

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM

**Minutes of a meeting held Wednesday 12th January 2011
10.00am to 12.00pm, Committee Room 2, Kensington Town Hall, W8 7NX**

**Chair: Afaf Taher (AS Development Organisation)
Attendance list attached**

1.	WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
	Afaf welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted.	
2.	MIDAYE PRESENTATION	
	<p>Idil Hassan from Midaye delivered a presentation about their organisation and the work they are engaged in. Aden explained that Midaye meant unity in Somali and came into existence in 2002 when the Somali Under Five and Women's group expanded its service and changed its name to Midaye.</p> <p>Midaye's aims are to help the Somali community including all ages and genders and in particular refugees and asylum seekers. Aden stressed the need of Midaye, who is serving a community in which 95% of the members are illiterate. Midaye provide ESOL classes, but acknowledged the complications of educating the first generation migrants, most of whom are middle aged/elderly and have never studied before. They also encourage service users to learn via other means and volunteer with them.</p> <p>Annabel spoke about some of Midaye's main concerns for the future which are the budget cuts and how they will impact on services they provide. They are also worried about how new housing policies will affect their community as the majority live in social housing.</p> <p>Idil proceeded to play a short video that was made for their AGM about the work of Midaye, which focused on the supplementary school. Young students at the school expressed how they were benefiting from the school. The video ended with a performance by young people doing dance to traditional music.</p>	
3.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	
	<p>Minutes were approved</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Point 4.1 Angela Spence confirmed the New Equality Bill does cover age. The information can be found on the Government Equalities Office website. http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/GEO_EqualityBillAge_acc.pdf</p> <p>Point 4.2 The Social Council have updated their business plan and details will be out in their February edition of Link.</p>	

4.	BREAK AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY	
5.	INTERACTIVE GROUP SESSION DISCUSSING CONCERNS AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE GROUPS IN THE FUTURE	
	<p>Members were asked to consider in groups, concerns for the future and the needs of their community. Some of the key points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In this current climate small groups are more vulnerable than ever • There is a lot less funding around and GP commissioning may make this harder for voluntary and community organisations • The cuts to housing and other benefits is of concern • Organisations know they can work in partnerships but need to be aware of conflicts that can arise <p>Some solutions and ideas to take forward included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisations taking more of the initiative rather than waiting for changes e.g. VCOs need to be on the GP Commissioning Board and need to start the process of engagement. KCSC could organise a GP spokesperson to talk to the sector about working with VCOs in the future. • Small organisations need to form a consortium or become part of a larger consortium. Organisations can also join the health consortium managed by KCSC. Lev to send out information to members. • There needs to be more joint funding bids and help with social enterprise development which can be supported by KCSC • The sector need to understand what is going on in terms of the statutory services, alignments and partnerships which are taking place. Clarity from the statutory sector will help the VCS to plan how to respond in the future. Information or a presentation from the statutory sector would help this. • The sector also needs to have clarity on the Big Society and what this will mean. A presentation on the practicalities of Big society at a future VOF would be welcome. • Finding out what other organisations do in the borough and the services they provide is helpful in strengthening local knowledge and collaboration. More voluntary sector presentations at the Engaging communities forum would be welcome. 	<p>KCSC</p> <p>KCSC</p> <p>KCSC</p> <p>KCSC</p> <p>KCSC</p> <p>KCSC</p>
6.	ATTENDANCE AND FEEDBACK FROM OTHER FORUMS	
6.1	<p>Borough Voluntary Organisations Advisory Group (BVOAG): Abdalla Salim Gave feedback from the BVOAG held on Tuesday 11th January 2011, which he felt was very positive. He briefly explained the purpose of the group and how it works. He spoke about the funding cuts review, and said overall he was optimistic about the influence of the BVOAG.</p>	
6.2	<p>K&C Local Involvement Network (K&C LINK): LINK's Council Champions Project trained 25 women on breast and cervical cancer screening.</p> <p>The Dignity Champions project received some funding to expand it. Link has also trained Mental Health Champions.</p> <p>LINK has been thinking about the transition to health Watch and has held consultations with GP's. Details of how to get involved and join will be sent out.</p>	

6.3	BME health Forum: Nafsika updated the forum on the recent work of BME Health Forum. She also expressed concerns over the intended PCT cuts and disappointment at the lack of consultation with the voluntary sector. She said the BME forum would be sending out a petition against the cuts. Nafsika will also forward the petition to KCSC which can be sent out to members.	KCSC
7.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS None	
8.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	28 th April 2011, Committee Room 2, Kensington Town Hall	

ATTENDANCE LIST

Engaging Communities Voluntary Organisations' Forum Meeting
Thursday 4 November 2010, Committee Room 1, Kensington Town Hall

1. Attendees

	Name	Organisation
1	Sam Hatley	Action Concern Kensington & Chelsea
2	Kat Pieroudis	Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
3	Afaf Taher (Chair)	Advice, Support & Development Organisation
4	Nafsika Thalassis	BME Health Forum
5	Dahabo Guled	Dadihiye Somali Development
6	Abdalla Salim	Helping Hands Support Association
7	Mohammed Farah	Hodan Somali Community
8	Mohammed Miah (minutes)	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
9	Angela Spence	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
10	Paula Murphy	Local Involvement Kensington & Chelsea
11	Robin Tuck	Local Involvement Network K&C (LINK)
12	Filipa Alvarez	London Cyrenians Housing
13	Annabel Turner	Midaye Somali Development
14	Idil Hassan	Midaye Somali Development
15	Ahmed Bhairien	Moroccan Community Welfare Group
16	Laionie Buchanan	Notting Hill Housing Trust
17	Meyrem Hassan	Royal London Society for the Blind
18	Amy Stephenson	Westway Development Trust

2. Apologies

	Name	Organisation
1	Wendy Autumn	Equal People KC
2	Joanna N.H. Yeung	Community Learning Natural History Museum
3	Chris Woolls	Cara Trust
4	Susan Worrell	Colville