

KCPIN minutes

24th March 2016

Attendees: Jaq Cameron (The Kensington & Chelsea Foundation), Cath Vadhia (Age UK), Laura Hopper (Plan Zheroes), Sally Hargreaves (CLCH NHS Public Health), Bill Mcgranaghan (Dad's House), Alice Careless (Staying First), Jamie Renton (ADKC), Tony Nickson (Voluntary Action Lewisham), Stephen Duckworth (Notting Hill Methodist Church), Maria (Healthwatch), Vittoria Di Meo (NSUN), Keith Usher (CAB), Karen Tostee (CAB), Moussa Haddad (CPAG), Farrid Shams (MCHL), Michael Bach (Trustee)

Aims of food bank project

- To work with the voluntary and statutory sector on food poverty and food bank use.
- To adequately map food banks in Kensington and Chelsea.
- To work towards a preventative approach to food bank use.
- To gain reliable and robust evidence of food bank use and needs in Kensington and Chelsea.

Causes

- Benefit sanctions
- Personal crisis
- Lack of family support network
- Social isolation
- ESA reform leading to mistakes regarding benefits.
- The Social Fund- which used to deal with crisis and benefit support- has been localised and is performing 'terribly'. Not many know about its existence.

What is a food bank?

- Need to recognise other 'informal' food sources such as luncheon clubs, church food sources.
- Need also to distinguish between places where small payments/donations are required and food sources that are free.

What should we be looking into?

- Evidence from Canada states that often more people are in food poverty/insecurity than use food banks.
- Food bank use is associated with personal crisis, whereas food poverty seems to be more broad and chronic, including issues such as: lack of access to fresh and healthy food, leading to malnutrition and related health issues.
- Need to look into 'hidden need' of food banks, i.e. people who aren't aware of food banks (particularly BME communities in Northern Wards, and the elderly).
- Need to involve private sector as much as possible to increase community engagement.
- Need to look at access and transport issues surrounding food banks.

Community Engagement

- Importance of engaging with the statutory sector from the outset of project to maximise engagement.
- Importance of aiming to have a partnership with public health.