

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Cllr Mary Weale (Chairman)
Cllr Charles Williams (Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health)
Cllr Monica Press

Voluntary Organisation Representatives in Attendance

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Angela Spence | (Kensington and Chelsea Social Council) |
| Val Patterson | (Education) |
| Clare Richards | (Education) |
| Baljit Badesha | (Advice) |
| Jamie Renton | (Equality & Inclusivity) |
| Amelia Mustapha | (Mental Health) |
| Andrew Croxford | (Volunteering) |
| Helen Leech | (Health and Wellbeing) |

Also in Attendance

Cllr Elizabeth Campbell, Leader of the Council
Cllr Catherine Faulks
Michael Clarke (Director of Communications and Community Engagement)
Callum Wilson (Children's Services Strategic Commissioner)
Melanie Marshman (Head of Community Engagement Team)
Michael Ashe
Robyn Fairman
Shai Richardson (Minutes)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 1.1 Councillor Weale welcomed the group to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Rupa Parmer.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 None.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 May 2017

- 3.1 Cllr Weale commented on the length of the minutes which could be reduced in future.
3.2 Helen Leech wished to add that she had sent her apologies in advance of the previous meeting.

4. QUESTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE GRENFELL TOWER FIRE

- 4.1 Cllr Weale introduced the report of the Chief Executive of Kensington and Chelsea Social Council on behalf of the Voluntary Sector.

- 4.2 With regard to the fire safety Michael Clarke informed the group that residents were being engaged. Robyn Fairman reported that given concerns of fire safety procedures, the TMO and Council is increasingly building on the fire safety of all stock property.
- 4.3 Cllr Weale added that emergency planning fell under her remit and the review of this planning should ultimately involve the voluntary sector.

Action: Melanie Marshman to inform Voluntary Sector about the process and timeframe of this inclusion to Emergency Planning.

- 4.4 Discussing the Councils approach to housing disabled people with mobility issues, Jamie Renton said he was aware of Councils interactions with these groups and had no concerns. However, the Council will need to be concerned about the 4th floor policy in their high rise buildings. Cllr Press added that given the situation, the Council should consider reviewing individual cases of these residents, as opposed to applying the structured criteria for assessing needs of individuals which can be complex.
- 4.5 Baljit Badesha raised his concern that residents with mobility issues were not always seen as having medical priorities in Housing. Cllr Weale believed these residents would regularly be advised to apply for homes on lower level floors and there is a Council point system which offer priority to those with the most points. Cllr Weale offered to refer the matter to Housing.

Action: Cllr Weale to make a reference to Housing about this concern.

- 4.7 Cllr Weale invited the group to share feedback about the Councils model of support to residents. To offer more insight, Robyn Fairman stated that a large numbers of support/key workers had been recruited as well as the implementation of a resettlement package which supports residents to choose home furnishing and access bespoke support. Amelia Mustapha questioned how this would be quality assured.
- 4.8 In response, Robyn Fairman explained that in the immediate aftermath, over 320 social workers were recruited from across London, they took on this role in addition to their regular workloads. Their introductions were part of an emergency response. This is now in the process of shifting and improving. Cllr Weale added there is vast knowledge to attain to understand this borough which understandably cannot be gained instantly. The group acknowledged that this could be where the voluntary sector could work in partnership with these social workers.
- 4.9 Following on from feedback from the group about the poor experiences some residents faced with their key workers, Robyn Fairman said that the Council appreciated the feedback and acknowledged that there had also been some hard working case workers too, and the Council look to build on this.
- 4.10 On the subject of the Voluntary organisations role with working with residents through resettlement, Cllr Press reflected on the valuable role of Residents' Associations and that this could also be valuable for case workers.
- 4.11 Cllr Press voiced concerns from the public about how the donated funds are being spent and distributed. Robyn Fairman informed the group that the Charity Commission were releasing this information, however the format in which the information is being shared may ask more questions than it answers.

- 4.12 Clare Richards added that information from the Charity Commission was being released every Thursday and they are gradually contacting every charity who has raised funds for the relief effort, to ensure funds are being dealt with accordingly. Clare added that social media is rife with stories about charities holding onto the money.
- 4.12 Cllr Weale summarised discussions and recommended that the information is added to the Grenfell newsletter and the Voluntary Sector share donation spend information on their media channels to create a clearer picture and the Charity Commission is notified of their table formats complexity.

Action: Clare Richards to contact the Charity Commission about financial reporting format.

- 4.13 The Leader invited the group to ask any questions about moving forward. Val Patterson raised concerns from Royal Borough residents about the housing waiting list. Although residents were both understanding and sympathetic to Grenfell residents, they are concerned about further delays for their own housing needs. Robyn Fairman responded with news that there are plans to acquire 400 social housing properties, which was an ambitious target. To rehouse Grenfell, they are sourcing 250 extra units, however families have split which will mean locating additional unit.
- 4.14 Baljit Badesha shared his thoughts of the Housing list in theory being temporarily closed to those not affected by Grenfell, most of those waiting have experienced at least a decade on a slow moving list, and the addition of 400 new properties may not make much difference to the waiting list. Baljit Badesha observed that the Grenfell Tragedy has shown how fragile social housing is and the Council should relay this to central government.
- 4.15 Cllr Weale stressed that the central government are in fact aware of the incredible task at hand to rehouse those affected by Grenfell and this will be a learning curve for them.
- 4.16 Michael Ashe offered a view of residents maybe wanting to develop their own properties. This is a new approach the Council may need to consider but this could mean residents taking on homes which do not have to be fully refurbished but creates an opportunity for residents to create something themselves. Cllr Press added that there are conversations in the Council about changing culture and residents needs and we are looking at what is feasible.

5. FUTURE ENGAGEMENT FOLLOWING GRENFELL

- 5.1 Angela Spence introduced the paper and highlighted the importance of community engagement, and engaging with residents about services, and using the BVOAG to create outcomes to enhance community engagement.
- 5.2 Michael Clarke said he was working with the Council to get a clearer picture of what the Council is and should be doing in terms of engagement and most of what Gold Command had been doing has been handed back to the Council. This presents a good opportunity to work out what and where things are being done and integrate with the voluntary sector. The Group unanimously agreed they would like to start speaking about this and use the BVOAG to explore different options. Jamie Renton echoed the importance of the BVOAG and this meeting was an example of how the Council liaise with the voluntary sector, and that this co-production can be a starting point.
- 5.3 Amelia Mustapha suggested looking at the private sector examples of good practices, as opposed to following other Councils.

- 5.4 Angela Spence enquired about Gold Commands Community Engagement which had come to a halt. Robyn Fairman replied stating community engagement was ongoing and the response team are engaging with particular groups within local communities. This is an opportunity for the voluntary organisations to link with the groups. Especially as some of these smaller groups and organisations heavily involved in Grenfell may have weaknesses in their infrastructure which larger organisations could help with.
- 5.6 Following discussions of support at the Curve, Michael Ashe said that the group ought to remember that individuals who have needs are not only victims, but those who have assisted since the first day and have worked tirelessly.
- 5.7 Cllr Weale stated that she and Melanie Marshman will think about a future meeting to discuss the further.

6. VOLUNTARY SECTOR MATTERS

- 6.1 Val Patterson shared concerns about schools in the Royal Borough which are not allowing sixth-form students who have achieved lower grades to return to school. This is causing grief to parents as well as mental health issues for children. Val added that a number of Councillors were governors of schools. Angela Spence confirmed that this was occurring before Grenfell and should be looked into as a matter of urgency. Recognising the importance of the topic and Cllr Emma Will, Lead Member for Family Services and Education not being at the meeting to issue a response, Cllr Weale requested that Val contacts Cllr Will directly.
- 6.2 Amelia Mustapha said there had been scrutiny around the Grenfell support as the voluntary sector are hearing things are not going as well as they should. The Leader stressed much has and is being done and one possible contributor to this speculation may be that the Council is not releasing enough information about this.
- 6.3 The Group shared views of the need of residents after they had been rehoused and reports that they cannot access local GPs. Cllr Press said that these issues were being scrutinised and the Council is learning from them.

7. COUNCIL GENERAL MATTERS

- 7.1 Melanie Marshman informed the group that the Small Grants fund will be open to applicants on 1 October. A total of £19,834 will be made available, and Silver Sunday will begin on 1 October.
- 7.2 Clare Richards queried as to whether the Councils City Living, Local Life fund was still open as she has been informed of organisations not hearing back from the Council. They were under the assumption that there was a break in funding due to Grenfell. Melanie Marshman assured Clare that the grant is open throughout the year and she is happy to follow up on any specific cases. Cllr Weale added that ward Councillors are now to be notified of remaining spend every three months to ensure spending.
- 7.4 Angela Spence asked for an update about the Bi-Borough arrangements and queried about the cancellation of the AGM and whether the Council will reschedule another date, however the group are happy for the Council to make a decision on this. Melanie Marshman said another AGM this year may be unlikely however there is a possibility of a seminar or collaborative meeting as a suitable alternative.
- 7.5 Val Patterson enquired about the Notting Hill Police Station closure and shared the public's growing anxiety especially so soon after Grenfell. Cllr Weale shared Val Patterson's concerns and said she was unimpressed by the proposed planned

alternatives presented by the Mayors officer and the Council is thinking of suitable further action.

10. ANY OTHER ORAL OR WRITTEN ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

10.1 None.

10.2 The next meeting will be on Monday 11th December.

Meeting ended 19:55