

BD_Collective is a values-driven movement focused on creating an environment that facilitates collaboration. Our four values are Connection, Trust, Accountability and Power-sharing and are key to the way in which we work both within the VCSE and also externally with other partners.

Increasingly there is a recognition that the VCSE has a unique perspective, driven by resident relationships into solving some very key and challenging issues within our community. As a result, we are increasingly being asked to represent the VCSE in a variety of different forums and panels. As we are a networks of networks it is fundamental that the representation at these meetings is varied and fully representative of the borough we live in. To ensure this is most effective we ask all representatives to agree to do the following:

1. When opportunities to represent come up, we will push these through networks for you to decide. The decision on who attends should be agreed by those within the network, not just automatically those leading the network.
2. When attending a forum or system led meeting go on behalf of the whole VCSE system, not just your own organisational thinking. Remember the values of connection, trust, accountability, and power-sharing and allow these values to lead the way you represent.
3. As we are a network of networks, it is important that information and any opportunities that you gain through attendance of this meeting is shared back to a network. This is to ensure information is properly shared and we are sharing opportunity beyond just our immediate organisation or circle. To ensure everyone receives the information, we suggest sending a message on the individual WhatsApp group with a summary. If you think the opportunity/information needs to be shared beyond the network, you are part of then share back to ruth@bdcollective.co.uk and we can share further.
4. Believe that you hold unique perspective and can help shape what is happening across the borough. Wherever possible try and bring in resident perspectives on how they believe things should look and encourage other partners to do likewise.
5. Finally, we recognise that not all of our colleagues across the VCSE sector have capacity to attend these meetings. In order to try and help with this, you can claim for your time at these meetings at £35 p/h and up to 1 hour of prep time. Do contact ruth@bdcollective.co.uk to arrange this.