

KCPIN minutes

21st July 2016

Attendees: Alice Careless (Staying First), Billy McGranaghan (Dads House), Firoozeh Fattahi (Kensington CAB), Yorkabel Soquar (Healthwatch CWL), Ali Mohammed (Eritrean Lowlanders), Keith Usher (CAB), Lauren Scott (Fuelbanks and Families), Caroline Bennett (CCS), Pam Bardouille (Healthwatch), Jan Stimpson (Fuelbanks and Families), Helen Fagan (RBKC), Amira Gorani (Dalgarno Trust)

Project update

- Expert advisory panel conducted.
- Accessed initial local statistics from Trussell Trust.
- Began interviewing, and completed 5 semi-structured interviews.
- In the process of organising a focus group, to offer local recommendations.
- Started mapping of local food aid providers.
- Identified relevant influencers/ decision-makers.

Themes from our findings

- Demand for food aid is outstripping supply. Food banks want to do more than simply supply food.
- Positive cases of corporate partnerships (eg. M&S, Harrod's) highlighted.
- Sector could do more to join up support and services to users, eg. Wellbeing and advice.
- Mixed views on support provided by LA.
- Food can often be unsuitable and/or culturally inappropriate for its users. Also issues with nutritional quality of food provided.
- Referral system for food aid is not adequately responding to the needs of its users.

Next steps with the research

- Focus group to be held in early/mid August.
- Internal discussion of narratives to be pursued in report.
- Public affairs and engagement activity with RBKC Cabinet and Councillors.
- Meeting with report designer.
- Target launch of 13th September, 2PM (**revised post-meeting**).

What additional themes might we include?

- Relationship between upcoming benefits cap and food poverty. Phase in of universal credit also worth considering.
- National focus. How does the national government respond to food poverty in the current climate?
- Sadiq Khan's promise to feed sample of children over school holidays.
- Need for funding for food aid providers across the borough. Also additional needs, such as space or advice.
- Strengthen power sector has within council circles.
- Highlight positive case studies in report, of cases like Dalgarno that are accommodating donation of clothes, pop-up adverts, such as drugs support and so forth.

- Recognition of unknown groups and pulling them together – this is what KCSC is seeking to highlight.

How can we strengthen our leverage with the council?

- Remind them that charities are not a substitute for the welfare state. This was an issue also brought up in a preceding APPG on food poverty.
- Get referral agents directly involved with project.
- Stress how poverty is often inflicted. Create urgency.
- Contact councillors who have previously been involved with local food banks in a meaningful capacity (eg. Volunteered).

How can we better promote and engage other stakeholders?

- Focus on region as a whole (e.g. Tri-borough area, London Mayor).
- Cross-borough communications.
- Form Health and Wellbeing board.
- Large sector actors such as LVSC could empower cause.

Desired achievements of project

- RBKC funding their own, borough-wide foodbank. Even if ambitious, RBKC could become more involved in providing resources for existing foodbanks.
- Increased cohesion of local foodbanks operating within the borough. Cooperation and pooled resources.
- Best practice guide formed for existing and/or new food banks to follow.
- Expanded food bank clientele. To be achieved through several means (e.g. making people aware of help, giving foodbanks resources such as vans to reach those who cannot access aid, reducing stigma surrounding food aid).

Terms of reference

- Some contents require updating.
- Retain statutory representation by invitation.
- KCSC policy work is appreciated by sector, it should retain policy and campaigns work.
- Swap 'marginalised' with 'disadvantaged'.
- Involve members in more sub-committee/working groups.
- Invite interested councillors to meetings.
- KCPIN to do a clear up of membership.

Future policy and campaigns work

- Work on equality groups such as, single Dads, women and BME groups.
- Intergenerational relations in the borough (Skill and experience transferrals for young people. Increased sociability for elderly people. Overall improvement in community spirit within RBKC).