

Kensington and Chelsea Advice Forum (KCAF)

Thursday 23 March 2017
Committee Room 2, Kensington Town Hall
Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX
10am – 12.30pm

Minutes

Chair/Minutes: Angela Spence, KCSC
Attendance list attached.

	Item	Actions
1	Introductions No apologies received	
2	Minutes of the last meeting & matters arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved• No matters arising	
3	Update on RBKC Housing Allocation Scheme and the Tenant Decant Policy Rob Shaw, Special Projects Lead, Housing, RBKC provided an update on the recent policy changes. Rob began his presentation with paying tribute to Stephen Evans a former colleague from within the housing department who had recently died. Stephen had played a key role in the development of the Housing Allocation Scheme. Housing Allocation Scheme Under Right to Move – Rob confirmed that no one had made any applications as part of the social mobility drive. People in temporary accommodation – capital savings had been made from £16,000 to £30,000 Tenant Decant Policy Treverton and Warwick Road – Cabinet decision on regeneration in May for Silchester it would be in June. The update to the 2011 policy was required to update commitments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Flexible 5 year tenancy- £5800 increase in payments- Eligible households Adult children will also be re-housed. The policy towards leaseholders will be reviewed in several years. Members were asked to look at the 2017 forward plan on RBKC's website.	
4	Update on changes in April that impact housing benefit/housing costs	

	<p>Andrew Wilson, RBKC Benefit Service provided updates for members on Discretionary Housing Payments. The question asked was if there was any DHP left to spend before 31/03/17. Andrew confirmed there was till so money left so if needing to apply it was best to get the application in before the end of the financial year as there would be less money next year.</p> <p>The time limit for DHP was to cover for 1 year but in exceptional cases the funding could cover up to 3 years but the normal time limit is either 3,6 or 12 months. DHP can be backdated if need is demonstrated.</p> <p>See presentation here</p>	
	<p>Personal Support Unit</p> <p>Katrina Hollis provided an update on the PSU and the work carried out to support people going through court case tribunals. PSU was founded in 2001 and is a national organisation with 23 centres across England and Wales. In London there are 7 centres split into civil and family. PSU has 5 paid members of staff and 200 volunteers. They do not provide legal advice but do provide practical and emotional support for people attending court hearings. They do not deal with criminal cases.</p> <p>5 60% of people they support have some level of mental health need particularly in the area of welfare and benefits. They help with form filling, drafting documents for appeal. They can go into court hearings with people and can take notes on their behalf and help with briefing the client on options after the hearing.</p> <p>PSU is funded from central government (45%) and from grants and community fundraising (55%).</p> <p>PSU's work has been increasing mostly around social security and employment tribunals.</p>	
	<p>Updates from strategic meetings</p> <p>6 BVOAG – Annual meeting will take place on 9 May Main VOF – Will take place on 15 June KCPIN – A food poverty round-table event took place in February – notes from the meeting here. No further meetings are planned at the current time since the departure of KCSC's Policy Officer last October</p>	
	<p>Member updates</p> <p>7. CAB – Running End of Life planning/Advanced Care Plans workshops Nucleus – Has volunteer that can write Wills</p>	
	<p>8 AOB</p> <p>No other business raised.</p>	