



## **Kensington and Chelsea Social Council's Annual General Meeting**

**Minutes of the 1 November 2022  
10.00am to 12.15pm**

### **1. Welcome – Angela Spence, CEO, KCSC**

Angela Spence (AS) welcomed everyone to the workshop on the cost-of-living crisis and introduced the speakers.

### **2. The Cost-of-Living crisis - Where do we go from here?**

Lyndsay Burtonshaw (LB) provided an overview of the facilitated workshop before an overview of the cost of living crisis was presented to attendees by Michael Ashe (MA) and Venu Dhupa (VD) who both provided their perspectives on the cost of living crisis and its ongoing impact.

Some statistics were also presented by VD from a Westway Trust cost of living survey with their clients accessing advice. It was noted that around 66% of respondents stated that they had some form of disability or long-term illness and over 50% stated that their spending has been recently affected by the cost of living. Just under 50% were unable to complete forms due to illiteracy and 10% noted mental health as a barrier. 8% stated that they are in water debt and 17% are facing other types of debt.

### **3. Facilitated Workshop on the Cost-of-Living Crisis**

Attendees were split into groups to discuss the cost-of-living crisis.

### **4. Feedback and Discussion**

Groups were invited to feedback on the discussions held during the breakout session. The feedback provided included:

- What can be done at a micro level, such as providing services locally and looking to drive down costs?
- Take an audit of skills to see how organisations and teams can maximise their skills to deal with the cost-of-living crisis.
- Focus on information sharing on available services, communication and advocacy.
- Nurture community centres to help encourage advocacy and aspirations.
- Improve representation and inclusiveness to help encourage activism at a local level.
- Be critical and analyse current services, are residents getting what they need?
- Ensure the community understand what services are available to them.
- Coordinate services to help support local residents.
- Signpost people to mental health services and food banks.
- Collaborate with local providers.
- Gather evidence on the impact of services and use this to apply pressure on local authorities.
- Empower residents to ensure that the national government is being held to account.
- Raise aspirations of the local community and sector to take up positions of power.

- Bring together data from clients to help lobby local government and help shape local policy.
5. **AGM – Welcome Chair’s address Shelina Thawer (ST), Chair, KCSC**  
welcomed everyone to the first face to face AGM since becoming Chair and went through the agenda for the AGM.

**A. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were noted from:

Trustees - Miles Kerstein, Anna -Louise Thompson and Helen Cylwik

Members - Julia Pena (ClementJames),

**B. Minutes of the last AGM**

Proposer: Shelina Thawer

Secunder: Ann Goodger

The minutes of the last AGM were formally approved by members present.

**C. Matters Arising**

First looking at the action on following up with Tom Fitch (CASH) ST confirmed that a constructive meeting had taken place and hope now the matter of ending the contract with CASH is now drawn to a close.

On the second action regarding Tom Fitch's concerns around unit costs of advice time, ST advised that trustees always endeavour to ensure spending within KCSC is managed effectively through regular close scrutiny of management accounts.

On the action to speak with Joanna Edward regarding concerns around direct support for organisations, ST confirmed that KCSC staff have spoken with Joanna and that the conversation is ongoing.

**D. Chair's Report**

ST presented her report, first noting thanks to all members, funders, partners and wider supporters.

Pandemic-related economic challenges continue to impact the sector and therefore KCSC remains committed to focusing on how it can support the sector and develop services.

ST provided an overview of work carried out by KCSC over 2022, including managing major self-care contracts, providing one-to-one advice, training and specialist support, delivering training in consultation with local residents and organisations, engaging local residents and communities, and delivering a mix of both in-person and online meetings to ensure ease of access to all.

In 2021, the new 3-year strategy was completed, and the organisation is now delivering against 5 strategic aims that are detailed in the annual report.

ST thanked the trustees for their work, including Daisy Ryan, Anneka Singh and Christine Bennet who left this year.

On behalf of the Board, ST thanked KCSC staff as well as all stakeholders who have invested in KCSC to ensure it can continue its work.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

### **A. Presentation of Annual Accounts**

Modan Deb (MD) presented the treasurer's report, noting that income for the year was £1.6m, up £179k on the previous year. During the year, KCSC gave out £726k to voluntary and community to deliver health and wellbeing programmes. The balance sheet and cash flow remain strong, and net current assets have increased by £253k and total unrestricted funds are at £260k. It was also noted that trustees have agreed that KCSC should have 6 months of reserves and that part of the balance should be used to employ a part-time development officer. MD thanked all funders for their support, particularly West London CCG, and he noted the strong relationship that KCSC has with all its supporters.

Looking ahead to 2022-23, MD advised that the organisation is in a strong financial position to continue its funding of organisations and also support the sector to engage in strategic opportunities. MD thanked members for their continued support.

The members confirmed they were happy to receive the annual accounts.

### **B. Appointment of Auditor**

MD noted that the accounts were audited by Goldwins. MD confirmed that trustees did not wish to seek new auditors and thereby proposed that Goldwins be reappointed as auditors for next year.

The members approved the reappointment of Goldwins as auditors for the next financial year, non-opposed.

## **7. Thank you to Trustees**

ST thanked all trustees on behalf of KCSC.

## **8. Appointment of Trustees**

The members approved the election of Stephen Duckworth for a third term, non opposed.

ST confirmed the current Board of Trustees which can be [viewed here](#).

## **9. AOB**

ST noted that the Board will be undertaking a recruitment exercise early next year to recruit new trustees onto the Board. Any interested persons can contact her or Angela directly.

A member queried if the Board is representative of the community. AS confirmed that a skills assessment has been carried out with trustees alongside looking at the diversity of the Board and that they recognise the need to continue to build the diversity of the board potentially by bringing onto the board in both younger trustees and those from ethnic minority backgrounds.

A comment was raised from the residents' association regarding providing residents with direct information with help on energy bills. AS responded that as KCSC is reliant on the VCS to inform KCSC of support services which can be sent out albeit the primary audience are the members of KCSC which are organisations.

## **Close**

There being no further business, ST formally closed the AGM.