

^ VOLUNTARY ADVICE AGENCIES FORUM

Minutes of meeting held Thursday 14th April 2011
Kensington Town Hall, 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Chair: Charles Barber; CABKC

1.	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies	ACTIO N
3.	<p>Changes to Housing Allocation Policy; RBKC Robert Shaw (RBKC) highlighted that the housing allocation policy was still operating a points system but under a new allocation guidelines.</p> <p>The points system still has banding of low, medium (100 points) and high priority (200 points plus).</p> <p>Homeless people stuck in temporary accomdation because of low points due to not being in the borough for 3 years.</p> <p>1000 points is awarded for urgent priority but must be by a senior member such as a councillor.</p> <p>The council no longer have disqualifying points.</p> <p>3.1 Higher priority is given for severely overcrowded homes who will not be re-housed. Less severely meaning lacking one bedroom will be awarded 5 points.</p> <p>3.2 21 year olds will be ignored when living with families as priority for re-housing.</p> <p>3.2 200 points priority, income leels Studio - £40,000 2 bedrooms gone from £40,000 to £60,000.</p> <p>3.3 21 year olds plus offer private sector offers but realistically not in K&C</p> <p>Priority dates recognises how long someone has been waiting to be re-housed. Families wanting re-housing by housing associations, but the housing association has no where to rehouse them can they apply – yes they can</p> <p>Someone with drug problems needs to be assessed by social by social inclusion team before deciding they need supported housing.</p>	
4.	<p>Mental Health Floating Support Provide support in four boroughs, provide support to anyone requiring support needs through self – referral or through social inclusion team.</p>	

	<p>They do not have to be Notts tenants Deal with housing benefit, external agencies Rugby portobello work with disadvantaged 16-24 year olds also pupil referral unit and five hostels.</p> <p>Employment advisor – problems in Ladbroke grove – there is distinction between the haves and the have nots. Careers service such as connexions is being reduced. Provide help with cvs general or links to apprenticeships, help with interview skills. Help is given to anyone. Speak with rbkc's economic scheme – Harry</p>	
5.	Minutes of the Last Meeting held 23 September 2010	AS
6.	<p>Members Update Members gave an update of work and news items.</p> <p>NKLC NKLC have been given a small grant to run an employment service which provides a new service to people in work but having problems or have been dismissed from work. The service gives advice and can also issue further support for a small number of organisations. The service will also work with employers and help them improve their employment practices.</p> <p>The Law Centre has had changes to funding which means that the Arabic speaking service will go to CABKC.</p>	
	<p>Advice Now The conference <i>'What Price No Advice'</i> will take place on 3rd March. Bookings for the conference are full and they are currently running a reserve list. A report on the conference will be sent out after the conference.</p> <p>Drop-ins are still going. The e-bulletin is going out to keep people up to date with all the changes taking place.</p>	
	<p>MRCF Are putting in a response to the legal aid cuts. The response has to be in by Monday 14th February.</p>	
	<p>HODAN Once a week Hodan are running a service for older people in partnership with Open Age and Age Concern/Sixty Plus. They provide exercise classes for older people and advice.</p>	
	<p>India Welfare Society There are more calls coming through for help to find work and help with matrimonial problems.</p>	

	CABKC The judicial review was agreed and it will stay. Would like to look at out turns on debt matter starts. It is looking quite hopeful with regards to the state of the stay.	
	HASKC HASKC is winding down but have not stopped taking on more clients as they are taking on small cases. They are concerned about the Green paper on legal aid. Advice UK has put in a response and clients can also feed in to the response and lobby MPs. Malcolm Rifkind needs to be persuaded as an MP to support legal aid. MPs were lobbied in Houses of Parliament to support the Early Day Motion. Click here for information on The Love legal aid campaign.	
	Future agenda items Legal advice on using voluntters – volunteer centre	
7.	AOB none	
9.	Dates of future meetings 14th April 2011, 2.30pm – 4.30pm, Committee Room 1	

Attendance List

Voluntary Advice Agencies Forum Meeting
Thursday 3rd February 2011, Committee Room 1, 3 &4, Kensington Town Hall

1. Attendees

	Name	Organisation
1	Charles Barber	KCAB
2	Harry Tedstone	Advice Now
3	Jane Gray	WENAC
4	Asma Begum	Advice Now
5	Barbara king	Advice Now
6	Hilary Grindrod	HASKC
7	Sean Canning	NKLC
8	Angela Fox	Age Concern
9	Suresh Gupta	India Welfare Society and Kensal Community Association
10	Vicki Laville-Davies	DNT
11	Baljit Badesha	Nucleus
12	Judith Blakeman	MRCF,
13	Angela Spence	KCSC
14	Madeline Gilkes	Carers UK

15	Beth Crossland	MRCF
16	Mohamed Farah	Hodan Somali Community
17	Victoria Mekes	NKLC
18	Veneeze Augustine	RBKC
19	Andrew Wilson	RBKC
20	Robert Armstrong	RBKC

2. Apologies - None

	Name	Organisation
	Jane Gray	WENAC
	Baljit Badesha	Nucleus