

PRESENT

RBKC Councillors

Councillor Sarah Addenbrooke, Lead Member for Adult Social Care
Councillor Catherine Faulks, Lead Member for Skills and Enterprise
Councillor Gerard Hargreaves, Lead Member for Communities and Culture (Chair)
Councillor Walaa Idris, Deputy Lead Member for Communities and Culture

Voluntary Organisation Representatives in Attendance

Baljit Badesha (BB) – Nucleus Community Action Ltd
Iain Cassidy (IC) – Open Age
Amelia Mustapha (AM) – Smart London – Left at 6pm
Val Patterson (VP) – Westway Community Trust
Jamie Renton (JR) – Action Disability Kensington and Chelsea
Angela Spence (AS) – Kensington & Chelsea Social Council

Council Officers

Sharon Grant (SG) – Adult Social Care
Ruby Jackson (RJ) – Community Engagement (Minute/Action Taker)
Monsur Khan (MK) – Community Engagement
Jas Purewal (JP) – Community Engagement
Paul Rackham (PR) – Adult Social Care
Etiene Steyn (ES) – Children's Services

A1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 Councillor Hargreaves welcomes the group and attendees introduce themselves.
1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Michael Ashe (Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea), Karimah Bint Dawoud (Karimahs Cuisinaa), Jess Millwood (Age UK), Clare Richards (St Clement & St James), Councillor Portia Thaxter and Councillor Emma Will (Lead Member for Family Services and Education). AS explained that a rep from Venture Centre is not in attendance as they are in the process of finding an interim.

A2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

2.1 None

A3. UPDATE ON YOUTH REVIEW

3.1 ES gave an overview of the work of the Youth Review, guiding everyone to the 4 key priorities in the report. ES highlighted that a key emerging theme was young people wanted a greater say in the services that are aimed at them.
3.2 Councillor Hargreaves enquired about approval of the implementation of the Review, ES confirmed Leadership Team members approved it in December 2018 and it's now in the implementation phase, with further development of proposals and the procurement of services to be delivered from September 19.
3.3 JR asked how the needs of young disabled people are being brought into and included in the implementation. ES explained this was looked at closely as part of the specification of Youth Hubs and Youth Clubs (priority), which includes the aims to serve vulnerable groups, such as young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
3.4 VP asked if there were going to be budget cuts to the Youth Services and how it will affect the voluntary sector, ES confirmed that although there is a national reduction in the youth services budget, RBKC is still a top spending authority in London per young person.
3.5 VP queries how the appointment of CEO of the Youth Foundation will be independent

and not controlled by the Council. ES explains there will be a set of 4 initial trustees who are as neutral and independent as possible, with only one representative being the Council; the purpose of these 4 trustees will be to register the charity and appoint the CEO, and the post will be advertised to the public. Once the CEO is confirmed to post, 5 or 6 more trustees will be appointed. ES stated that the Board of Trustees will be individuals who are well respected/regarded in the community, who have strong links to the business sector and who have a genuine interest in improving the outcomes for young people in the borough.

ACTION ES: To bring update on the Youth Review to members of this Group.

3.6 AS praised the engagement process of the Youth Review so far, and Councillor Hargreaves echoed this and the amount of hard work that has gone into it.

3.7 ES stated there is a Drop-In Session on Tuesday 5 March, 4-7pm (new date), Small Hall, Kensington Town Hall. This event is focused on obtaining feedback from young people especially, but is open to community groups, voluntary sector organisations or residents interested in youth services. The aim of the event is to promote the youth offer being implemented, to obtain further feedback on those proposals and to promote the Council offer to young people in the borough.

A4. PERSONALISATION

4.1 SG explained this is one of the six priorities for Adult Social Care. It is a way of thinking about care/support in a different way which puts residents/patients at the heart of the services they receive enabling them to exercise true choice and control. The people around the table have been part of a collaborative group who have designed a set of standards around how we will work with providers and the community (AM, AS and JR sit on this group).

4.2 A key priority of Personalisation is Market Shaping, which involves developing the market so that there is more choice available for an individual when selecting the services to help them meet their assessed eligible needs. AS said that she recognises the importance for this, but queried how this will affect the voluntary sector, and asked if there is an evidence base where this has already been implemented and deemed successful? SG confirmed that a literature review has been done on other areas which have adopted the same model and been successful. In addition, Personalisation is a legal requirement under the Care Act where there are duties around ensuring care is personalised and that personal budgets are recognised as a way for a person to exercise choice and take control. This may mean that people choose to get their support from different providers who are not commissioned. JR observed that the Council has limited funds for essential services, so can only use market shaping to an extent, or the Council will be seen as being pulled in two different directions. SG stated this is not the case – personalisation is not only about direct payments it is about the way a service is delivered and the way we think about residents and how we talk to each other, the way assessments are conducted. It is an approach.

4.3 AM shared her observation that some recipients may miss out by falling through gaps in the assessment process. There was a general observation in the group that CCGs and Health services may find it hard to put certain personalisation priorities into action. SG stated that the issue is not one to do with Personalisation but to do with assessment and effectiveness of secondary care services.

4.4 IC asked where Prevention fitted in? PR confirmed Prevention is also a priority but that this is being looked at as part of a review. SG confirmed that under the Care Act Prevention this is also a legal duty.

4.5 Councillor Hargreaves asked the Group how the BVOAG can contribute to these discussions/the agenda moving forward. AS suggested to keep a focus on the agenda at the highest level, and it can be added to a BVOAG agenda.

A5. FUTURE AND PURPOSE OF BVOAG MEETINGS

5.1 AS emphasises the importance of these meetings, and the outcome from an independently facilitated session in February 2018 was that the meetings gave a chance for both the voluntary sector and RBKC to discuss matters in a safe and open forum. There is the need for more actions to be generated from the meetings and outcome to be apparent.

5.2 The Group agreed that moving forward, there is the need to get other community groups involved, and to have smaller meetings in between BVOAG meetings to take actions further. VP emphasised BVOAG meetings need to be real and effective, rather than tokenistic – taking examples from KCSC Forums, where all voluntary organisations can meet (old and new).

5.3 VP also suggested holding elections more frequently.

5.4 IC queried the purpose of the meeting, whether to generate actions and outcomes, or to act as an open forum for other sub-groups to form to generate outcomes?

5.5 The majority of the Group agreed Housing is a key issue that the voluntary sector would like to discuss. Councillor Hargreaves suggested for future meetings to limit to one or two discussions items to give enough time to each one. PR recommended below action.

ACTION AII: to meet in between BVOAG meetings to discuss other specific issues and get in touch with officers, rather than waiting to discuss at the next BVOAG meeting.

5.6 MK asked the Group about the frequency of BVOAG meetings. The Group decided there should be 3 meetings per year, plus an annual event (see A6).

ACTION MK/AS: To agree dates/months of future meetings

5.7 The Group agreed 5-7pm for meetings is preferable, and that Wednesdays should be avoided.

A6 ANNUAL EVENT

6.1 MK asked for Group's opinion on holding an annual event for Voluntary sector organisations. AS confirmed this was discussed and encouraged at their representatives' meeting, and that a conference/seminar type session followed by a networking session, to include Councillors and Officers is favourable.

6.2 VP suggested that the event could incorporate learning opportunities for voluntary organisations, which often do not get the opportunity or are not able to afford learning and development programmes.

6.3 Councillor Faulks suggested voluntary organisations need to decide on time that is best for them. The Group agreed September would work, and that an afternoon-early evening combination is preferable.

ACTION AS/MK: To discuss dates/ideas for event moving forward.

6.4 MK stated that the Community Engagement team can offer resources in the organisation and implementation of this annual event.

A7 KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA COMPACT

7.1 AS explained to the Group that since the last BVOAG meeting the Compact only exists in draft form (copy distributed). That draft was never approved or finalised. AS highlighted the importance of the Compact to the voluntary sector, as where commissioners often change, the compact is a viable tool and shows guidance and a working relationship with the Council.

7.2 Councillor Hargreaves suggested that the current Compact is read by all in order to refresh and update it.

7.3 MK suggested that further instruments may be needed to strengthen the implementation of the Compact, ie looking at Compact Champions and the previous Compact Implementation Group. MK pointed out the Compact is referred to in Corporate Services Grants Funding Agreements.

ACTION MK/AS: Explore further options regarding how to strengthen the Compact

ACTION All: Look over Compact (not with a view to re-write) and send observations back by **Friday 22 February** to CommunityEngagement@rbkc.gov.uk

7.3 Councillor Faulks suggested badges/awards distributed recognise the work to support/promote/implement the Compact at the annual event.

7.4 VP suggested that all RBKC staff should be made aware of the Compact. JP explained that Community Engagement Staff Events have and are being held to encourage Community Engagement across the whole Council and reflects the principles in the Compact.

A8 FUTURE ITEMS FOR BVOAG MEETINGS (Brexit No Deal Contingency Plan)

8.1 AS asked the question regarding contingency planning in the borough, such as scenarios and resilience. Specifically, what a No Deal would mean for voluntary organisations and funding from the Council?

8.2 ES stated Children's Services have written to commissioned providers with some guidance (from DfE). BB explained lots of residents are coming to Nucleus for advice yet Nucleus, like most other advice centres, are unsure of what guidance to give.

8.3 All agree that nothing can be done immediately, but this will remain on the agenda for upcoming meetings when there is more clarity.

A9 AOB

9.1 No other business

Councillor Hargreaves thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 6:50pm.