



Analysis of the VCSE Sector Office Space (Premises) Survey 2025 - Expression of Interest

Kingston Voluntary Action (KVA), working with Kingston Council, conducted a short survey to explore the potential for not-for-profit groups/organisations to utilise council premises, such as office spaces, that may be available. The survey was sent to 650 organisations in July 2025 and promoted across social media platforms and on KVA's website.

Additionally, Kingston Voluntary Action is developing a Community Spaces webpage to connect not-for-profit organisations interested in sharing office space. Please see [Community Spaces and Venues - Kingston Voluntary Action](#).

Overview of Respondents

A total of 24* groups responded to the survey. All respondents belong to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector. The roles represented among the respondents include Chief Executive Officers, Directors, Fundraisers, Operations Managers, and other senior leadership positions.

Office Space Status

Half of the respondents (12 groups) currently do not have any office space. Among those that do, 10 are renting or leasing their premises. Only 2 organisations reported owning their office space.

Rent and Lease Costs

Monthly rent costs vary significantly across respondents. Some organisations operate from home offices and therefore pay no rent, while others pay up to £2,916.67 per month, excluding service fees and partial utilities. The most common rent range reported falls between £400 and £2,000 per month.

Interest in Sharing or Renting Space

6 organisations expressed interest in collaborative or shared office space models. Only 1 organisation has office space available to rent to others. 20 organisations indicated a willingness to engage in discussions with the Royal Borough of Kingston (RBK) regarding office space options. Additionally, 15 respondents anticipate needing office space within the next twelve months.

Location Insights

The office locations of respondents are distributed across Kingston, New Malden, Chessington, and Esher. Some organisations operate from alternative venues such as churches, community centres, or home offices.

Opportunities

The survey results highlight a clear lack of adequate office spaces for the VCSE sector in Kingston, as well as an opportunity for shared office initiatives amongst smaller number of organisations within the sector. Cost-sharing models could be particularly beneficial for smaller groups with limited financial resources. Kingston Voluntary Action (KVA) is happy to support Kingston Council in brokering space-sharing agreements and in developing community hubs within underused council-owned properties.

Next Steps

- 1) The first step will be to gather detailed information from Kingston Council regarding any potential office spaces available for use by VCSE organisations. This will help establish a clear picture of realistic opportunities for collaboration or occupancy.
- 2) Kingston Voluntary Action (KVA) will then prioritise follow-up engagement with the 15 organisations that have indicated an active need for office space in the next 12 months as well as the 6 organisations that expressed interest in shared space models. This engagement will focus on clarifying each organisation's specific requirements, including preferred space size, accessibility needs, location preferences, back-office needs and budget constraints.
- 3) KVA will also continue developing a dedicated webpage to support the VCSE sector's office space needs. This webpage will feature listings of both available and needed office spaces, along with essential details such as location, contact information, and relevant website links. The page will be regularly updated and made accessible to VCSE groups and local authorities to facilitate connections and opportunities.
- 4) KVA proposes to facilitate a roundtable or workshop that will serve as a platform to foster dialogue, build partnerships, and generate actionable ideas for addressing the sector's space challenges. By convening key stakeholders, KVA aims to support the development of innovative and cost-effective solutions that strengthen the infrastructure of the VCSE community in Kingston.

*Two organisations appeared twice in the dataset. These duplications were removed, reducing the total number of valid respondents from 26 to 24.