



# CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM

Tuesday 15 May 2018, 10.00am – 12.30pm  
Kensington Town Hall

**Chaired by:** Siobhan Sollis (KCSC)  
**Minutes taken by:** Alice Lowry (KCSC)

*List of organisations present attached*

| 1 | Welcome and Introduction<br>Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising   | ACTION  |
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|   | <p>Siobhan welcomed everyone to the forum and invited members to introduce themselves. Apologies were received from Catherine Handley, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Manager. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.</p>   |   |
| 2 | <p><b>The future of special educational needs and disabilities in Kensington and Chelsea: joint strategic needs assessment and strategy</b> – Colin Brodie, Public Health Knowledge Manager and Jackie Wright, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea</p> <p><a href="#"><u>The future of special educational needs and disabilities in K&amp;C Presentation</u></a></p>   |   |
|   | <p>Jackie and Colin introduced themselves to the group and gave a presentation providing an overview of strategies and plans that have been put in place to improve life for people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in the borough. They went through the key findings of an assessment that took place and the actions that had been agreed following findings (details of this can be found in presentation attached). They explained that they had conducted a survey with parents of people who have SENDs/children with SENDS to help collate data for the strategy.</p> <p>It was asked if there is any generic training provided for awareness of SEND in the community sector. Jackie said that she would find out. It was suggested people enquire with Full of Life (a charity based in Ladbrooke Grove providing information and support to families who had children with additional needs) as they may provide appropriate training. There was a discussion about concerns that once a young person with SENDs turns 25 they would be lost in the system. Jackie and Colin explained that they are focusing on implementing key programs which would prepare young people for adulthood. An example of this was an internship supported by the Council called <a href="#"><u>Project Search</u></a>. It was asked what the key priorities were going forward and who was leading these priorities. Jackie explained that the priorities are in the joint commissioning plan and that a full list will be published as an action plan.</p> | <p><b>JW to send link to Local Offer website</b></p> <p><b>JW to find out if there is any SEND awareness training</b></p> |

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| 3 | <b>Youth Provision</b> – Francesca Gasparro, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Tri-borough Children’s Services  |  |
|   | <p><u><a href="#">Youth Provision Presentation</a></u></p> <p>Francesca and her colleagues introduced themselves and said they were launching a review of all youth services in RBKC. This review will be looking at services commissioned by RBKC to see if they meet the needs and priorities of young people in the borough. They gave a presentation which ran through the key stages of the review and timeline of the process. A Youth Panel is going to be created to help with procurement of new services. Francesca said that Children’s Services wanted to find out from community groups what models for services were beneficial, what could be improved within the borough in regards to young people’s services and how the voluntary and community sector could be engaged in the process. This led to a group discussion. The key points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those leading the review needed to have conversations with specific providers and consider which providers would work well.</li> <li>• There was concern over contracts not being renewed for organisations working in play across the borough.</li> <li>• Members wanted to know how the Youth Panel would be recruited by RBKC. Francesca explained that RBKC were employing two outreach workers who would be going out to young people and getting a sense of who would like to be involved. Members were concerned about how the outreach workers would access groups of young people who didn’t access youth services. Francesca and her colleagues said that they had links through youth offending teams and were going to be recruiting the panel in a sophisticated way.</li> <li>• There was concern that the timescale set by the Council was too ambitious for the review. Attendees felt that there should be more alignment and joining up of services which could be missed as an opportunity due to time constraints. RBKC explained that they were aware of the time issues and that is why they have recruited outreach staff who will be dedicated to the service.</li> </ul> |  |
| 4 | <b>Maternity Champions</b> – Carrie Hirst, Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea  |  |
|   | <p>Carrie explained to the group that Maternity Champions are local volunteers who are trained to provide support and information for expectant and new parents through pregnancy, child birth and the transition into parenthood. This can be through signposting Mums to local organisations and helping organise local community activities. She said that the first round of champions had been trained a few months ago.</p> <p>The training involves an accredited free course which lasts 6 weeks, mental health first aid training and specific maternity training. In this time the volunteers are encouraged to research services available in the area and organise events around national campaigning. 12 people have qualified as Maternity Champions and the next 12 began their training at the beginning of May across different areas.</p>   |  |

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| <b>5</b> | <b>School Exclusions – Val Patterson, Westway Trust</b>   |   |
|          | <p>Val updated attendees on school exclusions in the borough. She said that the majority of the cases of children up for exclusion were for unjustified reasons. There is support for children excluded from school from the voluntary sector. She drew up some good practice guidelines and met with Councillor Weale who was sympathetic with the issues, but Westway Trust has very little influence over schools despite these guidelines being used.</p> <p>The key conclusion which has been drawn is that charities need legal support. There used to be an Education Lawyer at the North Kensington Law Centre, but due to funding cuts this is no longer the case. Val stated that with legal backing and support, schools would be less likely to exclude students for minor reasons.</p>   |   |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Reflections on work post the Grenfell Tower Fire</b>   |   |
|          | <p>A discussion was had about work post Grenfell. The key focus points that came up were focused on the mental wellbeing of staff working across organisations. The aftermath of Grenfell had a huge impact on those working with survivors. Members discussed trauma training days they had attended and what help there is available to help with service users and their staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens Advice Kensington &amp; Chelsea attended half day training on trauma.</li> <li>• Family Action also attended a trauma day with Psychoanalysts from <a href="#">The Institute of Psychoanalysis</a> and was having clinical supervision with them.</li> <li>• WLCCG is developing a directory of voluntary and statutory services in the borough.</li> <li>• North Kensington Arts Festival at Westway – from 10-19.00 on 20<sup>th</sup> June for young people. Opportunity to bring families down.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Citizens Advice to send details of half day trauma training</b></p> <p><b>Westway Trust to pass on details of therapy group</b></p> |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Attendance and feedback from other forums/meetings including:</b>  |   |
|          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Borough Voluntary Organisations Advisory Group</li> <li>• Main Voluntary Organisations Forum</li> <li>• Children’s Trust Board</li> <li>• Local Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Board</li> </ul>   |   |
|          | <p>The group discussed consultations that had taken place post-Grenfell and how communications with the Council should be continued. The voluntary organisations forums were used as a key example of opportunities for improving connections between the Council and voluntary sector representatives and members all agreed that councillors should attend forums. KCSC explained that at the next Main Voluntary Organisations Forum there would hopefully have Councillors attending to partake in the discussion about future local services.</p>  |   |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Any other business</b>   |   |

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|  | Siobhan informed attendees of two upcoming KCSC events:<br><a href="#">Funders Fair on 3 July</a> and <a href="#">Trustee Training on 10 July</a> |  |
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## ATTENDANCE LIST

| Organisations attended |   |
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| 1                      | Catholic Children's Society                       |
| 2                      | Citizens Advice Kensington & Chelsea              |
| 3                      | Corner Nine Arts Project                          |
| 4                      | Epic CIC  |
| 5                      | Family Action                                     |
| 6                      | Family Action Kensington And Chelsea Young Carers |
| 7                      | Migrants Organise                                 |
| 8                      | Mytime Active                                     |
| 9                      | The Henry Smith Charity                           |
| 10                     | Total Family Coaching                             |
| 11                     | Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea             |
| 12                     | West London Zone                                  |
| 13                     | Westway Trust                                     |
| 14                     | World's End Under Fives Centre                    |