



voluntary
action
camden

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VOLUNTARY ACTION CAMDEN
ANNUAL REVIEW
2018-19



OUR WORK



ENABLING SOCIAL COHESION AND SENSE OF BELONGING

Social cohesion and a sense of belonging in Camden are increased as established and new communities and their members are empowered to take responsibility for their health, economic contribution, welfare and a sense of community

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Maintained a strong voice at strategic health forums locally and sub regionally to ensure the sector are visible and listened to as partners in health transformation.
- ✓ Connected over a thousand residents with opportunities in the local voluntary and community sector through Community Links, part of the Care Navigation and Social Prescribing Service in Camden.
- ✓ Started a Social Prescribing Learning Network for the groups and activity providers that are involved with Social Prescribing with over 180 currently involved.
- ✓ Supported the development of an alliance of small Black, Asian, Minority and Ethnic (BAME) organisations to help them access funding and enable them to provide support to their most isolated members.

“
Voluntary Action
Camden is the local
expert seeking to build
a thriving voluntary and
community sector. VAC
equips and resources
voluntary organisations
and community groups
and strategic partners
active in Camden to be
effective in their work
to support communities
across the borough.
Working together we
believe we can improve
the quality of life for all
in Camden.”

The difference we want to make:



COLLABORATION AND REDESIGN OF SERVICES

Camden's communities, civil society organisations and residents are empowered to collaborate across boundaries, present their views to external bodies and play an integral part in decision making and the design and delivery of services



SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Communities in Camden become more sustainable and resilient as civil society organisations and residents can identify needs and take steps to effectively meet those needs and enrich community life

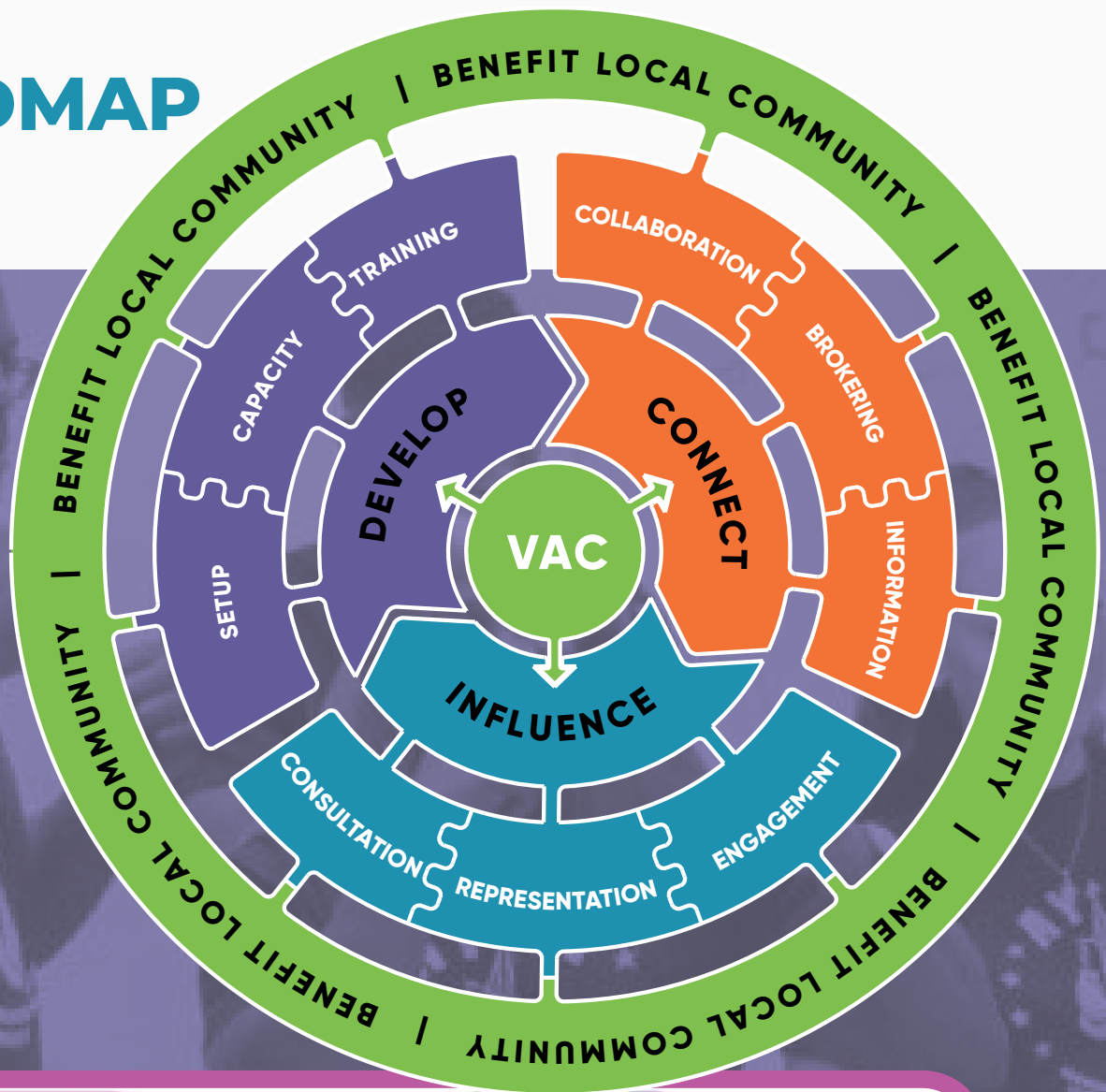
MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Took part in the Council's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) rents review and simultaneously ran a project looking at access to affordable space called Space to Connect funded by the Coop Foundation. We have consistently argued for a wider look at rents as it is the price per hour that the groups are charged by Community Centres that has the bigger impact on the sector.
- ✓ Supported the development of Camden Disability Action (CDA) and formed the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Consortium that allowed CDA to successfully bid to win the contract to run Centre for Independent Living at the Greenwood Centre.
- ✓ With other London Councils for Voluntary Services (CVSs), we developed a short video to promote the role of CVS's in supporting the sector.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Maintained an up-to-date directory of voluntary and community organisations with over 1300 organisations listed.
- ✓ Produced a weekly e-bulletin of news, training, job and funding opportunities etc.
- ✓ Maintained a website full of information and resources for the sector.
- ✓ Maintained a directory of community rooms for hire in the borough with over 500 spaces listed
- ✓ Lobbied the council to retain access to Camden's training service for the VCS.

VAC ROADMAP



Supporting Organisations

Starting out
Support in setting up and running a new organisation.

Somewhere to sit
Hot desking, meeting rooms, use of office resources.

Raising money
Training and one to one support to use Grant finder and write successful grant applications.

Planning
Writing and refreshing business plans in a rapidly changing environment.

Employing staff
Recruiting, contract and employment issues.

Consortium Building
Supporting organisations, large and small and across sectors, to work together.

Improving knowledge and skills
Training on coaching and mentoring, setting up a social business, governance, management and new challenges e.g. GDPR.

Information, resources, specialist advice and support, training and consultancy

Strategic Work

Partnership projects, networks and forums, lobbying, research and policy development

Camden Cultural Advocacy
Working with BME communities to address mental health issues and co-producing services.

Community Partnership Adviser
Strengthening links between BME communities, faith groups and the Camden Children's Safeguarding Board.

Pro Bono Coaching and Mentoring Network
Support for people working or volunteering in civil society organisations.

Collaborative Working
Co-producing events with the public sector and working with partners in community centres, business, and universities.

Health Inequalities Hub
Working to improve access to services, building community networks and enabling community voices to be heard.

Data and Policy Analysis
Access to a comprehensive database and policy briefings.

Environmental Justice
Strengthening the voice of local people to tackle negative impacts of development on health and wellbeing.



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FOREWORD



Voluntary Action Camden (VAC) worked hard during 2018-19 to enable Camden's voluntary and community sector (VCS) to respond to the twin challenges of constrained funding and increasing demand for services from community groups and residents, compounded in recent times by the extraordinary challenge of Covid 19 in 2020. Until Covid 19 upended all of our worlds, VAC focused our resources on addressing the barriers to community action by mobilising efforts to identify and protect affordable community spaces, continuing to offer essential information and insight to groups through our valued weekly bulletin and enabling our current home, the Charlie Ratchford Centre, to be a welcoming civic space for community activity and discourse.

The resilience of the local voluntary and community sector has been astonishing in its response to Covid 19 while dealing with the existing pressures of dwindling income and growing inequalities. The VCS has created new ways of delivering services to the local people, in particular those who are in most significant, not to say, life-threatening need. We are very proud to say that VAC stepped up to lead and coordinate the voluntary and community sector to deliver creative solutions to urgent problems and provided freely accessible data to the VCS and Camden's communities to find essential resources and support such as food banks.

In 2018-19 a key theme of VAC has been leading the debate on the role of accessible, affordable spaces in supporting the wellbeing of Camden's diverse communities. The Council's new rents policy is an opportunity to remove a significant barrier to voluntary action in the borough. VAC is collaborating with partner organisations to increase the range of more affordable spaces for community activity that plays a pivotal role in services such as social prescribing, parent and children groups and young people's groups.

As the core resource for the voluntary and community sector, VAC is seeking to establish a sustainable financial footing and in the coming year we will improve networking opportunities for the sector to help us all connect and enjoy a sense of belonging and mutual agency. We will strengthen our capacity building support offer and increase opportunities for Camden residents to get involved with our projects. VAC is refreshing its own communications to make it clearer as to what we are, what we do and the difference we make for lives across Camden. We will support a greater local VCS voice in local strategic decision making.

We are heartened to see the closer alignment of aims and cooperation across voluntary and statutory providers as expressed in the Camden Plan, Camden 2025 and the NHS Long Term Plan. The role of the VCS is recognised as central to the development of healthy community connections that support local people to take better care of themselves and their neighbours. We believe that by all of us working together, Camden will be an even greater place to be.

Julie Christie-Webb, Chair and Kevin Nunan, Executive Director

Responding to COVID 19 in Camden

Covid 19 turned our world upside down and inside out. It feels imperative to profile VAC's leadership and response to Covid 19 in this 2018-19 report at time of publication in 2020. It has been a major part of our recent work to resource Camden's voluntary and community sector (VCS) to meet the safety and wellbeing needs of our communities. Our concerted efforts in equipping, lobbying for and amplifying the voices of Camden's diverse VCS demonstrates the vital strategic and operational role of VAC in this time of crisis and positions us well to be part of collective action to 'build back better' as something approaching normal life returns.

Covid 19 has been life-changing for most, if not all, of the voluntary and community sector and the communities we serve. It has highlighted the resilience, creativity and dedication of VAC and the VCS in tackling the challenges arising from Covid 19 and has been a catalyst for community spirit in the form of volunteering and mutual aid groups. Conversely it has shown the precarious financial position of many charities and revealed the disproportionate impact on BAME communities because of societal and systemic inequalities. It has presented considerable challenges to organisations to mobilise, respond and sustain services especially smaller, grassroots groups who live and work in the communities they serve. It has demonstrated the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

439

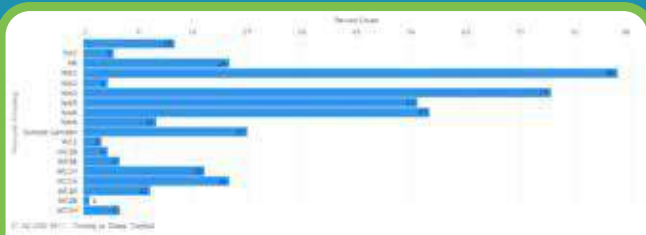
INBOUND
REFERRALS

707

OUTBOUND
REFERRALS



DAILY REFERRALS



COVID 19 CLIENT POSTCODES

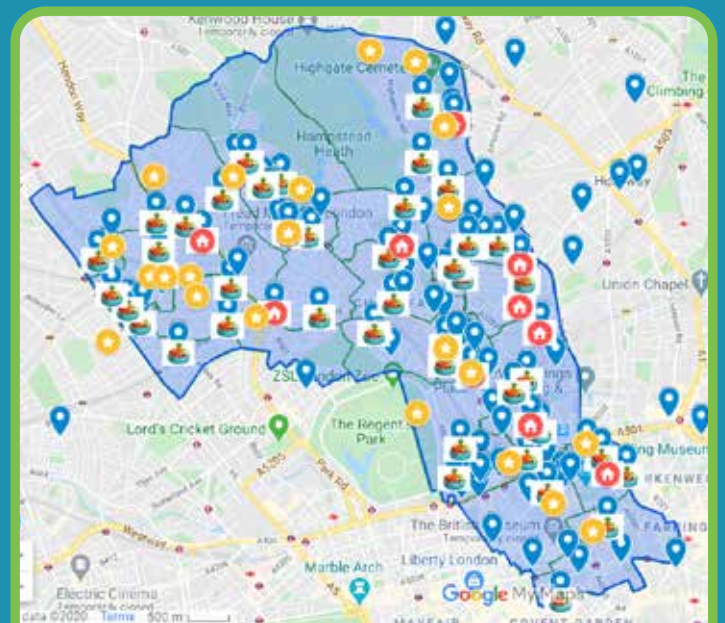


POSTCODE REQUEST BY DATE



GRAPH SHOWING SPIKE IN REFERRALS FROM BAME RESIDENTS DURING COVID-19

As the local expert and leader of Camden's voluntary action, VAC has been a central point of information and local intelligence. VAC has provided free and accessible up-to-date Covid 19 resources through the Covid 19 Community Directory and Map that represents the big picture of Camden's growing voluntary activity in emergency and ongoing response to Covid 19. It has proved to be an invaluable tool to our partners, groups and residents providing the right information at the right time to meet their needs. The disproportionate impact on BAME communities was highlighted in our joint report on Care Navigation and Social Prescribing with Age UK Camden and presented to the Camden Clinical Commissioning Group and Camden Council to influence future service development.



GOOGLE MAP OF SUPPORT PROVIDED BY COMMUNITY GROUPS DURING COVID 19

SURVEY

87%

of groups spending more than 60% of their time on Covid-19 related activities rather than normal service delivery

22%

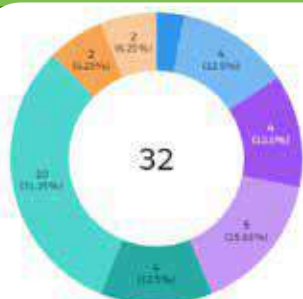
have no grant, contract or direct funding at all to support these activities

Income streams for the VCS have been hit hard throughout Covid 19 and VAC has responded with comprehensive information on funding sources and government support, and collaborating with local and national partners to highlight the financial struggle of many charities to decision-makers. The VCS has experienced massive reductions in earned income, planned community fundraising all but ceased and institutional funders suspended normal grants programmes as they became overwhelmed with requests for emergency funding towards Covid 19. VAC has run regular surveys with our members and users to understand more deeply the financial challenges and how might VAC capacitate the VCS to manage those challenges well. It has given us valuable intelligence on the future development of our capacity building service for Camden to build back better.

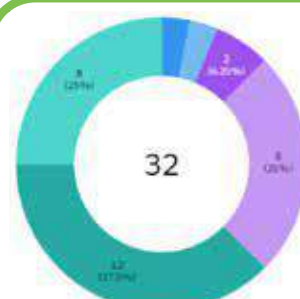


"This survey will be useful in informing the direction of the Trust's grant making policy which is due to be discussed at the next meeting of the Grants Committee."

"Thanks for setting up and running the sessions so far, they're definitely a really valuable resource!"



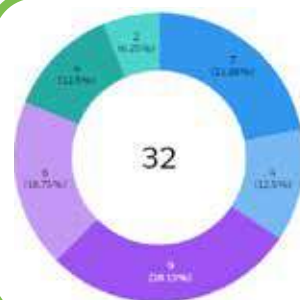
INCOME BAND



% ENGAGED IN COVID ACTIVITIES



% COVID WORK UNFUNDED



% COVID WORK FUNDED

The digital deficit has loomed large from the beginning of Covid 19 and lockdown. Many groups that have turned to us for urgent help with IT do not have access to technology for remote working and similarly their clients are without the IT resources or skills to live their lockdown lives online. VAC has stepped up to provide trusted guidance through a weekly IT and Tech Q&A sessions to the VCS and supported organisations to secure funding for much needed new IT and upgrades.

Looking to the future, VAC is focused on medium term goals of enabling the VCS to come through Covid 19 towards new sustainable ways of working and improved financial resilience. In the longer term, VAC will build on its reputation as a trusted charity to continue to advocate for better funding for the VCS, systems change that will end discrimination particularly in community health, amplifying the voices of those communities that struggle to be heard by decision-makers and protecting accessible, affordable civic space in Camden.

Enabling social cohesion and sense of belonging



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Our aim is that **social cohesion** and a **sense of belonging** in Camden are increased as established and new communities and their members are **empowered to take responsibility** for their **health, economic contribution, welfare** and a **sense of community**.

”



VAC is the heart of the voluntary sector in the London borough of Camden, amplifying the many voices of the borough's diverse communities. We are committed to enabling Camden's voluntary and community sector and communities served, to feel a sense of connection with each other, to support each other towards a better quality of life for all who choose to make Camden their home or their workplace.



VAC is the strategic organisation for Camden's voluntary and community sector and plays a crucial role in seeing the borough big picture with its many disparate communities and neighbourhoods. VAC leads the conversation with the sector and key partners to identify the urgent, emerging and long-term needs for our communities and addressing these through collaboration, resource development and sharing key data and intelligence. VAC is active within the Council for Voluntary Service network at London and national levels enabling lobbying for civil society.

2018 was a year of review and transition for voluntary sector organisations involved with health and social care in tandem with systemic change taking place in the public sector. In October 2018 VAC's Health Inequalities work promoting nonclinical community-based activity joined with Age UK Camden's Care Navigation Service to provide a comprehensive and open access Social Prescribing model. The new model was launched in October 2018 with VAC hosting Community Links, an access point for GPs, other clinicians, social workers etc. to refer residents into local community activities.

In the first year we estimate that the local voluntary and community sector has received approximately 1,000 new beneficiaries in to their activities and services. In some cases, this is introducing entirely new audiences to voluntary and community activities. With our referral partners and a deep dive into our data, we are trying to understand how VAC can support community organisations with the additional demand.

Residents said:



Social worker

"Thank you so much for this lovely update, I am really pleased to hear X has been to the community centre and is getting involved in creative activities, this will definitely support her to reduce social isolation and use her creativity."

Networking has always been critical to the work of VAC. The Social Prescribing Learning Network (SPLN) has been proven vital in supporting local voluntary organisations and groups that help Camden's communities and residents to achieve better emotional, mental and physical health. The Network provides space to share social prescribing data and insights and involves 140 members including community organisations and health and care professionals.

During 2018-19, the Learning Network influenced debate about funding the voluntary and community sector more appropriately to deliver social prescribing and engaged Camden civil society in London and national related policy developments. Our plans for the future are to strengthen a Camden voice within North Central London health partners forums, and at GLA / London level. SPLN will continue to share data with local groups and organisations to build knowledge and improve health outcomes for local residents.



"As a newcomer to Social Prescribing I felt like I got a really quick but comprehensive and effective overview before going into the group work."

"This was particularly useful for a getting a broad overview of how different organisations relate to volunteering and volunteers, and their recruitment and management."

"Great session, really well delivered, as well as bringing together lots of interesting organisations and people."



Raising cultural awareness about BAME communities' mental health and wellbeing has been a priority for VAC throughout 2018-19 and we established the Cultural Advocacy Project in partnership with Mind in Camden. The project aims to increase awareness of mental health and well-being from a cultural perspective and reduce sense of isolation felt by BAME communities. This much-needed project is developing safe spaces for and with BAME communities and community organisations to develop good practice in understanding, supporting and actively engaging with users that may be experiencing mental illness.

During this first year, the project focused on Bangladeshi and African diaspora communities including the development of a Peer Support Group model that delivered 150 peer support group sessions that succeeded in sustaining the engagement of up to 10 community members, and the co-production of 10 community mental health awareness events with more than 500 people attending in total. Our plans for the future are to develop the Project with Chinese and Irish communities in Camden.

We wish to extend our grateful thanks to the organisations in Camden that made this first year a success: Bengali Workers Association, King's Cross and Brunswick Neighbourhood Association, Swiss Cottage Community Centre. African Health Forum. Bengali Women's Forum, Light of Nations Mission and British Somali Community.

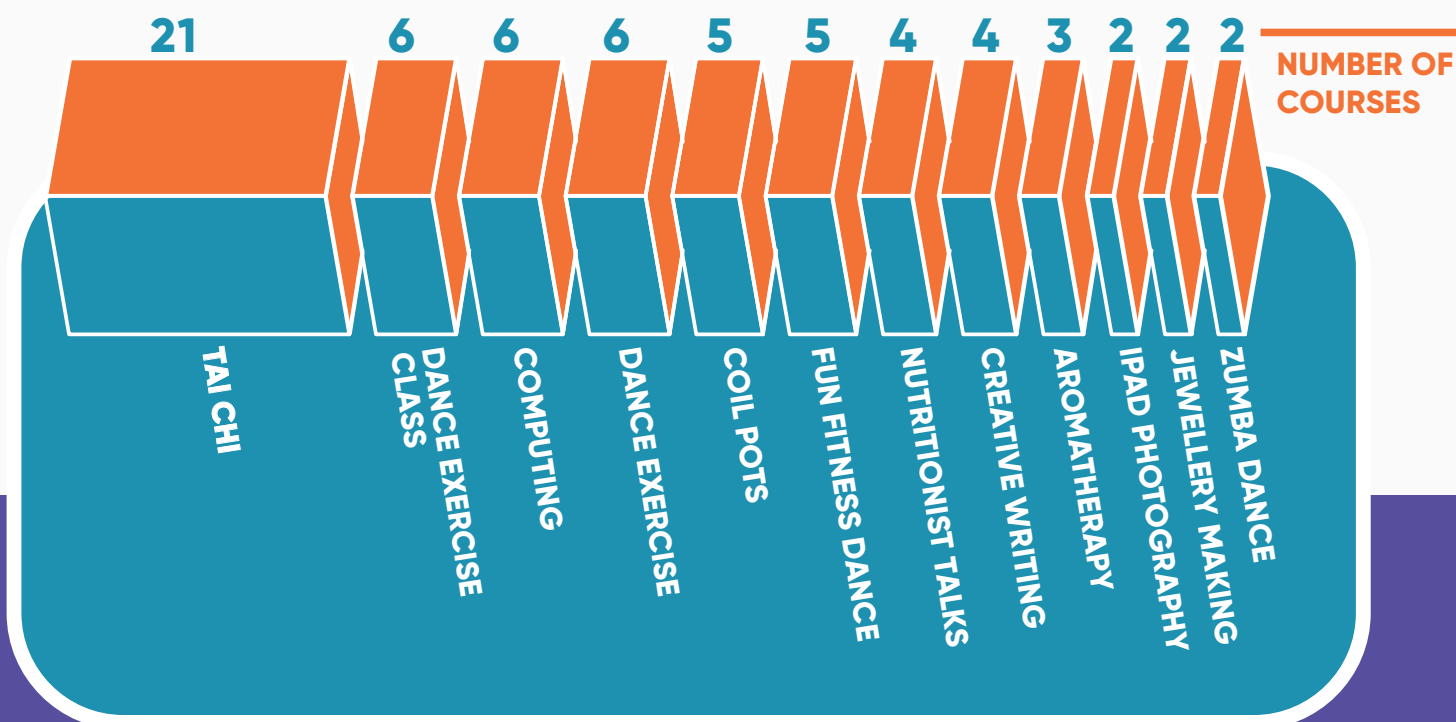
CULTURAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

"The group made a woman believe that it was "never too late to study, to travel and pursue their dreams."

"She felt relieved to have spoken about her predicament today and the group was a positive place to be and belong...she finally felt a connection to and a confidence/trust in the groups."



Developing the Healthy Minds programme offered a new creative approach to better health for Camden's communities and residents using aromatherapy, creative writing, exercise classes, nutrition and textile arts. Healthy Minds provides community-based activities that support people to manage their mental health and connect with their community. It involved more than 200 participants from age groups from above 20 to over 60 capturing participants from various BAME backgrounds. The programme helped increase awareness of how to be healthy - physically and mentally. It also provided opportunities for the participants to meet new people, make friends and socialise.



The programme is now delivered directly by community organisations hosting the activities, whilst VAC will continue to refer residents into the programme via social prescribing. Our thanks go to Mind in Camden for their valuable partnership in delivering this project.



"[The Creative Writing workshop] gave me confidence to write and talk about subjects that was not possible before."

"I enjoyed to understand the healthy food which can help me get fit and stay healthy."



66

**SESSIONS
DELIVERED**



10

**COMMUNITY
VENUES**



401

**CONNECTIONS
INTO HEALTHY
MINDS ACTIVITIES**

A significant development in 2018-19 was the initiation of a new BAME Community Action Project Consortium through the support of VAC. The Consortium is an alliance of small BAME organisations that enables them to provide effective support to the most isolated members of their communities and helps them towards financial sustainability through improved fundraising and income generation. Members of the Consortium reflect the great diversity of Camden's communities including African Health Forum, African Physical Training Organisation (APTO), South Sudan Women's Skills Development, Kurdish Community Association, Churches and others.



“

The consortium aims to work with and support BAME organisations in the voluntary and community sector to address loneliness and social isolation amongst older BAME people in Camden.

”

To reach out to and identify BAME older people at risk of social isolation and engage them to develop networks and activities. Increase BAME older peoples take up and participation in support activities and services. And to ensure that the voice of older BAME people contributes to the shaping and development of older people's activities and the communities they live in.

Enabling Bangladeshi and Congolese children to realize their academic potential has driven the School Link Worker Project with four schools in the borough, teachers and parents. The Link Workers sought to build cultural bridges between the homes and schools of children from these communities. The project facilitates family conference sessions and involves 112 children and families.

During 2018-19, the project has an excellent record of increasing engagement in education of students' families; avoiding exclusions; promoting cultural understanding within schools and contributing to increasing BAME achievement. 2018-19 is the final year of the project and our thanks go to Haverstock Secondary School, La Sainte Union Catholic Secondary School, Parliament Hill Secondary School and William Ellis Secondary School.



Celebrating Camden through small grants via the Community Festival Fund has been part of VAC's work on social cohesion for several years. In 2018-19, the VAC festival panel (made up of local residents) provided 54 grants to community groups that enabled Camden residents to gather together with their neighbours, friends and communities. Festivals included Marchmont Street Festival, WEP Cloud 9, York Rise Street Part, Hampstead Fair, and many others. The Fund is generously funded by LB Camden and operated by VAC.

Collaboration and redesign of services



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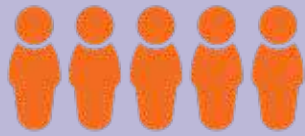
Our aim is that Camden's communities, civil society organisations and residents are empowered to collaborate across boundaries, present their views to external bodies and play an integral part in decision making and the design and delivery of services.

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VAC positions itself as an 'honest broker' in our approach to collaboration within and between different sectors. Collaborative working and bringing organisations and stakeholders to work together for common cause and benefit is a crucial part of the VAC's work in Camden. VAC has a robust track record in nurturing the spark of an idea to fruition including Camden Giving, Camden Disability Action and Healthwatch Camden. We are very proud to see these organisations achieve independence and thrive in service to our community.

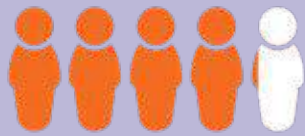
VAC is very grateful to the 200 local and borough-based voluntary and community organisations that support us through their membership. Our members are an important resource for VAC to draw on for opinions on local hot topics and for the intelligence they share with us about the challenges they and their beneficiaries face and the opportunities they need to achieve their missions. The membership provides VAC with rich data about the state of the sector and so inform our strategic direction and operational plans. We are committed to building and strengthening our membership.

In a recent survey our members said:



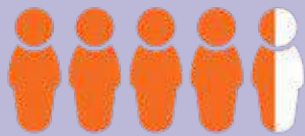
100%

of our services were rated as very or extremely important for the sector



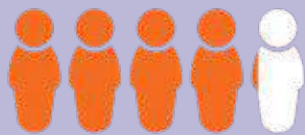
82%

value VAC as a champion of the local sector



89%

found VAC helpful and relevant to delivery of their work



81%

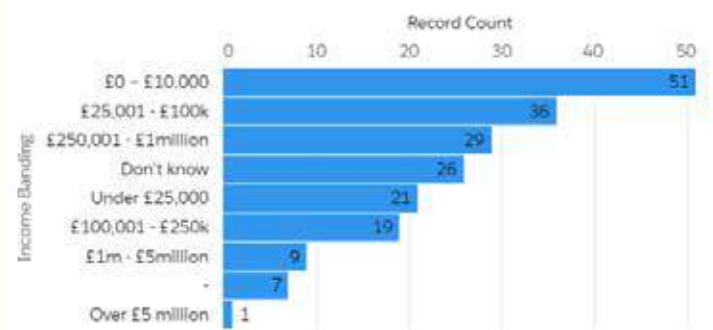
would recommend VAC to a colleague

Members by Legal Structure



[View Report \(Members by Legal Structure\)](#)

Members by Income Banding



[View Report \(Members by Income Banding\)](#)



"The organisation is devoted to the local people and to the delivery of services to the local community."

"Having worked in a few boroughs I feel that VAC does a really good job connecting with community groups and focusing on what we need - even while they have been dealing with serious funding cuts."



VAC is a significant player in several high-level boards with the intention of ensuring that the voices of the voluntary and community sector and our beneficiaries is heard by the key decision and policy makers in the borough.

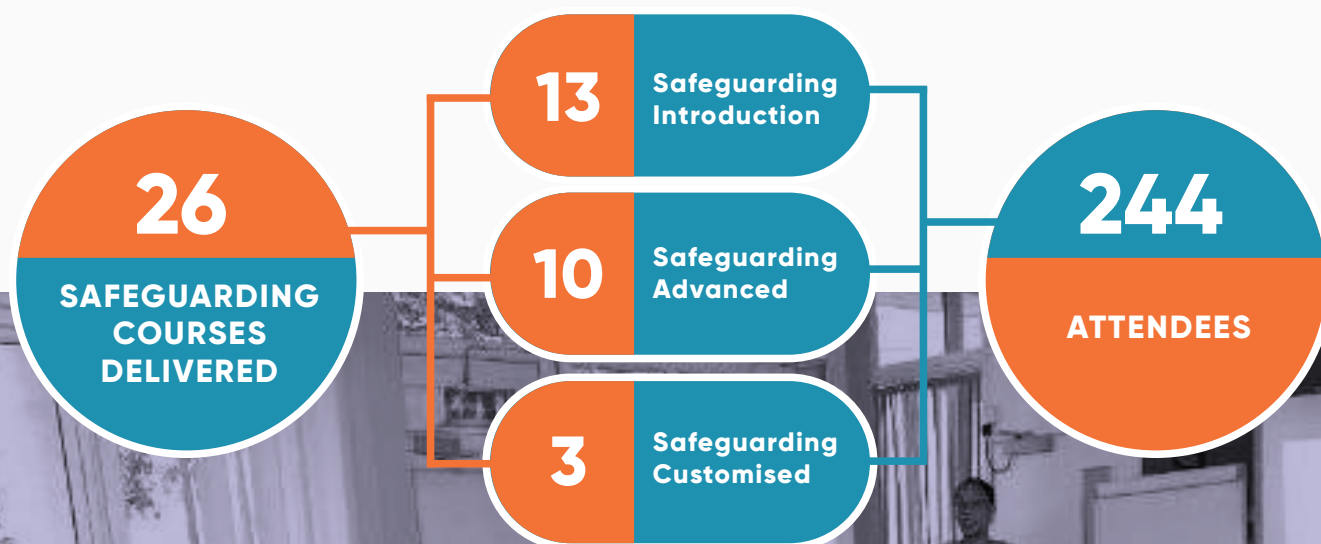
In recent years, much of our focus has been in influencing the borough's health agenda with a seat at the Board of Camden's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), along with the Local Care Partnership Board, North Central London Social Prescribing Advisory Group, Camden Patient and Public Engagement Forum, NHS Camden CCG Transformation Team Local Care Delivery Board, and several others.

The impact of VAC's presence on these influential bodies is that the lived experience of Camden's communities informs the policy agenda and seeks to improve the quality of service delivery.



"VAC has brought great insight to the CCG by advocating on behalf of the local VCS and influencing our strategic decisions as a CCG. With VAC we are reminded of the importance of the VCS in improving the health of local people in Camden."

The Community Partnership Advisory Service plays a key role in protecting and safeguarding children and young people from Camden's BAME communities. The Service is led by VAC and funded by Camden Council. VAC trains and resources communities and organisations to protect BAME children and young people from harm in the borough. The Partnership offers guidance and support to organisations on all aspects of safeguarding affecting BAME communities including FGM, forced marriage and so-called honour-based violence. The awareness-raising efforts of the Partnership have resulted in BAME organisations feeling more knowledgeable and skilled in identifying the signs and potential of child abuse, and taking action to prevent harm and protect children and young people.



"It really opened my eyes to what situations are classed as abuse or the red flags to recognise or just make you aware that something might be going on in that child's life that might not be right."

"The training will help me to support our trustees in their understanding of safeguarding issues, and to develop best practise in our organisation."

"The best part of the Advanced Safeguarding training was learning about grooming and protecting children online."



Camden is a busy and ever-changing borough, and this is most notably the case around Euston, Somers Town and King's Cross where massive structural changes to the landscape have transformed the area, not least of which is HS2. With this profound upheaval happening all around them, the VAC Environmental Justice project aims to strengthen the voice of local people who want to address the negative impacts of construction and development on their health and well-being.



To date the project has:

- Supported **7** groups or collaborations with **121** capacity building
- Delivered **25** events (workshops, forums, seminars etc.)
- Involved **749** local people

This project is a successful collaboration of VAC, Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum, University College London and the Environmental Law Foundation, and funded by Trust for London. The work of the project resulted in a powerful local environmental justice inquiry that has informed local plans and a new air quality forum in the borough recognising that major urban developments cannot be undertaken at the cost of community health and wellbeing. Our plans for the future include a focus on the access residents and community groups have to buildings and spaces in Camden. Additional learning from Covid 19 will inform the development of this work.



"The forum has benefitted from the considerable development and capacity support of VAC."

VAC is a founding member of Camden's Climate Change Alliance. The Alliance has focussed on CO2 reduction for the last 10 years and has driven significant reduction in the borough. VAC has sought a wider role looking at broader climate impacts such as air quality which is a major concern of local residents. The Alliance plans to engage more directly with residents in future years and to take advantage of our involvement to reach all sections of the community.

Our commitment to collaboration is exemplified by our current home at the Charlie Ratchford Centre. The Centre is used by local ward councillors for surgeries and by our local MP, Sir Keir Starmer. VAC offers an affordable event and meeting space and hotdesks to voluntary and community organisations for various events and activities for and with communities. This civic space is essential for many organisations to be able to bring people together to share experience and views and to plan collective social action: we believe accessible, affordable civic space is key to healthy local democracy and to be able to speak truth to power. Among our service users making use of the space are Action Youth Boxing Intervention, Afro Congolese Women, Kurdish Community Association and African Health Forum BAME Partnership.



"[HealthWatch Camden's] relationships with the Voluntary and Community Sector have been cemented by always sharing our offices with VCS organisations. My thanks to our former landlords, Voluntary Action Camden (VAC), who helped us to get launched."



Sustainable, resilient communities; meeting needs, enriching communities

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Our aim is that communities in Camden become more sustainable and resilient as civil society organisations and residents can identify needs and take steps to effectively meet those needs and enrich community life

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Voluntary action, embodied by citizens taking an active part in civil life through community and voluntary organizations, is the life blood of a healthy society. VAC is privileged to support the work of Camden's many active citizens.

The VAC website, along with our sister site, One Camden (a one stop website and free to access directory of 1,300 groups in Camden's voluntary and community sector), are vital resources that capacitate and inform. VAC has developed One Camden as the go-to resource for anyone wanting to research and understand more about the rich diversity and range of Camden's voluntary and community sector. Thanks to a grant from Awards for All, we are in the process of revamping both websites in 2020.



“Can I just say your funding page has been a great resource to us over the years, in fact it's excellent. Thank you!”



Support



Funding



Volunteer



Social Action

COVID-19 Notice

As a result of COVID-19, VAC is stopping face-to-face contact and non-essential travel. Staff

Search this website

Search

About VAC

Voluntary Action Camden (VAC) is Camden's Council for Voluntary Service. We are an independent charitable organisation and our mission is to work with the people of Camden to support, develop and promote voluntary and community activity. More than 2,400 voluntary and community groups provide vital activities and services, create local job opportunities and enrich lives in Camden. At VAC we support these organisations so that local people and communities can continue to benefit from a thriving voluntary and community sector.



What's New

WHAT'S NEW NEWS VACANCIES

How the VCS Accesses Camden Council's Training is Changing

If you use the Camden Learning and Development service to train your staff or volunteers then how you access it is changing. Camden Learning and Development are working to ensure the offer meets the needs of the sector and will be ...

Camden News & Info



Events Calendar

MARCH 2020						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
24	25	26	27	28	29	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

The weekly VAC ebulletin is a well-respected and trusted source of information and policy analysis that enables over 2,000 subscribers, members and supporters to be aware of what matters and be informed to act.

47,219



hits to VAC and OneCamden websites

2511



hits to Directory of Community Groups

442



hits to Directory of Community Rooms

1646



subscribers to VAC newsletters



482 followers



1617 followers



1037 views

Ageing Better in Camden
@abc_camden

Following

Apparently it's #NationalComplimentDay so we'll say it again - the @OneCamden Newsletter is amazing. Sign up for it today to find out about local events, funding opportunities, jobs and much more! #Camden

Ageing Better in Camden @abc_camden

★ We think the Voluntary Action Camden newsletter is the best newsletter in the borough! ★ Information on events, funding, jobs & volunteering, training and much more. Check it out & subscribe: @OneCamden vac.org.uk/influence/info...



"[Through the newsletter] we have become aware of local organisations and plans e.g. social prescribing, PCNs, meetings of intergenerational projects, AGMs which have enabled us to attend and increase partnership work or knowledge."

"In case others don't say it enough - this remains my favourite newsletter, and only weekly must-read email! Long may it continue!"

As the infrastructure organisation for Camden, VAC is the local expert providing a comprehensive service to the voluntary and community sector that supports the development of new groups to become formally constituted, and for established organisations to become more sustainable and resilient through better governance and fundraising practice. In 2018-19, VAC provided capacity building support to over 70 organisations and dealt with 123 enquiries from the public, local authority, NHS and other community groups and organisations, looking for advice, information and guidance on a range of issues relating to the sector. In addition, we delivered over 100 workshops, seminars and events, attended by more than 1000 residents and staff, trustees and volunteers from the sector. These events provide not only the opportunity to learn from experts in the field, but also bring people together to learn from each other and share experience and best-practice.

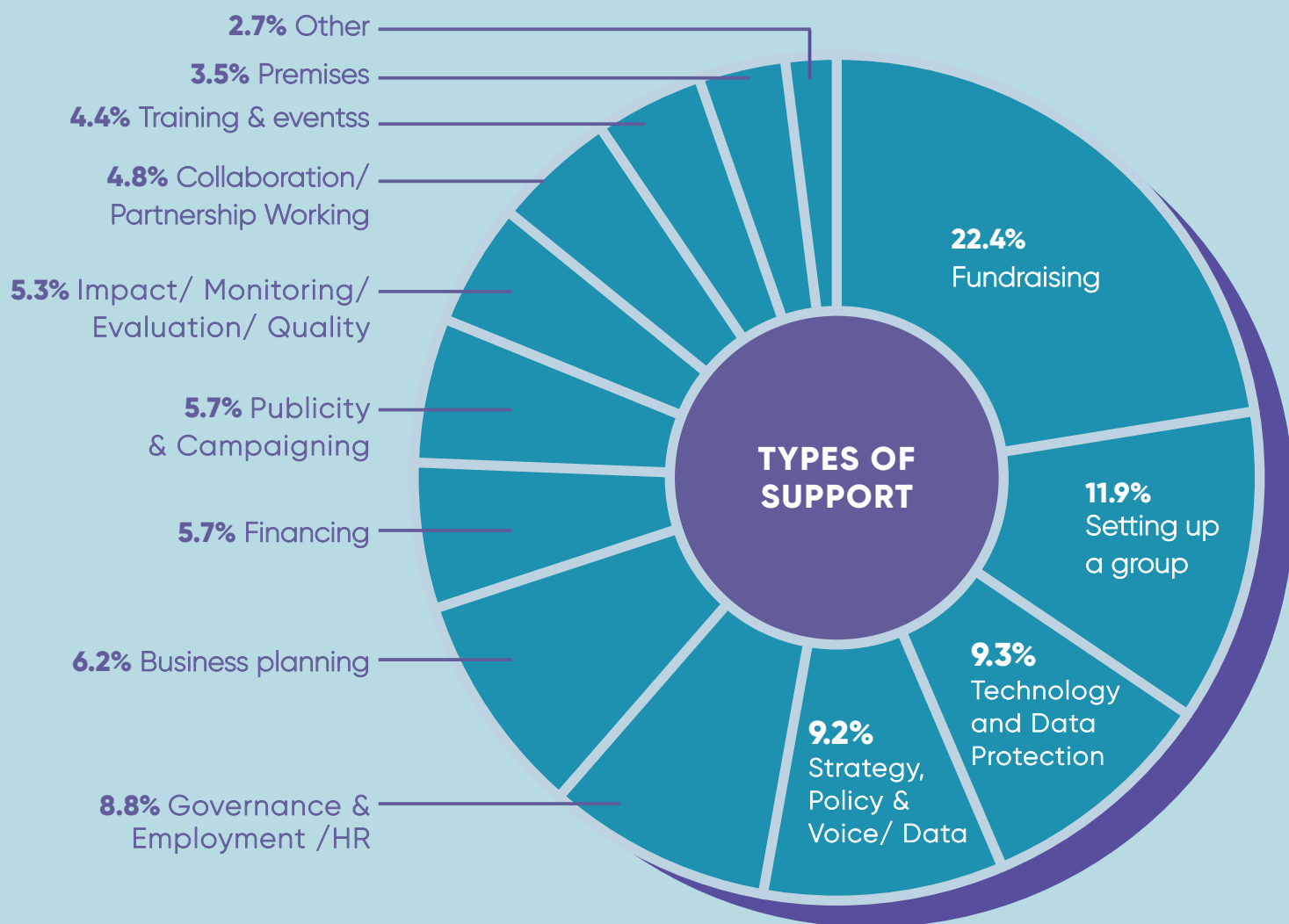
Support over
70 organisations

Dealt with
123 enquiries

Deliver over
100 workshops,
seminars and
event

Attended by
more than
1000 people





"For a small group like ours, we can't survive without VAC's support. They are a local organisation with friendly and knowledgeable people who are willing to help small organisations develop their work locally, so VAC is extremely important to keep local connections, and in many ways, keep small organisations up and running."

"BBC [Children in Need] is a pretty intensive process to get through. We got just under £119k over 3 years for existing posts and extra sessional staff to extend our kids services to teens, and some money for activities. I wasn't expecting to get everything, but we did! Once again sincere thanks for your support."

Digital is a key focus for this coming year, and we are excited to launch our new programme of IT and Digital Capacity Building in January 2020, in partnership with the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT).

MEET THE VAC TEAM



KEVIN NUNAN

Executive Director

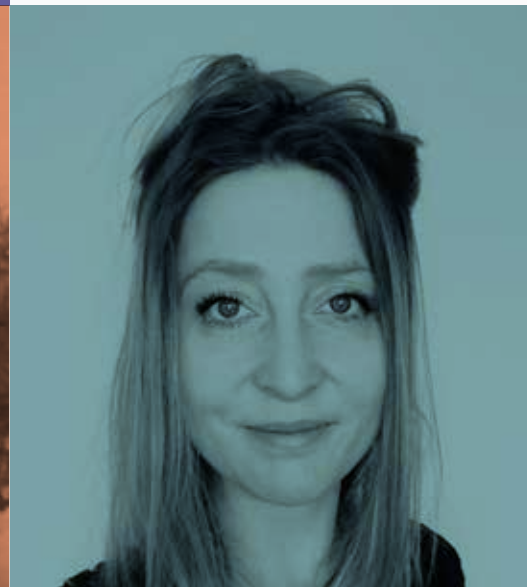
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IT & Digital Manager

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MANDIRA MANANDHAR

Community Links Volunteer
Coordinator

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ZUBAIR MATIN

Community Liaison Worker

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RICKY SINGH TOKHI

Building Administrator

—
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OUR TRUSTEES



MANUELLA BUNKETI

Finance Manager

020 7284 6561
mbunketi@vac.org.uk



**DIANNE CARLTON-
OGUNYEMI**

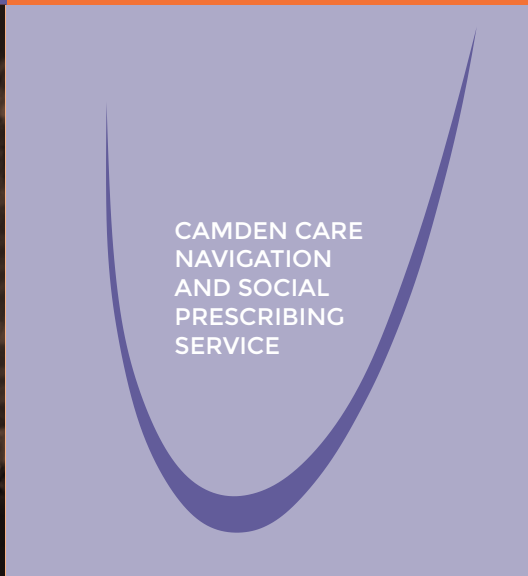
Safeguarding Lead

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DILWARE RASHID

School Link Worker Project



NASRIN RASHID

Community Links Coordinator

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Chair
Julie Christie-Webb

—
Vice Chair
Gaynor Humphreys

—
Treasurer
Yeshi Abay
(resigned 16 July 2019)

Hilary Barnard

Noreen McCain
(resigned 27 November 2019)

Brian Parker

Harunur Rashid

Sue Wilby

—
Council Observers
Cllr Nasim Ali

Cllr Richard Cotton

THANK YOU

VAC offers grateful thanks for the funders, partners, volunteers and members for believing in and supporting the achievement of our aims for and with Camden's voluntary and community sector.



FUNDERS

Trust for London
Camden Council
Camden Children Safeguarding Board
NHS Camden Clinical Commissioning Group
Coop Foundation



PARTNERS

Age UK Camden
Mind in Camden
Worshipful Company of Information Technologists



OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Ann Kearney
Anna Joy (AJ) Runco-Farrands
Bella Onwudile
Debbie Ensor
Ellen Nkomo
Fatima Begum
Hasel Hooshier
Margaret Ossei
Thomas Crehan



COMMUNITY LINKS VOLUNTEERS

(in placements)
Asna Fatima
Bertie Harriman - Smith
Bwantamu Swaleh
Dezrene Pascall
Ida Scheibelhoffer
Jane Hickson
John Woodcock
Larlan Davis
Margaret A Ossei
Michele Priestley
Natalja Medunecka
Nura Mohamed
Shirin Begum
Yusra Hussain



HONORARY ADVISORS

Albert Chu – Marketing
Noreen McCain – HR

FINANCE 2018-19



VAC continues to face the ongoing challenge of balancing our budget. In common with many in the charity sector, our income has reduced over the years due to substantial cuts in core grant. VAC has managed these financial challenges through cost-efficiencies and raising funds from trusts and foundations and contract tender bids. Managing our pension commitment is a key concern for the charity as is the rebuilding of our reserves.

SUMMARY OF SOFA

INCOME

Capacity Building	228,097
Information, co-ordination & partnerships	108,061
Promotion, policy & projects	115,933
Other trading activities	8,784
Investments	143
TOTAL INCOME	461,018

EXPENDITURE

Capacity Building	261,074
Information, co-ordination & partnerships	78,502
Promotion, policy & projects	145,459
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	485,035

Net income / (expenditure) for the year	(24,017)
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*** These summarised accounts contain information from the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 March 2019. The full financial statements were approved by the executive committee on the 27/11/2019 and subsequently submitted to the Charity Commission and Companies House. The members have not required the Charity to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The Independent examiner has issued an unmodified report on the full statements and on the consistency of the executive committee report with those financial statements. A copy of the full financial statement may be obtained from VAC.*

VAC Balance Sheet for the 3 prior years

	Accounts 2018	Accounts 2019	Accounts 2020
Fixed Assets	12,408	0	0
Current Assets	108,472	129,607	151,241
Current Liabilities	-53,859	-50,978	-58,929
Net Current Assets	67,021	78,629	92,312
Long term liabilities	-73,049	-80,674	-89,374
Total Assets	-6,028	-2,045	2,938
Restricted Funds	32,138	6,876	15,491
Unrestricted Funds	-38,166	-8,921	-12,553
Total Funds	-6,028	-2,045	2,938

The balance sheet shows that the financial position is moving in the right direction