**Kensington and Chelsea Poverty and Inequality Network (KCPIN)**

**29 Oct 2014**

**Activity One: Vision setting**

**Key issues**

* Austerity measures such as bedroom tax, housing benefit cap.
* Rents are very high.
* Cost of housing.
* If you secure a job, how do you move out of poverty?
* Not getting full entitlement to your rent.
* Health issues, such as mental health.
* Income.
* Minimum wage –living wage.
* This borough will only be for rich.
* Zero-hour contracts
* Adult with disabilities.
* Isolation
* Cost of living

**Role of KCPIN**

* Need hard evidence to influence.
* Engage with statutory organisations and LA.

**Members’ roles**

* Evidence base gathering.
* CAB- out there more in community.

**Activity Two: Consulting on a research theme**

* Locally more work can be done on every age. KC not living wage employer.
* Quality of housing.
* Look at causes of poverty and effect.
* Something needs to be done from grassroots.
* Engaging with community, education central theme, education is also about health, get local residents to participate.
* Needs space approach. Based on needs.
* Campaign around living benefit wage of understanding poor.
* Look at inequalities in other countries. What has worked, and what doesn’t?
* Effective solutions.
* 80% of people in KC in hotel and service industry.
* Low pay – people might not live in the borough.
* Lack of affordable accessible housing – stark in this borough.
* For a long time people didn’t deal with this issue.
* Not given advice on housing.
* 4in10 did work on over-crowding.
* All three proposals focus on working groups, and not pensioners.
* Poverty not just money but loneliness and isolation.
* Benefit addresses older people but should be an inclusive strategy, older people are also hit.
* Mental health issues costs us money.

**Feedback Activity: prioritising the research theme**

**Housing group**

* Housing helps us to shine a light on other areas, incomes and pensions.
* There is inequality in housing.
* Focus on people who are at the thin end.
* Reforms affecting housing.
* Quality of housing is an issue.
* Look at times/places when we’ve had good/bad example.
* We’ve not had rent control, future gains and social control.
* Look at milestones in life: all ages.
* Borough will look different in 5 years – if people can’t live there.
* [Stats are out there, know a lot but don’t have case studies. Case studies can shed light on all other areas of low pay, pensions, care needs, cost of living].

**Mental health**

* Poverty impacts mental health.
* Lower level mental health and isolation.
* All ages are affected.
* Impact of people seeking work.
* People who have become unemployed.
* Isolation, loneliness a whole set of strands.
* Timely with health priorities.
* KC not good on mental health.

**Low pay and inequality**

* Not just about decent pay.
* But about living expenses.
* How will people in the borough survive on low pay with high costs?
* Look at household income versus individual income.