



MAIN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM

Thursday 13 December 2018, 10.00am – 1.00pm
Committee Room 1, Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8 7NX

Chair: Angela Spence
Minutes taken by: Alice Lowry

1	WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
	Angela welcomed everybody to the meeting and everybody introduced themselves.	
2	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING	
	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Outstanding actions from the previous meeting were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS will update the group on the future of the Borough Voluntary Advisory Group at a later meeting or in a mailing to organisations. • IC asked for the minutes from the Multi-Agency which MA confirmed that minutes are not produced, however the council presentation would update members on actions later in the meeting. 	
3	Shaping the future of Kensington & Chelsea – Part Two - Update on RBKC community engagement activities and identified priorities including Q&A – Jas Purewal; Head of Communications and Engagement; RBKC	
	<p>Jas Purewal (JP) introduced herself to the group and updated the group on the Stronger Communities initiative after the Grenfell anniversary. She explained that they were looking at North Kensington as a whole as opposed to focussing solely on Notting Dale etc. Key areas/services that residents wanted to be delivered in the borough included communities coming together, jobs and skills for young people, young lives, diversity, health and wellbeing, diversity and spaces and places for the community. JP said that after workshops and drop in sessions were held (11 workshops and 12 drop in sessions) and an ideas day invited 150 residents to review ideas. JP described the program as ambitious but said that RBKC were adjusting services they provide and looking into schemes that provide consistency and sustainability.</p> <p>Key discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One group member commented on the positive language being used by JP such as “recovery” and “healing”. However, he pointed out that RBKC pre and post Grenfell were unpopular within the borough. JP said that RBKC had been very aware of this and that trust needs to be earned by the community through the Council delivering. • Dalgarno Trust have good models of community engagement like the Community Champions scheme. JP agreed and said that mapping services across the borough is key so the Community Engagement Team can tap into it. • One group member drew attention to the fact that there are many models/services already running which people are not aware of. Members agreed there needs to be more publicity of what is available. Members also agreed the importance of maintaining ideas and services that are already in place. 	<p>JP and AS to look into co-production strategy in Council.</p> <p>Council are going to look at developing a mainstream way for individuals to get funding and work out what</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The possibility of the Council developing a unified co-production strategy was discussed. JP and AS to look into the possibility of developing this. The issue of individuals applying for funding came up – the Council are going to look at developing a mainstream way for individuals to get funding and work out what system is required. Group members also discussed how representative the voluntary sector is and whether it is assuming it is representative. 	system is required.
4	Cranfield Trust: How can Cranfield Trust support the local voluntary and community sector? – Alice Dabrowska, Cranfield Trust	
	<p>AD introduced herself to the group and explained that Cranfield Trust is a national charity and the UK's leading provider pro bono business support for the voluntary sector. For nearly 30 years they have been providing free business skills to help build successful charities. AD said that Cranfield manage 46 projects across London and are launching a more formalised advice line for charities. Project managers are assigned to charities to support ongoing projects. An established charity itself, it now provides small and medium charities (working in disability, poverty and social exclusion) with a free management consultancy service, educational masterclasses, bespoke programmes of support and an on-line HR Advisory Service.</p> <p>AD explained that Cranfield Trust would be keen to see more organisations from K&C access their support.</p> <p>Key discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The average length of time for projects – AD said that the average project lasted 7 months but the range of project lengths was massive. AS also mentioned that Andrew Dick from Reyooz was supposed to be speaking at the Main VOF but was unable to at the last minute. They offer low cost and free office furniture. He will likely be speaking at a future meeting. 	<p>AL to send VCOs link to Crafield Trust website</p> <p>AL to send out website details for Reyooz with minutes</p>
5	Feedback from strategic meetings attended -Borough Voluntary Organisation Advisory Group (BVOAG) -Any other strategic meetings attended	
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BVOAG – AS explained that conversations with Cllr Hargreaves regarding the group had been very positive. AS explained the group hadn't been functioning after Grenfell apart from one development session and that communication with the Council regarding the advisory group was beginning again. She is keen to re-establish the group and will hopefully meetings will reconvene from January 2019. Existing representatives shall remain as they are for another year and elections will take place at the end of 2019. 	
5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult social care services were discussed by the group and how funding is not secure post March 2019. The Youth Review was discussed and the possibility of a youth forum came up and how this would be a good example of co-production. 	
6	AOB	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free counselling is being offered for staff working with those affected by Grenfell by Help Counselling. They are based at 57 Portobello Road. • Positive feedback was given from group members about the Volunteer Centre's event held at the V&A. • KCSC and the Volunteer Centre are going to be delivering a program over the next 3 years which focuses on increasing residents participation in the voluntary sector and increasing their understanding of how the sector works. AS asked if members would welcome such a programme with all agreeing they would. 	
--	---	--

Organisations attending	
1	Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
2	Al-Hasaniya Moroccan Women's Centre
3	British Black Anti-Poverty Network
4	Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) Kensington
5	Corner 9 Arts Project
6	Creighton House
7	Dalgarno Trust
8	Help Counselling
9	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
10	Mad Alliance/NSUN
11	Notting Hill Methodist Church
12	Octavia Foundation
13	Open Age
14	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
15	Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea
16	West London Zone