

Voluntary & Community Sector Critical Friends Group

The voluntary and community sector in Kingston plays a huge part in supporting the community in Kingston, and we want to work more closely with members of the voluntary and community sector to better understand your needs and offer support. We are doing a review of our relationship with the Voluntary & Community Sector so we can work better together to strengthen our relationship to build a resilient and stronger community in Kingston.

Are you a voluntary sector organisation in Kingston? Are you aware of the support and funding opportunities available from the council? We want to ensure every voluntary and community group in Kingston is able to help us prioritise our spending, and shape the structures and processes needed to make this happen. We would like to create a 'Critical Friends' group, made up of members from the Voluntary and Community Sector. The group will work closely with officers from Kingston Council, operating with mutual respect and commercial confidentiality. Together with Council officers, the group will:

- Help to shape and deliver the Review of the Council's relationship with the VCS
- Bring insights on the community and personal/professional experiences to the project
- Bring professional challenge



Commitment

Roundtable: Weds 13 November 2019, 17:30-19:30, United Reformed Church
Please register here: vcskingston-roundtable.eventbrite.com

A chance to meet Kingston Council officers and fellow members of the Voluntary and Community Sector, to discuss how to shape the future of our relationship together. You are welcome to join us for all or part of the session.

Co-Design Sessions

- Mon 25 November 2019, 1600-1900 Chessington Hook Centre, KT9 1AE
Please register here: vcskingston-codesign1.eventbrite.com
- Thurs 5 December 2019, 1600-1900 New Malden Library, KT3 3LY
Please register here: vcskingston-codesign2.eventbrite.com
- Tues 10 December 2019, 1600-1900 Surbiton Library, KT6 6AG
Please register here: vcskingston-codesign3.eventbrite.com
- Mon 16 December 2019, 1600-1900 Rose Theatre, Kingston, KT1 1HL
Please register here: vcskingston-codesign4.eventbrite.com

Interactive and collaborative sessions working on specific themes to help us make our processes and systems better. All members of Kingston's Voluntary and Community Sector are invited, including service users, and you are welcome to join us at any point for all or part of the session.

Critical Friends are not expected to attend each of the above sessions although we hope they will commit to attending - as far as possible - the Roundtable and at least 2 other co-design sessions.

January - April 2020

Between Jan-Apr 2020 it is likely that the group will meet along with relevant officers from Kingston in order to ensure that recommendations are embedded. The group will be convened by Kingston Council's Transformation Team, including Genine Whitehorne, Sophia Severin and Nicola Marven, but each meeting will be chaired by a different member of the group as a whole. An agenda will be drawn up prior to each meeting and shared at least 3 days before it will take place. Actions, issues and recommendations will be recorded at subsequent meetings and circulated to the group.

Any questions can be sent to voluntary-and-community@kingston.gov.uk