



MAIN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM

Tuesday 4 June 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
	Angela welcomed everybody to the meeting and everybody introduced themselves.	
2	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING	
	Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.	
3	Introduction to new Lead Member for Communities – Councillor Anne Cyron (Cllr AC)	
	<p>Councillor Anne Cyron introduced herself to the group. She is the new lead in the Council for Community Engagement – replacing Cllr Hargreaves. She said that she is fairly new to the role and can confirm that the role has changed with Grenfell recovery. The Council Plan is interlinked with the priorities and deliveries of each lead members, tailoring actions to the plan. The three main focuses of the Council Plan are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitating a community led recovery post Grenfell is one of the key focuses of the plan. She went on to say that the first two years after a disaster are about responding to the disaster and that the third year is when recovery can begin. The Council see voluntary organisations as critical in the recovery as it needs to be community led. The Council want to support the community and have been working alongside The Curve. 2. The Council Plan wants Kensington & Chelsea to be a ‘great place’ to live, work and learn and this is a borough wide priority. Listening to residents is the key to this and ensuring that unheard voices are reached to enable equality. There has been a lack of consultation in the past and a lack of action. 3. Supporting and safeguarding vulnerable residents is a key focus and ensuring that the Council recognise what these residents have to offer. 	
4	Presentation and discussion on Community Engagement priorities and the new Council Strategy – Damian Atkinson (DA), Head of Community Engagement, RBKC (Interim)	
	<p><u>Community Engagement Presentation</u> DA introduced himself to the group – he has worked in the voluntary and public sector for a number of years. DA feels that the Council have a significant appetite with communities in Kensington & Chelsea and work differently. He went through the presentation and gave more detail on the new Council Strategy and how the Council are intending to deliver it. Please see presentation above for further information. Group members were asked to separate into groups to discuss what the Council would like to understand from the voluntary sector.</p>	

	<p>How do we tap into the assets in the borough (including building more of a philanthropic approach?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group members stated that the Council has insufficient funding to work with smaller organisations and also pointed out that the really small organisations can't afford to come and be here today. <p>What are the challenges you are facing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group members fed back that there is a lack of continuity and staffing. Contracts take too long in the process. The voluntary sector is vital to Kensington & Chelsea. There is a tendency to focus on North Kensington but there is more support needed in other parts of the borough. Members stated that they felt the middle of the borough is severely lacking. <p>Where does the Council help you to add value? Where do you think you add most value in delivering the plan?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dalgarno Trust have benefitted as the Council have covered the costs of safeguarding training, however other organisations have been charged. - Different tenders were discussed and group members were keen for the Council to give them templates of policies they could use. KCSC have policy templates on their website which groups can access and can be sent out with the minutes and presentations. - Group members were keen to know what was happening with the Community Asset Review. DA said that he has been in meetings about the review recently and would update the group once he had more information. <p>What can be done to improve the coordination of networks, relationships and trust between organisations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There needs to be a clarity in the what organisations are doing to avoid the likelihood of duplication and a move to co-ordinate with other services. - Group members said it was important to look at who is accessing services and keep a map of this. - "Speed dating" for organisations was suggested so that people could understand what different organisations do. <p>Do you feel like you can contribute to the shape and direction of the Council? How can we engage differently? Better?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group members suggested the Council use more effective exercises for communicating with the voluntary sector and the community. For example, the Maxilla Advisory and Youth Review are positive ways which demonstrate this. It was suggested that if Council were doing engagement exercises that they actually need to deliver what comes out of them. It was argued that due to huge inequalities in political representation within the Council that there is a need for the Council to be personally committed to the results that come out at the end of a consultation. • There were also concerns amongst group members about DA's post only being interim. DA said that despite his role being interim this is a defined piece of work and that the intention is to have a Director of Communities in place within the Council by the end of the year. <p>See further feedback from the roundtable discussion here.</p>	<p>KCSC</p> <p>DA</p>
5	<p>Implementing the Grenfell Recovery Plan – Lorna Hughes (LH), RBKC</p>	

	<p>Grenfell recovery presentation</p> <p>LH introduced herself and explained that she is helping deliver the Community Development Programme. The Grenfell Recovery Strategy outlines the Community Development Programme. Work has begun to deliver three connected workstreams (Capacity Building Programme, Notting Dale Grant Programme and a Partnership Group) that are aiming to enhance and strengthen community led initiatives in North Kensington. See presentation for further information.</p> <p>Key discussion points which arose included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grant programme won't be opened until the residents have given suggestions and feedback on how they want the money to be spent. • This fund is separate to the City Living Local Life fund. • The funds are for the Notting Dale wards. • Group members felt that neighbouring communities were being neglected because of this and that there was confusion about whether boundaries would be included when considering the fund. • Group members discussed the schools in the ward and the provision of support services in schools. • They discussed whether children would be able to access services in North Kensington but didn't live in the Notting Dale Ward or borough. 	
6	<p>Feedback from strategic meetings attended</p> <p>-Borough Voluntary Organisation Advisory Group (BVOAG)</p> <p>-Any other strategic meetings attended</p>	
6.1	<p>Borough Voluntary Organisation Advisory Group (BVOAG)</p> <p>The Borough Voluntary Organisation Group (BVOAG) last met in February this year with the aim of re-establishing the group. However, since then the council has undergone staff changes so the group has not met. A new Head of Community Engagement is now in place and AS is in discussions with him about planning future meeting dates. Save the date for a Voluntary Sector event – 17 September. It will be an opportunity for voluntary organisations to showcase their work with local statutory officers and councillors.</p>	
6.2	<p>Local Children's Safeguarding Board</p> <p>Dates of meetings can be found on their website – AS to check and then circulate with minutes. New partnership arrangements for the LCSB to begin September 2019 – information can be found here.</p>	AS to check on LCSB website.
6.3		
7	AOB	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal People Mencap are running a project that focuses on helping those affected by stress and anxiety to feel less isolated. More information can be found here. • ADKC currently have a legal advice worker specialising in disabilities for anybody who needs support. Please email adkc@adkc.org.uk for further information. 	

Organisations attending	
1	Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea

2	African Women's Care
3	Age UK Kensington & Chelsea
4	Albanian Community `Faik Konica' in the UK
5	Catholic Children's Society
6	Citizens Advice
7	Community Living Well-Mother Tongue Counselling
8	Corner 9 Arts Project
9	Dalgarno Trust
10	Equal People Mencap
11	French African Welfare Association
12	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
13	Lancaster West Children's Community Network
14	RBKC Community Engagement team
15	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
16	Rugby Portobello Trust
17	The Clement James Centre
18	The Kensington & Chelsea Foundation
19	Venture Centre
20	Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea
21	Westway CT
22	Westway Trust