



# VAC Membership Benefits Report 2023

## Introduction

Last year, many of our members responded to our survey about VAC membership and told us about both your positive experience and things we could improve.

The majority of those who answered our survey – 90.3% – have stated that they have benefitted from being members of the VAC and that they appreciate VAC’s help in partnerships building.

0.7% of the respondents though are not sure so we are embarking on more visible promotion of the VAC membership support.



**We have invested in enhancing our membership offer and as part of that, I’m pleased to introduce myself as VAC’s Membership Development Officer.**

My name is Vania Guetova and I am working to support you with creating sustainable solutions that will help the local community sector grow and develop and helping to launch a refreshed VAC training package that meets the needs of our members. I have started the VAC Camden New Groups Network and am supporting the VAC Networks by sharing important information, providing quality advice and guidance and offering networking space for peer support and learning.

We asked you **what support would you would like to have from VAC** to assist with building new community partner relationships and to develop the VCS in Camden and you answered as below – in the order of your most preferred:

- **Access to member networking events and training**
- **Targeted introductions to sector stakeholders**
- **Online membership directory**
- **Community event calendar**

## You said, we listened and here are the results:

### Access to member networking events and training

VAC has created three new Networks - the [Camden CEOs Network](#), [Camden New Groups Network](#) and together with Volunteer Centre Camden we have started the [Camden Trustee Network](#). All of these are for peer support and sharing learning and experience, information exchange and partnership work.

The CEO Network is for leaders of local voluntary sector organisations in Camden to discuss issues and ideas for the mutual benefit of the VCSE. The Network is there to encourage, guide, support and develop voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector leaders.

Until now, there hasn't been a network in Camden for VCSE CEOs. This is a unique opportunity to encourage collaboration and to generate and nurture ideas which we know is both valued and required by our members.

The network will be a forum to discuss the big strategic issues facing your organisation, a place to share your leadership experiences with others, and to seek the advice and support of your peers.

At a time of such uncertainty, it can be lonely at the top. This is a space to connect, learn, and share with other leaders from across the Camden Voluntary and Community Sector.

### BENEFITS OF THE NETWORK



Dedicated events for CEOs to include guest speakers (sector experts, industry leaders, politicians and policy makers)



Dedicated email group to share information, best practice and insights, including access to a quarterly round up of relevant



Central portal to host training, resources, case studies, tools and processes for non-profit organisations from being



A handy resource providing an introduction to the role of CEO so CEOs and voluntary sector leaders have a basic

Our new **training packages** are available and bookable for online and in person attendance on the VAC training and events website: <https://vac.org.uk/news-and-events/events/>



We have always worked hard to provide comprehensive training programmes for our members. In response to the latest feedback from our membership survey, we are pleased to launch our new training offer for members. This new offer gives VAC members exclusive access to the following training programmes:

- Child safeguarding
- Vulnerable adults safeguarding
- Safer recruitment
- Introduction to good governance
- Effective communication
- Volunteer management
- Fire safety and building compliance, and much more!

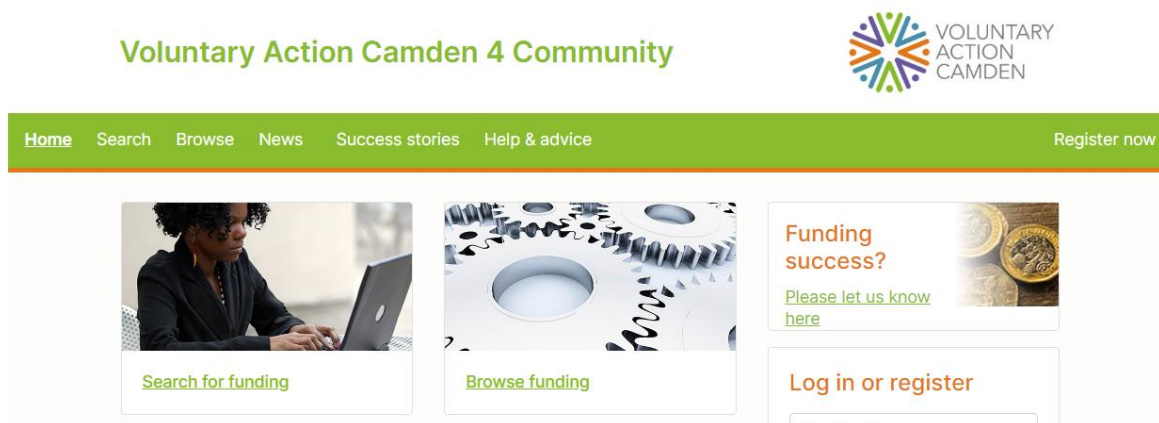
We have organised guest speaker at these networking events and opportunities for the VCS organisations to meet the borough decision makers and are planning a series of Meet the Funder events to create opportunities for the voluntary sector to meet and learn more about funders and available funding.

### Online membership directory

We are delighted to launch a new funding service for Camden community groups and charities. Our new **Voluntary Action Camden 4 Community Portal** is a fantastic resource to help groups search for funding using a number of filters and search options, as well as access helpful guides and funding news and information.

## SEARCH FOR FUNDING

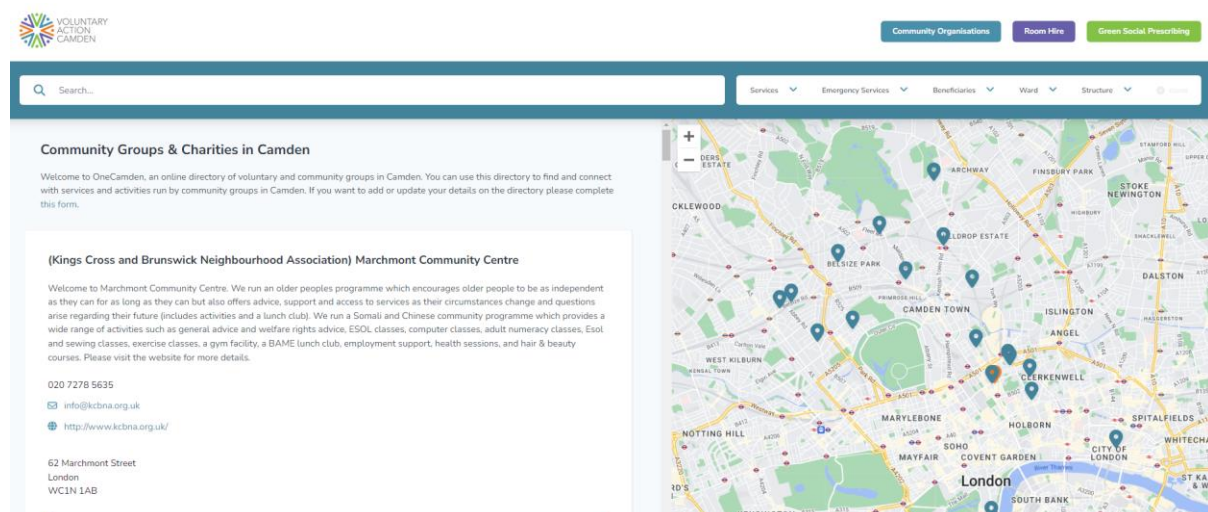
You can access the portal below or directly using [this link](#)



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Voluntary Action Camden 4 Community Portal. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with links for Home, Search, Browse, News, Success stories, and Help & advice, along with a Register now button. Below the navigation bar, there are three main sections: a 'Search for funding' button with an image of a person at a laptop, a 'Browse funding' button with an image of gears, and a 'Funding success?' section with a 'Please let us know here' link and a 'Log in or register' button. The Voluntary Action Camden logo is in the top right corner.

Any group or charity in Camden can register to use the portal to search for the latest funding opportunities. If you need any help registering or using the portal just [get in touch!](#) VAC are available to offer you grant-finding support- contact us via our web [page

Our online membership directory is just a click away: <https://directory.vac.org.uk/>



The screenshot shows the online membership directory website. It features a search bar at the top left and a navigation menu at the top right with options for Community Organisations, Room Hire, and Green Social Prescribing. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar and a dropdown menu for Services, Emergency Services, Beneficiaries, Ward, and Structure. The main content area is titled 'Community Groups & Charities in Camden' and includes a welcome message and a list of community groups. One group, '(Kings Cross and Brunswick Neighbourhood Association) Marchmont Community Centre', is highlighted with its contact information: 020 7278 5635, info@kcbna.org.uk, and http://www.kcbna.org.uk/. The address is 62 Marchmont Street, London, WC1N 1AB. A map of Camden is shown on the right side of the page.

## Community event calendar

**The VAC weekly Newsletter is going out to you via email and on the VAC website every Friday** and provides you with a wealth of information about the VCS in Camden and nationally. **It promotes local and London-wide community events and contains links to other Camden VCS newsletters.**

You can receive our news bulletin directly to your inbox - <https://vac.org.uk/news-and-events/newsletter#subscribe>

Or you can read it on the VAC website: <https://vac.org.uk/news-and-events/newsletter/>