Community Links Bromley
ANNUAL REVIEW
2017-18

Supporting Voluntary Action

COMMUNITY
LINKS BROMLEY

A Message from our Chair

Welcome to this summary of the performance and achievements of Community Links Bromley during 2017-2018.

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 fundamental changes in the way CLB operates and this has brought challenges as well as opportunities which the staff team has handled with professionalism, flexibility and continued commitment. After a period of uncertainty, this has enabled us to build a solid foundation for our future.

Some important highlights are:

- Providing our core services which are much valued by our members, those wishing to volunteer within Bromley and the sector. Through consultation, we listened and learnt about sector priorities.

- Starting new initiatives which have been welcomed by the sector and our partners: Social Prescribing project (supported by funding from the CCG) and the Impact and Diversity project (funded by City Bridge Trust).

- Enabling the 'voice' of the sector to be heard at key partnerships, especially through the Voluntary Sector Strategic Network

- Supporting the development of Bromley Third Sector Enterprise (BTSE) – a unique home grown collaboration and social enterprise – which secured the 'Bromley Well' contract which went live in October 2017.

**Colin Maclean,
Chief Executive**

Support to the Sector

We provided support sessions to staff and volunteers in over 78 different organisations. The support given has ranged from governance; project development and management; volunteer management; legal structures (including setting up social enterprises); fundraising and funding applications; commissioning; and communications and marketing.

50 e-bulletins were sent to an average 974 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; and job vacancies in the sector.

Support to the Sector

A range of workshops and training opportunities were delivered in 2017-18. Two training courses on General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) were attended by 32 organisations.

The Bromley Funding Fair: held in central Bromley, this event enabled leaders from across the sector to meet and hear from major funders (such as Big Lottery Fund and several Trusts). This successful event was attended by 48 voluntary sector leads taking advantage of workshops; 1:1 sessions; a funding application surgery; and networking.

We completed a consultation exercise to better understand the sector needs and priorities. Over 126 groups provided valuable feedback, and insight, helping shape CLB priorities and services.

Volunteering Facts and Figures

Throughout the year there were 150 different volunteering vacancies promoted on behalf of volunteer involving organisations through the Volunteer Brokerage Service.

1,560 people made enquiries about volunteering and they were provided with advice, guidance and support to make applications.

Support was also provided to 85 volunteer involving organisations to help them develop positive and effective volunteer programmes.

Volunteer Recruitment events were hosted in June 2017 and in February 2018, offering volunteer involving organisations the opportunity to promote their vacancies to the public.

Darren Fletcher and Angela Morgan, Volunteers with Community Links Bromley

Bromley's Volunteer Awards

The 10th Annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony was hosted in June 2017 with 56 certificates presented to local volunteers.

We were delighted to welcome volunteers from Bromley Mentoring Initiative, Healthwatch Bromley and Bromley Sparks who provided us with an insight into their experiences of volunteering.

Marie Djorma from Asphaelia also provided us with an insight into the life of a Volunteer Manager.

We heard from members of Bromley Youth Council about their volunteering and they also presented the Young People's Awards.

A big thank you to Bromley Little Theatre who entertained us with an extract from their production of Nell Gwynn.

Team Award winners, Mindful Mums

Projects

As part of our Bromley Community Voices project (funded by Trust for London, Clarion and TDS Foundation), we provided seminars on topics such as Hidden Homeless and Universal Credit which brought together key public sector leads with relevant community leaders and organisations

The Impact and Diversity Project: during the first year of a two year programme (funded by City Bridge Trust), we worked with eight groups around three foci - equality and diversity issues; monitoring and evaluation; and the use of digital tools in the capturing and impact. One group then secured an award of £15,000 grant.

Networks

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.

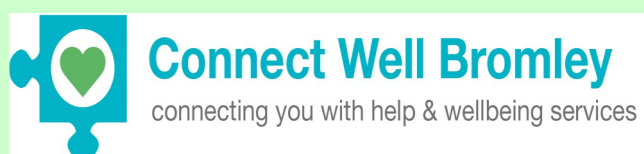Other networks supported throughout the year included:

- Befriending Coordinators Network: new network established to provide peer support and advice and share best practice.

- Peer Support Network: supported the development of this new network for mental health service users.

- Children and Families Forum: advice and support on fundraising techniques.

Partnerships and Collaboration

CLB worked with partners in BTSE to set up the new Social Prescribing service for older, vulnerable people living in Bromley borough. The online resource contains information about activities and services for older people featuring over 54 organisations offering over 202 activities.
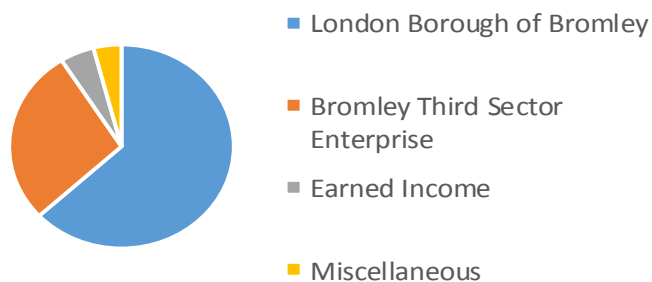
BTSE secured the contract commissioned by the Council and CCG for 'Primary and Secondary Intervention Services' in July 2017. This new service-now call 'Bromley Well'-has a value of £2.1m p.a. CLB led the coordination of all submissions; the establishment of the BTSE Partnership Office; and led/supported BTSE to become registered as a social enterprise.
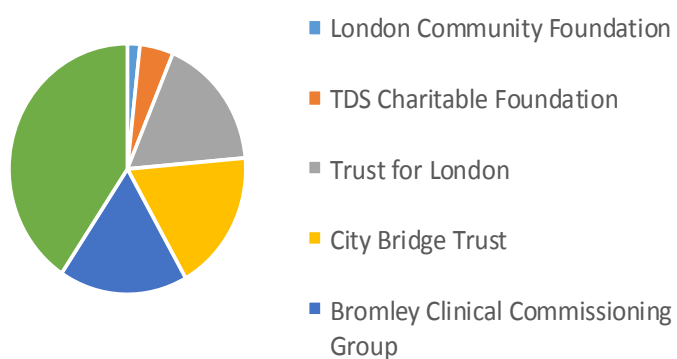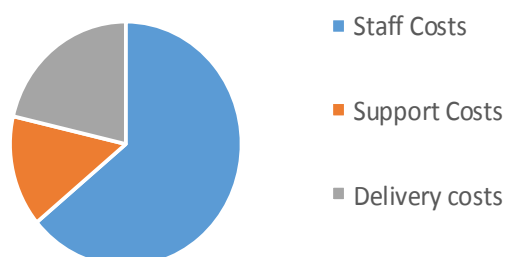
BTSE

Bromley Third Sector Enterprise

Connect Well Bromley
connecting you with help & wellbeing services

Bromley Well

Finances

Annual Accounts 2017/18

Unrestricted Income

- London Borough of Bromley
- Bromley Third Sector Enterprise
- Earned Income
- Miscellaneous

Restricted Income

- London Community Foundation
- TDS Charitable Foundation
- Trust for London
- City Bridge Trust
- Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group

Expenditure

- Staff Costs
- Support Costs
- Delivery costs

The Team

Staff

Colin Maclean, Chief Executive

Toni Walsh, Community Investment Manager (May-Sept 2017)

Barry Winchester, Community Investment Manager (from Dec 2017)

Diane Diamond, Head of Operations and Volunteering

Sue Lee, Office Manager

Sue Potter, Communications Coordinator

Rosanna Ottewell, Development Officer

Leah Whittingham, Development Officer

Eugene Thomas, Office Support Intern (to June 2017)

Volunteers

Val Sheehan, Peter Greene, Kevin Roles,

Dave Williams, Sheila Mann, Sue Brown, Isabelle Watson

Trustees (who served during 2017-2018)

Janet Tibbalds (Chair), Peter Dabrowski (Treasurer),

Elisabeth Poulter (Vice Chair), Peter Dulley, Paul Cosgrave,

Elliott Lewis, Boyko Boev, Thalie Martini, Byron Johnson Brown

Community Links Bromley, Community House, South Street, Bromley BR1 1RH

Telephone: 020 8315 1900   Website: www.communitylinksbromley.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1045255   Company limited by guarantee no. 3020127