

Bringing about Change



Top Tips for Empowering Your Community

GET READY

10 tips for preparing for action

- 1** Focus on the issues affecting your community, be ready to tell others about them and have a clear idea of what you want to achieve.
- 2** Talk to other people in your community. Bring together people who share the same concerns.
- 3** Gather information and evidence. Keep a record or diary of your findings.
- 4** Find out about local government priorities to see how your concerns fit with them.
- 5** Contact local groups and networks that may be able to help with information, advice and resources.
- 6** Find out about forums and meetings where you can raise your concerns – see the back page of this leaflet for a list of local forums and contact details.
- 7** Find out how local government and other strategic organisations make decisions and when, where and how often they meet.
- 8** Understand the jargon used by decision-makers. Talk to organisations that have information to help you.
- 9** Put together a short leaflet that sets out your message, and use it to get support for your concerns and to keep people informed of progress.
- 10** In highlighting your concerns always remember to showcase your successes and what your organisation has achieved.

MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN

10 tips to bring about change

- 1** Attend the right meetings where policies are discussed and decisions are made.
- 2** Ask questions, write letters to decision makers, be positive and non-confrontational.
- 3** Know the timescale for decisions and make your views known in good time.
- 4** Work in partnership with other people, organisations and groups with the same concerns, to be more effective.
- 5** Become a representative for your community on a local forum or network, and stand for election onto a borough partnership, advisory group or working group.
- 6** Be clear about whom you need to influence. Contact your local Councillor, London Assembly Member, Member of Parliament or Member of European Parliament to make your case and to get their help and support.
- 7** Enlist the help of community leaders and demonstrate the support of your community by, for example, organising a petition.
- 8** Be ready to respond to every opportunity to have your say. Take part in consultation events and open meetings.
- 9** Develop relationships with the decision-makers. Listen to what they have to say and tell them about your ideas.
- 10** Remember! Change can take time – believe you can do it.



The Kensington and Chelsea **Partnership**



Kensington & Chelsea Social Council co-ordinates four Voluntary Organisations' Forums (VOFs) which are open to all voluntary and community organisations, that work in or serve the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Voluntary Organisations' Forum (VOF)

The Main Organisation Forum meets quarterly, it brings together voluntary and community organisations in the borough. The Forum acts as a community empowerment network feeding into the local strategic partnership and electing representatives to sit on strategy and planning groups.

Engaging Communities VOF

The Engaging Communities Voluntary Organisations' Forum, meets quarterly to look at issues such as equalities, community cohesion and ways of building an inclusive community.

Children, Young People and Families VOF

The Children, Young People and Families Voluntary Organisations' Forum meets quarterly, bringing together service providers to address the well being of their service users.

Older Peoples VOF

The Older People's Voluntary Organisations' Forum represents the interests of voluntary sector organisations providing services to older people in the borough.

To find our more information about local forums and networks in Kensington and Chelsea, to download useful policy information and to book to attend local events visit the KCSC website, www.kcsc.org.uk

Kensington and Chelsea Social Council

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