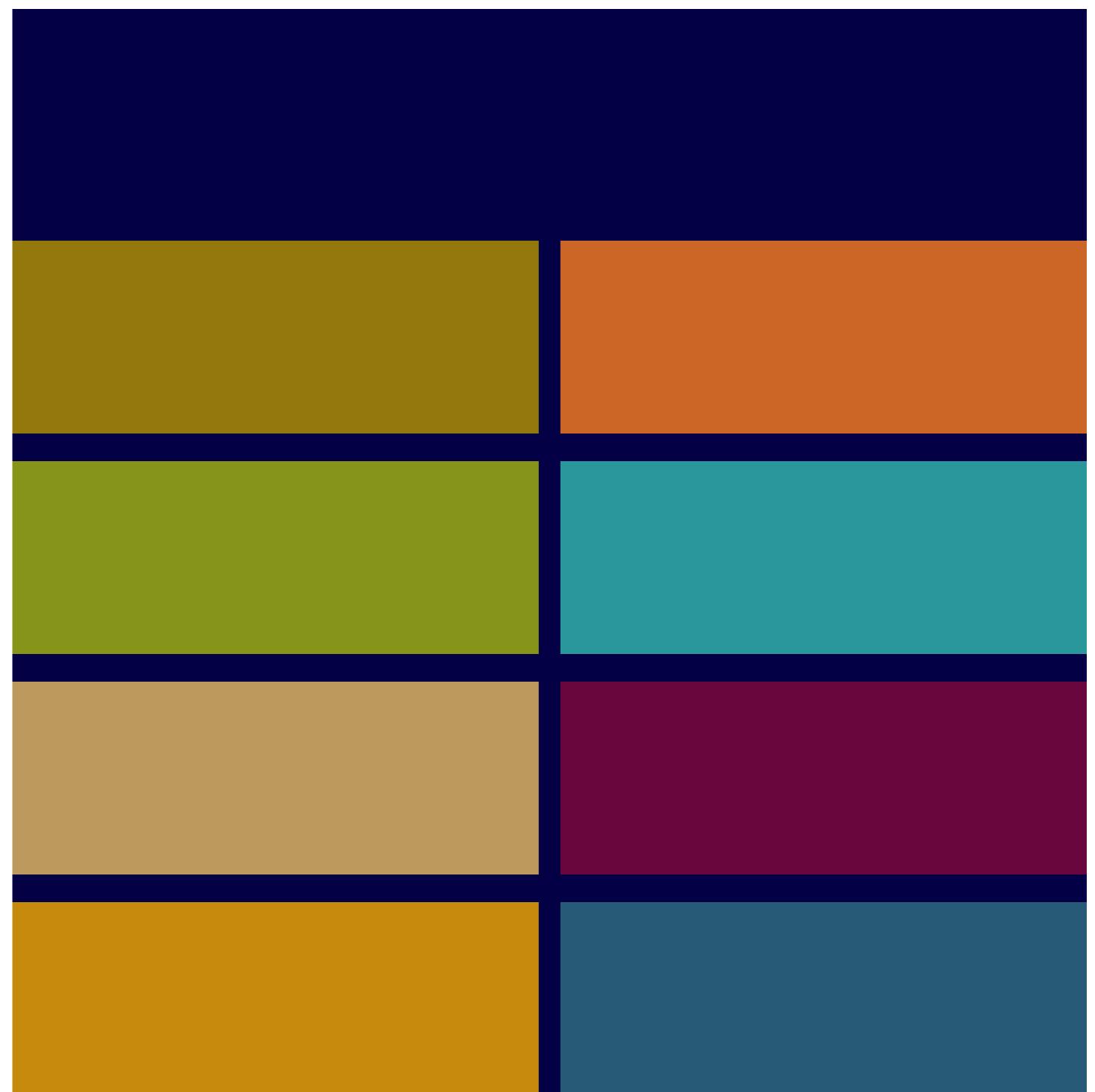
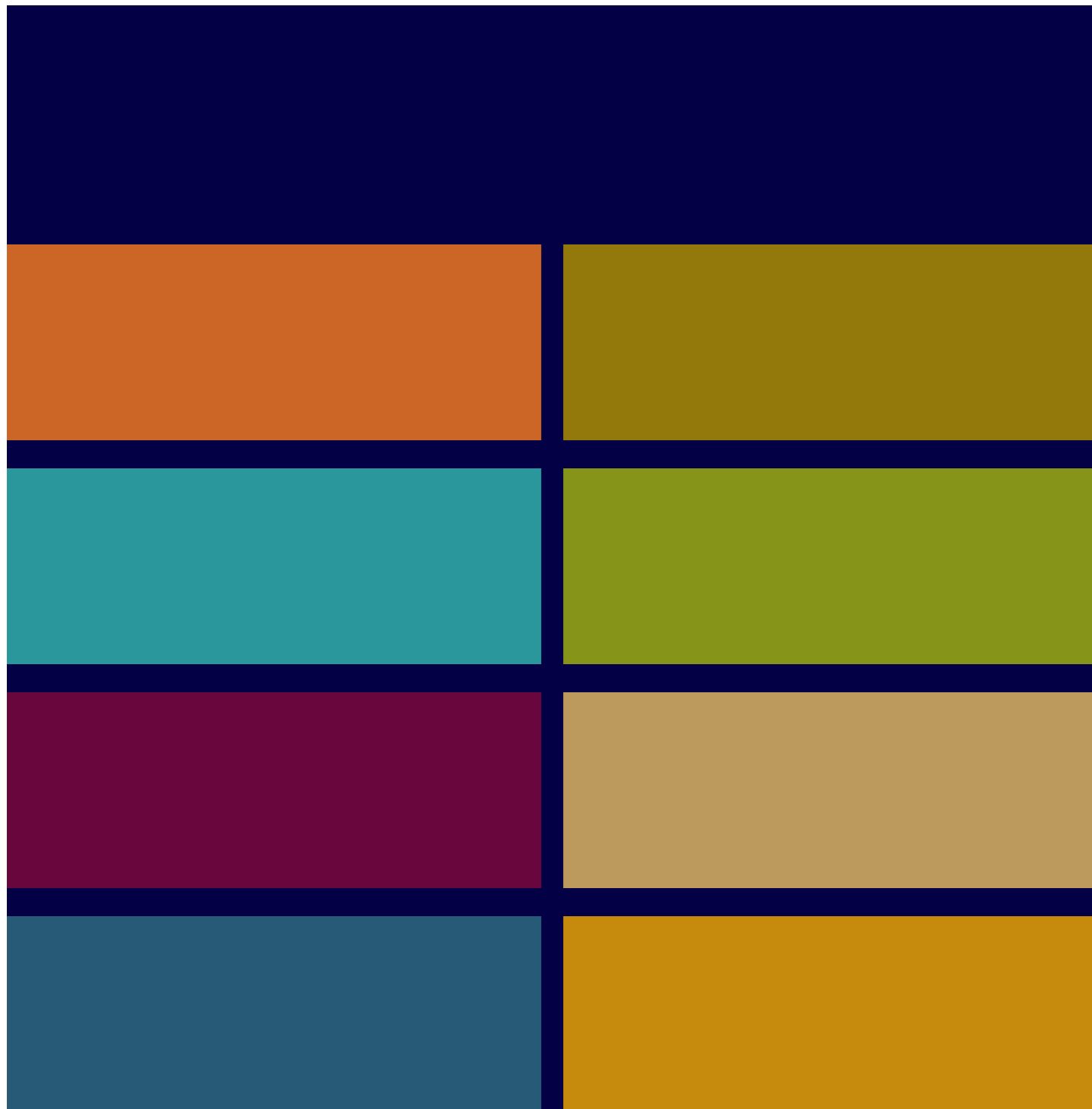


November 2007

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea  
Room 248/a, The Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea  
Community Strategy 2005 – 2015

THE FUTURE OF **OUR COMMUNITY**  
– AN UPDATE



# Contents

The Future of Our Community - An update

page 2

New Plans and Strategies

pages 3 and 4

Forthcoming Plans and Strategies

pages 5 and 6

Additions and Updates

pages 7 - 11

Environment and Transport

pages 7 and 8

Safer Communities

page 8

Health and Social Care

page 9

Community, Equality and Inclusivity

page 10

Work and Business

page 11

# The Future of Our Community – An update

The Future of Our Community – Community Strategy 2005-2015, prepared by the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership, sets out a ten year plan to improve things for people who live in, work in, or visit the Royal Borough.

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership will undertake a full review of the priorities which the strategy contains before the third community strategy is published in November 2008. In the meantime, this is a review of the eight themes within The Future of Our Community, capturing updated information since publication in November 2005.

The Future of Our Community contains eight chapters providing a description of services within that theme in the Royal Borough, views of local people and relevant national factors, together with a set of specific aims and objectives. Since publication, some aims and objectives under these themes have changed. Some have been achieved and some have been replaced with new or updated aims and objectives. This mid-term review sets out these changes and updates and it is intended to be read in conjunction with The Future of Our Community.

# New Plans and Strategies

Since 2005 many new strategies and work plans have been published by organisations across the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership. This section gives a brief description of the ambitions within some of these key plans and strategies.

The **'Environment Strategy – for a more sustainable future – 2006-2011'** was published by the Council in April 2006, after consultation with partners in the public and independent sector, and with local residents. It outlines proposals to advance environmental sustainability in Kensington and Chelsea and builds on some of the ambitions already set out in the community strategy. Since then work has progressed to encourage people to take measures to minimise the environmental impact of transport. A new parking permit charging scheme for residents is set to be introduced in April 2008. Charges will be based on vehicle emissions and there will also be the introduction of a supplementary charge for second and subsequent parking permits in a household to discourage car ownership. Climate change, energy efficiency, waste minimisation and encouraging good practice in procurement all feature in the Environment Strategy and an additional aim plus some new objectives focussing on this activity appear under the Environment and Transport theme.

The **Play Strategy** was published in June 2006. It covers the wide range of community based youth, play and learning opportunities for children and young people in the borough. It draws on issues across each of the eight themes within the community strategy, including

the provision and protection of high quality, accessible public open and play spaces. It has a focus on positive preventative activity and the role that play and early intervention activities can have in children and young people's lives in helping them to stay safe and be healthy. The strategy also focuses on the provision of play and learning opportunities for children and young people with disabilities.

The **Children and Young People's Plan** published in April 2006, focuses on a range of priorities for children, young people and their families. It builds on existing ambitions set out in the community strategy. As part of this, work to progress the introduction of extended services in schools has been underway since 2005. This has resulted in several commitments, such as providing comprehensive study support programmes for children and young people including out of hours learning in the community; ensuring formal and informal learning opportunities for children, young people and their families in children's centres and extended schools; and enhancing the role and function that extended schools can play in supporting community cohesion through the provision of learning, study and family support opportunities for all. This is reflected in new objectives which appear under the Health and Social Care theme.

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The **Public Health and Well-Being Strategy, 'Choosing Good Health Together – 2007 to 2012'** was developed by the Primary Care Trust and the Council and published in September 2007. It emphasises the wide range of influences on our health and the importance of developing healthy, sustainable communities as well as the need to facilitate healthy choices. The Strategy identifies seven priority issues: Alcohol and Drugs, Nutrition, Physical Activity, Mental Health and Well-being, Sexual Health, Smoking, and the Wider Determinants of Health – work, housing and the environment. It draws on existing plans, strategies and services across partner organisations and is concerned with identifying and making use of all the opportunities for improving the health of the population within those plans. The delivery plan for 2007-08 identifies some key areas for achievement which include developing a mental health strategy; developing a food and nutrition strategy which addresses obesity; supporting opportunities for health improvement within the sports strategy; improving opportunities for involvement in arts and cultural activities; supporting the creation of healthy workplaces; helping to address housing needs for vulnerable people including promoting affordable housing for older people; promoting cleaner air and reducing harmful emissions; and improving smoking cessation services. As with the existing community strategy which identified health and well-being as a cross cutting theme, the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership recognise that improving health requires joint thinking and working across the “business” of different organisations and sectors because there is a wide range of factors which affect people’s well-being. So ‘Choosing Good Health Together’ cuts across the eight themes of the community strategy. Specific issues are reflected in the addition of some new objectives under the Health and Social Care theme.

The **Joint Older People’s Strategy, ‘A bright future for all’** was developed by the Council and the Primary Care Trust and published in March 2007. It is a ten-year plan for older people’s services and has four key aims. These are ensuring that existing services become more joined up and that new ones that are commissioned are joined up from the start; developing a wider range of housing options for older people and more services to support them at home and reduce social isolation; preventing older people’s physical and mental health from deteriorating by developing a variety of projects that offer options for well-being and staying independent; and ensuring that older people get help when and where they need it, at a convenient time, from people they trust. It also underlines a commitment to develop a one-stop approach to access, assessment and information for services across the Council and the Primary Care Trust. This is reflected in some amended objectives which appear under the Health and Social Care theme.

## Forthcoming Plans and Strategies

This section sets out some major plans and strategies that are currently being developed or refreshed by organisations within the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership. More detail will follow in the third Community Strategy.

Establishing the new style **Local Development Framework** is currently underway. The themes of the framework’s Core Strategy are improving the quality of life for residents, providing housing to meet community needs, preserving character and ensuring high standards of quality and design; contributing to the wider economic success of London, and enhancing the borough’s significant contribution to sustainability.

The framework will include a **North Kensington Area Action Plan** which will address topics such as improving links with adjacent boroughs, development of major sites in North Kensington that meet the needs of the area, the future of the Employment Zones, retailing in Portobello Road and estate redevelopment. Consultation will be developed in spring 2008.

An independent **Commission on Retail Conservation** was set up in July 2006 in order to examine whether more could be done to preserve the Royal Borough’s town centres and to protect and promote the diversity of retail opportunities available. Of the forty five recommendations made by the Commission, forty have been supported by the Council and were published in September 2007. These recommendations will be picked up in the third community strategy.

A new **Arts and Cultural Strategy for Kensington and Chelsea, 2008-18**, will set out a ten year vision for the arts sector and identify ways to maximise opportunities for encouraging participation and building up capacity in the borough’s arts sector during the Cultural Olympiad, which begins in August 2008.

The Council’s existing **Visitor Management Strategy**, published in 1999 is currently being reviewed with a view to producing a new strategy in 2008. The Council recognises that tourists and visitors are an important feature of life in the borough and will remain key to the prosperity of the local area. An updated arts and cultural strategy and opportunities provided by the Cultural Olympiad make this a good time to take stock.

The **Supporting People Strategy** is being updated during 2007. The annual budget for the programme has been reduced by Government from £11.66 million to £11.2m, though the programme is still providing services to 3549 people. The Council is also developing a Housing Strategy for Older People to look at a range of housing and support options including identifying how best to support the most vulnerable older people.



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The Community Safety Programme Board (a partnership between the local Police, the Council, the Primary Care Trust and the local Fire Service) will publish a new **Community Safety Strategy** in 2008. Since 2005 the number of recorded crimes measured through the British Crime Survey has fallen by 11% in Kensington and Chelsea. Efforts to ensure that residents and visitors feel safe in the borough remain a high priority. In the meantime, the emphasis on supporting and protecting young people and children is reflected in some amended objectives under the Safer Communities theme.

## Additions and Updates

The following are changes made to the aims and objectives within each theme of the existing community strategy. They are intended to be read in conjunction with the community strategy and so only mention additions and updates which reflect current activity. As a result, not all themes appear in this section. **Changed text is highlighted in bold.**

As within the existing community strategy, where particular objectives contribute to health and well-being they have been identified in the text with the symbol , and where particular objectives contribute to the principles of equality and inclusivity, they have been flagged up using the symbol .

### Environment and Transport


The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership's commitment to improving waste and recycling options for residents is reflected in the updated objective below:

AIM 4: To promote energy efficiency, recycling and the reduction of pollution by;

Objective ii.  
improving the borough's waste and recycling collection services, including proposed thrice weekly collections for households with the least amount of storage space, and ensuring that high standards are maintained by SITA.

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership recognise the increasing concern at all levels about climate change, and has therefore introduced the following new aim:

AIM 5: To minimise the impact on climate change by those living and working in the borough by;

i. working to reduce the Council's carbon footprint to zero by 2015; 

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ii. seeking to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gases within the borough through promoting alternative solutions to energy sourcing and use, travel and transport options and waste production and disposal; 📍

iii. encouraging sustainable procurement practices across the Council, Primary Care Trust, police, businesses and the voluntary and community

sectors through promoting sustainable procurement policies including participation in the Mayor of London's Green Procurement Code; 📍

iv. identifying the problems arising from climate change and working with local businesses and organisations to mitigate their impact. 📍

## Safer Communities

The emphasis on supporting and protecting young people and children is strengthened through the following amended objectives:

AIM 1: To ensure that residents are, and feel, secure in their homes and daily lives by;

**Objective ib.**  
reducing the number of violent crimes, particularly domestic violence and offences that involve the use of knives and guns, and where young people are involved; 📍

**Objective vi.**  
improving support for vulnerable adults and children at risk of becoming victims. 📍

The nature of crime, disorder and substance misuse in the borough changes over time and the following objectives address more recent concerns:

AIM 3: To reduce the number of young people involved in crime and disorder either as victims or perpetrators by;

**Objective vi.**  
providing effective support and diversionary activities for those at risk of becoming offenders and/or getting involved in any type of gang activity and dealing effectively with those who are already offending. 📍

AIM 4: To tackle the use of illegal drugs and the misuse of alcohol by;

**Objective iv.**  
developing effective education programmes for young people about avoiding the harm caused by cannabis and other illegal drugs and the misuse of alcohol. 📍

## Health and Social Care

The following new objectives reflect some of the ambitions outlined in the Public Health and Well-Being Strategy:

AIM 1: To improve and protect the overall health of the population and reduce health inequalities by;

**Objective iv.**  
ensuring compliance with the smoke free legislation and to use the opportunity presented by the legislation to reduce the burden of tobacco related ill health;

**Objective v.**  
working with businesses to ensure that tobacco is not sold to young persons under the age of 18.

Work has progressed to provide more opportunities for people to have choice and control over services which they receive and to improve support available for carers in the borough. This is reflected in the amended objectives below:

AIM 3: To improve the experience of patients, carers and users of local health and social care services by;

**Objective iii.**  
making services more responsive to the needs of users, offering people greater choice and control by providing self directed support options such as Individual Budgets, and an opportunity to choose between different services and providers wherever possible, including support to access user led organisations;

**Objective iv.**  
supporting carers, including young carers, so that their quality of life, and their relationship with the person being cared for, are maintained.

The following new objective emphasises a commitment to providing appropriate support to children and young people and their families;

AIM 4: To help children and young people to stay safe and be healthy by;

**Objective vi.**  
developing a borough wide offer of parenting support accessible for all parents who live in the borough or use our services, and ensure the effective assessment and referral within schools of young people and families who have additional needs. 📍

Similarly, support for children with disabilities and their parents is emphasised by the new objective below:

AIM 5: Working in partnership to improve residents' independence and quality of life by;

**Objective vi.**  
improving the provision of respite for carers of children with disabilities, including school and holiday activities for children with disabilities and complex health needs. 📍

## Community, Equality and Inclusivity

Across the Council and partner organisations, work to advance the principles of community engagement has been underway since publication of the community strategy. This includes the development of a strategic commissioning approach to work with and support voluntary organisations. The revised objectives below reflect this new work, and also draw attention to the support provided by the Volunteer Centre (previously the Volunteer Bureau) and the borough's many advice agencies:

AIM 3: To support and develop community life and leadership by;

**Objective iv.**  
helping people to get the advice and information they need, such as **independent social welfare advice**, to tackle challenges, including dealing with harassment and discrimination;

**Objective x.**  
nurturing training to support active citizenship, **including volunteering opportunities** and widening participation in community decision-making, especially among young people and others who are often under-represented on **decision-making bodies**;


Capturing the commitment to build the capacity and infrastructure of the voluntary and community sector, the following objective replaces the existing objective xi.:

**Objective xi.**  
**adopting a strategic approach to commissioning services from the voluntary sector, involving assessing and analysing needs, identifying organisations which meet these needs and ensuring support for small organisations and flexible services which meet fluctuating needs.**

## Work and Business

The new JobCentre Plus office in North Kensington opened in summer 2006 and since then, opportunities to boost employment options in the area have significantly increased. Partnerships with organisations such as the Learning and Skills Council and the Primary Care Trust have also strengthened during this time, reflected in the revised objective below:

AIM 2: To improve the employment prospects of residents, including young people, creating opportunities and tackling barriers which make it difficult for them to gain or retain employment by;

**Objective ii.**  
working with JobCentre Plus, the **Learning and Skills Council**, the **Primary Care Trust** and other public and voluntary sector organisations to address the needs of unemployed and under-employed residents and households, and to promote effective links with employers within Kensington and Chelsea and in neighbouring boroughs. 

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