Report from CEO of KCSC for BVOAG



15 December 2016

This report is written with the support of BVOAG representatives on behalf of the local voluntary and community sector which covers matters since the last BVOAG meeting.

**Grant and contract decisions**

First of all the representatives would like to say thank you to the council for the recent news of continued 2 year funding for those organisations in receipt of adult social care and children and families grants. This in addition to the Corporate grants 2 year funding is welcome news and allows the much needed services to continue.

Having raised the issue of gtrants and contracts over the past few months and the timing in which these decisions are announced.

**Representatives would like to hear the council’s thoughts on what they hope will be achieved through this renewed commitment.**

**New CEOs**

**Healthwatch**

**Transformation agenda**

**Universal credit**

**Propeprty hub -**

Having discussed the future of the BVOAG at our representative meeting, all reps want to express how much they value BVOAG as an essential mechanism for maintaining good communications and relationship development with the council. It is recognised that at time when there are less resources around thus greater pressure on time it is acceptable to reduce the meetings to 4 a year including the AGM instead of 5. The representatives want to make it known that whenever they are in other parts of London with other voluntary sector colleagues, the BVOAG is envied and so in not taking it for granted we are all keen to make it work for everyone.

**Representatives would like to hear the council’s response to this statement.**

**Post Brexit**

Following the referendum results as representatives we do have concerns on what the implications could be at a local level. There has been a rise in hate crime and concerns Brexit would increase those levels means looking at how we work together to combat bigotry and hate. Advice agencies have also noticed a demand in requests for support to gain resident permits. This relates to EEA nationals who initially were making phone/drop in enquiries about what this would mean for them. Now they are enquiring about the process of applying for permanent residency. This currently has an application form about 85 pages long (although this may not all be applicable depending on activities) and requires proof of exercising treaty rights for the last 5 years.

Shared Services

Unofficially reps have heard that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham although will not undo shared services with Westminster and RBKC will no longer be seeking to develop any future shared services/opportunities.

**Does the council have any comments on this and what reassurance can be given about the future relationship with H&F and its impact on current shared services?**

Having spoken to Melanie from the Comm Eng Team, I know that this information has not formally gone out to the public yet so had a discussion whether to include this and if the council would answer the questions posed. We will pick this up again early September before the report is submitted.

**VCS Space**

KCSC has met recently with property and Corporate Services to discuss a possible workshop with the local voluntary and community sector to explore a physical hub for sharing back office functions and creating flexible working space. We hope that this event will be in the autumn and will lead to some tangible outcomes that will address some of the challenges of longer term affordable community space in the borough.

**Future VCS Funding**

This item was raised at the last meeting as well as a question asked at the BVOAG annual meeting about the future plans for VCS funding across children and families and adult social care. Whilst there is now some positive developments that funding streams are being rolled over until March 2017 there still remains the uncertainty of what happens beyond that time. Earlier rather than later consultation is what the VCS seeks in order to prepare for possible changes.

**Is the council in a position to respond to this?**

**Youth Foundation**

KCSC is working with John Lyons to facilitate meetings to look at the development of a Youth Foundation. Foundations are being set up in other surrounding boroughs supported by John Lyons and the intention has been mooted to set up a Foundation in Kensington and Chelsea. We do recognise that there may be some challenges here that might not face other boroughs particularly if a Foundation exists already locally. This will need to be explored in-depth as we move forward.

(\I’m not sure whether to public make that statement underlined or not – your thoughts welcome),

**Elections**

Elections for BVOAG reps takes place every two years with 2016 being the year elections are due. The process will begin in the autumn and by December’s BVOAG meeting we will have the name of BVO

**Moving on**

**I will add something here on reps who are moving on**

**Angela Spence**

**KCSC**