**CVS Brent, CVS Ealing and Hounslow and CVS Bexley teaming up to deliver a new Quality Assurance Scheme for groups in their community**

Brent, Ealing and Hounslow and Bexley community and voluntary service (CVS) groups have teamed up to spearhead a new quality assurance scheme to help local groups at this key time.

Piloting from November 2020 for six months, a handful of small to medium community and voluntary groups will be offered a free framework and support to enhance their work. Other groups who want to join the scheme can get in touch to be added to the waiting list.

Amongst other things the scheme will help groups:

* Check they are meeting legal and best practice requirements
* Spot gaps in areas like governance and fundraising and get support or signposting to fill the gaps.
* Strengthen groups for the future and be funder ready.

Founder of the scheme, Salli Ward from CVS Brent says:

*‘I’ve worked with small to medium voluntary and community groups for over 30 years and know that many of them would have welcomed a scheme like this. It’s proportionate to their size and free, making it a realistic option.’*

Jacqueline Bobb from Bexley Voluntary Service Council says:

*‘I’m a great advocate of quality assurance schemes. In Bexley we wanted to create something free and accessible, with another body endorsing it. We were delighted when we discovered Salli’s work and it made so much sense to work collaboratively to develop it for Bexley too. The beauty of this scheme is that voluntary and community groups will work with their local umbrella CVS group to demonstrate that they meet criteria in six key areas and then the other CVSs will check over that evidence. It gives the quality assurance further credibility.’*

The six modules covered by the assurance scheme are:

1 Governance and Organisational Planning

2 Policies and Procedures

3 People (staff/volunteer recruitment and management)

4 Monitoring and Evaluation

5 Funding and Communications

6 Participation and Consultation.

Organisations can start with a basic health check and then go on to do any or all of the six modules.

Irfan from Hounslow and Ealing CVS says: *‘The great thing for small organisations is that they can do a basic health check in just 20 minutes or so, see the areas where they need to focus and work on one module or all six. Any groups completing a module will be able to note this in funding applications and will have a Way Up logo to add to their website, letterhead or elsewhere. It’s the perfect way to evidence that your group takes its due diligence seriously.’*

With many community and voluntary groups facing an uncertain future as a result of Covid and lockdown, now is the perfect time to provide this additional support. To find out more contact your relevant CVS.

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If you are part of a CVS and would be interested in hearing about our pilot, please do get in touch.