

The Volunteering News

BEE THE CHANGE BEE A VOLUNTEER

2026

WE HAVE A FACEBOOK AND X PAGE



Keep up to date on all that we are doing by following us on our social media accounts:

Find us on X : @Havering_VC

Find us on Facebook: @HaveringVC

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN



Join the Romford Town Wombles and teams for a community clean-up in the heart of Romford as part of Keep Britain Tidy's nation Great Spring Clean campaign on Saturday 14th March. Meeting point is outside St Edwards Church at 10am with us finishing around 12.30pm.

Refreshments for volunteers will also be provided.

There will also be a fab meet and greet session with Wombles Characters Madame Cholet and Tobermory.

MAR - APR 2026

Havering Volunteer Centre News

HVC have had a really uncertain 18 months and still very much in the dark with our LBH Funding. It's no secret that LBH are in financial difficulties and they have to scrutinise the way they spend their money. However, when you look at the benefits of volunteering on the borough as a whole our funding definitely provides value for money- It certainly raises the question as to who would suffer in the long run if HVC were no more?

We recently attended a Community Cohesion Summit at the Council Chambers and one of the questions from the floor directed at Cllr Ray Morgon (Leader of the Council) was how did LBH propose to deliver service based on community demand alongside the financial cuts? He responded with a number of really good answers but the one that stuck in our mind, was that they would rely on the Voluntary and Community Sector for support.

Without adequate resource for the Voluntary and Community Sector it will be impossible for any of us to deliver let alone meet expectation. HVC can certainly deliver ample bang for your buck, but we need the buck to begin with.

HVC have gratefully received funding spanning the past 9 years that totals £506,448, we have translated that into a direct cost avoidance of £73,710,000 (1,500 volunteers x 7 hours of volunteering x 52 weeks x £15ph x 9 years). We think that's a pretty good return on investment!

It costs HVC roughly £17,000 a month to operate and deliver our service to Havering, this includes our usual volunteer recruitment for over 350 charities, our St George's Volunteer Team, Check In & Chat Care Calls and supply of roughly 85 foodbank vouchers a month to local residents. HVC really covers a lot of bases and many people have come to rely on us being at the end of the phone.

The additional danger we now face are the local elections in May. This greatly impacts many decision making processes with the council going in to purdah from around the end of March. No decisions are finalised during purdah and with HVC's current grant funding coming to an end 31st March 2026, HVC will be unfunded until June (if funded at all). It would be very beneficial all round if the council could agree and sign off HVC's funding for 2026/27 before purdah begins.

If you ever get the opportunity to speak with the Local Authority, please advocate and champion for HVC. We are in grave danger of closing our doors for good and once something is lost it is really hard to get back!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH ST FRANCIS HOSPICE



We are Hiring!

St Francis Hospice have some amazing employment opportunities listed on their website, head over and take a look:

To apply visit
sfh.org.uk/jobs

PITCH TO PURPOSE

TALK FC

PITCH TO PURPOSE

- ✓ Are you aged 20-55yrs old?
- ✓ Living in Havering?
- ✓ Low self-esteem & confidence?
- ✓ Currently seeking employment?

If you answered **yes** then why not join a Men's Wellbeing session, a **free, weekly programme** which utilises the nation's beloved sport, **football**, as a means to dismantle barriers while fostering confidence and self-esteem.

SESSIONS INCLUDE

- ✓ Friendly game of football
- ✓ Welcoming environment
- ✓ Employability support

When and Where:

Every Friday @
Noak Hill Sports Complex, RM3 7YA

Time:
12pm - 2pm

For more info:

Email: talkfccic@gmail.com
Call: 07397 501 110



Free sessions every Friday at Noak Hill Sports Complex, RM3 7YA
12pm – 2pm
For more information email talkfccic@gmail.com

Peabody - Floating Support Service

Peabody's Floating Support Service was terminated and ceased to exist from the 31st January 2026, this was a key-decision that was made in July 2025 to end the provision six months early. This service was funded by the Local Authority and early termination has subsequently saved £151,476.

The Floating Support Service provided by Peabody Trust provided generic support to vulnerable individuals aged 16 and older, helping them maintain independence and prevent costly care interventions. The service also offered a wide range of functions including housing-related support, crisis intervention, skills development, health and wellbeing promotion and social inclusion. It also supported access to employment, education, and community resources.

HVC have immediately noticed from the closure of Peabody the amount of residents accessing food vouchers that did not know Peabody were closing. Some residents were hanging on to the phone line, which is still connected for over an hour to get their vouchers. Thankfully they are finding HVC and we are able to reassure them, provide them with support avenues and get them their emergency food provisions. In terms of the other more specific support, we assume that this is now being picked up internally by LBH.

HVC issue Foodbank Vouchers on Monday's and Wednesday's to Havering Residents for any of the Havering Foodbanks. It's really important to remember that food vouchers are for emergency use only and are limited to 3 within a 6 month period.

WHERE DID HVC START

HVC have been very fortunate over the 10 years of operation to have welcomed many, many wonderful volunteers who have all blessed HVC with their time.

We have also been exceptionally fortunate to have volunteers choose to stay with HVC for many years and this section is about showcasing their absolute astounding contributions to Volunteering.



Daniel Joined
2016



Jo Joined
2016



Rachel
Joined 2016



Kelly Joined
2017



Pam Joined
2018



Ashok Joined
2019

These six volunteers have undertaken a phenomenal 18,688 hours of volunteering since joining. That's over 18,000 hours of support ensuring that volunteering remains accessible to the residents of Havering.

Alongside this we also have Sherron our Volunteer Bookkeeper who also joined in 2016, Teresa who joined us in 2021 and Pat, Trish and Tracey who all joined HVC's team in 2024.

The volunteer teams at HVC are a crucial part in our functionality, without them the core HVC team would not be able to achieve the enormous volumes of Volunteer Engagement, Check In and Chat or Foodbank Vouchers on the scale that we do currently.

HVC's Volunteers offer an incredible service not only to us but to the residents of Havering. They are diligent, dedicated, professional and kind in everything they do and we feel privileged to have them as part of our family!

ROMFORD SHOPPING HALL

WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL
10 - 3
PRE BOOKING ESSENTIAL
fancy dress encouraged - anything goes!

£3.00
 per
 child



easter
egg hunt

ROMFORD SHOPPING HALL
 43 MARKET PLACE ROMFORD RM13AB
 WWW.ROMFORDSHOPPINGHALL.COM

Tickets available on Eventbrite

ROMFORD BID HALF TERM FUN



This brand new trail invites visitors of all ages to get up close to 18 life sized endangered animal models, each hand-built from hundreds of thousands of toy bricks!



MET ENGAGE

- Scan the QR code
- Register your account (it is free to do and hassle free)
- Stay in touch with your Safer Neighbourhood Team.

We are **moving**



We are really pleased to announce that HVC will be moving premises shortly to the former Time FM building in Laurie Walk. HVC were first notified of LBH increasing our rent by 240% in July 2024 and unfortunately we hit a stalemate. We searched high and low for a new location and the building in Laurie Walk seems like the perfect fit.

It will take some time for us to settle into our new premises but as soon as we can we would love to welcome you to our new home – keep your eyes peeled for the transformation!

Volunteer Opportunities Spotlight



Sewing Support Volunteer – We are looking for someone kind, creative and hands on to join us on a 12 week fashion project called Rethreaded. It's a fun and empowering project in where we support 20 young people aged 12-18 to learn sewing and upcycling to create their own fashion brand. You won't need to formally teach, just share your knowledge, be encouraging and support people to get involved. The project will run from the 26th February to the 20th June so if you have the skills and the time, we'd love to hear from you!



Rehabilitation Support Volunteer – Are you passionate about Criminal Justice, fairness and reintegration? Do you believe in the power of rehabilitation and want to contribute to reducing sexual harm? We have an incredible opportunity for you to make a real difference! You will become part of our amazing team and play a vital role in forming support and accountability for individuals who have been convicted of sexual harm. If you want to make a difference then get in touch!



Bilingual Maternity Support Volunteer – We are seeking female volunteers who are willing to provide bi-lingual support to service user accessing hospital maternity services. The role aims to reduce language and communication barriers, improve engagement with maternity services and enhance overall care experiences. If you can spare 1 hour a week, speak another language alongside English then your help would be invaluable!



Facilities Volunteer – This role is set in the stunning grounds of Bedfords Park where volunteers will help around the beautiful site in a range of activities such as simple DIY tasks and maintaining the building and grounds. We are looking for volunteers to join our team 1 or 2 mornings a week between 9am – 11am, come and join us if you love being outdoors and in stunning scenery!



Tapestry
 prevention, care and support

Warm Space Volunteer – As a Warm Space Volunteer your role is to help create a warm and welcoming environment for individuals seeking warmth, support and community. Our Warm Space Volunteers provide great hospitality, welcoming visitors, providing refreshments and helping people to connect with each other. We desperately need help on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10.30am and 3pm, if you have some time to spare and help our community feel connected then please let us know!

ELM PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



CN: 1057074

INDOOR BOOT SALE

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 10AM - 1PM



TREATS, TRINKETS & TREASURE

Grab Yourself a Bargain!

Elm Park Assembly Hall, Eyhurst Avenue, RM12 4RA

CONTACT: EVENTS@EPCA.ORG.UK

RAINHAM FOODBANK FRIDAY BREAKFAST CLUB



Join us for

Breakfast Club

Friday's 9.00 - 10.15am

All Welcome



Every Friday at 9am Rainham Foodbank open their doors not just to offer tea and toast, but to create a space where people can breathe, rest, warm up and feel part of a community that genuinely cares. First Floor, Mick Fury House, Lowen Road, RM13 8HT

Havering Carers Hub

We are saddened to share that Havering's Voluntary Sector has taken another blow with the decommissioning of Havering Carers' Hub. Unfortunately they were unsuccessful in LBH's retendering process and the contract has been awarded to Imago. All is not lost though as the team have been tued across and are now with Imago supporting the Havering Service. It is incredibly sad when an organisation that has been providing an outstanding support for 9 years is no longer funded. Imago will need time to embed and find their feet in Havering. At present it doesn't appear that there is a local office/base for the support team and all calls and enquires should be directed to Imago who can be reached on 0300 011 1965.

Romford Police Station - Front Counter

A message from Superintendent Sharon Brind has been circulated via Met Engage regarding changes to the Romford Police Station Front Counter:

Dear Residents,

I am writing to inform you that from Tuesday 3 March 2026, the front counter at **Romford Police Station** will no longer be available 24/7 and will be changing its service to extended hours.

From Tuesday 3 March, this front counter will be open from Monday to Friday, 10:00 – 22:00, and Saturday to Sunday, 09:00 – 19:00.

If you need to report a crime outside of these hours in person and wish to visit a police station, our front counters that are open 24 hours are:

- **Charing Cross Police Station** - 2 Agar St, London WC2N 4JP
- **Lewisham Police Station** -43 Lewisham High St, London SE13 5JZ

Alternatively, you can report an incident by:

- Visiting the Met Police website
- Calling the non-emergency number 101
- For hearing or speech-impaired users, you can text 18000 to access our textphone service

If a crime is happening right now or if someone is in immediate danger, please call 999.

LIVE WELL HAVERING



Sign up for monthly health and wellbeing updates from the Live Well Havering newsletter!

Including information on ...

- Free health and wellbeing support services in Havering
- Exciting community events near you
- Important updates on topics from managing long term health conditions, to cost of living and support for carers, to loneliness, climate change and more

WWW.HAVERING.GOV.UK/NEWSLETTERS