

Kensington and Chelsea Advice Forum (KCAF)

Thursday 12 March 2015
Small Hall, Kensington Town Hall
Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX

2pm – 4.30pm

MINUTES

Chair: Charles Barber, Kensington & Chelsea CAB

Minutes: Karen Tostee, Advice Now Plus

Attendance list attached

	Agenda	Actions
	Arrival	
1	Minutes of the last meeting & matters arising Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved.	
2	New ASB Project, Victim Support Noura Yamout presented on this project to support individuals affected by anti-social behaviour through practical and emotional support. This includes a trained volunteer to talk to in confidence, practical support in dealing with the local authorities, providing information on the criminal justice system and connecting clients up with other local groups that can help. They are keen to collaborate and co-support clients in conjunction with other agencies. Please refer to the accompanying presentation for more information. Cllr. Robert Thompson reported that another councillor plans to bring a paper on this topic to the council for full discussion.	
3	Update: Single-tier State Pension Ian Smith from DWP presented on the new State Pension which will affect those reaching State Pension age on or after 6 April 2016, replacing the current two-tier State Pension Scheme. Please refer to the accompanying presentation for Ian's report in full. Key points are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The full new State Pension will be no less than £148.40 per week – the actual amount will be set in Autumn 2015.• At least 10 qualifying years of NI contributions are required to get anything.• Those who give up work for caring/parenting are eligible for Carer's Credit which counts towards this new pension. This can be applied retrospectively.• Some clients on DLA/PIP/AA that are not getting NI credits through other means can also get them through Carer's Credit.• Carers are usually eligible for Carer's Credit and Ian would encourage them to apply – even if only on a short-term basis. Ian asks to return later in the year with a longer slot to give more detail and present some worked examples.	

Update: The Care Act in RBKC

Jerome Douglas, Care Act Implementation Programme Manager for the Tri-borough presented on the Care Act, its implications for Local Authorities, and the responsibility it puts on LAs for providing advice.

Please refer to the accompanying presentation for Jerome's presentation in full. Some key points:

- The Care Act is about promoting well-being and taking account of the person's interests and wishes – a move to being outcome-focussed.
- LAs have the responsibility to prevent, reduce and delay the need for LT Care and to develop an agenda for people to stay independent and in the community. This responsibility extends to people of all backgrounds, including marginalised groups such as prisoners.
- This will require integration and collaboration across sectors, and a key shift from providing services to meeting needs.
- Under the Care Act LAs have the duty to provide information and advice.
- Self-funders will have access to LA funds for care and support costs as there will be a cap on their spending.
- See the presentation for outline of key timescales and requirements.

Jerome summarises the implications of the Care Act as a question of how we can work collaboratively with strategic partners to ensure we meet people's needs.

More information can be found at www.local.gov.uk/care-support-reform

Q. There is a mantra at the moment about keeping people out of hospitals for longer. Are these changes duplications/in contradiction with the work around this?

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A. No, it is one part of a huge change in how health and social care is provided. The Care Act is one means by which this integration is happening. In April, the aim is to deliver our message on the Care Act and to enable Social Workers to work in a much more collaborative way.

Q. Who will be doing the assessments? Will it be outsourced?

A. No, not for the time-being. Part of the Carers assessment may eventually be outsourced at the low level of need. Who does the assessment depends on the route by which the client enters the system.

Q. In the advice sector we agonise over how to define advice. The best definition we've come up with is advice as something you can get sued for if you get it wrong. There is a real deficit in this type of advice. (A recent report in the Law Society Gazette shows that 88% of GPs say lack of access to legal advice on debt and benefits is having a negative effect on clients' health – see accompanying copy.) We've had two decades of collaboration with Social Care but the practical problem is the real lack of support for this kind of advice.

A. We're all in the same boat. We will know more in April when we start getting case law. We might get more of an idea as to what might be the best way to configure services locally... We need to work together to flush out some of these issues. Yes, there is limited funding and increasing demand. The advice sector has to be at the table for these new developments.

Q. Is there a plan for implementation at Tri-borough level?

A. Yes, this is across the Tri-borough,

	<p>Q. What is happening on the advice and information strategy? The Low Commission indicates that LAs need to work with the A&I sector on this</p> <p>A. There is a strategy in development. Steven Falvey is trying to work alongside the A&I sector...</p>	
5	<p>Discussion: Local Welfare Provision Scheme Amina Khatun from KCSC reported back from Paul Ellary. The funding will continue from April 2015 for one year.</p> <p>Q. Will the level of funding be the same? And what are the future prospects?</p> <p>Q. What can the advice sector do to pressurise for the continuation of this funding?</p> <p>A. AK to ask PE these questions and cc in KT (Advice Now Plus) who will follow up on what the advice sector can do collectively.</p>	<p>AK contact Paul Ellary re LWPS funding levels and future prospects, and cc' KT into the conversation.</p> <p>KT to follow up with PE on what the advice sector can do</p>
6	<p>Update from members on current services</p> <p>KCSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Voluntary and Community Sector Manifesto will be ready in 2 weeks. KCSC are organising an election hustings on voluntary sector issues for 24 April, 4 to 6pm at Kensington Town Hall. See more information here: http://www.kcsc.org.uk/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=2144 KCPIN – work continues on the affordable housing project, focussing on the private rental sector. It is hoped this piece of research will serve as leverage to influence policy. They want the voluntary sector to support the project and are keen to work with more housing organisations. Would like to access more data! <p>Q. More stats would be really useful in relation to housing. As a group in the council we would to bring a paper to the council. Cllr Judith Blakeman is lead councillor on housing issues.</p> <p>Victim Support – ASB project Have secured funding for the next year.</p> <p>Ian Smith, DWP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC – K&C will be in tranche 3 – roll out in September to November for newly unemployed single people only. DWP will be putting on info events and will invite people along in April. Could come along to do UC training/talk to KCAF on UC Could also come to speak on review of sanctions – would like to do so at the next forum. K&C job centre staff are receiving MH awareness training in the next month. <p>CAB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kensington bureau has moved to 2 Acklam Road. Hosting a party on 25th March, 6 to 8pm. All welcome (invitation attached with the minutes for circulation) Research and Campaigns group are working on affordable funerals in London. <p>CAB nationally is taking on Pensions-wise – advice on new pensions options. Brent CAB is covering all of West London.</p>	

7	<p>Updates from strategic meetings BVOAG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on integrative care from KCSC (can be found here http://www.kcsc.org.uk/civicrm/event/info?id=2140&reset=1) • Re: financial incentives for the homeless and those on the housing list who agree to move out of London – RBKC has agreed to put a list of independent advice agencies at the bottom of all correspondence relating to this, and to recommend that the individual seeks advice before making decisions. <p>Main VOF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on the voluntary sector Manifesto <p>Anyone on ESA (and is vulnerable) should let their adviser at the job centre know – it may help them avoid sanctions.</p>	
8	<p>New NHS Complaints Advocacy Service This is a new, free and independent service supporting people to raise concerns about NHS care or treatment. They provide an advocacy service, and have compiled some self-help resources available on their website here: http://nhscomplaintsadvocacy.org/</p> <p><u>The West London programme manager will speak about the service at the next Advice Forum.</u></p>	
9	<p>Proposed agenda items for future meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from Haleema Muttalib, West London Managing Advocate, NHS Complaints Advocacy Service • Ian Smith on sanctions review • Care Act (CB) – a real conversation with the concerned agencies as to what the advice sector can/should do. • Employment law guidance (AK) – new guidance on interns and other changes. • Court fees 	
10	<p>AOB None</p>	