

OLDER PEOPLES VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM

**Minutes of the meeting held Monday 04th April 2011, 3.00pm to 5.00pm
Committee Room 1, Kensington Town Hall, London W8 7NX**

Chair: Cynthia Dize (Age Concern K&C/Sixty Plus)
Attendance list attached

1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	Action
1.1	Cynthia Dize welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted (list attached).	
2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	
2.1	The minutes were agreed and no amendments were made.	
3.	MATTERS ARISING	
3.1	Cynthia announced that between now and September, Healthy Homes services will be less active. However, Healthy Homes Champions have been trained and are available to meet organisations to keep up awareness on fuel poverty.	
4.	THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (Steve Shaffelburg, Manager - Inner North West London Primary Care Trust)	
4.1	After introducing himself, Steve Shaffelburg began his presentation by explaining to the forum what Public Health was. Public Health is part of the publicly funded health system (NHS) and is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society. Campaigning against smoking for example is the responsibility of Public health, whereas treating cancer would be the responsibility of the NHS.	
4.2	Using the quote from the former US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld "There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know", Steve explained he will focus on the 'known knowns' and will try to explain what he can from the 'known unknowns'. Steve said Public Health's leadership will return to Local Authorities, which will be a positive move as it will allow us to work on the causes of the causes. As for when the transition will occur, it will be no later than April 2013. Public Health funding will be ring fenced. Exactly how much is not yet known, but it will be more than £4 billion. The healthy eating campaign will be led by Public Health on a national	

	<p>scope.</p> <p>Dr Melanie Smith will be the director for Public Health in Hammersmith and Fulham, Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea. As director, she will act as principal adviser on all health matters to the Local Authorities and will advocate for the public's health within the community. She will be accountable to local Health and Well-being boards comprised of elected members, GP commissioners, senior local authority commissioners and a LINK (Health Watch) representative.</p> <p>The board's main responsibilities will be to integrate commissioning, produce a joint strategic needs assessment and develop a joint health and well-being strategy. It is currently not known exactly how many boards there will be, but it is likely there will be three. The boards are expected to be operational by April 2013.</p>	
4.3	<p>The new Public Health plans will adopt a 'nudging' policy over a 'nannying' one. Whilst they would like to nudge people towards making the right health decisions, they don't want to restrain people's choices.</p> <p>Commenting on the government's new Responsibility Deal, Steve said there is very little evidence that self-regulation works, and quoted the Health Secretary saying he won't hesitate to regulate if organisations don't do it themselves.</p>	
4.4	<p>Steve went on to ask the question - what do the changes mean for funding in Kensington and Chelsea? He said that the GP Consortia will be responsible nationally for a budget of £80 billion, from which they must save £20 billion. QIPP (Quality, Innovation, Performance and Productivity) will be the tool used to save that money. Steve suggested that the Older People's forum needs to discuss at some point how they will work more closely with the GP Consortia.</p>	
4.5	<p>Angela asked how KCSC can provide the right kind of support to the voluntary sector, as Steve mentioned that discussions were still open. She also asked about the time scale.</p> <p>Steve said there wasn't a time scale, and acknowledged there was need to work closely with KCSC.</p> <p>Helen said in Westminster all voluntary sector funding has stopped. As a result, she said there were concerns that Westminster service users would seek to access services in Kensington and Chelsea, which may put demands on K&C service providers that cannot be met.</p> <p>Nour-Eddine asked where accountability of services would lie, and where service users would go with complaints.</p> <p>Cynthia said once Public Health returns to the Local Authority, its accountability will be through elected members.</p> <p>Cynthia closed the discussion saying it may be useful to invite Dr Melanie Smith, head of Public Health to a future OP VOF.</p>	

5.	UPDATES (Cynthia Dize)	
5.1	<p>Tri-borough: Cynthia said that the issue would be to determine when commissioning would work better locally and when it would work better across the three boroughs. KCSC to look at that with great attention and start thinking about what it might mean for VCOs in Kensington and Chelsea.</p> <p>A link to KCSC's 'Impact of the spending cuts and tri-borough development' was requested as well as a link to the survey on the council's website.</p>	KCSC KCSC
5.2	<p>Compact: Cynthia briefly explained what the Compact is, and said a final version will be re-launched shortly, which will be reduced to 12 pages and a 2 page summary. The consultation period for the Compact is now closed.</p>	
6.	ATTENDANCE AND FEEDBACK FROM OTHER FORUMS	
6.1	<p>Kensington & Chelsea Partnership (KCP): Meeting held 8th March. Main agenda items included a presentation by Tony Redpath on Launch Pad Project, an update on the tri Borough proposals by Melenie Marshman and an update by Nicola Weaver on the government's localism agenda and the Big Society.</p>	
6.2	<p>Borough Voluntary Organisations Advisory Group (BVOAG): Meeting held 14th March. Main topics for discussion were the K&C Compact, brief discussions on the Tri Borough developments and rent increases for council tenants from April 2011. Brendan O'Keefe also updated the group on the Employee led mutuals pathfinder project for youth services.</p>	
6.3	<p>Main VOF: Meeting held 1st March. There was an interactive session preparing questions for the 10th March Tri Borough meeting with Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell. A second round of elections for KCP and BVOAG Reps was held. Elizabeth Usher – Focus K&C gave a presentation on the giving green paper.</p> <p>Next Main VOF will be held on the 8th June 2011</p>	
6.4	<p>K&C Forum for Older Residents: Dr Mark Sweeney (head of GP Consortia), Cllr Julie Mills and Steven Tucker met with the forum to discuss how the NHS changes will affect them. Feedback was given that the presentations weren't clear or easy to understand for people who were unfamiliar with jargon and acronyms.</p> <p>Feedback was given about the Census event on the 27th March, which was supported by the Moroccan, Eritrean, Sudanese and Persian communities.</p> <p>The next Forum for Older Residents will be held on the 27th May 2011.</p>	
7.	PROPOSED CHANGES TO VOF (All)	
7.1	<p>Angela began by apologising for the last meeting in which the changes were announced at the end of the forum with no time left to discuss the issue or for members to give feedback. She explained that no decisions will be made in this meeting, but instead views and feedback will be taken back and discussed with the KCSC senior management team to make a proposal that would be supported by the forum.</p>	

	<p>Angela highlighted that the VOF review had identified a gap within the forums we are currently facilitating which do not cater for organisations providing health services. She also felt that it was in the forums strategic interest to expand.</p>	
7.2	<p>Nour-Eddine said that there was no mention of older people in the new proposed forum.</p> <p>Angela said the last thing we want is to lose focus on the main strands, and suggested that task groups can be set up to keep that focus. She also suggested planning groups to meet regularly to ensure the agenda is reflective of the members of the forum.</p> <p>Eve asked how often these groups will be expected to meet.</p> <p>Angela said the idea was not to create too many additional meetings, but to simply shadow the Health and Well-being forum to identify topics.</p> <p>Helen felt there was a lot of mention about what the possible gains would be, but not much mention of the inevitable loss as a result of the changes.</p> <p>Cynthia sought clarification that it will be the OP forum and NHS funded providers' forum that will be merging, which Angela confirmed. She said the NHS forum is very well attended and asked if they will be coming to the new VOF, pointing out that it may become extremely crowded.</p> <p>Angela said while the NHS forum hasn't been formally invited yet, but we expect they would be interested in attending.</p> <p>Cynthia asked how groups dealing with issues such as housing and finance etc. will be included in the meetings.</p> <p>Angela said it would be the responsibility of the planning groups to create the appropriate space to accommodate them.</p> <p>Janice raised concerns about the dramatic increase that the amalgamation of the two forums would have on the numbers attending the forum.</p> <p>Helen commented on Janice's concern saying, it could also have the opposite effect, where OP VOF members' attendance drops as they don't see much relevance. She mentioned a forum had closed in Westminster, which meant the loss of a great networking opportunity and feared the same for K&C. Helen suggested that just the OP VOF still met once or twice a year despite any changes, at least for the sake of networking.</p> <p>Angela stressed that while it is difficult to know how wide and big the new forum will get, we don't want to lose the focus on the older people's issues.</p> <p>Cynthia asked what real choice the forum had, and although they are being asked their opinions and feedback, how much influence will it have on the actual decision making.</p> <p>Angela replied any strong feelings amongst the group will certainly be taken back and considered as KCSC does not want to be isolated in its decision.</p> <p>Councillor Freeman felt the OP VOF was very valuable - too valuable to lose and suggested it be continued by another body if KCSC discontinues it. He also felt the costs should be</p>	

	<p>minimal to facilitate a forum like this.</p> <p>While Helen could see the need to have a Health and Well-being forum, she couldn't understand why the OP VOF had to be lost in the process.</p> <p>Councillor Freeman said it would seem more like deleting a forum than expanding one.</p> <p>Cynthia agreed with the comments and said while there is a gap; it is for KCSC to find a solution to cater for it.</p> <p>Cynthia asked if it can be assumed the next meeting will be an OP VOF?</p> <p>Angela couldn't guarantee, but said she will speak to the senior team and get back to the forum with a proposal.</p> <p>Cynthia closed the discussion saying that there was very a strong feeling that members wanted to keep the OP VOF as it is.</p>	KCSC
8.	MEMBERS FEEDBACK	
8.1	Helen Leech: Open Age has launched a new project in the south of the borough linking up older people who are isolated.	
8.2	Carers Kensington and Chelsea are running activities for young carers.	
8.3	Councillor Robert Freeman: There will be a seminar on Wednesday 6 th April at the Town hall on crime prevention.	
8.4	<p>Cynthia Dize: Age Concern K&C is working on a pilot with the PCT and council on Primary Care Navigators, to help people whose social needs are not being addressed or aren't accessing services.</p> <p>Cynthia also mentioned they are starting a support group for carers of older people as well as providing free respite care.</p>	
9.	AGENDA PLANNING AND ITEMS TO THE KCP	
	<p>Update on Credit Union</p> <p>Update on isolation working group – (Pete McDonald)</p> <p>Janice said GP Consortia don't understand what the third sector is about or offers and asked if something could be done on this in the future.</p>	
10.	DATES OF NEXT MEETING	
	Monday 18 July, committee room 2, Kensington Town Hall from 3.00pm to 5.00pm.	

**Older Peoples Voluntary Organisations Forum Meeting
Monday 04th April 2011, Committee Room 1, Kensington Town Hall**

1. ATTENDEES

	NAME	ORGANISATION
1	Janice Webster	Advocacy Plus
2	Ellen Pressley	Age Concern K&C (Dementia Outreach)
3	Cynthia Dize (Chair)	Age Concern K&C/Sixty Plus
4	Steve Shaffelburg	Inner North West London PCT
5	Angela Spence	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
6	Mohammed Miah (Minutes)	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
7	Robin Tuck	Kensington and Chelsea LINK
8	Frances Bonikowski	Notting Hill Housing Trust
9	Helen Leech	Open Age
10	Nour-Eddine Aboudihaj	RBKC Forum For Older Residents
11	Everine Shand	RBKC Tenant Management Organisation
12	Cllr Robert Freeman	Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
13	Fiona Clayton	Royal Brompton Hospital
14	Eve Cartwright	Royal Brompton Hospital
15	Maureen Burrell	The Campden Charities
16	Gabriella Baranek	Women's Pioneer Housing
17	Marianne Duffield	Women's Pioneer Housing
18	Eileen Remmer	Women's Pioneer Housing

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

	NAME	ORGANISATION
1	Julia Linfoot	Housing for Women
2	Zakia Chentouf	Al-Hasaniya Moroccan Women's Project
3	Madeleine Gilkes	Carers Kensington and Chelsea