



# Volunteer Newsletter

February 2019



## *Volunteer New Year Social*

*It was great to see a good number of you at the Volunteer Social on 30th January. Volunteers old and new, including 2 of our lovely trustees and a couple of staff. Many thanks to those of you who braved the icy conditions to travel out to our new office in the 'country' of Twickenham Green!*

### **Volunteers Needed**

#### **Twickenham Station Collection Day - Tuesday 19th March**

If you are free to 'shake' a bucket for an hour or two during the morning or evening rush hour, then please let us know.

***If you are able to help with either of these requests, please contact us on [volunteer@spearlondon.org](mailto:volunteer@spearlondon.org). If you are not yet registered as a volunteer we will ask you to complete an application form.***



#### **Drivers needed....**

To pick up/drop off donations in all the boroughs in which we work (Richmond, Wandsworth, Kingston, Merton & Sutton). It is preferable if you have some availability during normal working hours, so items can be dropped to our offices/hostels.

## Reward Scheme for Volunteers

This is a reward scheme, whereby volunteers who have donated over 100 hours within a 12 month period can obtain a card, which allows them discounts on a range of products and services within the borough. Whilst the scheme is yet to be implemented in Richmond borough (we hope this will change soon), it is active in several other London boroughs including Kingston, Merton and Wandsworth.

Whilst I appreciate that several of our wonderful volunteers have given over 100 hours of their to volunteering with SPEAR in the past year, only a small number of these hours will have been in the boroughs outside Richmond, Nevertheless, I am also aware that many of you volunteer for other organisations too, so a culmination of these may mean that you would qualify for the scheme.

The scheme operates slightly differently in each borough, but further details can be found on the [Value You website](#)

## Upcoming events



Further details about the event and how to register for a place can be found [here](#)

### ***'Homelessness and Health: Reducing Inequalities'*** **15th March 2019, Kingston**

SPEAR will be hosting this morning conference to highlight health inequalities and best practice for working with people who are homeless. The event is specifically aimed at health commissioners, health and social care professionals and organisations working with people who are homeless, so please share with your relevant networks.



All volunteers in a regular role at SPEAR are required to complete our mandatory Key Policy Training, but we recognise that sometimes volunteers struggle to attend the training during normal working hours. We are therefore running a course on the evening of Tuesday 12th February at our office in Twickenham. If this is relevant to you, you should have received a direct invitation. However, if you haven't and feel you need to attend this course (and are available on Tuesday), please contact [Julie](#).

We have recently been reviewing our Learning and Development plan for both

SPEAR staff and volunteers and hope to be able to offer additional training to volunteers in relevant roles over the coming year.

In the meantime, we will shortly be contacting volunteers in client-facing roles with details of some online **safeguarding** training.

In addition, **Richmond Council (Making Every Contact Count MECC)** has developed a series of online training courses to support those working on the frontline of our local communities. The courses are designed to enable staff and volunteers to develop the essential skills needed to identify people who could benefit from additional support, raise the issue with them and refer or signpost that person to the appropriate service(s). The courses offered include:

- Addressing Loneliness & Isolation
- Dementia Awareness
- Accessing New Technologies
- Supporting Winter Warmth
- Active Travel

Each course should take a maximum of 25 minutes to complete. Please contact [me](#) if you are interested.

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## In the News....

Many of you will be aware that, in November each year, SPEAR carries out a Street Count in the boroughs in which we work. The results of these counts feed into national statistics for rough sleeping and the figures for 2018 have recently been announced. You can read more about these figures and the implications [here](#).



Our recruitment at SPEAR continues. Right now we are recruiting to the following positions:

**Homeless Health Link Worker** (full-time)

More details and application packs [here](#).

Please share with your networks!

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*Do you shop online? Did you know that many internet stores will donate a percentage of your purchase to SPEAR at no extra cost to you if you access their website through [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)*

*Registering takes a couple of minutes and after that every e-purchase you make could help support our work.*

*Thank you!*

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**Our mailing address is:**

89 Heath Road, Twickenham TW1 4AW

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