building.

KVA projects

