



Work with us to achieve the ambitions of *The Way Ahead* for Londoners

Expressions of interest in leading thematic working groups required by 16 November 2016

Setting the destination

We know that social action by volunteers and the wider voluntary and community sector has made a life changing difference to Londoners. But we have not had the kind of cross sector vision and strategy to join up this amazing resource. This is about to change. We have an estimated 120,000 civil society organisations and over three million volunteers already active in the capital. We have a new Deputy Mayor with an explicit brief on social integration and community engagement, the prospect of further devolution to and within London, and a move to make London the foremost global city for philanthropy. Notwithstanding the unknowns of Brexit and the on-going challenges to public funding, this is a remarkable opportunity that we must seize together.

[*The Way Ahead: Civil Society at the Heart of London*](#) proposes a system that puts London's communities at the heart of the way we all work. From co-producing an understanding of need and how to tackle it with our communities, through to better sharing of intelligence and data, and making sure that civil society's voice is heard in decision-making at a strategic level, there are recommendations for us all – recommendations for local, specialist and regional support providers, for the GLA, for funders, for business, the local public sector and London Councils – for it is only by drawing on the knowledge and resources of all that we can truly harness the potential of London's civil society for all in our communities.

Preparing the road

To make change happen, a cross-sector collaborative "Systems Change Group" has been established to take forward the recommendations, and we're now setting up five themed task-and-finish groups to lead on the practical planning needed to underpin successful change.

Each of the five groups will prepare the road ahead in relation to one of our themes, which bring together the twelve recommendations for action in *The Way Ahead* – the groups are:

1. Co-production: pragmatically co-producing a shared understanding of the needs of Londoners and how the solutions can best be delivered lies at the heart of the approach, which all stakeholders need to adopt – but how can we do this?
2. Data: collating, analysing and sharing data about the needs and strengths of Londoners, the activities and value of civil society, what works and where there are gaps will inform our work – but what should we be collecting and sharing, and how do we do so?
3. Triage and connecting: local, specialist and regional support organisations should triage and connect people and groups to the best source of support, ensuring frontline groups get the help they need when they need it, supported by a London Hub producing standardised high-quality resources – but what does this look like in practice?
4. Voice and campaigning: civil society needs to be fully engaged in decision-making on London-wide issues, and there is a commitment to campaigning which needs to be better supported, more joined up and more strategic, both locally and regionally – but how does this translate into practical actions to achieve change?
5. Consistent commissioning and funding for support: recognising this is currently patchy across London, we need a commitment to commission effectively at a regional level, and to join up locally to ensure civil society support is resourced – how do we get there?



Map makers needed

The Way Ahead sets the destination – we need you to help us find the best path to take civil society in London to where it needs to be. You'll lead one of the five groups listed above on this journey, exploring the existing good practice and evidence around your chosen theme, add to the research base for our understanding of this area, and prepare recommendations for how the theme you're leading on can best be achieved for London's civil society.

You'll chair the working group on your theme, facilitating discussions and engaging expertise, helping to co-produce an action-focused and practical map for implementation of your chosen theme. In practical terms, the key tasks will include:

- Facilitating discussions at an initial "open space" event on 30 November to engage a wide group of stakeholders in identifying the key priorities relevant to your theme;
- Convening a working group to drive the work on your theme;
- Setting agendas and work plans for the theme group, and chairing meetings;
- Coordinating work done by the theme group, delegating activity to colleagues involved in your group, and facilitating individual activity to ensure common goals are achieved;
- Developing a deeper understanding of the specific theme, reviewing existing knowledge and learning on this issue, seeking out data, research, best practice, effective models and expertise, identifying barriers and opportunities to new ways of working, and developing proposals for the new ways of working required;
- Ensuring a final report is completed based on the work of the group (in March 2017), providing clear and practical recommendations for implementation to achieve the vision in *The Way Ahead* in relation to your theme, recognising the challenges of replicating your part of the system across London's civil society, addressing any equalities issues you identify;
- Attending three meetings of the Systems Change Group, presenting updates on your area of work and contributing to discussions about wider developments; and
- Championing *The Way Ahead* and acting as a spokesperson for the thematic priority area to widen the stakeholder audience for your important work.

To ensure we keep up the momentum to achieve change, leads will need to be in place before the cross-sector event on 30 November 2016, and the work of the groups needs to be concluded by April 2017 so we can be ready for the steps that follow.

Supporting you in your role

We won't just give you a blank sheet of paper. We'll help by:

- promoting membership of the working groups, and help select people to ensure we get genuine cross-sector buy-in from people best-placed to deliver change.
- using the event on 30th November to get discussions going with the widest group of stakeholders possible
- supporting communications via our new *The Way Ahead* website, which will provide a route to continue to engage through social media and on-line debate
- ensuring every theme group will also include at least one member of the Systems Change Group to help contribute expertise from the initial stages of the review. We'll also ask you to join the Systems Change Group for the duration so that you can draw on wider thinking and discussions.



You'll also get some funding to help cover the costs of your time and activities in your work – a total of £2,500 is available for each of the theme group leads, to use in whatever way you think best to achieve the work required (from covering staff costs, to covering overheads for meetings, or supporting the wider engagement we know is crucial to the success of this work).

Getting involved

We're seeking expressions of interest from individuals and organisations who are keen to lead the thematic task-and-finish groups, with a deadline of **5pm on 16 November 2016**.

If you'd like to be considered for the role, we'll need to know:

- Which of the theme group(s) you're interested in leading;
- How you'll resource the work, demonstrating you have the capacity to deliver;
- What leadership skills you will bring to the work, and how you will approach working with others to design the road ahead (recognising the diversity of stakeholders you will need to engage and communicate with in order to be successful);
- Details of the relevant expertise you have that equips you to lead the theme(s) you are interested in (or of your experience in a related field linked to civil society);
- Evidence of your track record in shaping thinking, solving problems, and designing solutions that achieve the best outcomes for London's diverse communities; and
- More about your strong written communication style, and ability to write compelling and engaging narratives that others can quickly grasp and act on.

If you can put all the above on no more than two sides of A4 (in no smaller than size 11 font) and send it to david@glv.org.uk before the deadline (one per theme if you wish to be considered for more than one group leadership role), a panel from the Systems Change Group will assess your expression of interest, and let you know if you've been successful by 23 November 2016 ready for the work to start the week after... Good luck!