

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

PROPOSAL FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT MANDATORY OUTCOME 3:

TO EMPOWER LOCAL PEOPLE TO HAVE A GREATER VOICE AND INFLUENCE OVER LOCAL DECISION MAKING AND THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES

1. Background

Voluntary and community organisations in Kensington and Chelsea have been involved in local consultations and decision making processes through representatives on working groups and partnership structures and in direct meetings with Council members and officers and PCT officers. The involvement has been coordinated and facilitated by the Social Council through the Voluntary Organisations Forum (VOF) also known as the Community Empowerment Network (CEN).

In May 2006 the Social Council presented an eight page proposal to the Community Empowerment Working Group indicating how it intended to support community empowerment in five areas. This revised proposal should be read in conjunction with that document (attached as Annex A). The meeting asked the PCT and the Social Council to present a 'partnership' proposal.

Versions of this proposal were presented and discussed at the June 2006 and September meetings of the Community Empowerment Working Group. The September meeting agreed that the proposal would be presented to the November KCP Steering Group meeting after it is revised to include success indicators.

This proposal is about using existing structures (e g VOF) to facilitate communication and interactions within the voluntary and community sector and with statutory bodies so that people can feel that they have a say in and can influence decisions. RBKC councillors and officers and PCT officers have consulted and informed people working in voluntary and community organisations through these structures.

Neither this nor the PCT proposal accepted by the Working Group can contribute directly to the levels of satisfaction reported by members of the residents' panels, unless by coincidence the individuals from voluntary and community organisations happen to be members of residents' panels. However, this proposal provides for continuous consultation, discussions and information exchange between representatives of voluntary and community organisation

and elected members, directors and officers of statutory bodies – opportunities for a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services.

2. Support for individuals from voluntary and community organisations

Aim:

To empower individuals from voluntary and community organisations to represent the views of their members/users in decision-making processes and service delivery

Objectives:

1. To regularly bring together individuals from voluntary and community organisations to discuss issues, consultation processes and decisions on local service delivery
2. To provide information about issues, consultation processes and decisions and, guidance on representing the views of members/users
3. To provide opportunities for individuals from voluntary and community organisations to engage with local issues
4. To provide opportunities for local partners to consult and involve local people
5. To increase the capacity of local people to get involved
6. To encourage participation by informing local people on the impacts of their involvement

Outcomes/ Benefits:

1. Better and shared understanding by individuals from voluntary and community organisations of issues, consultation processes and decisions on local service delivery and their ability to influence them
2. Improved capacity of individuals from voluntary and community organisations to represent the views of their members/users
3. Increased opportunities for individuals from voluntary and community organisations to engage with local issues
4. Increased feeling by individuals from voluntary and community organisations of involvement in and ability to influence decision-making processes
5. More effective representation of local people
6. Sustained and active participation of individuals from voluntary and community organisations in consultations and decision-making processes

Activities to achieve the Outcomes:

In partnership with RBKC, K&C PCT and the Metropolitan Police, and including the TMO and RSLs:

1. Provide regular information updates on current issues, consultations and decisions and guidance on how to get involved and influence local decision-making through, e-mail updates, the LINK newsletter and the KCSC website.
2. Organise and facilitate 12 VOF meetings per year.
3. Provide opportunities for discussion/ consultation through a 'Letter's page' and/or 'Comment feature' and/or 'vox pops', in the LINK newsletter with a 'right to reply' from statutory partners.
4. Organise nominations / elections to local decision-making bodies through widely-advertised nomination processes and opportunities for election.
5. Co-ordinate consultations and feed the views of voluntary and community organisations into decision-making bodies on behalf of local people.
6. Articulate the views of groups and individuals from underrepresented geographical areas and interest groups who may not usually get involved.
7. Provide easy access by decision-making bodies in RBKC to the views of local people, with attendance at meetings where appropriate.
8. Provide non-accredited training to increase the confidence and skills of those actively involved, or those with the potential to become actively involved in their community through training for example in public speaking; presentation skills; negotiation skills; representation skills; community facilitation and leadership.
9. Run induction sessions and coordinate 'buddying' arrangements for new representatives.
10. Provide support to existing representatives.
11. Provide opportunities for feedback from statutory partners on how views have been taken into account in key decisions affecting the Borough, through articles in LINK, email updates and meetings.
12. Facilitate robust feedback and accountability mechanisms for representative feedback.

3 Costing

	Quantity per year	Unit cost	Annual cost
LINK newsletter	6	£1,054	£6,324
E-mail updates	12	£84	£1,008
Website update	12	£84	£1,008
16 VOF meetings	16	£785	£12,560
Organise nominations / elections	3	£112	£336
Co-ordinate consultations and input into decision-making	4	£392	£1,568
Articulate the views of groups and individuals	12	£308	£3,696
Provide easy access by decision- making bodies	12	£224	£2,688
Provide non accredited training	3	£1,360	£4,080
Run induction sessions and coordinate 'buddying'	3	£224	£672
Provide support to existing representatives	12	£252	£3,024
Provide opportunities for feedback	12	£112	£1,344
Facilitate robust feedback and accountability	12	£168	£2,016
Total cost			£40,324

(The costing presented in the last proposal had the wrong number of VOF meetings – 12 instead of 16)

4 Measuring success

Activity/Output	Target	Success criteria
1. Information updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-mail updates • LINK newsletter • KCSC website 	12 6 12	Local service delivery issues in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 e-mail updates • editions of Link • 4 updates of KCSC website
2. Organise and facilitate VOF meetings	4 meetings per year each for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main • Children and Young people • Older people • Housing and hostels VOFs 	Discussion of service delivery issues with statutory sector partners in 3 meetings per year each for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main • Children and Young people • Older people • Housing and hostels VOFs
3. Discussion/ consultation a 'Letter's page' and/or 'Comment feature' and/or 'vox pops', in the LINK newsletter with a 'right to reply' from statutory partners.	6 Letters and/or comments from the voluntary sector and/or replies from statutory partners	Inputs into discussions around service delivery issues through 4 letters and/or comments and/or replies from statutory partners
4. Elections to local decision-making bodies.	All decision-making partnership bodies have voluntary sector representation	90% of vacancies filled before the meetings following their occurrence
5. Feed the views of voluntary and community organisations into decision-making bodies	Voluntary sector representation at every relevant meeting or consultation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical presence of a voluntary sector rep at 75% of meetings and events • 6 written responses per annum
6. Articulate the views of groups and individuals from underrepresented geographical areas and interest groups	Representatives from underrepresented geographical areas and	75% of decision-making processes and service delivery consultations have the input of underrepresented geographical

	interest groups comment on all decision-making and service delivery issues	areas and interest groups
7.RBKC, PCT and MPS attendance at meetings with voluntary and community organisations	At least one statutory partner represented at every VOF meeting	Statutory sector representation at 75% of VOF meetings
8.Non-accredited training	3 courses on topics relevant to community participation and representation	24 participants per annum attend courses
9.Induction sessions and 'buddying' arrangements for new representatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 voluntary sector induction sessions • Buddying arrangement for every new representative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to voluntary sector induction for new workers in the borough within 4 months of starting • Every newly elected representative is briefed by a buddy before their first partnership meeting
10. Support to existing representatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre meeting briefing sessions • E-mail updates between meetings 	75% of partnership meetings are attended by representatives who have been briefed and have had the opportunity to discuss voluntary sector perspectives
11. Feedback from statutory partners on how views have been taken into account in key decisions affecting the Borough	Verbal and/or written feedback from statutory partners	Feedback on 100% of consultations and /or decision making processes where voluntary sector views were provided
12. Feedback by voluntary sector representatives	Voluntary sector representatives give verbal and/or written feedback at every VOF meeting	Voluntary sector representatives attend and/or give feedback at 75% of VOF meetings