

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM

Thursday 16th February 2012, 10.00am – 12.30pm
Kensington Town Hall, Committee Room 1

Chair: Angela Spence (Kensington & Chelsea Social Council)
Attendance list attached

1	WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES Angela Spence, Kensington & Chelsea Social Council (KCSC)	ACTION
1.1	Angela welcomed everyone to the forum, and suggested the introductions are delayed until Andrew Christie arrives.	
2	KCSC LINK NEWSLETTER CONSULTATION Kuldip Bajwa, KCSC	
2.1	<p>Kuldip explained that the KCSC newsletter was currently being reviewed and KCSC was looking for ways to improve it. He spoke about the structure of the newsletter, its contents and method of distribution before inviting forum members to share their views.</p> <p>Dee said she found the policy content of the Link very useful, and that it is often circulated among staff in the office. She was particularly keen on policy issues, as they remained relevant in the long term.</p> <p>Rosemary suggested comments from councillors might add different dynamics to the newsletter. Interesting topics would include universal credit and benefit caps. She also said she would like the Link to remain quarterly.</p> <p>Val suggested statistics and data would be very useful, particularly for funding applications.</p> <p>There was a strong feeling among members that the hard copies of Link should remain, and with the same quality paper, as it is longer lasting than standard paper.</p>	
3	TRI-BOROUGH CHILDREN'S SERVICES Andrew Christie, Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster	
3.1	<p>Angela welcomed Andrew and invited forum members to introduce themselves before handing over to Andrew.</p> <p>Andrew thanked the forum for the opportunity to meet everyone, and said he was struck by the richness of third sector provisions in Kensington & Chelsea. He said he would like to use this meeting to update the forum on the tri-borough developments to date.</p> <p>Andrew, who has been director of tri-borough children's services since January said that the senior team has now been formed, consisting of six directors: Karen Tyerman, Director of Commissioning Ian Heggs, Director of School Improvement and Standards Diana Hall, Assistant Director of School Improvement and Standards Dave McNamara, Director of Finance</p>	

	<p>John Page, Director of Care and Family Resource Andrew said he will forward the commissioning structure arrangements to Mohammed.</p> <p>Andrew said that whilst most services will continue to be delivered by local organisations, some services, where practical will deliver across the three boroughs; for example, organisations that are currently delivering in more than one borough. He assured the forum that did not mean the monopolisation of services.</p> <p>He said savings of £30million were required by Children’s Services, and that the senior management team restructuring alone would save £1million. It is estimated that £11million will be saved as a result of merging the three Children’s Services. The merge will mean senior managers are stretched, and requested understanding from the sector, and asked groups to speak to senior staff members if they feel that communication is beginning to break down.</p> <p>Andrew said the budget for the next three years are known, however the budget beyond that in not known, but it is expected that more savings will be necessary.</p> <p>There will be a continuing focus on school attainment. A huge investment has been made on schooling and choice. There will be a strong focus on children with highest needs, and less expenditure on universal services. There will be more focus on early intervention and children in need of safeguarding, including from sexual exploitation and domestic violence.</p>	MM
3.2	<p>Andrew was asked how the tri-borough merge, as well as the YSDS becoming an Employee Led Mutual would affect the current relationship the borough has with its voluntary sector partners, and whether there is a commitment to continue to work with VCOs.</p> <p>He replied where there is a collective need across three boroughs, it is more likely that a larger organisation will be commissioned to deliver services. He said that individual borough needs will also be looked at, and that a mixture of larger and small providers is envisioned.</p>	
3.3	<p>Rosemary asked how families and children will be protected from being moved from their homes amid the benefit caps. She also expressed delight at the RBKC’s endorsement of the Bernardo’s campaign for safeguarding children, and requested they also join the ‘Children are Unbeatable’ campaign at tri-borough level.</p> <p>Andrew said that most families were in households that were slightly above the cap, and it is also not yet known how the housing market will respond to the changes. He warned that roughly 350 children are at risk of moving, but as a civil servant officer, his job was to mitigate any consequences of government policies. He said he is working closely with colleagues in housing to ensure communication and information sharing is good and gave assurance that the right support systems will be in place if families had to move.</p> <p>In response to the campaigning, Andrew reminded the forum that it was a political decision to endorse Bernardo’s campaign, and the same will apply to other campaigns.</p>	
3.4	<p>Dee asked for clarification on what Andrew meant by ‘universal services’ earlier in his address, adding universal services should be non-stigmatising and open to all.</p> <p>Andrew said children’s centres and youth clubs may be asked to focus more targeted work and do more outreach to gain access to the higher risk groups.</p>	

	<p>Val asked whether children's school places could be protected in case of displacement, warning if they lose their place in school, it will be one of their life choices affected.</p> <p>Andrew said he is looking at how children can be kept in school in case of such an event or at least ensuring their education is accommodated for.</p>	
3.5	Flora requested a timetable for the commissioning process, which Andrew said he would forward to Mohammed.	MM
3.6	<p>Angela asked if there is or will be a formal mechanism for the third sector to converse with or feedback to tri-borough management.</p> <p>Andrew said they would like to hear the views of the third sector and suggested mechanisms such as partnership boards and VOFs, adding he would like to hear suggestions from the sector.</p> <p>Rosemary and Flora suggested the Social Council play a role in maintaining communication between the tri-borough management and local third sector.</p>	MM
3.7	<p>Dee urged Andrew and his directors to visit local organisations to see how they work and what resources they have.</p> <p>Andrew replied he will look at opportunities to visit groups, but said he had 150 schools to visit alone, reminding the forum of the challenge he faced and asked for patience and understanding.</p> <p>Angela proposed Andrew attend in KCSC's next Voluntary Sector Tour. Andrew said he would very much like to. Angela will liaise with Joanne.</p>	AS
3.8	Angela announced the RBKC mandate for children and families services is available and said she will make it available on KCSC's website.	AS
4	GET ON BOARD – GOVERNANCE PROJECT (<i>Presentation available on KCSC website</i>) Siobhan Sollis, Kensington & Chelsea Social Council	
4.1	Siobhan gave an update on the Governance Project, which aims to support trustees and strengthen governance in K&C's voluntary and community sector. She said support available includes webpages with resources and an online forum, trustee seminars (next one 29 March, and an annual conference. In-house training, facilitation and advice are also available for trustee boards. She said the trustee networking evening in December was very successful, with a number of people interested in becoming trustees.	
4.2	Val asked if a simple form explaining the benefits of registering onto the 'Get on Board' project can be created as she would like to circulate it amongst beneficiaries.	SS
5	KIDS COMPANY (<i>Presentation available on KCSC website</i>) Mozhy Chipperfield, Kids Company (Kidsco)	
5.1	Mozhy introduced herself to the forum and thanked everyone for letting her speak. She gave an insight into Kidsco's background, how it was established and their mission. She also spoke about some of their work in a pan London context and gave details of the types of young people they support. Kidsco supports some of the most deprived and vulnerable young people, and 17,000 children across London benefit from the services provided by Kids Company. Young people can be referred to Kidsco, or can refer themselves.	

5.2	<p>Val asked if Mozhy could give some more details about the work Kidsco intend to carry out in K&C.</p> <p>Mozhy replied Kidsco was invited by K&C NHS to open a drop in centre in St. Charles.</p>	
5.3	<p>Dee asked what the model for delivery would be at St. Charles Centre.</p> <p>Mozhy said Kidsco does not strictly adhere to a single model, but runs each centre on its own merits, and provides bespoke support for each young person as an individual. But just as the rest of Kidsco's clients, they will only work with the most vulnerable young people.</p>	
5.4	<p>Angela asked what happens if a young person refers themselves to Kidsco, but don't fit the criteria for their services?</p> <p>Mozhy said they are signposted to other services.</p>	
5.5	<p>Dee asked how Kidso had identified the number of young people in need living in K&C.</p> <p>Mozhy said Kidsco is working with, and have consulted a number of schools (she will send Mohammed names). She said that there are 1100 young people that use their services across tri-borough and 180 are from K&C.</p>	
5.6	<p>Flora asked how Kidsco will avoid duplicating existing services.</p> <p>Mozhy replied before establishing their services in any area, they undergo extensive research and identify a clear case for need. They also take into account how many of their existing service users are from that particular area. She stressed Kidsco doesn't approach school, as they lack the resources, but are approached by schools. There is currently a waiting list of schools seeking their services.</p>	
5.7	<p>Alex asked how Kisdco plans to signpost users to local services, and how they plan to work with the local third sector.</p> <p>Mozhy replied that was one of the purposes of her attendance to the VOF, to discuss how Kidsco can work collaboratively. She also pointed out they use Local Authority directories to find organisations to signpost people to.</p> <p>Alex also asked how Kidsco will ensure it is not competing with local organisations over funding.</p> <p>Mozhy replied it is unlikely that Kidsco will complete for funding, as they do have no intention of replacing services. If they come across a good service, they want to support it.</p> <p>Alex suggested it would be useful to have a dialogue and explore where work can be done in collaboration</p>	
5.8	<p>Angela thanked Mozhy for attending and appealed for a representative of Kidsco to attend future meetings to stay connected with local organisations. Mozhy said she would be pleased to do so. Members requested Mozhy's contact details are circulated.</p>	MM
6	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD 6 SEPTEMBER 2011 AND MATTERS ARISING	
6.1	<p>Val gave a brief update on Kensington Aldridge Academy, saying the academy will open in September 14th 2014. She said she attended a meeting with the Aldridge Foundation and felt positive they were saying all the right things and that the sector will be able to work with them.</p>	

	Angela said someone from the Foundation will be invited to the next CYPF VOF.	MM
7	FEEDBACK FROM FORUMS	
7.1	<p>Borough Voluntary Organisations Advisory Group, Annual meeting - 25 January Annual meeting held on 25th January. There was a presentation by Mary Gardiner, Cllr Fiona Buxton and Cllr Rock Feilding-Mellen, then a key note speech by Debra Allcock Tyler (CEO Directory for Social Change) followed by a question and answer session from the audience.</p> <p>Borough Voluntary Organisations Advisory Group - 21 February General agreement was that the dialogue with councillors through question and answer style debate was well received. The Council Chamber can be quite intimidating and prevent people from speaking out but also signifies the value of the meeting. Corporate Services small grants (phase 2 2012) round will start in April. Total grant fund is £14,000. The second round will run in October 2012. The 'Shaping Local Health Watch steering group has been mapping a number of things including existing advocacy organisations and their report is awaited. Although there may be some sharing of "back-office functions" it is anticipated that the Local HealthWatch will represent only Kensington and Chelsea. Transforming Local Infrastructure project was presented by KCSC. This is a partnership between, CASH, MRCF, KCSC, K&C Foundation and the Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea. Funding has been awarded for 18 months to improve joint working with partners and possibly with neighbouring Boroughs in order to achieve efficiencies. There is currently a London Councils consultation on strategic priorities and how they will be commissioned. The consultation closes on the 8th April. KCSC said they would aim to co-ordinate a voluntary sector response.</p>	
7.2	<p>Kensington and Chelsea Partnership Meeting held 24th January. Main business included a presentation on RBKCs preparation for the Olympics and the impact it will have on the borough. A presentation on K&C Focus. A presentation on and request to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant. And a presentation on the state of the RBKC voluntary sector in 2011 and beyond.</p>	
7.3	<p>Main Voluntary organisation Forum Meeting held 14th December. This was the end of year meeting which recapped the key developments and learning outcomes of 2011. Some of the reps also gave view of their area of representation and KCSC spoke about some of its upcoming events for 2012.</p>	
8	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
8.1	There was no other business.	
9	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
9.1	Wednesday 16th May 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, Thursday 16th February 2012, Kensington Town Hall, Committee Room 1

1. ATTENDANCE LIST

	Name	Organisation
1	Andrew Christie	London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
2	Esma Dukali	Al Hasaniya
3	Rosemary Keenan	Catholic Children's Society
4	Francis Oppong	Chapter 1
5	Cynthia Malizu	Chapter 1
6	Andrzej Wdowiak	Earl's Court YMCA
7	Flora Taylor	Family Friends
8	Jashmin Patel	Kensington & Chelsea Local Involvement Network
9	Siobhan Sollis	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
10	Kuldip Bajwa	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
11	Mohammed Miah	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
12	Angela Spence	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
13	Mozhy Chipperfield	Kids Company
14	Dee Dainton	Lancaster West Children's Community Network
15	Ahmed Bhairien	Making Communities Work and Grow
16	Joanna Yeung	Natural History Museum
17	Sarah Birch	St Christopher's Fellowship
18	Alex Hanratty	The Clement James Centre
19	Silke Mehrgott	The Clement James Centre
20	Heather Boxer	West London Action for Children
21	Victoria Botwood	West London Action for Children
22	Val Patterson	Westway Development Trust
23	Heidi Riedel	Woman's Trust

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING

	Name	Organisation
1	Karen White	Pre-school Learning Alliance
2	Mayrem Hassan	Royal London Society for Blind People