

Challenging times

The turn of the year usually brings positivity and renewed optimism and this year many are hoping that we have moved closer to emerging from the difficult times we currently face

However, the start of 2013 suggests we still have a long way to go. The government has confirmed its plans to stick to its austerity budget, meaning further cuts are on the way. Many middle income working families are having to adjust to the loss of child benefit which was cut for households in which one adult earned over £50,000. The Commons vote to cap working age welfare benefit increases at 1% means its value will drop as it falls behind the rate of inflation.

Serious discussion on the impact of universal credit and wider welfare reform has been drowned out by the government's provocative rhetoric of 'strivers vs shirkers'. It's not surprising a study of public opinion showed that people widely overestimate the amount spent on out-of-work benefits and the amount that is claimed fraudulently.

But what does all this mean for the voluntary and community sector?

Our role in supporting the vulnerable has never been more vital, as more people are facing life on the breadline. The



Last year we held three Big Lunch events for local residents around the borough. The events gave us as an opportunity to find out how austerity was impacting on health and wellbeing.

emergence of a new Credit Union as well as food banks in the borough, have indicated the extent of the crisis locally.

We must build on our role as advocates and campaigners, as more changes that adversely affect our communities begin to take shape. We need to produce concrete evidence that highlights how these policy decisions are significantly impacting on the lives of those most vulnerable.

In Kensington and Chelsea, a clear picture is already starting to emerge. The council's housing department has witnessed a 22% rise in the numbers requiring

assistance whilst advice agencies report increasing demand for their services at a time when they are facing large cuts in funding.

In 2013 the voluntary and community sector has a crucial role to play in continuing to support local communities.

Poverty Watch collects evidence of how the cuts are affecting the people you serve and your services. If you can contribute, or are facing increased demand let us know and help us build the case for greater support.

More info:

www.kcsc.org.uk/povertywatch

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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.

Portable criminal record checks offer boost to volunteers

A new system has been put in place to make it
easier for volunteers to obtain free, portable
criminal records checks



The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has replaced the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), following their merger last year. The DBS will be running the new Update Service which allows volunteers to reuse criminal record checks should they wish to volunteer with more than one organisation, or change the organisation they volunteer with.

The new system will have a significant impact on the voluntary sector by cutting 'red-tape' and saving organisations time and money, whilst providing a 'hugely important boost to volunteering' according to Justin Davis Smith, Chief Executive of Volunteering England.

Volunteers need only apply once to the DBS for a certificate and can then go online for an instant check to find out whether their existing CRB check is up to date.

More info:

www.kcsc.org.uk/crb-checks

Earl's Court Foodbank opens to offer emergency food supplies

The Kensington and Chelsea Foodbank has opened at St Luke's Church, Redcliffe Gardens, supporting local residents who find themselves in an emergency food crisis.

Reverend Adrian Beavis, says that the foodbank has been set up with a view to supporting those "who have found themselves with an emergency food shortage due to the rising price of food, energy bills and benefit cuts".

Food parcels are handed out on Tuesdays and Fridays, and last for three days. Those in need should be referred by a front line care professional, including their GP, a health visitor, social worker, the local CAB or the police.



More info:

www.kensingtonchelsea.foodbank.org.uk

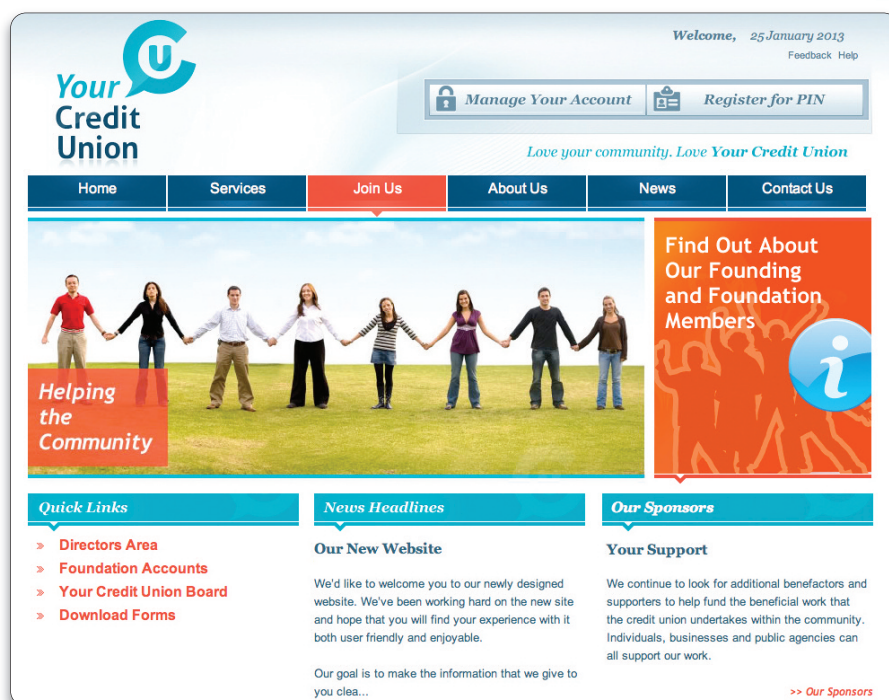
Your Credit Union

Your Credit Union K&C, the ethical savings and lending institution, is now open for business. The credit union is the first of its kind in the borough, and will be offering loans from early 2013.

Credit unions offer an ethical alternative to loan sharks and pay day loan lenders for thousands who would otherwise struggle to obtain credit from the High Street banks. In Kensington and Chelsea, nearly 25,000 households are marginalised from mainstream financial services. Credit unions also offer real returns for investors too and help to keep money in the local economy.

Money raised by Your Credit Union K&C through the investments made by its members is made available for borrowing by those same members at lower rates than you will find elsewhere.

Visit the new Your Credit Union K&C website to find out more.



More info:

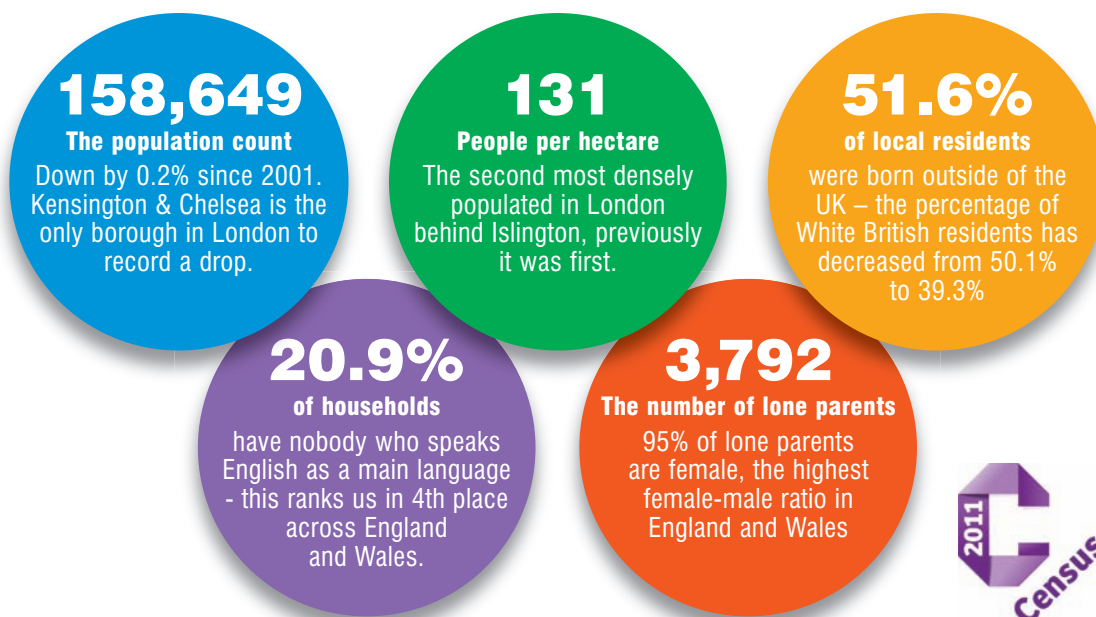
www.yourcu.co.uk

Census 2011

Findings from the 2011 Census are continuing to be released and have highlighted some interesting facts about Kensington and Chelsea.

Data at local authority level was released in December and key statistics at ward level on 30 January. The December release, specifically focused on ethnicity, religion, living arrangements and economic activity. At the time of going to press we don't have access to the ward data.

Key statistics for the Royal Borough include



More info:

www.kcsc.org.uk/maps

Local report highlights the threat posed by legal aid reform

Concern about the impact of impending cuts to legal aid funding is widespread. From April 2013, legal aid advice on welfare benefit matters will be axed meaning only those who can pay will be able to access professional advice.

Members of the Kensington and Chelsea Advice Forum have produced a report entitled – *Legal Aid Reform – the impact of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill* which highlights the impact cuts will have on advice services in this borough.

More info:

www.kcsc.org.uk/news/legal-aid-reform-poses-threat-local-advice-services

Does wellbeing e

It is generally accepted that wellbeing contributes to happiness. Good health, support for a few of life's luxuries are just some of the things people say makes them happy.

In 2012, the Social Council conducted a listening exercise in the Golborne ward, North Kensington. We spoke to people in the street and invited them to an open discussion forum. We wanted to know what it was like living in an area described as one of the most deprived in London.

A large majority of people said they were happy and, perhaps surprisingly, the main thing they valued was the area's rich diversity and strong sense of local community.

Through our work in Golborne we developed a deeper understanding of wellbeing. We learnt about the value people place on the areas in which they live, and on the communities in which they mix. Together with Golborne residents we took this message to Council decision makers. We told them our experience showed that mixed communities matter and, more importantly, they work.

The local impact of welfare reform - report

At the end of 2012 the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board published a report into the impact of a range of welfare reform measures on the local population.

The report covered the impact of the housing benefit cap, changes to child benefit and the likely impact of an overall cap on welfare payments. It detailed the mitigation that is already being taken and proposed further mitigating actions to alleviate the impact of welfare reform in the future.

The report produced by the board's Welfare Reform Task and Finish Group is available to download from the Social Council website.

More info:

www.kcsc.org.uk/health

Nobody doubts that we are experiencing difficult times. Austerity measures - such as the recent cuts to welfare - are already having a big impact in areas like Kensington and Chelsea. People are already moving out of the area, and as the borough becomes more unaffordable the rich mix of communities will be lost and diversity will suffer. This will have a knock-on effect on wellbeing. Further changes to the welfare system due to come into effect this year will also add to the overall pressure.



Golborne – an area where local people value the rich local diversity and strong sense of community.

Health and Wellbeing Board

This is why we have to ensure that health and wellbeing remains at the top of the agenda for policy makers, and is the reason that the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board in Kensington and Chelsea is so important.

The Health and Wellbeing Board brings together key leaders from public health and the care system to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce inequalities.

In Kensington and Chelsea, the board includes local authority directors from Adult and Children's services, clinicians from the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Director for Public Health and the local HealthWatch team.

From January 2013, the Social Council was invited onto the board to represent the local voluntary and community sector (VCS).

qual happiness?

portive families, close friends, having enough money to get by and that little bit extra copy. They contribute to a healthy mental state and are also indicators of wellbeing.

One of the Health and Wellbeing Board's main tasks is to produce the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) – a detailed assessment of the health and wellbeing needs of the local community (see box for more information).

Why is it important to influence the Health and Wellbeing Board in Kensington and Chelsea?

The board sets the main priorities to protect and promote physical and mental health and wellbeing. As a consequence, it sets the direction for commissioning, grant funding and other resources in these areas.

It is vital that the VCS are engaged in this process. Through the Social Council, the sector will have the opportunity to ensure the board's decisions match the findings of the JSNA. More importantly, the sector needs to ensure that the JSNA addresses health inequality and reflects the needs of the community.

Our collective knowledge about the lives of local residents can be channelled through our representation to the Health and Wellbeing Board. We can contribute to the debate on how to tackle some of the deep seated issues that affect health and wellbeing.

Of course there are going to be challenges. There are few short-cuts to improving health and wellbeing and a long term view must be taken. We need to work closely with our partners in the public sector to ensure adequate resources and investment is secured. Whilst we plan for the long term, we also need to realise that time is not on our side. We recognise the importance of wellbeing. We value happiness. We need to take action in 2013.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) pulls together all the



information which is available on the health and wellbeing of our local population. This may include facts and figures, together with knowledge, experience and opinions.

The aim is to look at the 'big picture' to determine priorities and identify the actions that local agencies will need to take to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Each year there is a rolling programme of in depth subject specific JSNA projects. The current priority areas are:

- Sexual Health
- Carers
- Physical Activity
- Suicide Prevention
- Learning Disabilities
- Mental health and employment
- Tuberculosis

Current JSNA Consultation for Carers

The carers JSNA is currently open for consultation until 28th February 2013. The main themes relate to areas of concern that carers often raise, including information, identification, involvement and support. They are interested in hearing any comments from local carers and organisations that support carers.

Accessing JSNA information

A new JSNA website was set up last autumn. It brings together information from Kensington and Chelsea and neighbouring boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham and Westminster. It includes data on a wide range of issues including downloadable factsheets that are regularly updated.

More info:

www.kcsc.org.uk/crb-checks

The causes of health inequalities

The wider determinants of health

Major wider determinants

- Financial status
- Employment and work environment
- Education
- Housing

The lives people lead

Leading risk factors

- Tobacco
- High blood pressure
- Alcohol
- Cholesterol
- Being overweight

The health services people use

Accessibility and responsiveness

- Primary care (e.g. GP practice)
- Secondary care (e.g. hospital)
- Preventative care (measures taken to prevent diseases)
- Community services

Source: National Audit literature review

The changing face of the NHS

1st April 2013 will see the completion of the big structural changes in the NHS brought in by the coalition government's Health & Social Care Act.



In summary:

- Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) will be responsible for planning and purchasing healthcare for local residents. Our local group is West London Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Many of the day-to-day commissioning functions will be outsourced to a new 'Commissioning Support Unit' (CSU).
- The current Primary Care Trusts and regional bodies such as NHS London and Inner-North-West London will cease to exist.
- A new Health and Wellbeing Board will oversee all health and social care in Kensington and Chelsea.
- A new Local HealthWatch will become the patient and public champion for health and social care and will take over the roles of LINK and PALS.
- The tri-borough public health team will move from the NHS into Westminster City Council.
- A new NHS Commissioning Board for England will oversee all the functioning of the NHS and directly take over some of the work of local PCTs.

Who's who in the new health service:

Public health	Pete Westmore Public Health Manager
Commissioning of specific services such as sexual health, mental health or drugs & alcohol.	Your current specialist commissioner should keep you informed as to how the commissioning arrangements will change in the new structure.
West London Clinical Commissioning Group	Check their website www.westlondonccg.nhs.uk or contact Lev Pedro or Angela Spence at KCSC to find out who to contact.

Contact numbers and email addresses will change, so we will keep you updated via our health page **www.kcsc.org.uk/health**

Please see the Social Council briefing 'NHS Changes a guide for voluntary and community organisations in Kensington and Chelsea', August 2012 for more detailed information at **www.kcsc.org.uk/publications**



Getting to grips with the Public Health Outcomes Framework

In the future, public health spending will be directed to work that fits in with the priorities in the Public Health Outcomes Framework. Voluntary organisations can make stronger bids for funding if they have knowledge of what the framework says and are able to describe their work using the language in it.

What is in the Public Health Outcomes Framework?

The framework has two main outcomes:

- increased healthy life expectancy
- reduced differences in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between communities

Under this, there are four domains:

- Improving the wider determinants of health
- Health protection
- Health improvement
- Healthcare, public health and preventing premature mortality

Under these are sets of indicators, for example:

'Proportion of adults achieving at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week'.

Top tips on using the Public Health Outcomes Framework

- Link the work you do or want to do to specific indicators in the framework.
- Make sure that your proposed project links to or complements existing services delivered by NHS or other voluntary organisations.
- Develop partnerships, where possible, to ensure that health improvement interventions are coordinated.
- Make sure you are able describe the work you do using outcomes. These should be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timed.
- Look out for future opportunities to be consulted on changes to the public health outcomes.

More info: The Public Health Outcomes Framework can be downloaded from:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132358

Voluntary Sector Representatives 2013

New local voluntary and community sector representatives (reps) were elected at the meeting of the Main Voluntary Organisations Forum in December 2012. Reps play an important part in putting forward the views of the sector to local partners and decision makers on two of the borough's strategic partnership boards.

Your local sector reps for 2013 are:

Kensington and Chelsea Partnership

www.kcsc.org.uk/kcp

The Partnership helps deliver joined up services by bringing together local public organisations such as the Council, the local police and health services, to work alongside business and the voluntary and community sector.

ROLE	REPRESENTATIVE	ORGANISATION
Adult Health and Wellbeing	Helen Leech Cynthia Dize (Deputy)	Open Age Age UK Kensington & Chelsea
Children & Young People Diversity, Equality and Inclusivity	Vicki Davies Jamie Renton	Dalgarno Neighbourhood Trust Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
Engaging Communities	Gemma Brown Dahabo Guled (Deputy)	Venture Community Association Dadihiye Somali Development Organisation
Voluntary & Community	Michael Bach Mary Gardiner (Deputy)	Kensington & Chelsea Social Council Kensington & Chelsea Social Council

Borough Voluntary Organisations Advisory Group

www.kcsc.org.uk/kcp

A formal channel through which the voluntary and community sector is able to raise issues with Councillors and cabinet members and directors of the local health services.

ROLE	REPRESENTATIVE	ORGANISATION
Advice	Charles Barber Jane Gray	Citizens Advice Bureau World's End Neighbourhood Advice Centre
Community Centres	Chris Peacock Vicki Davies	Venture Community Association Dalgarno Neighbourhood Trust
Community Safety	Rita Connely	London Cyrenians Housing
Education	Abdullahi Ali Clare Richards	Baraka Youth Association Clement James Centre
Equalities and Inclusivity	Jamie Renton Val Patterson	Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea Westway Development Trust
Health & Wellbeing	Cynthia Dize Paula Murphy	Age UK Kensington & Chelsea Hestia (Local Involvement Network Kensington & Chelsea)
Mental Health	Jill Watson	SMART
Social Enterprise	Marie Mulchahy	Bee Interested in Portobello
Volunteering	Kirsty Palmer	Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea

Transforming Local Infrastructure – Introducing Raji Hunjan

"Hello, my name is Raji Hunjan, and I have taken over the role of Change Manager for the Transforming Local Infrastructure work. We have now completed our listening phase and are now pressing ahead with work on our five pledges. Our Corporate Partnerships Manager – based at the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation and the Volunteer Centre – has arranged a number of events and activities to bring local

business closer to local voluntary organisations. CaSH is piloting its e-learning courses. We are now developing a joint website and database to ensure a more joined up service to the sector."



Access online learning through the Community Leadership School

Online learning is a great way to learn at your own pace and in your own time. This Spring the Community Leadership School will be promoting online courses in areas such as management

and leadership, personal and professional development, managing change and finance and budgeting.



During February and March the Community Leadership School is running low cost training in strategic planning, project management and developing leadership potential. All training is open to voluntary and community organisations working in the tri-borough. Book your place online.

Getting started in Project Management

Familiarise yourself with the theories and practices of project management.

Part 1: Tuesday 5 February, 9:30am – 4:30pm

Part 2: Tuesday 12 February, 9:30am – 4:30pm

Strategic Planning for Voluntary Organisations

Learn the knowledge and skills required to strategic plan within your organisation.

Part 1: Thursday 21 February, 2 – 5pm

Part 2: Thursday 28 February, 10am – 1pm

Part 3: Thursday 7 March, 4:30 – 7pm

Developing your Leadership Potential

Tuesday 19 March, 5 – 7pm

A masterclass to help you develop your leadership potential, through analysis of your style and skills and improving your understanding of good and bad leadership and management practices.

More info: www.kcsc.org.uk/communityleadership

Contact Angela Spence angela@kcsc.org.uk or call **020 7243 9802**

The Get on Board project has a number of professionals who want to be trustees

Last year, Get on Board Kensington and Chelsea recruited more than **40** trustees for organisations in the borough. We have recently placed five lawyers, a senior Bank of England Executive and a Chief Executive of a multi-million pound marketing company.

If you would like to join the project and meet some fantastic potential trustees, get in touch with the Get on Board team.



Upcoming Get on Board events:

Get Ready for Trustee Recruitment

Thursday 31 January, 6 – 8pm

This session will help you think about what you are looking for in a new trustee, prepare for the upcoming trustee speed-recruiting evening and learn how to induct new trustees.

Trustee Speed-Recruiting

Tuesday 12 February, 6 – 8:30pm

Is your organisation looking for new trustees? Come along and increase your chances of recruiting skilled professionals for your board.

More info: www.kcsc.org.uk/getonboard

Contact getonboard@kcsc.org.uk

020 7243 9807

Change for Children

The Change for Children project has now worked with 35 local children and families organisations. It aims to tackle child poverty by researching ways in which groups can become more responsive to their users' needs in this time of austerity.

A small advisory group is now being set up to support and steer the project. It will offer ideas and advice to ensure that the outcomes are met.



More info: www.kcsc.org.uk/change-for-children

Contact ambika@kcsc.org.uk

020 7243 9806

Upcoming Voluntary Organisations Forums (VOF):

Older Peoples VOF

Monday 18 February, 3 – 5pm

Main VOF

Wednesday 6 March, 9:45am – 1pm

Engaging Communities VOF

Wednesday 20 March, 10am – 12

Children, Young People and Families VOF

Thursday 18 April, 10am – 12:30pm

All Voluntary Organisation Forums are held in the Kensington Town Hall Committee Rooms.