



MAIN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM

Tuesday 10 December 2019, 10.00am – 1.00pm
Committee Room 1, Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8 7NX

Chair: Angela Spence (AS)
Minutes taken by: Alice Lowry (AL)

1	WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
	<p>Angela welcomed everybody to the meeting, and everybody introduced themselves. Apologies were received from Sumita Ahmed (Community Living Well), Michael Roberts (Community Living Well) and Laurence Julius (Holland Park Synagogue). AS explained to the group that she had originally wanted Council members to speak at the forum. However, due to the election, the Council has been in purdah. This means that they are unable to make new decisions or announcements of policy or strategy</p>	
2	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING	ACTION
	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and there were no matters arising. Amendments to the previous minutes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the previous minutes the ‘Council Strategy’ is referred to. This should say the ‘Council Plan’. • AS wanted to confirm whether the LSCB is still running. Rosemary Keenan (RK) said that adult services should still have staff members complete children safeguarding training, as staff can still have contact with children. RK to send link for training to AS/KCSC. <p>https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/lscb/sites/default/files/atoms/files/LSCB%20Training%20Calendar%20April%202019%20to%20March%202020.pdf</p>	<p>Previous minutes to be amended.</p> <p>RK to send link to training page</p>
3	What will Brexit mean for the VCS and Communities – Angela Spence, KCSC	ACTION
	<p><u>Brexit presentation</u></p> <p>AS told group members that she has been to several meetings which explored a range of possibilities for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) leaving the EU. Discussions covered risk strategies for individual organisations post-Brexit and trying to understand what has been said regionally/nationally and what this could mean for the sector locally. AS pulled together key discussion points together onto a slide. Information on the slide is pulled from talks with funders, Greater London authorities, faith networks, NCVO and Councils (see slides for further information).</p> <p>Group members broke off into smaller groups to discuss whether the concerns listed on the slides resonated with VCS members and what Brexit might mean for the VCS at a local level. Conversations were then fed back to the main group.</p> <p>The key discussion points are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication shortages were highlighted as something concerning. For a population with higher rates of diabetes (a condition which relies heavily on being managed consistently with repeat medication) medication shortages could be detrimental. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the options on the slide could have an impact on an individual’s mental health and with resources already decreasing and needs increasing across the third sector, individuals may be unable to find a service. • The pressure on foodbanks across the UK is increasing and group members voiced further concerns. There is nationwide concern that due to Britain’s reliance on a great deal of EU food imports there will be an increase in food prices. Members agreed that there needs to be easier ways to donate to food banks across the borough. Karimah Bint-Dawoud (KBD) said that organisations should consider working with Plan Zheroes – a food donation platform. KBD to give details to KCSC. • The pressure on advice agencies is increasing as there is an increase in people coming to advice agencies for advice on their settled status. Group members also agreed that not everyone looking at applying for settled status would find it easy and the idea of the Council setting up information hubs was in the borough was discussed. AS could possibility discuss this with Council. • The importance of having a positive and honest dialogue with local authorities/the statutory sector was highlighted by group members. • AS told the group about the funding KCSC has received from City Bridge Trust to bring residents together and strengthen their voices. 	<p>KBD to give details to KCSC</p> <p>AS to explore with the Council the idea of information hubs for immigration advice</p>
4	Launch of KCSC’s Website – Barnie Razzell, KCSC	
	<p>Barnie Razzell (BR) is KCSC’s Data and Communications Officer. He showed group members KCSC’s new website and told the group about the changes and improvements that have been made to it. Examples of this include the landing pages, event pages, menus on the website and the introduction of a member’s page. Group members were asked for their feedback on the website by BR.</p> <p>The follow comments and suggestions were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group members were positive about the website – in particular its aesthetics. • BR was asked whether there was a list of organisations that are KCSC members published on the new website. BR explained that KCSC is still working on its member page but there is a list of organisations who are members. • Group members were keen for there to be a facility for KCSC members/VCS groups to have a dialogue on the website. This could be in the format of a chat room where people can give advice and help other organisations. The consensus was that the website could be more interactive for its users. 	
5	Networking session – Looking back at 2019 and looking forward into 2020 – group/networking discussion	
	<p>Group members broke off into groups to discuss 2019 and network. Feedback included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to avoid tick box exercises • Need more open dialogue, celebrate what we do and create our own solutions • We all need to get better at promoting self care materials for our clients • There needs to be more support for smaller organisations and showcasing of what they do to help with fundraising • There needs to be more help to stimulate partnerships across the sector with KCSC promoting good examples of partnership working and collective impact • Better sharing of skills with each other 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More systematic way of finding out more about what organisations do? Could KCSC promote aim/objectives and priorities of organisations on its website? • To avoid duplication, we need a better way of collecting data. 	
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	Organisations attending
1	Carers Network
2	Catholic Children's Society
3	Dadihiye
4	Dalgarno Trust
5	Epic CiC
6	Hear Women
7	Karimah's Cuisina
8	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
9	Notting Hill Methodist Church
10	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
11	Rugby Portobello Trust
12	The ClementJames Centre
13	The Second Half Centre
14	The Sheppard Trust
15	Turning Poit
16	Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea
17	Westway Trust
18	World's End Under Fives Centre