**"Charities using a London Resource Centre are sharing more than facilities and a single Roof... they are also sharing the solid foundations of strategic direction and teamwork."**

Ealing Community Resource Centre opened in 2007, and is home to 14 diverse charities – all sharing accommodation, facilities, expertise and inspiration to help achieve a common goal. The centre is modern, professional and well-equipped, boasting private interview rooms, training and meeting rooms, laptops, projectors, whiteboards, photocopiers, hot-desking facilities and IT infrastructure, including Internet access and digital telephone system. But the partnership offers more than access to facilities. It also means that the charities can achieve economies through joint purchasing, and also share ideas, inspiration and learn from each other's experiences. They also have the benefit of expert support from Resource Centre Manager **Knox Daniel**. The centre also has a development worker to help the charities develop strategic partnerships, a co-operative purchasing scheme, purchase equipment, stationary supplies and Joint Funding bids. The Centre aims to be financially self-sustaining with plans to purchase the building and make it a community-owned asset.

Organisations wishing to be housed at the centre pay a licence and enter into a licence agreement – different to a conventional tenancy. The centre currently houses: Action Acton, Age Link, All Afghan Association, CASH Community Accountancy Project, Ealing Centre for Independent Living, Ealing Community & Voluntary Service, Ealing Community Network, Tide Training, Ealing Mencap, Ealing Racial Equality Council, Footsteps, Rachel's Children's Trust, and Third Age Foundation. But as these organisations grow in strength, the aim is that they move out into their own premises, vacating space for new organisations needing the Centre's support to become established. An award-winning online project allows Voluntary and Community Sector Groups (VCS) to have a greater input in major physical planning developments – ensuring VCS organisations have a say in shaping their communities. A VCS Premises Advice and Information Pack gives advice and information on leases and licences, insurance issues, health and safety and disability access issues. VCS Groups can now be rewarded by acting as 'eyes and ears' in identifying potential premises for other groups – with the compilation of an online Community Premises Directory. The directory lists over 100 local premises available to rent in an area where it is notoriously difficult to find accommodation. And finally, the development of Ealing VCS Strategy – helping local groups to work collectively and cohesively towards a common goal.