

Summary Notes

Borough Voluntary Organisations Advisory Group Meeting

12th February 2020

Attendees

Angela Spence, KCSC
Baljit Badesha, Nucleus Advice
Amelia Mustapha, SMART London
Val Patterson, Westway Trust
Michael Ashe, Volunteer Centre
Clare Richards, Clement James Centre
Jamie Renton, Action Disability Kensington and Chelsea
Jess Millwood, Age UK K&C
Josh McTaggart, Chelsea Theatre
William Roberts, Venture Community Association
Cllr Anne Cyron, Lead Member for Communities
Cllr Sarah Addenbrooke, Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
Cllr David Lindsay, Lead Member for Family and Children's Services
Damian Atkinson, Head of Community Engagement (Interim)
Monsur Khan, Community Engagement Manager
Alpa Ghumra, Third Sector Support Officer
Dina Papa Michael, Rocket Science UK

Actions agreed:

- BVOAG meetings to be quarterly with meetings being 1.5hrs
- Meeting venues to be in voluntary sector organisations
- Agenda items to be pre-planned and relevant officers to attend meetings
- Lead Members with responsibility for other areas of work to be invited depending on agenda
- Agenda items at future meetings could include: Housing, knife crime, social prescribing, commissioning priorities for future, Council's direction of travel in terms of working with voluntary sector

Presentation

- Presentation delivered by BVOAG members Angela Spence, Amelia Mustapha, Michael Ashe and Jamie Renton
- Angela Spence spoke about repositioning who we are as the voluntary sector, operating in K&C following the Grenfell tragedy.

- Amelia Mustapha talked about services delivered by local people, maintaining independence, having an up to date Compact Code of Practice, and relational not transactional interactions.
- Bi-Borough Adult Social Care and Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea (ADKC) are providing training for new social workers. This is a co-production initiative and a pilot for more innovative approaches.
- Michael Ashe spoke the about the Transformation agenda – Where can we make the biggest difference? Is there space for joint working? Can we take responsibility? The local population come first, working with them, consulting with and listening to them, and opening up participation in decisions that affect them.
- Michael Ashe mentioned City Bridge Trust has recently funded an initiative where KCSC and VCKC will work together to narrow the gap between residents and the voluntary sector.

Group discussion

- There was discussion on being fair to the whole of the borough – Kensington & Chelsea as a whole.
- There was discussion about giving the decisions to the people. Building trust through sharing responsibility. Cllr Cyron cited the work of the Grenfell Projects Fund and the participatory decision-making that was delivered.
- Group discussed the value of sharing what comes out from consultation initiatives. Residents do not always get find out the outcome following consultation. Participation should have strategic direction.
- Culture Strategy was picked up as an example where the use of jargon should be avoided, and accessible English used. To be fed back to strategic forums. There should be a service user led approach in the design of strategy thus eliminating a lack of communication and understanding.