

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM

Wednesday 07th December 2011, 10.00am – 12.30pm
Kensington Town Hall, Committee Room 3&4

Chair: Mary Gardiner (Kensington & Chelsea Social Council)
Attendance list attached

1	WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES Mary Gardiner, KCSC	ACTION
1.1	Mary welcomed everyone and invited members to introduce themselves and any new work they are involved in. Apologies for absence were also noted. <i>(see attendance list)</i>	
2	RBKC CHILDREN'S SERVICES ANNOUNCED INSPECTIONS <i>(Presentation attached)</i> Victoria Hunt, RBKC on behalf of Ian Elliot	
2.1	<p>Victoria introduced herself and forwarded Ian's apologies. She explained that since 2008, the method of inspection of children's services had changed, and that there was much more focus around safeguarding and protection. She said that children's services get inspected twice a year. One of them is a spot check, with no notice and the other (the main inspection) is made following two weeks notice. The next visit is expected in December or January, and part of the visit will be inspecting how better outcomes for children and young people are being achieved. Once the notice of inspection is given, the borough must prepare the relevant paper work.</p> <p>Initial feedback of the inspection will be given while inspectors are still on site, and a detailed report will be submitted by 22 days after the inspection. The borough is expected to publish the report within 30 days of receiving it.</p> <p>Victoria said she the borough would like to keep its voluntary sector colleagues updated with the date of inspection through KCSC.</p>	
2.2	Vicki asked if the inspection will include youth services. Victoria explained it may do, depending on whether children in care or at risk use those services.	
3	MANAGING CHANGE – GRANTS TO CONTRACTS <i>(Presentation attached)</i> Val Patterson, Westway Development Trust (WDT)	
3.1	<p>Val began by explaining the background of the partnership which was established in 2003 and described its transition process into the consortium to tender for RBKC funds in 2008.</p> <p>Val then talked the forum through a number of questions she presented to the consortium members to get their views on the change from grants to contracts and whether it had an overall positive impact on the organisations and their service users or a negative one. The schools that had responded generally held the view that whilst they face a lot of difficulties and an increased workload in the early stages, in the long run it had a positive impact and</p>	

	helped them become more efficient and improve their monitoring.	
3.2	<p>Alex said that Clement James had to adapt in many ways as a result of the change and said that the organisation had learnt not to be too dependent on local authority funding.</p> <p>Heather said that West London Action for Children had found the whole process very lengthy and felt the commissioners were out of touch with young people.</p> <p>Asked if groups noticed a big difference in workload and quality before and after the change, Val said she hadn't. Heather said she had, and Alex said Clement James had also noticed a big difference. She added that the EYS in particular caused numerous problems for her staff.</p> <p>Vicki said Dalgarno was quite naive in the early stages of negotiation, offering too much for too little. They struggled with the monitoring, especially inputting data, suffered frequent crashes and wasted a lot of time. Alex commented saying Clement James has been allowed to submit its own report, as opposed to RBKC monitoring, due to difficulties and advised other organisations to inquire if they may be able to negotiate a similar agreement.</p> <p>Mary felt that funded groups should demand regular meetings with commissioners.</p>	
4	YOUTH SERVICE EMPLOYEE LED MUTUAL (ELM) DEVELOPMENTS Brendan O'Keefe, RBKC	
4.1	<p>Brendan said the RBKC Youth Support and Development Service (YSDS) is in the process of opting out of statutory control to become an independent social enterprise. He said that the YSDS has endorsed an exceptionally tough challenge, to make the transition within an 18 month time span, even though such moves normally take much longer. The decision was prompted by the severe cuts made to YSDS, which mainly affect libraries, sure start services and youth projects. The YSDS were given the option of further stretching their resources, or taking a more radical measure – the ELM. As part of the ELM path finder, RBKC YSDS has access to advice, extensive networks and a business mentor (Mark Sesnan, GLL Greenwich). Brendan said the move is being supported by the council, and Derek Myers was very keen on the idea. The appeal of becoming a social enterprise is that the organisation will have a social objective, and will have many more options in acquiring funds.</p> <p>Brendan pointed out that a large amount of YSDS funds currently goes to the voluntary sector, and the mutual will commit to continuing a good relationship with the voluntary sector. He also hopes that the mutual will allow a more flexible relationship as it would have the ability to make its own rules.</p> <p>The mutual is expected to be set up by April 2012 and fully operational by this time next year. Once a few pending legal issues are resolved, and the terms and conditions of contracts are written, all YSDS staff will have the opportunity to vote for or against the move. Brendan said there is a shadowing board to overlook the transition process, and that the voluntary sector is welcome to be part of it. The board will be active up until the vote takes place.</p>	
4.2	Dee asked what resources will be transferred to the ELM if it goes ahead. Brendan replied all YSDS staff (175), a budget of £5.5 million as well as some premises including Lancaster and Golborne Youth Centres and Canalside and Cremone Activity Centres will be transferred to the ELM.	

	<p>Dee asked if this will cause competition for funding the voluntary sector very much relies on. Brendan acknowledged that the ELM will not be able to provide all the service required in the borough and said he wants to bring in funds for everyone. Mary added that the ELM can also work as a huge driving vehicle to further voluntary sector interests.</p> <p>Val raised a concern that whilst leisure centres can generate large amounts of income through memberships and fees etc. she felt the youth services cannot do the same thing.</p> <p>Mary asked if Brendan had decided how many staff will be recruited locally, to which he replied he hadn't but that he intends to maintain the policy of employing local people.</p>	
5	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD 6 SEPTEMBER 2011 AND MATTERS ARISING	
5.1	The minutes from the last meeting were approved.	
6	FEEDBACK FROM FORUMS	
6.1	<p>Borough Voluntary Organisations Advisory Group Meeting held 9th November. The main focus of this meeting was to discuss third sector property issues with Michael Clark. The Reps prepared a list of questions for him to answer.</p>	
6.2	<p>Kensington and Chelsea Partnership Meeting held 15th November. This meeting was a development session to discuss and agree the vision of the KCP. The group identified four priority areas: Isolation, youth crime, affordable housing and good neighbourliness</p>	
6.3	<p>Main Voluntary organisation Forum Meeting held 21st September. Monsur Khan gave a presentation on City Living, Local Life. There was a presentation on KCSC's new website and an update on KCSC's impact of the cuts survey. There was also a discussion on the summer riots led by Graham Taylor.</p>	
6.4	<p>Children's Trust The Children's Trust had been replaced with a broader Kensington & Chelsea Children's Network, which was launched on 14 September.</p>	
7	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
7.1	Dee said there hadn't been any recent information about the Kensington Academy. Mary suggested we ask Val and Alex to do an update and circulate it. She also suggested someone from the Aldridge Foundation be invited to a future VOF to speak about the academy.	MM
8	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
8.1	Thursday 16th February 2012, 10.00am to 12.30pm , Committee Room 1, Kensington Town Hall	

ATTENDANCE LIST

Children, Young People and Families Voluntary Organisations' Forum Meeting
10.00am, Wednesday 07th December 2011, Kensington Town Hall, Committee Room 3&4

1. ATTENDANCE LIST

	Name	Organisation
1	Sakina Aitlhadj	Dadihiye Somali Development Organisation
2	Flora Taylor	Family Friends
3	Chris Conn	Kensington & Chelsea Local Involvement Network
4	Robin Tuck	Kensington & Chelsea Local Involvement Network
5	Mary Gardiner	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
6	Mohammed Miah	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
7	Angela Spence	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
8	Dee Dainton	Lancaster West Children's Community Network
9	Iris Apablaza	NOVA
10	Brendan O'Keefe	Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
11	Victoria Hunt	Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
12	Waris Mohamoud	Midaye Somali Development Network
13	Mohamed Benrahma	Dalgarno Supplementary School
14	Alex Hanratty	The Clement James Centre
15	Heather Boxer	West London Action for Children
16	Val Patterson	Westway Development Trust
17	Catherine Orr Deas	Women's Trust

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING

	Name	Organisation
1	Esma Dukali	Al Hasaniya
2	Ian Elliot	Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea