



**Kensington & Chelsea Social Council (KCSC)** works to empower and support voluntary and community organisations to improve the quality of life for residents in Kensington and Chelsea

## **Background**

On Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup> 2017 the Grenfell Tower fire took place, many lives have been lost and the community has been devastated.

The fire has impacted on the community in so many different ways that will take time and a lot of support to begin to help the community to heal. There is mistrust in the authorities from the way in which they responded to the fire in the most crucial early hours and days after the fire began.

There is anger that voices were not heard when they were explicitly warned about the dangers surrounding the building both prior to and after the building refurbishment. Many in the community are not happy with the way in which decisions have been made over property and regeneration and the impact decisions have on communities where land and much loved buildings are lost to developers or private schools.

Amongst all of the anguish and turmoil there is the voluntary and community sector, providing services to local residents, seeking to meet the needs of those that have suffered and requiring support to rebuild their lives. Voices need to be heard and services need to be developed or supported. We believe this to be a major turning point for culture change in the way in which the community and the statutory sector engage and we want to part of leading that change. We therefore seek someone who has the understanding and the skills to bring people together based very much on the values and principles of KCSC and how we operate as an organisation.

Our values are:

- Enabling voluntary and community organisations to make a difference
- Collaboration and working in partnership with others to achieve more
- A strong local voluntary and community voice
- Social justice through community action
- Being inclusive and respectful;

Through our values we strive to aid the rebuilding of our local community and continue to support the local voluntary and community sector.

There will be many challenges ahead as we work through a very emotional time where sensitivities are heightened and the fight for justice is strong. KCSC has a long history of supporting the local community and the organisation is well placed to work alongside our partners to seek to improve relationships across organisations, sectors, and communities.

Our vision is a long-term strategy for the community and our work in this area will seek to find solutions during the years ahead.

## **About Kensington & Chelsea Social Council**

Kensington and Chelsea Social Council (KCSC) is the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's recognised voluntary sector '*infrastructure*' organisation.

We support voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) through the provision of training, advice and information. We also facilitate the voice of the local voluntary and community sector (VCS) and represent the sector at a strategic level.

The organisation was formed in April 2002 by the merger of Chelsea and Notting Hill Social Councils. Notting Hill Social Council was founded in the late 1950's in the aftermath of the social disturbances in the area, and Chelsea Social Council was established in 1968 to meet local needs in areas that now make up the south of the borough.

We have a membership of over 380 Voluntary and Community Organisations

### **Some of our key work includes:**

- Conducting research such as our research and reports on the cost of private renting and food poverty in Kensington and Chelsea
- Delivering the Reaching Potential training programme for our members covering topics such as:
  - Grant Fundraising
  - Project Management
  - Staff Management
  - IT and Communications
  - Roles and Responsibilities of Trustees
  - Leadership
- Providing support to voluntary organisations to access funding and run funding programmes on behalf of West London Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Being the secretariat for the local Safer Neighbourhood Board which brings together local residents with the Metropolitan Police and the Council
- Supporting voluntary sector representation and also represent the voluntary sector at a strategic level with local decision makers

**Our core purpose is to build a sustainable and inclusive society through strengthening local voluntary and community organisations**