



EARL'S COURT & CHELSEA FORUM

Thursday 29 January 2014, 3.30pm – 5pm

Earl's Court YMCA, SW5 9QJ

ATTENDEES:

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| Alistair Dinsmore | Earl's Court YMCA |
| Amina Khatun | Kensington & Chelsea Social Council |
| Jennifer Ware | Earl's Court Society |
| Kuldip Bajwa (minutes) | Kensington & Chelsea Social Council |
| Lily Ostasiewicz | New Horizons Centre |
| Linda Wade | Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea |
| Tasio Cabello | Age UK Kensington and Chelsea |
| Ximena Chiesa | Age UK Kensington and Chelsea |

APOLOGIES RECEIVED:

Vanessa Kelly

World's End and Lots Road Big Local

| 1 | WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES Kuldip Bajwa, Kensington & Chelsea Social Council (KCSC) | ACTION |
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| 1.1 | Kuldip welcomed everyone to the forum and invited members to introduce themselves and their organisations. | |
| 2 | K&C POVERTY & INEQUALITY NETWORK (KCPIN) Amina Khatun, KCSC | |
| 2.1 | The KCPIN is a KCSC project, succeeding Poverty Watch. It aims to bring together voluntary organisations to work alongside other stakeholders to help tackle poverty and inequality in RBKC. | |
| 2.2 | Following discussion the KCPIN has chosen to focus its work on housing and in particular problems of affordability in the private rented sector. Local voluntary and community organisations are welcome and encouraged to get involved. The KCPIN meets regularly and meetings are advertised in advance on the KCSC website. | |
| 2.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda commented that the condition of private rented property in the borough is also an issue and how people with protected tenancies are being affected by work that is carried out around them in residential blocks. Alistair said young people on benefits faced a particular problem because the benefit cap meant they couldn't afford private rents. | |

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| | ECCF members present to be added to the KCPIN mailing list to receive future updates. | KB |
| 3 | VOLUNTARY SECTOR MANIFESTO FOR GENERAL ELECTION Amina Khatun, KCSC | |
| 3.1 | <p>Amina is leading on work to develop a voluntary sector manifesto to highlight issues of importance for local voluntary groups. These will include issues that directly affect the sector and wider issues that affect communities in RBKC.</p> <p>The manifesto will be used to lobby prospective parliamentary candidates in Kensington and Chelsea and Fulham.</p> | |
| 3.2 | A voluntary sector election hustings event involving candidates from the Kensington constituency will take place at Kensington Town Hall on 24 April. | |
| 3.3 | <p>Amina asked the meeting to individually write down what they consider to be the key issue in the forthcoming election in relation to local communities. Attendees also broke into two groups to discuss a number of pre-prepared questions that relate to the sector and communities. Issues raised by the 2 groups included:</p> <p>Issues that affect vol sector groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding - the way funding keeps changing e.g. commissioning replacing grants. Target driven funding and too much specificity. A gap between needs we those for which funding is available. Lack of core and follow on funding. • Space – the lack of, and affordability. This includes space for outdoor activity. • Regulation and the amount of paperwork/admin that is required to comply with rules such as health and safety. • Disjointed relationships with the statutory sector because of the amount of churn in RBKC and health services. Need for more connectivity and communication. • A need to protect infrastructure services. • Cuts to services does not reflect saving to money. • The council does not have a long term vision. • There is a need for more volunteers for organisations. <p>Issues that are affecting communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of support for people downsizing to smaller homes • The standard of in home care services has suffered because of cutbacks. Previously excellent support from RBKC, is no longer available. • Splintered services with a lack of integration. • Advocacy in health is important • Personal budgets – are people using these effectively? • People are being put in temporary accommodation, on the housing list. 8,000 people and then people being moved out of the borough. • Everyone has a right to a home. • It is important to achieve diversity in borough. It is about having safety in a mixed community. • It is diversity that brings vitality. | |
| 4 | NEWS EXCHANGE AND UPDATES | |

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| 4.1 | Alistair Dinsmore welcomed everybody to the YMCA and told us about how the Centre operates. He said he is happy to offer the YMCA as a venue for meetings to local voluntary groups. | |
| 4.2 | Linda Wade said Earl's Court CLLL has an opportunity to apply for environmental funding to make small local improvements to the area. She is on the lookout for areas that could do with improvement. | |
| 4.3 | They are also assessing needs locally of people with personality disorders with a view to work alongside clinicians to make sere services are more responsive. Chelsea Theatre are planning a money advice fair for January, and invited Nucleus to be involved in the event. | |
| 4.4 | Age UK are hosting a Memory Action Alliance meeting on Friday 6 March to which community organisations are invited to attend and consider the health needs of older people. Meeting: Fri 6 Mar, 1-4pm, 1 Thorpe Close, Ladbroke Grove, W10 5QZ | |
| 4.5 | Jennifer Ware circulated a copy of 'The Court' a bi-monthly newsletter from the Earl's Court Society. It is available to pick up at various shops and other outlets throughout Earls Court. | |
| 4.6 | The Earl's Court Society will be moving into 1A Nevern Place which is currently being revamped. | |
| 4.7 | New Horizons have linked up with Westway Community Transport to help people access services in the north of the borough (not just Open Age services). | |
| 7 | ANY OTHER BUSINESS Kuldip said that KCSC are reviewing delivery of voluntary forums for 2015-16 and this will include considering the future of the Earl's Court and Chelsea Forum | KCSC |
| 8 | DATE OF NEXT MEETING | |
| | TBC | |