



Poverty Watch Meeting Notes

13 DECEMBER 2012

SMART Presentation - Highlights

- Parts of Kensington and Chelsea have high levels of mental health issues. 7.4% of the population of K&C have mental health issues, a high percentage compared to the rest of the London.
- Doctors in training only receive a total of 8 weeks training on mental health which is not enough given the complexities and understanding required.
- The relocation of Chelsea and Westminster mental health centre to St Charles may have impact for those who will find it difficult to travel from the south of the borough to the north.

Updates

Age UK

- The total number of pensioners in Kensington and Chelsea who have been subject to the housing benefit cap is 240. To date a total of 83 pensioners have received discretionary housing payment. This leaves 157 pensioners who have not been reached. There are concerns as to how those pensioners are making up the rent shortfall particularly through the winter. Age UK are also seeing more pensioners with financial problems.
- Due to budget cuts to social landlords there are concerns that these cuts are being passed down into the budget for repairs. There are also concerns that the impact of this is that repairs are not happening as quickly as they use to do. Also that the categories for repairs are getting stricter so what defines an emergency repair will change.

Citizens Advice Bureau Kensington and Chelsea

- CAB is still continuing their national school uniform campaign. There are still growing concerns about the cost of school uniform in Kensington and Chelsea and especially over the issue of Holland Park School.

Save the children

- There will be a Debt Summit in March where Mayor Boris Johnson is expected to attend. Save the Children is also focussing on overcrowding and are doing some work around this.
- The 4in10 project also wants local evidence to feed into their programme of evidence collection.

NHS K&C

- NHS Priority One project is feeding into RBKC's child poverty and health strategies.

Catalyst Gateway

- Hackney has produced a simple document for residents called your benefit changes and would like to know if RBKC have produced anything similar.

Healthy Homes

- Highest fuel poverty rates recorded for 2010 are in wards St Charles, Golborne, Colville and Earls Court. Liz is able to produce statistics on demographics of up to 3 years.

Actions

- Angela to meet with Richard Miller to see how Poverty Watch can feed into the recession dashboard.
- Contact Paul Ellery from Revenue and Benefits to attend Poverty Watch
- Speak with Paul to find out how many homeless families there are in the borough since the housing benefit cuts.
- Contact Paul re: Easy read guide to benefit changes to see if RBKC can do something similar
- Begin developing a foresight paper to see what the situation will look like in K&C given the changes taking place.
- Mary to meet with Mike Potter and Andrew Christie to show them some of the evidence and see what early help interventions are being addressed.
- Continue to monitor income levels amongst older residents and the effect fuel poverty has on their standard of living.
- Make stronger connections with national bodies that are already taking information to the London Assembly e.g. the 4 in 10 campaign.
- Letter to be written to the Head of Holland Park School. Mary to meet with Cllr Coleridge to discuss further at some point in 2013.
- Send out the Health and Wellbeing Board Task and Finish group report to group.
- CAB is seeing more people with mental health issues who have failed the work capability assessment on mental health. More linking up to be done between CAB and Smart on this issue.
- Look into where mental health falls within WLCCG priority areas.

Continuing actions from September 2012 Meeting

- Antonia to approach DV group to see if someone can attend Poverty Watch meetings.
Antonia sent apologies for the December meeting so unable to feedback.
- Mary to speak with Graham Taylor particularly around concerns of unintended consequences as a result of changes e.g. increase in hate crime and crime generally and how information can feed into Poverty Watch.
Meeting has not yet taken place