



### Introduction

Please read through the following Richmond CVS Membership Criteria and Rules which have been developed to strengthen understanding and expectations between Richmond CVS and its members

- 1.** Membership is open to voluntary and community and not for profit organisations of any size within the borough of Richmond which can be recognised by the RCVS Board of Trustees as supporting its charitable aims and mission statement.
  - 2.** There is an annual membership fee, which is set on a sliding scale according to annual income.
  - 3.** To be eligible for membership to RCVS, your organisation must fulfil the following criteria:
    - Your organisation must be a self-governing body of people who work together voluntarily to take action for the benefit of the community, and established otherwise than for financial gain.
    - Your organisation must share RCVS values and accept the RCVS Code of Conduct.
    - Your organisation does not have to be a registered charity, but if it is not, the aims, objectives and methods of the working of your organisation must be written down in a publicly available document.
    - Your organisation should be open to all members of the community with interests relevant to your publicly stated aims.
    - You should have a stated policy in existence on equal opportunities, or have a commitment to develop such a policy.
    - Organisations undertaking and/or affiliated to party political activity are not eligible for membership.In addition, consideration will be given to the length of time that your organisation has been functioning and its financial situation.
  - 4.** Membership entitles organisations to vote at general meetings and to nominate people for election to the Board of Trustees.
  - 5.** Members have the right to access RCVS staff for advice and information and to participate in RCVS convened consultations, forums and meetings.
  - 6.** Membership also entitles organisations to use RCVS services and facilities as agreed by the Board of Trustees. These currently include receiving one copy of the quarterly RCVS newsletter; access to training and conference events, use of the Volunteer Centre; access to RCVS library and resources, e.g. meeting rooms and photocopying.
  - 7.** Members are expected to input to the work of the RCVS by attending the AGM, contributing their views and keeping the organisation informed of issues affecting the voluntary and community sector locally.
  - 8.** RCVS reserves the right to reject an application for membership.
  - 9.** RCVS reserves the right not to renew membership if circumstances change and the organisation no longer fulfils the criteria on which original membership was granted.
  - 10.** A full membership list will be published at the AGM.
- In the event of 8 or 9 occurring RCVS will advise the applicant of the reasons for its decision.*