

# COMMISSIONING

## A Learning Experience

**Commissioning, when it works well can be a productive experience involving voluntary and statutory sector colleagues working together to understand need, work out ways to address that need and identifying the gaps in existing service provision.**

In 2008 the voluntary and community sector experienced the introduction of commissioning in Family and Children Services. It provided both the statutory and voluntary sector with a valuable lesson on what works well and what could be improved.

One of key lessons we have learnt over the years is that the dialogue between voluntary organisations and statutory authorities must be timely and meaningful. The commissioning process must also be clear and equally accessible to all to ensure a level playing field.

It is important that voluntary organisations feel they are listened to and their views are taken into account during the early planning stages of the commissioning process.

The Social Council understand



The Voluntary and Community Sector provide vital play services across the borough

the complexities of the challenges faced by local authorities in striving to deliver good quality services on reduced budgets. This has led to a search for new and innovative ways to deliver services. But we worry that this in turn threatens some of the excellent voluntary sector services which already exist.

On pages 6-7 we look at the voluntary sector's role in delivering play services. An area in which free or low cost provision has maintained equality of access to the great benefit of the borough's children. At a time when the play service is under review and services go out to tender we strongly believe that the voluntary sector should remain a

key partner in children's play service provision.

Sexual health and youth services too, will be going out to tender and so Commissioners will soon be entering into dialogue with the voluntary sector. At the Social Council we are committed to supporting organisations engage with the process and making the most of potential opportunities.

We will continue to review commissioning processes across sectors. We will share our learning with statutory colleagues to ensure we all learn from our experience, strengthen our working relationships and ensure commissioning services evolve to the benefit of all.

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**Kensington & Chelsea  
Social Council (KCSC)**  
works to support locally focused  
voluntary and community  
organisations serving local residents.

The views expressed in Link are not  
necessarily those of KCSC.

## EDITORIAL

# Welcome to the latest edition of LINK.



I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Angela Spence and I am the new Chief Executive of Kensington and Chelsea Social Council. I have worked at the Social Council for five years previously as Policy Manager and then as Deputy Chief Executive. I was appointed as Chief Executive in March 2014.

Having worked at the Social Council for a number of years under the leadership of the previous Chief Executive Mary Gardiner, I have a fundamental understanding of both the challenges which the voluntary and community sector face and the opportunities which exist or are on the horizon.

Some of the challenges we face at the Social Council are also issues faced by other local organisations. Our staff team has reduced in size and we have a smaller budget. Yet the work to be done is increasing because there is a need, now more than ever, to provide support to organisations and to communities.

We hear that the economy is improving but this does not mean that everyone is feeling the benefits. That is why it is important that we maintain those vital services that continue to meet the needs of local communities. For this to happen we need a strong, active and vibrant voluntary sector, working in partnership and delivering outcomes that seek to improve the lives of residents.

This is why the Social Council exists. I have a strong and dedicated team that are readily supporting me to carry on where Mary Gardiner left off.

We will continue to produce our Link Newsletter but we be cutting down to three editions a year.

We will provide the information and features that we believe are important for the voluntary sector and we hope you continue to find it interesting and insightful. We value your feedback on each edition so please let us know what you think.

I look forward to working with you.

**Angela Spence**

## Baraka Community Association

The organisation formally known as Baraka Youth Association has rebranded. Based in North Kensington and primarily supporting young Somalians, the charity's core work will remain the much needed educational programmes, mentoring and youth engagement. However Baraka also works across tri-borough offering a parenting programme, an intergenerational project, crime prevention and health and wellbeing initiatives.



More info:

[www.barakayouth.org](http://www.barakayouth.org)



# From minority to mainstream

## *Midaye Somali Development Network*

Local organisation Midaye Somali Development Network has been featured in a new report 'A Portrait of Modern Britain' published by the Policy Exchange.

The report is an in-depth study of BME communities in Britain today which draws upon extensive data from the census, academic studies and polling data. It illustrates the size and spread of Britain's BME population and the relative position of different immigrant communities.

The pen-portrait of Midaye entitled 'From minority to mainstream services' highlight's how the charity has adapted and grown to meet the needs of the community since being founded in 2002.



Idil Hasan with the report at its launch in Westminster

### FGM Community Forum

Amongst Midaye's recent initiatives was the launch of a new FGM Community Forum for the benefit of all those affected by Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and for the protection of all the girls at risk. The Forum will bring together people affected by FGM and provide a grass-roots voice against the practice.

To find out more about the FGM Community Forum contact Midaye directly.

A link to  
'A Portrait of Modern Britain'  
is available on the Midaye website.

More info: [contact@midaye.org.uk](mailto:contact@midaye.org.uk)

[www.midaye.org.uk](http://www.midaye.org.uk)

020 8969 7456

## Family Fun with Big Local

Big Local is an exciting opportunity for those living in the World's End and Lots Road area to decide the allocation of £1m of Big Lottery funding to improve the area over the next ten years.

Local residents are currently being surveyed for their views and will be urged to get involved in drawing up an area plan at a launch this July. Budding artists will also have the chance to enter a

competition to design the new logo for Big Local World's End and Lots Road.

### Big Local Family Fun Day

**Sunday 13 July, 1pm – 7pm**

**World's End, Kings Road SW10 0DR**

Dance, singing, DJs, BBQ, art, children's activities, prize raffle and more

More info: [vanessa@chelseatheatre.org.uk](mailto:vanessa@chelseatheatre.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/welrbiglocal](http://www.facebook.com/welrbiglocal)

## Golborne Stories of Struggles and Resistance

A new film produced with the help of pupils of Bevington School was launched in May.

*Wild West 10: Golborne Stories of Struggle and Resistance* tells the history of the Golborne Road area and its ever changing people from early industrialisation to the arrival of immigrant communities and protests against slum landlords and the building of the Westway.

The film features interviews with a number of local residents and is available to view online.



More info:

[www.golbornestories.org.uk](http://www.golbornestories.org.uk)

# How can Information Te

Often abbreviated to just “I.T.” “Information Technology” commonly refers to anything

## Making the best use of Information Technology (IT) can boost productivity and improve performance, making a huge difference to any organisation.

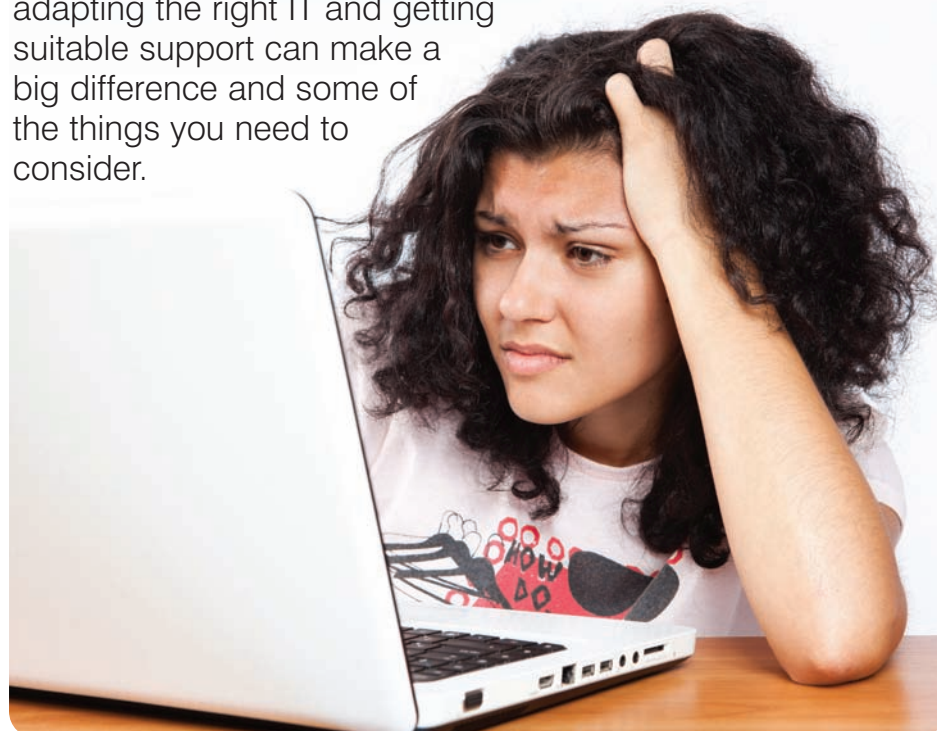
By having suitable IT systems in place to support your organisation’s work, your staff and volunteers can focus on service delivery and the job at hand.

Adapting new technology can also introduce new, more efficient ways of working and even open doors to new opportunities.

Technology has advanced considerably over recent years and innovation such as social media and cloud computing has a lot to offer voluntary and community organisations, both large and small. However, knowing how to reap the benefits from the latest technology without being diverted from other tasks is a challenge for most organisations.

Thankfully, there are many organisations that specialise in providing support and advice to voluntary and community sector organisations but even then it can be hard to work out exactly what you need.

On these pages we highlight some key areas where adapting the right IT and getting suitable support can make a big difference and some of the things you need to consider.



### Office Systems

Whether you work from home, just rent a desk or have an office with multiple computers it is important to know that the systems on which you work are reliable and safe.

#### Things to consider

- Do you know if your computers are regularly updated with the latest system updates? Have you got adequate security software to protect against threats such as malware and viruses?
- What will you do if your computers or networks fail? Is your data backed up? How easily can it be restored?
- Is your information safe? If you hold sensitive data is it password protected? Do you have systems in place to prevent unauthorised access to your computers? What protection do you have against users accidentally making potentially harmful changes?

Unless you have in house IT support or are very confident you can answer all of these questions it may be worth getting support from a suitable IT support company. A monthly contract can be cheaper in the long run than paying to resolve problems as and when they arise. If your systems are unprotected or not backed up you risk losing everything so take action now to protect yourself.





# Technology support you?

*related to computing technology, such as networking, hardware, software, the internet.*

## Websites and Digital Media

An online presence is now essential for most voluntary and community organisations. This could mean your own website or it can include social media such as a Facebook page or a Twitter account.

A digital presence provides a platform to keep in touch with service users and donors and increases your visibility to potential new supporters. It can also showcase your work to decision makers and funders so it's worth investing time to get it right.

### Things to consider

- A Content Management System (CMS) allows people without programming skills to easily post information on a website. Many CMS platforms allow you to set up a simple website for little or no cost.
- Shared web hosting can be very cheap but if you have a website that seems slow or is frequently unavailable it may be worth upgrading. Ensure your host or web developer maintains your software and applies any necessary security updates.
- If working with a web development agency clarify who owns the copyright of your site. Make sure it is regularly backed up and that you are able to easily transfer hosting elsewhere if you need to.
- There is no magic formula to make your site appear at the top of search listings but voluntary organisations can apply for free advertising space via Google Ad Grants.
- A social media account is free to set up. Consider where your audience is and focus on the best platforms to engage them. If you use several social media platforms and have a website think about how you can integrate them to boost your impact.

## How to save money on software

Lots of software packages exist to help organisations with various aspects of their work. The ones people are often most familiar with like Microsoft Office or Photoshop are expensive if licenses are bought commercially.

Cheaper and even free to use alternatives do exist which can get the job done just as well. What's more as a charitable organisation you may qualify for reduced price licenses or donated software through the tt-exchange scheme.

### Things to consider

- When software is referred to as 'Open Source' it means there are no license fees to pay for using it. Open source does not have to mean second rate and there are some excellent equivalents to the most popular commercial software such as 'Libre Office' (Microsoft Office) and 'Gimp' (Photoshop). In areas such as CRM (databases) software such as the open source CiviCRM are leading options for the voluntary sector.
- Google Docs is free to use and Microsoft now offer Office Online, a stripped down version of the full package for no cost. Most organisations will find that these options present all of the features they will ever need.
- Some suppliers provide software licenses for vastly reduced rates for non-profit organisations so it is worth investigating if you are eligible before buying commercial software.
- The tt-exchange managed by the Technology Trust is a programme through which some of the biggest software suppliers like Microsoft, Adobe and Symantec provide free donated versions of their latest software to registered charities. All you pay is a small admin fee.

## Resources and further support

### Get Safe Online

A government backed advice website with details of how to stay safe online.

[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

### PC Mag:

The Beginner's Guide to PC Backup  
<http://bit.ly/1kmGg66>

### LASA Knowledgebase

A whole host of articles aimed at non-profit organisations to help you make decision on IT.

[www.ictknowledgebase.org.uk](http://www.ictknowledgebase.org.uk)

### LASA Suppliers Directory

A directory of vetted third sector suppliers of technology products and services.

[www.suppliersdirectory.org.uk](http://www.suppliersdirectory.org.uk)

### Technology Trust: tt-exchange

The software donation programme for charities.

[www.tt-exchange.org](http://www.tt-exchange.org)

### Google Ad Grants

Use Google Adwords to promote your site on Google search result pages.

[www.google.co.uk/intl/en/grants](http://www.google.co.uk/intl/en/grants)

### Gizmo's Freeware

Lists of free software reviewed and rated by site users.

[www.techsupportalert.com](http://www.techsupportalert.com)

### iT4Communities

Introducing Volunteer IT Professionals to Charities Needing IT Help.

[www.it4communities.org.uk](http://www.it4communities.org.uk)

### Grow Your Charity Online

A website backed by Google offering free tools to try and resources.

[www.growyourcharityonline.com](http://www.growyourcharityonline.com)



# The voluntary sector's



Aklam Adventure Playground – 1990

**Play services in Kensington and Chelsea out to tender in the Autumn. At the So sector should remain a key partner in Here we take an in-depth look at the**

## The importance of play services

Play is not only fun but is important in helping children learn and develop as individuals and as members of the community.

Through play children learn about the world around them, and develop the social skills that they need for life. It is also important for children's health as many play activities provided a form of physical exercise.

The everyday environment provides limited opportunities for children to engage in safe and creative play so it is important that services exist that counter this by providing play friendly spaces.

With many children living in overcrowded housing in the areas of deprivation in our borough, lack of open

spaces in some areas and fear of children playing outside, play services are all the more important.

## The voluntary sector and play

The voluntary sector has a long tradition of delivering play services to local communities. From nurseries to informal education activities and fun day events the sector delivers a range of creative and innovative services to meet the needs of families. Voluntary and community organisations bring a number of benefits as providers of play services including being low cost, close to communities and responsive to local need.

## The local picture

In Kensington and Chelsea there is a strong history of

# Spotlight on Venture Centre

**The Venture Centre is a local community centre based in the Golborne Ward providing a range of services for adults and children. We asked Terry Moloney, Children's Services Manager to tell us a bit about play provision at their community centre.**

## What play activities do you have at Venture?

We have a multi-surface sports pitch where we have activities such as tennis, badminton, basketball, dodge ball and games like shark attack. We also have arts and crafts activities around themes like spring and Easter. We have a large adventure playground with swings and slides which uniquely has an under 8s area within it. We also support kids with special needs to integrate them into mainstream play.

## How did the Adventure Playground develop?

Like many adventure playgrounds it grew up on an old bomb site at the end of the second world war. They were originally called junk yard playgrounds. Ours used to be a church and started in 1959. The

Community Centre and steel pan yard later grew up around it.

## What makes your activities attractive to children?

I think the fact they are freely chosen, there is open access for children and they can come and go as they please. Also we respond to demand from the children, offering activities that they express interest in.

## How do you ensure children learn and develop through your play activities?

I think it is good to incorporate life skills learning into activities. For example we run a cooking club on Thursday where we teach kids to cook healthy food. We make it special by dressing up a dinner table and then they get to eat what they have cooked.



# role in delivering play

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topic.

both voluntary and community sector play services. Many started up in the Ladbroke Grove area in the 60s and 70s in response to the lack of play space. This included some space developed under the Westway motorway along with other community facilities thanks to a long campaign by local activists. Children also started to build their own play structures in the rubble from the demolition of houses to make way for the motorway being built.

There is also a strong history of the voluntary sector working collaboratively with statutory sector play services. Years of successful partnership work is evident in events like annual Play Day and Dance Off at the end of the summer.

Many of the play staff in Kensington and Chelsea are a local workforce, often having started as children in receipt of the services, and then growing to become providers in their adult lives.

At the Social Council we believe this is something special. Play workers act as positive mentors to children and seeing them working within the community reinforces children's worth and the worth of a locally grown excellent set of services.

Furthermore the way services join up at certain points mixes up children and communities in a way that teaches us all how to live well together.

We incorporate healthy eating into the dinner table discussion.

## What challenges do you face in delivering play activities?

Currently, for us it is that funding is being squeezed which creates uncertainty. We have a redevelopment going on around us which is disruptive and it is a challenge to communicate to local residents that we are still open. We have also noticed a rise in numbers attending our activities which makes it more challenging for the play workers.



## The new Tri-borough Children's Network will hold its first meeting on Thursday 19th June at Kensington Town Hall.

The aim as a single board is to provide more scope and potential for a joined up and co-ordinated approach to delivering children and family services.

The voluntary sector will be represented on the board across the Tri-Borough.

*(Details about voluntary sector representatives will be made available to the sector shortly)*



# Whole systems – what's it all about?

## The Social Council is involved in the development of the 'Whole Systems Integrated Care for the Over 75s Early Adopter'.

### What does this mean?

'Whole systems' refers to a collaborative approach between health, social care, voluntary sector organisations and patients. It builds upon the idea of integrated care which points to a holistic, person centred approach to healthcare.

There is a lot of good work that already take place across the voluntary and community sector to support

the needs of older people. We want to ensure that this work is recognised and through our involvement we hope to ensure that the sector is seen a key partner in the design and delivery of care and support for the over 75s age group.

We will keep you up to date on this development via our website.

More info: Angela Spence

angela@kcsc.org.uk

020 7243 9803

## Voluntary Sector Stop Smoking Project Launches

### Voluntary Sector Stop Smoking Project Launches

The first cohort of voluntary organisations to deliver stop smoking advice services to local residents in the tri-borough area are launching this summer. They are part of a new project co-ordinated by the Social Council in partnership with the Kick-it stop smoking service. The organisations and their advisers are:

#### Women's Association for African Networking and Development (WAND)

Naomi Muiguan 07813 485 607

#### Abbey Centre

Mohammed Mansour 020 7227 0644  
Mohammed.Mansour@theabbeycentre.org.uk

#### Marylebone Bangladesh Society

Shahper Hasan 020 7724 9746 or 07796 214 924

### Chinese Information and Advice Centre

Ms Chau/Ms Campanella

020 7437 0112

info@ciac.co.uk

If any of your users would like to receive stop smoking advice please refer them to one of the advisers listed above.

If your organisation is interested in providing a stop smoking service itself please contact us at the Social Council.

All organisations are provided with accredited training from the Kick-it stop smoking service and a small grant towards the costs of delivering the advice.



More info: Siobhan Sollis

siobhan@kcsc.org.uk

020 7243 9807

## Family fun at St Charles' Centre for Health and Wellbeing

This spring the Social Council participated in a family fun day to promote community health and wellbeing services available at the St Charles Centre for Health and Wellbeing.

Over 400 people attended on Saturday 8 March and took part in activities included dancing, exercise classes, gardening lessons, arts and crafts, and healthy eating advice for parents and children.

Dr Fiona Butler, Chair of West London Clinical Commissioning Group, said,

**“Many people were surprised to find that as well as the health services that are provided at the centre, there are also many voluntary services and activities that encourage general health and wellbeing including community gardens and allotments, an activity centre for older adults as well as a gym and a restaurant.”**

Following the events success, the St Charles Centre is replicating one of the most popular activities of the day – healthy eating sessions run in partnership with local community centres with a six-weekly Saturday Kitchen.

A follow up stakeholder event attracted some 60 staff members drawn from services within the centre and current/potential partner organisations. They discussed how to turn St Charles into a catalyst for health and wellbeing amongst the local community.



Mayor Councillor Williams and Doctor Butler pedalling to make smoothies



# Notting Hill Carnival



**The Notting Hill Carnival is famous around the world. It is Europe's largest street carnival and attracts participants from across the UK.**

Although Carnival can trace its origins to 1959, the year in which Claudia Jones organised the first event in St Pancras Town Hall, the first carnival on the streets of Notting Hill took place in 1964. 50 years ago. We spoke to Pepe Francis, from the Ebony Steel Band about what Carnival means to people locally and about how his organisation prepare to take part in the great procession each year.

## **Can you tell us a bit about the history of the Ebony Steel Band and how long have you been going?**

Ebony steel band was started in 1965 by a few friends from Trinidad who wanted to carry on playing the steel pan after leaving Trinidad and one of the guys Cape James got some pans and it all started in his garden shed in Acton. There were just five of them when it started.

I joined a year later and others followed. We then moved to the Grenada centre in Acton because of the complaints of the neighbours and the fact that the band was growing and could no longer fit into a garden shed.

## **When did you first take part in the Carnival?**

In 1969 the band became known as Ebony steel band named after the black magazine Ebony and partly because the name of my band back in Trinidad was Ebonite's. That was the first year we took part in the Notting Hill carnival. We played with my friends Lawrence Noel's Mas Band, the Trinbago Carnival Club from East London.

## **What changes have you witnessed since then?**

Carnival back then was the good old days, bands could go anywhere in Ladbroke Grove, any street like All Saints Road, Westbourne Park Road, Portobello, Golborne etc. We played pan on the streets until midnight, there was no route and restrictions like we have today.

Now everything about carnival has changed. There is a set circular route, ten times the amount of police than we had back then and too many restrictions under the banner of health and safety.

## **Why is carnival such a popular, significant event?**

Carnival is a significant event for us, the people from Trinidad and Brazil. It is the celebration of freedom of expression and enjoyment after years of slavery and our parents and grandparents working for the white man on the plantations in the Caribbean.

Even today we still re-enact that tradition at the start of carnival in Trinidad with what we call Jouvert, that is why carnival all over the world is such a large

event and more and more countries are having carnival. Freedom of expression in music, colour costumes and dance and it is our heritage.

## **When do Ebony's preparations for carnival begin?**

From around April we have to learn a lot of new music from the new calypsos [soca music] that comes from Trinidad every year. In June we then start to prepare our tune for the National Panorama competition and that can take us up to three months.

Our costumes are prepared by people who belong to the band but are not steel pan players, mainly the parents and friends of the band members although in the past few years Ebony have not brought out any costumes. We use designed T shirts because we find it difficult to concentrate on the music and control a mass band at the same time, especially in the current economic climate.

## **What do Ebony do for the rest of the year?**

Ebony is a performing band. We perform all over the world – Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, India etc. We have just recently travelled to Zimbabwe for their Carnival and I have just returned from Berlin Carnival. We also perform at parades like the Lord Mayors Show and Pride. We play at funerals, weddings and parties etc. to raise funds to assist us with all of our activities.

We run classes for different age groups at our building The Yaa Asantewa Centre. For adult beginners, children, juniors and youth. We also have tutors in several schools around London and we run workshops in schools and some colleges and universities.

## **After all these years do you still get excited about Carnival?**

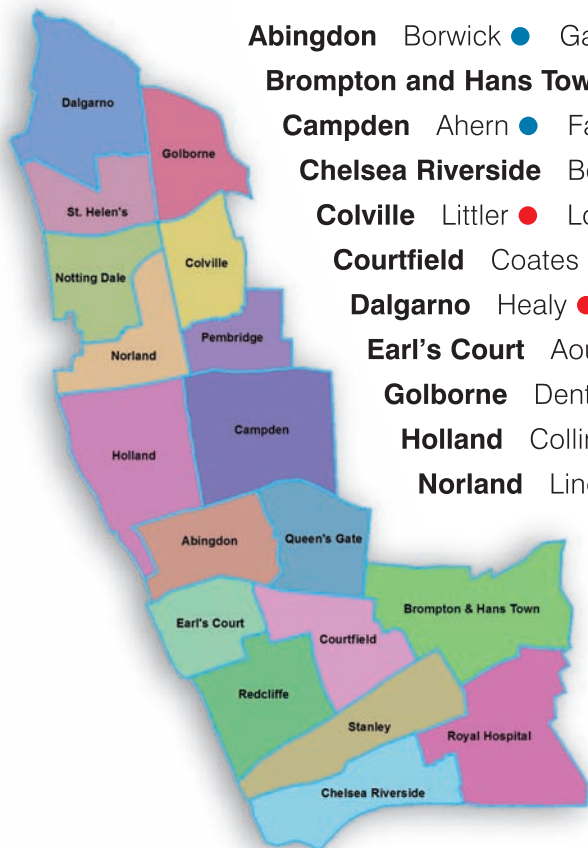
Despite all the changes and restrictions over the years I still love it and will travel all over the world to visit and enjoy carnival. Trinidad, New York, Miami, Grenada, Berlin, Zimbabwe and Nigeria. But most of all I love the sweet sound of the steel pan.

# Council ward boundary changes

Council ward boundary changes came into effect in Kensington and Chelsea following the local elections in May. The borough map was redrawn to ensure an equal representation for each constituent and to take into consideration the continuity of distinct geographical areas.

The new map has 14 three-member wards and four two-member wards. The total number of elected local councillors has been cut from 54 to 50.

The new council is made up of 37 Conservatives, 12 Labour Party and 1 Liberal Democrat.



**Abingdon** Borwick ● Gardner ● Husband ●

**Brompton and Hans Town** Coleridge ● Paget-Brown ● Weale ●

**Campden** Ahern ● Faulks ● Freeman ●

**Chelsea Riverside** Berrill-Cox ● Condon-Simmonds ● Hargreaves ●

**Colville** Littler ● Lomas ● Press ●

**Courtfield** Coates ● Marshall ● Rutherford ●

**Dalgarno** Healy ● Thompson ●

**Earl's Court** Aouane ● Spalding ● Wade ●

**Golborne** Dent Coad ● Mason ● Powell ●

**Holland** Collinson ● Feilding-Mellen ● Lightfoot ●

**Norland** Lindsay ● Mills ●

**Notting Dale** Atkinson ● Blakeman ● Lasharie ●

**Pembroke** Campbell B ● Campion ●

**Queen's Gate** Mackover ● Moylan ● Palmer ●

**Redcliffe** Rossi ● Nicholls ● Williams ●

**Royal Hospital** Campbell E ● Rinker ● Will ●

**St Helen's** Allison ● Bakhtiar ●

**Stanley** Cockell ● Pascall ● Warrick ●

## Mayor's Awards

Six people were recognised for their exceptional contribution to the life of the Royal Borough at the Mayor's Awards. They were presented with certificates at a special ceremony hosted by Mayor, Cllr Charles Williams on 4 June.

The award winners are (from left to right):

**Jennifer Ware** for her work in the interests of the Earl's Court community over many decades.

**Janice Watts** for her work with the Rugby Portobello Trust's Football Team.

**Stephen Duckworth** for his work with the voluntary sector in North Kensington.

**Moya Denman** for her work with the elderly through East Chelsea Community Contact, Sixty Plus, Age

Concern, New Horizons and Age UK K&C.

**Ian Henderson** for his work for the residents of the Sutton Estate.

**Abdallahi Nur** for his work with the Baraka Community Association.





# Get on board whilst you can!

The three year governance project 'Get on Board' is coming to an end this October. So far this project jointly hosted by the Social Council and Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea has recruited and trained over 80 new trustees for local voluntary and community organisations. We recently caught up with one of those trustees, Emma Watson, who joined the North Kensington Law Centre just over a year ago, to find out how she is getting along.



## What made you want to become a trustee?

I had previously been involved with another charity but it had undergone a change of direction and I no longer felt as much a part of it. I am taking a career break for my two young children and I felt that I could get back into the charitable world. In particular, I wanted to find a way in which I could also maintain some of my skills from my professional life.

## How has the Get On Board Project helped you?

I really love my role as a trustee of the North Kensington Law Centre, but I would not have found it without the Get on Board project. I saw an advert in a local magazine for a speed recruitment evening, which was very efficient and actually a rather fun way of meeting a lot of charities that, importantly to me, were local.

## What have been your proudest moments so far as a trustee?

Probably the feeling that we are indeed turning the tide for the Law Centre in this tough economic climate. All Law Centres have faced a fight for survival, following cuts to Legal Aid. We have been working at diversifying our income streams to replace the lost funding and not be dependent on one funding pot. At the same time it is vital that we keep to our original values and continue to give those in need access to justice.

## What advice would you give someone who is thinking of becoming a trustee?

The most important thing is to make sure that your skills and favourite issues match those of the charity. Then figure out what they will want from you as well as what the role of a trustee actually means.

More info:

[www.kcsc.org.uk/getonboard](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/getonboard)

## Poverty Watch work to continue

We are pleased to announce our success in securing funding to continue Poverty Watch, the local observatory which brings together voluntary and community organisations to share evidence of poverty and its impact with statutory bodies.

Poverty Watch uses the evidence it collects to argue for and support pragmatic action on tackling poverty and inequality in the borough.

The new funding from the Trust for London will support a Poverty Watch Research and Campaigns Officer for two years. This will allow us to conduct further research to understand the impact of benefit changes and the challenging economic climate on

local residents. This will include two in depth research projects (one per year) to be decided by members.

Poverty Watch will also act as a vehicle to coordinate local action amongst its member organisations and we are also committed to working our CVS partners in Hammersmith and Fulham and Westminster to extend the project across the tri-borough.

The next Poverty Watch Meeting will be on Wednesday 25 June where we will discuss in more detail the potential for Poverty Watch through the newly acquired funding.

More info:

[www.kcsc.org.uk/povertywatch](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/povertywatch)

## Supporting local engagement on policing and community safety

The Social Council is supporting a new body that will act as the primary borough level mechanism for local engagement on policing and community safety.

Introduced by the Mayor of London's Office for

Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the RBKC Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) has a number of functions which includes establishing local policing and crime priorities as well as monitoring police performance and confidence.

For more information on the Board, past papers, upcoming meetings, and latest developments, please visit:

[www.kcsc.org.uk/network-forum/snb](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/network-forum/snb)

## BE PART OF THE NEW SOCIAL COUNCIL DIRECTORY OF VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Ahead of the launch of our new Directory of Voluntary and Community Organisations this summer we are undertaking a major overhaul of the data we hold on the KCSC database.

We are sending each organisation a secure web link where you can check the information we hold. We are asking you to verify these details and fill in any gaps.

You must confirm if you want to be included in the new online directory.

If you haven't received your email link yet please contact Kuldip Bajwa, [Kuldip@kcsc.org.uk](mailto:Kuldip@kcsc.org.uk)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

### COMING SOON...

## Breakfast briefing on Social Value

The Social Value Act which came into force in January 2013 requires public authorities such as the council to consider the added social value a supplier offers when awarding a new public service contract.

In theory this new legislation should advantage voluntary and community organisations whose work is invariably aimed at delivering social outcomes.

This breakfast session will be a chance for voluntary and statutory sector colleagues and councillors to come together to:

- Define what Social Value is and how it could be measured
- Understand how Social Value is being incorporated into contracts issued by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Details will be advertised shortly on the Social Council website.

## Trustee Recruitment Garden Party

### Want to Get on Board and volunteer as a charity board member?

Find out what being a trustee involves and meet with charities looking to recruit you!

**Thursday 17 July**

between **6pm - 8.30pm**, drop in at any time – **Ladbroke Grove**

### Why become a trustee?

Local charities are looking for people just like you to bring your expertise to their board and help guide their organisations into the future. By providing your support, skills and knowledge at one board meeting every six weeks you could make a huge difference.

If you would like to attend the event please contact Brenda on **020 7243 9807** or [brenda@kcsc.org.uk](mailto:brenda@kcsc.org.uk)



### COMING SOON...

## Voluntary Sector Tour and Garden Party

September will see the return of our popular voluntary sector tours and garden party.

A Social Council voluntary sector tour give you a chance to witness, at first hand, the work and diverse services offered by local organisations in the community.

The tours are particularly useful for people who are new to the sector. Staff volunteers, councillors, commissioners and statutory officers are all welcome.

The September tour will be followed by our end of summer garden party. A chance to relax and unwind and get to know colleagues from the local voluntary sector in an informal setting.

## VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUMS – dates for Summer 2014

<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	Thursday 11 July	10am - 12:30pm	Kensington Town Hall
<b>Main VOF</b>	Thursday 11 September	10am - 12:30pm	Kensington Town Hall

Look out for further details on the Social Council website

[www.kcsc.org.uk/events](http://www.kcsc.org.uk/events)

**020 7243 9800**