

**Kensington and Chelsea Partnership  
Steering Group**

**January 14th 2009**

**Making use of LAA1 Performance Reward Grant**

**KCSC Partnership and Forum Support Officer**

**Request for renewal funding to Kensington and Chelsea Social Council of £42,000 per year to continue to support the Voluntary Organisations Forums (VOFs)**

KCSC has been in receipt of funds for almost two years to deliver a project to support community engagement targets as part of LAA1. The allocation has funded a Partnership and Forum Support Officer who coordinates the activities of the project. The project includes running a number of forums each year in order to maintain the local community empowerment network and also ensure that views from the range of local voluntary stakeholder groups are fed into the local strategic partnership.

Since the project has been funded attendance at forums has improved by 25%, and topics covered have led to representatives being elected to sit on KCP and BVOAG, as well as other key strategic partnerships. Currently an average of 35 groups attends main VOF with attendance at sub VOFs at an average of 25. The number of groups that regularly attend is 95 (some groups attend more than one).

The project calls and coordinates 12 meetings of voluntary organisations during the year, aiming to tie topics discussed and introduced into the same general themes as the Community Strategy. It also supports a number of other forums which feed into this work and add to the influence the sector has on local delivery patterns.

In the last year KCSC has added a number of theme based seminars to its programme to give sector members and partners opportunities to debate topics that are currently affecting perceptions of services and patterns of delivery.

This project has been successful in electing and supporting 14 reps from groups to BVOAG as well as 5 reps to KCP. Questions raised at the annual meeting of BVOAG in November related to concerns about the impact of commissioning, the reflection of diversity in funding patterns and the way the work of the sector can support the delivery of the personalisation agenda.

In the last year KCSC has changed one of the VOFs to Engaging Communities in order to attract sector members who deliver direct services that affect cohesion and engagement matters, including housing services to vulnerable clients. This new VOF has become an arena where matters like community safety, single issue work, and ways to consult have dominated discussion. It will have a close relationship with the planned new sub group of KCP and through that to engaging in ways to deliver and measure various targets of the LAA.

Members of KCP are asked to consider extending this funding for the financial year of 2009/10 in order to maintain the post and therefore the project.

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