

# OLDER PEOPLES VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM

**Minutes of the meeting held Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011, 3.00pm to 5.00pm  
Committee Room 1, Kensington Town Hall, London W8 7NX**

**Chair: Helen Leech (Open Age)  
Attendance list attached**

1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	Action
	Helen welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted (list attached).	
2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	
	Item 10.1. – Angela to arrange guest speakers to present on the ‘Super Borough’ and the ‘Credit Union’ for future meeting.	
3.	MATTERS ARISING	
	None	
4.	NHS UPDATE	
	<p>Stephen Tucker gave the forum an update on some of the changes to the NHS. He clarified that PCTs will remain statutory bodies until parliament dissolves them; therefore the three PCTs (Westminster, K&amp;C and Hammersmith &amp; Fulham) will not ‘merge’, but the commissioning functions across the three boroughs will be combining, to meet the target for reducing management costs. Staffing will be cut down from 600 to 150. The GP consortia will be set up between 2012 and 2013 and will be responsible for about 80% of the budget.</p> <p>Stephen confirmed that K&amp;C has been chosen as a ‘Pathfinder’ (early adopter) to develop a GP commissioning model. In K&amp;C the focus will be on three areas – older people’s care, diabetes and mental health.</p>	
	Robin Tuck stated concern about GPs being diverted from their clinical practise by focussing on the commissioning. Stephen assured the forum that most of the GPs will not be affected, as the bulk of the commissioning would be undertaken by GPs who have been nominated or have an interest in it, leaving the rest to focus on practising.	
	Cynthia asked where the voluntary sector fits into all the change that is happening. She also asked about the impacts it will have on the plans for St. Charles. Stephen said he will speak to the commissioners responsible and feedback to her. <b>(See appendix point 1)</b>	
	Lev and Cynthia asked about where voluntary-sector commissioning would fall, and why there is no voluntary-sector commissioner in the new staffing structure; also how the PCT will carry out its ‘community engagement’ function, and whether ‘PALS’ would continue. Stephen commented that the structure is out for consultation, and there are several commissioning posts that have not yet been given a specific function; the voluntary-sector role is one of those. He also reported that the ‘public health’ function of the PCTs will be transferred completely to local councils, and the voluntary-sector will be involved in a new Health and Well-being board that councils	

	will be required to set up. On the subject of community engagement, it is hoped that this will become an aspect of all commissioners' workload, rather than having specialists. Stephen offered to arrange a guest speaker on this once things become a bit clearer. <b>(See appendix points 2 and 3).</b>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>DIGNITY CHAMPIONS PRESENTATION</b>	
	Paula Murphy from Kensington and Chelsea LINK introduced the work LINK does and gave a presentation on the Dignity Champions project. She explained the aim of the Dignity Champions project was to make sure service users have a voice in the design and delivery of health and social care services received. The objectives were to raise awareness, to conduct peer research and implement the 'Dignity in Care' agenda. The project provides training, assessment tools, site visits, observations and interviews as well as report, evaluate and provide follow-ups. For more information on the project or to get involved, members can contact Paula on: 020 8968 7049 or <a href="mailto:paula.murphy@hestia.org">paula.murphy@hestia.org</a> or visit: <a href="http://www.rbkclink.org">www.rbkclink.org</a>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>HEALTHY HOMES PRESENTATION</b>	
	<p>Ros Bedlow introduced Healthy Homes – a borough wide initiative, and gave a presentation on keeping warm and energy saving. Healthy Homes offer the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Access to grants for heating and insulation, income maximisation advice</li> <li>▶ Access to keep Warm Grants (RBKC)</li> <li>▶ Access to warm Front grants for heating and insulation</li> <li>▶ Emergency heating (RBKC)</li> <li>▶ Advice on tariffs and energy saving behaviours</li> <li>▶ Handyperson service (RBKC)</li> <li>▶ Easy measures</li> <li>▶ Enforcement action by Environmental Health where required (all sectors)</li> </ul> <p>For more information contact: 0808 202 6204 or <a href="mailto:justine.dornan@rbkc.gov.uk">justine.dornan@rbkc.gov.uk</a>  <b>(See attachment for full presentation).</b></p>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>TAXI CARD SCHEME UPDATE</b>	
	<p>Tim Mougnot, Accessible Transport Policy Officer from Housing, Health and Adult Social Care RBKC gave an update on the Taxi Card scheme. The scheme is funded by TFL and is given £13 million a year. Tim said that the mayor has indicated his commitment to continue funding at £13 million. The main changes to the scheme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Increase in the minimum customer contribution to £2.50</li> <li>▶ Reduction of the maximum trip subsidy by £2.00</li> <li>▶ To impose a moratorium on new memberships lasting until the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011</li> </ul> <p>Ending 'double swiping' was also a recommendation, however it was dropped. Customers can continue to double swipe on long journeys.</p> <p>Tim said that the Accessible transport Team would like to consult and hear from members regarding how best to keep customers informed about the scheme.</p> <p>The number for the Taxi Card helpline for anyone concerned is: 020 7361 3108</p>	

<b>8.</b>	<b>ISOLATION CONFERENCE FEEDBACK</b>	
	Cynthia gave feedback to the forum on the Isolation Conference. She said the event went very well and was a success. Members can obtain the presentations by contacting Mohammed at KCSC.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE AND FEEDBACK FROM OTHER FORUMS</b>	
9.1	<b>Kensington &amp; Chelsea Partnership (KCP):</b> The previous meeting was a development meeting which was very positive. The members looked at the need to broaden /change the steering group. They also discussed changing the agenda headings to make it more exciting.	
9.2	<b>Borough Voluntary Organisations Advisory Group (BVOAG):</b> Funding outcomes from the different business groups were discussed in the previous meeting. The council agreed to monitor the impact of the cuts.	
9.3	<b>Main VOF:</b> Elections for reps were conducted in the last Main VOF. There are still places for reps and KCSC will send a call out in the near future for those interested in representing.	
<b>10.</b>	<b>MEMBERS UPDATE</b>	
10.1	<b>K&amp;C Forum for Older Residents:</b> With other voluntary sector colleagues, the Forum is focusing on isolation of elderly.	
<b>11.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
	<p>Lev spoke about the VOF review and explained that due to a reduced budget and staff force as well as to avoid duplication; the KCSC was looking into the possibility of widening the Older People's Forum to a general health and wellbeing forum.</p> <p>Helen suggested that there needs to be more discussion around this issue before the forum can decide on the proposed change. She suggested that it should be an item on the next agenda.</p> <p>Cynthia said that any change made should be in light of the review of the VOFs which was recently undertaken.</p> <p>Helen advised the forum members to keep the 4<sup>th</sup> April meeting date in their diaries as she felt the meeting should go ahead even if KCSC is unable to facilitate it.</p>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>AGENDA PLANNING AND ITEMS TO THE KCP</b>	
	The future of Public Health	
<b>13.</b>	<b>DATES OF NEXT MEETING (subject to VOF structure from April)</b>	
	<p>The following dates were set for meetings of this Forum in 2011</p> <p>Monday 4 April Monday 18 July Monday 17 October</p> <p>All meetings will be held at Kensington Town Hall from 3.00pm to 5.00pm.</p>	

	<b>APPENDIX</b>	
<b>1</b>	<p>The Forum was concerned that the plans for St Charles' Centre for Health and Wellbeing will not take place because of the clustering of the PCT and the formation of GP Commissioning Consortia.</p> <p>Response - I can confirm that the PCT's new Chief Executive has confirmed the PCT's continued commitment to its plans for the development of St Charles'</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p>The Forum would like to discuss plans to develop Public Health and Health &amp; Wellbeing Boards and I suggested this could be an agenda item a future Forum meeting (when the Public Health arrangements are clearer).</p> <p>Response - Melanie Smith, Director of Public Health in Kensington and Chelsea, would be happy to attend a future Forum to discuss NHS plans for Public Health and Health and Wellbeing Boards. May I ask you to liaise with Marilyn Daniels (020 8962 4619 and marilyn.daniels@kc-ptc.nhs.uk) to schedule a day and time for Melanie to attend the Forum.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p>Concern was raised that the proposed Phase 3 structure for the new Inner North West Cluster PCT does not include Community Engagement or PALS and that the PCT is not communicating enough with the Third Sector.</p> <p>Response - The proposed Phase 3 structure is currently out for a three month formal internal consultation with PCT staff. If you could email me with more detailed feedback I shall ensure that this is submitted as part of the consultation. In terms of communication with the Third Sector, my attendance at the Forum was part of the PCT's ongoing dialogue with its partners and I shall be happy to attend future Third Sector meetings if this would be helpful. In addition the PCT is preparing an Equalities Impact Assessment and this will be shared with external stakeholders, including the Third Sector.</p>	

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**1. ATTENDEES**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
<b>1</b>	Irene Kohler	Advocacy Plus
<b>2</b>	Cynthia Dize	Age Concern K&C/Sixty Plus
<b>3</b>	Angela Fox	Age Concern K&C/Sixty Plus
<b>4</b>	Zakia Chentouf	Al-Hasaniya Moroccan Womens Association
<b>5</b>	Moira Herring	Ground Work London
<b>6</b>	Julia Linfoot	Housing for Women
<b>7</b>	Zara Ghods	K&C Forum for Older Residents
<b>8</b>	Paula Murphy	K&C LINK
<b>9</b>	Robin Tuck	K&C Local Involvement Network (LINK)
<b>10</b>	Suresh Gupta	Kensal Community Association/India Welfare Society
<b>11</b>	Lev Pedro	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
<b>12</b>	Mohammed Miah (Minutes)	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
<b>13</b>	Stephen Tucker	NHS Kensington & Chelsea
<b>14</b>	Helen Leech (Chair)	Open Age
<b>15</b>	Tim Mougnot	RBKC Housing, Health and Adult Social Care
<b>16</b>	Carla Gordon	RBKC Housing, Health and Adult Social Care
<b>17</b>	Mus Kalamulah	RBKC Housing, Health and Adult Social Care
<b>18</b>	Sue Toole	RBKC Housing, Health and Adult Social Care
<b>19</b>	Everine Shand	RBKC Tenant management Organisation
<b>20</b>	Thomas Owen	Viridian Housing

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
<b>1</b>	Cllr Robert Freeman	Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
<b>2</b>	Amy Stephenson	Westway Development Trust