



# MAIN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM

**Tuesday 26 June 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. She explained that the Councillors were unable to attend the meeting. She said that although it was unfortunate that at this time that the group could not have a dialogue with the Councillors, they could have discussions at the meeting to feed back to the Council.	
2	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING	
	Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with no matters arising.	
3	Shaping the future of Kensington & Chelsea	
	<p>A range of discussions took place around what the voluntary sector would like to see happen next in shaping the future of the borough and how the conversation between the voluntary sector and the Council could be framed.</p> <p>Angela began the discussion by giving a short presentation on shaping the future of Kensington &amp; Chelsea. She acknowledged that the sector was operating in a difficult climate and highlighted the importance of engaging with the council in planning for the longer term. She briefed the group on the re-structure of the Council and some of the changes in leadership roles. She then said that the Centre for Public Scrutiny report was positive for the voluntary sector as it referenced several times the important role the sector can play in working with the council to improve resident engagement and participation. This sparked a discussion – the key points are recorded here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There were concerns from members about the Council cutting key services in borough when they believed a period of stability was needed</li> <li>● A member suggested the idea of using a Compact between the council and residents (a Compact is an agreement between the government and the voluntary/community sector). For more information please see <a href="#">here</a>). Other members felt that the idea of having principles was beneficial but problematic if not meaningful. AS said that guiding principles for how the Council and voluntary sector worked and could be helpful in the future.</li> <li>● The political map of the borough was examined and deliberated. The map showed that North Kensington was for the majority Labour, but didn't seem to acknowledge that the South of the borough had areas of deprivation as well such as the World's End estate. The group felt that this led to lost voices from the community.</li> </ul> <p>The group then broke off in groups to discuss how we could work together to move forward. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The importance of the council and the voluntary sector having dialogue on</li> </ul>	

	<p>the future of the borough.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Funding – local consistency in commissioning. The forum agreed that there is no long term planning and consistency in commissioning. For example the Grenfell funding was adhoc and lacked even a medium term strategy.</li> <li>● A need to be propositional and approach the Council with ideas</li> <li>● Challenging the Council about the CFPS report</li> <li>● Potentially producing a document which outlines the conversation the voluntary sector would like to have with the Council</li> </ul>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Growing our Volunteering Projects</b> – Elena Zeniou, Head of Core Services at the Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea	
	<p>Elena Zeniou introduced herself as the Head of Care Services at the Volunteer Centre Kensington &amp; Chelsea. She gave a presentation to the group on the work that the Volunteer Centre does for individuals and organisations. The Volunteer Centre Kensington &amp; Chelsea offer volunteering opportunities and support for members of the community and for organisations looking for volunteers. Elena told the group about the type of support they offer organisations and volunteers (they have links with over 300 organisations). For example they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Promote opportunities to organisations - helping them think about whether they need volunteers</li> <li>● Help organisations with the process of recruiting, training volunteers and develop the best practice - e.g. healthchecks</li> <li>● Offer training for volunteer managers - organise forums where volunteer coordinators come together</li> <li>● Provide support to volunteers so they can continue to volunteer - for example they have volunteers with physical difficulties and mental health issues. They ensure that enough support is in place to make these volunteers feel comfortable.</li> </ul>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Feedback from strategic meetings attended</b> <b>-BVOG</b> <b>-Any other strategic meetings attended</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<p>BVOG</p> <p>- Angela explained that Borough Voluntary Organisations Advisory Group is a group in which elected representatives from the voluntary sector meet with lead members from the council to discuss local voluntary sector issues. AS explained that the BVOAG hasn't met as regularly since the Grenfell Tower Fire but Councillor Hargreaves and others seem keen to continue it. Angela said she would follow this up.</p>	<p>AS to follow through with community engagement team</p> <p>MA to check if minutes can be made public</p>
<b>5.2</b>	<p>Multi agency meeting</p> <p>-A council run meeting set up following the fire which includes the NHS, police and voluntary sector reps including the Social Council. The group meets to discuss some council plans around engagement.</p>	
<b>5.3</b>	<p>Multi Forum meeting - Co-production and development group</p> <p>A West London CCG led meeting which brings the NHS, the council and voluntary sector together to look at the longer term recovery of North Kensington. Minutes are produced but Michael (Volunteer Centre not sure if can be made public)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Michael to check whether there are minutes and a mailing list.</li> </ul>	
<b>5.4</b>	<p>Education in exclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Val gave the group an update on the work she has been doing around children being excluded from schools.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- She is working with the Council who are looking at exclusion in schools. She stated that an education lawyer would be helpful because with legal backing and support schools would be less likely to exclude students without exploring all other options.</li></ul>	
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