



ANNUAL REVIEW 2018-2019

COMMUNITY LINKS BROMLEY

 @CommLinksBrom

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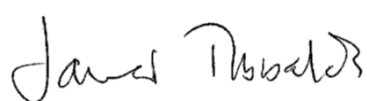
A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Welcome to this summary of the performance and achievements of Community Links Bromley during 2018-2019.

Community Links Bromley (CLB) was established in 1965. As the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) and Volunteer Centre, we advise and support local charities, voluntary organisations, volunteer involving organisations and community groups. The diverse range of services we deliver are detailed in this booklet and enable us to deliver our Mission, which is to:

“Support, promote and facilitate the development of a strong, diverse and effective voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in the London Borough of Bromley, in ways which enable the sector to improve the quality of life for people and their communities.”

We could not have achieved these results without funding from Bromley Council, the Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and several external funders, as well as the support and commitment of our many partners across the sector. Finally, I thank the Trustees of CLB along with all the staff and volunteers for their commitment, passion, dedication and expertise.



Janet Tibbalds

Chair

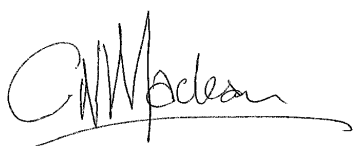
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The past year has seen much uncertainty and staff changes within CLB and this has brought challenges as well as opportunities which the staff team has handled with professionalism, flexibility and continued commitment.

Some important highlights are:

- Providing our core services which are much valued by our members, by those wishing to volunteer within Bromley and by the sector. Through consultation, we listened, learnt about sector priorities and responded with a new offer.
- Completing successful projects such as the 'Know It, Show It' Impact and Diversity project (funded by City Bridge Trust).
- Successfully attracting external funding (over £90,000) to Bromley
- Enabling the 'voice' of the sector to be heard at key partnerships, especially through the Voluntary Sector Strategic Network.
- Contributing to the successful delivery of the 'Bromley Well' contract through Bromley Third Sector Enterprise (BTSE) - a unique home-grown collaboration and social enterprise.

I am forever indebted to the contributions and efforts made by those who give of their time freely e.g. CLB Trustees (with special thanks to the Chair - Janet Tibbalds) and our office volunteers. Combined with the staff team, CLB thrives and makes a positive difference to local organisations and the communities they serve.



Colin Maclean
Chief Executive

SUPPORT TO THE SECTOR

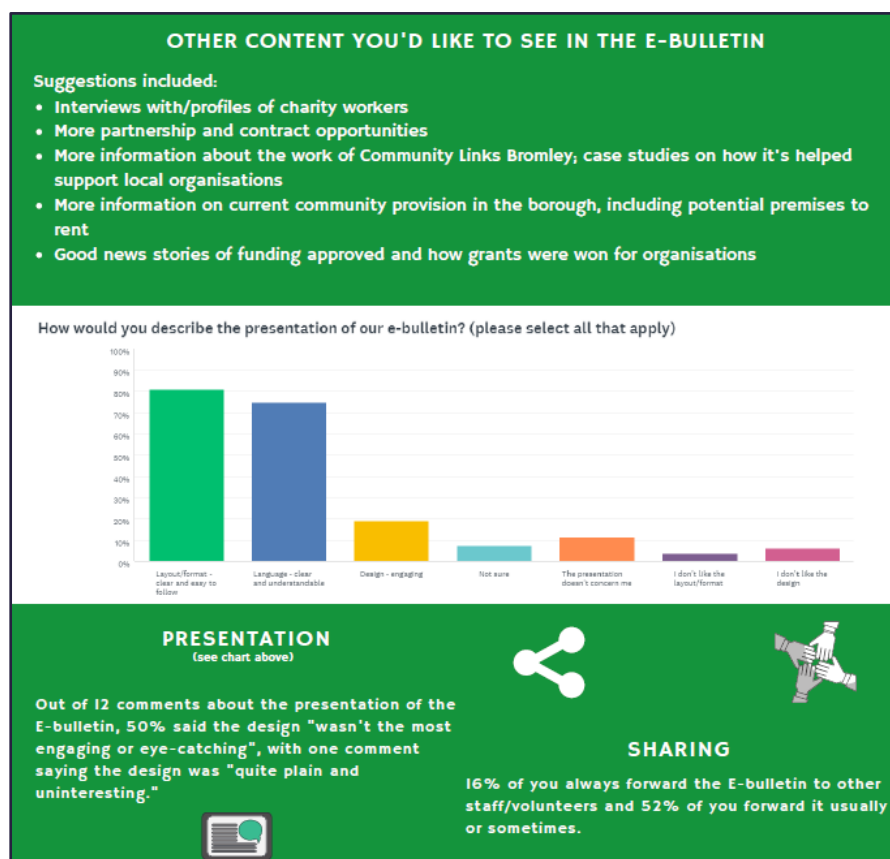
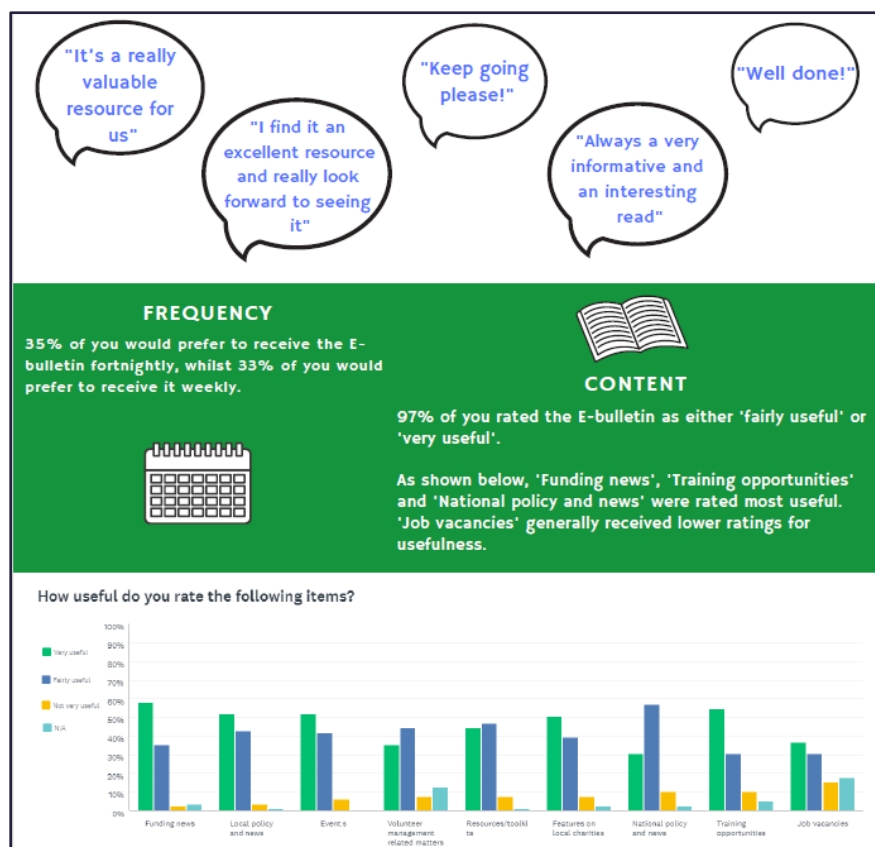
We provided support sessions to staff and volunteers in 65 different organisations. The support delivered has ranged from governance, project development and management, volunteer management, fundraising and funding applications, legal structures (including setting up social enterprises) and commissioning, to communications and marketing.

“Cray Creative would also like to thank you Rosanna for all of your help with the London Community Fund application and arranging for us to meet with Catherine Sorrell at the LCF presentation held at Community House in Bromley. Without your help we would not have moved forward on the funding nor have been so successful with the grant award, so again thank you.”

50 e-bulletins were sent to an average 390 subscribers per edition. In each e-bulletin, we provided relevant information for those working or volunteering in the charity sector in the borough: local and national news and opinion; training opportunities; tools and resources; funding available (over 270 opportunities); and job vacancies in the sector.

In January 2019, we completed an e-bulletin reader survey, the headlines of which are shown on the next page, which helps us continuously improve this valued service.

E-bulletin Survey January 2019



SUPPORT TO THE SECTOR

A range of workshops and training opportunities were delivered in 2018-19. Two training courses on General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) were attended by 32 organisations. Other sessions covered:

- Funding/bid writing
- Planning for the future
- Volunteering
- How to become a Bromley Third Sector Enterprise Associate Member.



VOLUNTEERING FACTS AND FIGURES

Community Links Bromley promoted over 160 different volunteering vacancies throughout the year on behalf of over 120 different volunteering involving organisations.

We also provided support to volunteer involving organisations to develop robust volunteer programmes by providing:

- 12 one-to-one individual support sessions
- 4 workshops on different aspects of managing volunteers, attended by 38 people
- Hosting volunteer recruitment events at Tesco in Orpington and in partnership with the Volunteer Centre in Lewisham
- The 11th Annual Volunteer Awards

"I have been so happy with how the online system has worked for us. I have found 3 great volunteers for the Parkinson's group and still more are coming forward! I can't tell you what a difference it has made, the group feels so much stronger and the dancers are really supported :) thank you!" - G



Sheila Mann and Peter Greene, Volunteers with Community Links Bromley

BROMLEY'S VOLUNTEER'S AWARDS

This was the 11th Annual Volunteer Awards hosted by Community Links Bromley. All those attending enjoyed an entertaining evening and 42 individual certificates for volunteering were presented, with 2 teams of volunteers receiving certificates. Our congratulations go to the award winners and to all those who were nominated.

Community Links Bromley would also like to thank the volunteers from Avenues Group and Age UK Bromley and Greenwich who provided us with an insight into their experiences of volunteering, and to Paul Vitty, Volunteer Manager with Welcare in Bromley who explained the expertise needed to effectively recruit and manage a team of volunteers.

Our thanks also go to Magpie Dance for their performance of an extract from Aurora, a piece devised, created and performed by Magpie dancers.



Team Award winners, Royal Voluntary Service

PROJECTS

Know It, Show It - City Bridge Trust

Through a successful bid to City Bridge Trust, CLB delivered the 2nd year of this 2-year project enabling organisations to understand how they can best record and express the value of the work that they do. The 'Know It, Show It' project supported 8 organisations through workshops, 1-2-1 support and the facilitation of a digital collaboration, messaging and information sharing platform. For each organisation, the benefits to them were free but the value was £3,500 each, i.e. £28,000.



"I have been able to use this training to get my project off the ground. Thank you!"

"A well developed and informative session. I found it help as a reflection tool. It stimulated food for thought and was interesting. Overall fabulous course and great group!"

"Very beneficial course/workshop. Well facilitated and delivered. Appropriate resources and information."

Bromley Tenant & Landlord Toolkit - TDS Charitable Foundation

Funding from the Foundation enabled the development of the Bromley Tenant & Landlord Toolkit - an online resource for private rented sector (PRS) tenants and landlords - in the Borough of Bromley.



www.tenantandlandlordtoolkit.co.uk

The online platform was developed with the support of a steering group made up of representatives from Bromley, Greenwich & Lewisham Mind, Age UK Bromley & Greenwich, Citizens Advice Bromley, Radcliffe Housing Society, Thackray Williams Solicitors and LB Bromley. The platform was launched and widely promoted.



Bromley Community Voices – Trust for London



The project focused on priority policy areas for shared intervention, such as homelessness. The project operated as a platform to support campaigning and advocacy by strengthening communications between the VCSE sector and the local authority. The project was completed in June 2018.

London Community Foundation

Community Links Bromley - through the Bromley Community Voices project and in Partnership with Clarion's Live Smart Team - delivered a series of workshops at Live Smart Locations in the Borough. The workshops supported residents with digital skills training to become more confident in accessing local services online and investigating healthcare and leisure activities in their local area. The project was completed at the beginning of the financial year.

The logo for The London Community Foundation is a red square with the text 'The London Community Foundation' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Cornerstone Fund - City Bridge Trust

Another successful bid led by CLB, this project's aim is to improve co-production of health and wellbeing services at regional and borough levels through more effective citizen and communities' engagement in commissioning, resulting in better services and outcomes for citizens. The resources assisted the partners in exploring a 'proof of concept', leading to the development of a significant programme of activity - a Stage 2 submission during 2019-2020.



Bexley and Bromley Local Network

SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON

CLB led a successful bid to establish a Local Network for Bexley and Bromley. Funded by the Mayor's Office for London, the project offers a unique opportunity to work with young people and stakeholders in our localities.

For Bromley, this involved a positive collaboration with the Bromley Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum (BCFVSF). The Forum includes key VCSE agencies which lead on service delivery to young people and are connected to statutory agencies (Council and CCG) through their commissioning. The voice and views of young people will therefore be embedded in the Forum and its plans.

The initial focus was on raising awareness of the Young Londoners Fund opportunity.



VOICE AND REPRESENTATION

We have continued to provide support to the Voluntary Sector Strategic Network (VSSN) including executive support to the independent Chair. VSSN provided the 'voice' of the sector, representing views and opinions at key Bromley meetings such as Health and Wellbeing Board; Bromley Economic Partnership; and Safer Neighbourhood Board.



Its achievements included:

- Developing a new strategic framework/work plan
- Developing an operations plan including dedicated expertise
- Agreeing a funding bid to the National Lottery Community fund

Much credit is due to Lynn Sellwood, the independent Chair of the VSSN, who has selflessly devoted immense energy and passion to this partnership over several years.



Lynn Sellwood, Independent Chair of VSSN

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

With the Chief Executive as the Chair (until July 2018), CLB continued to play a leading role with Bromley Third Sector Enterprise (BTSE) and the delivery of Bromley Well, with responsibility for the 'Support to the Sector' service. A priority to increase Associate Membership resulted in a 35% increase by the year end.



Associate Member Case Study:

Living Well Bromley – a faith-based Penge resource with services such as: foodbank, a community lunch, mental health support, debt advice and help with addiction - was one of the beneficiaries of the 'Know It, Show It' project. Outcomes from their support/learning were 2 successful grants:

'Trust for London' - £20,000 for setting up an advocacy team

'National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities' - £70,000 for art therapists' project



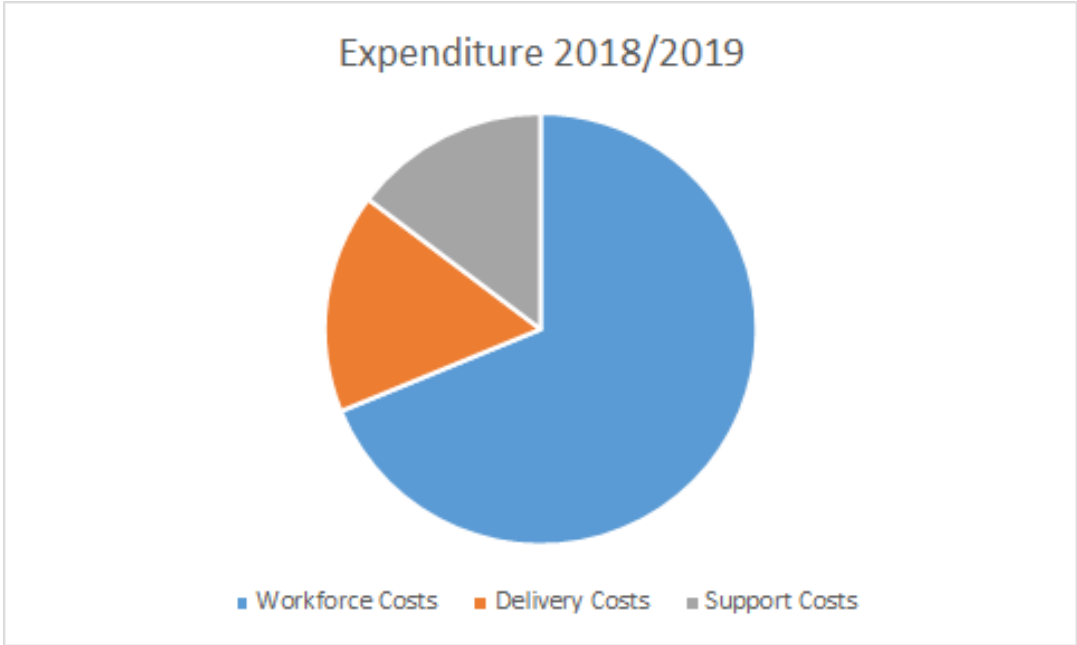
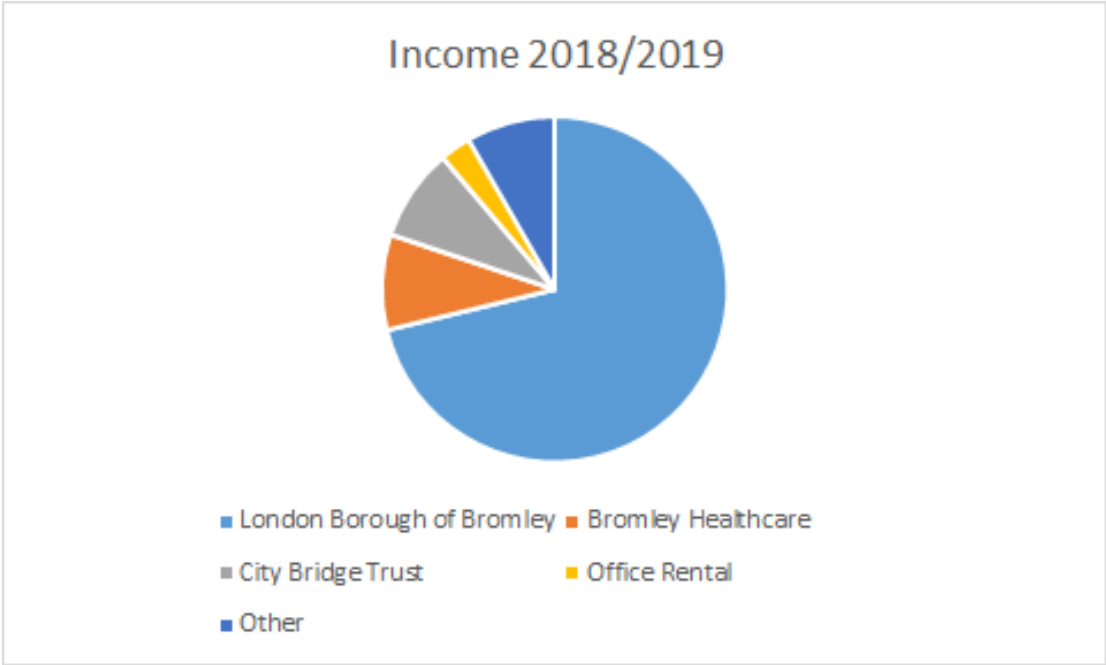
Connect Well Bromley

The Social Prescribing portal provided easy access to non-clinical services – 62 organisations running 215 activities – for the Proactive Care Pathway for the Elderly Frail. This provided opportunities for the Care Navigators team (employed by Age UK Bromley & Greenwich) to support patients in the development of their holistic care plan.



FINANCES

Annual Accounts 2018/19



THE TEAM

Staff

Colin Maclean, Chief Executive

Barry Winchester, Community Investment Manager (to September 2018)

Diane Diamond, Head of Operations and Volunteering

Alex Doust, Office Manager

Sue Potter, Communications Coordinator

Rosanna Ottewell, Development Officer (to May 2018; from October 2018)

Joy Hannon, Project Support Officer (from June 2018)

Leah Whittingham, Development Officer (to July 2018)

Kathryn Mitchell, Research and Project Support Assistant (from November 2018)

Volunteers

Val Sheehan

Peter Greene

Sheila Mann

Sue Brown

Angela Morgan

Darren Fletcher

Trustees (who served during 2018-2019)

Janet Tibbalds (Chair)

Paul Cosgrave (Vice Chair)

Peter Dabrowski (Treasurer)

Elliott Lewis

Thalie Martini

Byron Johnson Brown

Carole Wells (appointed 17.10.18)

Luke Hallard (appointed 17.10.18)

Lorraine Parkes (appointed 17.10.18; resigned 1.3.19)