



VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM

Thursday 9 December 2021
 10:00am – 12:00pm
 Online via Zoom

Chair: Angela Spence (AS)
 Minutes taken by: Fenn Reynolds

1	Welcome and Apologies	ACTION
	<p>Angela welcomed everybody to the meeting and ran through the agenda and meeting rules.</p> <p>Agenda</p>	
2	<p>Priorities for 2022 and working with the VCS –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sue Harris (Executive Director of Environment & Communities; RBKC) - Gareth Wall (Director of Integrated Commissioning; RBKC) - Simon Hope (Borough Director, West London, North West London Clinical Commissioning Group) 	
	<p>Presentation</p> <p>Sue Harris (SH) went through the presentation discussing the priorities for the New Year.</p> <p>Samia Badani (SB) said that she would be keen to see how housing management, and children and family service work better together and with the voluntary sector. SH responded by pointing to the work that is being put into the transitions programme, comprising of a database compiling all of the health, housing and social care work that RBKC is providing, with the aim to understand where there is duplication of commissioning. This was later echoed by Michael Kennedy (MK).</p> <p>AS asked Sue what the council was doing in relation to looking at the social value that particularly the VCS provide. SH highlighted that the transitions programme will be linked with social assets and similar aspects of that work stream. Tunde Olayinka (TO) added that the work being undertaken on the project is the first time in a while that the council has reviewed how it supports the VCS. It is looking at council priorities as described by residents, and how priorities are being met by the council's relationship with the VCS.</p> <p>Anne-Helene Biosse-Duplan (AB) commented on how the VCS engaged with residents by bidding for projects that benefit them, and that the funding coming from the council is good, but generally only covers core costs, salaries etc. Competitive bidding and the monitoring alongside are often where the benefit on the community is shown, and AB notes that there is little to no feedback on the monitoring that is provided to RBKC from VCOs.</p> <p>Gareth Wall (GW) focussed on changes coming up in 2022. GW noted the</p>	

	<p>legislative changes for social care, particularly around making sure there is adequate investment and services for prevention and keeping people safe and independent in their own homes. He also noted the assessment framework for how effective local authorities are at delivering their social care responsibilities.</p> <p>Another change that GW highlighted was the changes of the VCS as a partner with the NHS. He said that he is still working through what the implications of that are and noted that it is important to recognise the changes to the way that funding operates, and how that has a knock on effect on the VCS.</p> <p>GW finished by talking about the Build on Belief volunteer award ceremony, which took place at Kensington Town Hall. He spoke about how it was enlightening to see how the local grassroots organisation had grown to operate across several boroughs in London. GW noted how the success of Build on Belief was a comment on how important peer support can be.</p> <p>Michael Ashe (MA) commented on the centrality of identifying the causes of need rather than just the symptoms. Sophie Fitzhugh (SF) spoke about the importance of building relationships and trust with the community, which VCOs play a vital part in doing.</p> <p>Simon Hope (SH) spoke through the slide deck, and began by making note of the NHS NWLCCG being replaced by an ICS (Integrated Care System) from 1 April 2022. Within the ICS, there will be two boards, with at least one of which including the voluntary sector.</p> <p>The three 'levels' of operating within ICS are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System (NWL) – setting strategy; managing overall resources and performance; planning specialist services across larger footprints; strategic improvements to key system enablers such as digital infrastructure, estates and workforce planning • Place / ICP (WL / BiB) – redesigning local services; joining up care pathways across NHS, local government, and VCS services; supporting the development of PCNs; building relationships with communities • Neighbourhood (e.g. PCN) – formation of PCNs; bolstering primary care services; developing multidisciplinary teams; delivering preventive interventions for people with complex care needs <p>SH pointed to the NHS England website to explore how the voluntary and community sector will play a part in this.</p> <p>SB noted an absence of cultural change in the NHS, and rather a focus on structural change. SH agreed that a cultural change is needed and noted that getting all of the key providers of services around the board table could be an opportunity for change.</p>	
3	<p>Breakout groups and discussion – 'What needs to happen now? – actions across the VCS and Statutory Sector partners'</p>	
	<p>David Cronin (DC) fed back for his group. The group spoke about the needs for time to digest the information regarding the move to ICS before the conversation is fully in swing.</p>	

	<p>Joe Batty (JB) spoke for his group. JB's group spoke about the difference in size between the NHS and various community organisations, as this impacts on the stream of meetings that need to be attended and draws people away from delivery of service. Another point from the group was the funding process taking a long time to navigate for smaller organisations.</p> <p>MA spoke for the third group, whose discussion was focused on risks and worries in terms of whether private enterprise will benefit from the changes over VCOs. They pointed out more positive outcomes could be the ability to have more conversations with each other as VCOs and the community, and present proposals with strong backing.</p> <p>SB spoke for the fourth group and focussed on the key points around making sure the voluntary sector is communicating effectively together, and also making sure that public bodies have the confidence required in the voluntary sector to respond.</p>	
4	<p>The Household Fund – - Michael Kennedy (Head of VCS & Community Partnering; RBKC)</p>	
	<p>MK introduced the Household Fund by emphasising that it has come about at pace, and is still a work in progress, and therefore stressed that there may be some questions that cannot be answered at this stage.</p> <p>As a background, MK explained that the government announced at the end of October a £500m support fund to help vulnerable households across the country with essentials over the coming months, as the recovery from the pandemic continues. Later into November, RBKC received roughly £1m of this fund to support individuals and households who are in a financially difficult situation over winter, to distribute through small grants to meet daily needs such as food, utilities, and clothing.</p> <p>RBKC are spending the money in two categories. One is directly, for schemes such as Free School Meals, to households with no recourse to public funds, to care leavers etc. The second is through K+C Foundation and Cash First. The K+C Foundation run a scheme every year where they take money from residents who don't need their winter fuel allowance and redistribute it to people who would benefit from it. RBKC are augmenting that by adding money from the £1m to this, with the idea being that K+C Foundation distribute to organisations like Age UK who have direct departments dealing with debt advice for example, to make sure that people have help with fuel bills etc.</p>	
6	<p>Members updates – Modern Slavery Training, Charlotte Jamieson (Exploitation Coordinator; RBKC)</p>	
	<p>Presentation</p> <p>Charlotte Jamieson (CJ) spoke about online Modern Slavery Training which is taking place on 18 February and 15 March, and presented a brief introduction.</p> <p>CJ defined modern slavery as criminal exploitation, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, or labour exploitation.</p> <p>CJ presented data from RBKC, Westminster and Hammersmith and Fulham taken between April 2019 and November 2020, which showed that</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42% of survivors were female, and 58% male • The top countries of origin for survivors were Britain, Philippines, Albania, and Morocco • Face-to-face false job promises was the top recruitment method used • The top type of exploitation was criminal <p>For an expansive version of Modern Slavery Training tailored to larger teams and whole organisations, CJ provided her email address – charlotte.jamieson@rbkc.gov.uk</p> <p>CJ finished by providing details of help and advices services dealing with modern slavery, of which the details can be found below –</p> <p>24 hour help & advice: Modern Slavery Helpline – 0800 0121 700</p> <p>24 hour referral: The Salvation Army – 0300 303 8151</p> <p>Adult Social Care: RBKC: 020 7361 3013</p> <p>Children: Children's Services RBKC: 020 7361 3013</p> <p>Directory of services: www.angelou.org/human-trafficking</p>	
7	Close	

Attendance

	Name	Organisation
1	Abdurahman Sayed	Al-Manaar, The MCHC Trust
2	Angela Fox	Age UK Kensington & Chelsea
3	Angela Spence	KCSC
4	Ann Goodger	Dalgarno Trust
5	Anna Porta	Westway CT
6	Anne-Helene Biosse Duplan	Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea
7	Christopher Herbert	Fit for Life Youth CIC
8	Claudia Mills	The Fashion School
9	Dhani Dhanoa	KCSC
10	Deryn Bath	Open Age
11	Eσμα Dukali	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
12	Gareth Wall	RBKC
13	Gigi Yacoub	Campden Charities
14	Hannah Ali	Reengage
15	Joe Batty	KCSC
16	Judith Blakeman	BME Health Forum
17	Laurence Wilson	Citizens Advice
18	Lily Moghadam	Shelter
19	Lola Malaolu	WEA
20	Madhu Haval	One You Westminster
21	Mel Christodoulou	Family Friends

22	Michael Ashe	Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea
23	Minna Korjonen	NHS
24	Molly Carew	RBKC
25	Monica Press	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
26	Ruramiso Munetsi	Reengage
27	Shelina Thawer	KCSC
28	Samia Badani	214 Space
29	Sibel Whitehead	Support Match
30	Simon Hope	NHS NWL CCG
31	Sona Djerrahian	Venture Community Association
32	Sonia Timlett	Equal People Mencap
33	Sophie FitzHugh	Rugby Portobello Trust
34	Sue Harris	RBKC
35	Vittoria De Meo	For Women CIC
36	William Roberts	Venture Community Association