

**KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP
- 23RD MAY 2002 MEETING**

**REPORT OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OFFICER
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FUND PROGRESS REPORT**

This monitoring report shows progress against each of the tasks set out in the work plan for the Community Empowerment Fund (January-March 2002). **Please note that the work plan tasks are shown in bold type** and progress is shown in non-bold type.

FOR INFORMATION

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) is intended to support community and voluntary sector involvement in Local Strategic Partnerships. The CEF is being channelled directly to the community and voluntary sectors in the 88 Local Authority areas that are eligible for Neighbourhood Renewal Funding by the regional Government Offices.
- 1.2 Community Networks have been established in all LSP areas in receipt of CEF in order to decide on how monies should be used locally and administer usage. In Kensington and Chelsea the Voluntary Organisations Forum (VOF) has taken on this role.
- 1.3 The Community Network in Kensington and Chelsea has agreed a workplan for the use of the CEF with the Government Office for London (GOL), and is required to submit quarterly reports to GOL outlining progress made. GOL also requires the Network to keep the Steering Group of the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership informed of the progress that it is making.
- 1.4 The workplan is referred to in the Kensington & Chelsea Partnership Self Assessment and Action Plan (January 2002).
- 1.5 This report therefore outlines progress against each of the tasks set out in the work plan for the CEF for the period January – March 2002. Workplan tasks are shown in **bold type** and progress is shown in non-bold type.
- 1.6 The objectives will continue to guide the Community Network and be worked towards within the framework of the Kensington & Chelsea Local Strategic Partnership.

2. PROGRESS

2.1 To ensure that the community and voluntary sector can take a leading role in the Local Strategic Partnership, the Community Strategy and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Four voluntary sector representatives have been elected by the VOF Community Network onto the LSP steering group. The representatives are from ethnic minorities and represent community-based organisations: Action for Disability Kensington & Chelsea, Migrant & Refugee Communities Forum, Tabernacle Community Centre, and the Westway Youth Project. 1 further voluntary sector place on the LSP steering group is occupied by Kensington & Chelsea Social Council, bringing the voluntary sector representation on the LSP steering group to 5 places within the partnership steering group. The views of community groups and feedback on the Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies have been gathered during 20 community consultations.

2.2 To set up and operate a system for authorisation of making payments to voluntary and community groups from the Community Empowerment Fund for attendance at meetings, childcare expenses, travel expenses and provision of transport for meetings.

Community Empowerment Fund eligibility has been publicised and implemented in conjunction with the 20 community consultations carried out in the borough. The Community Empowerment Fund claim form is available. The CEF has been explained through the LSP Update section of LINK newsletter and circulated to all members of the Voluntary organisations Forum (VOF). The community consultations have provided an opportunity of increasing group membership in hard to reach areas, especially poorer estates. Groups who were involved in the consultations such as the travellers and the World's End Network will be encouraged to have greater involvement and participation in user forums by Social Council development workers.

2.3 IT development - Improve access to IT for voluntary and community groups

The purchase of laptop computers for Social Council staff for outreach work and loan to other groups has been carried out and the development of the existing Chelsea Social Council website as a resource for the voluntary sector is underway, with an initial consultation survey of the site completed.

Development of the Social Council's database to include more detailed information on voluntary and community groups including email and website addresses where applicable is in progress.

Work with the RBKC and other partners to ensure voluntary sector access to the proposed LSP website has been agreed by the LSP steering group.

A mapping exercise on IT resources for voluntary and community groups so that improvements can be implemented next year has been commissioned and commenced in March.

2.4 Training - Organise training programmes for voluntary sector representatives on the LSP Steering Group, members of community groups and community facilitators.

Capacity building workshops were carried out by the Social Council and the Black Training Enterprise Group (BTEG) London network. The BTEG 'Planning for Success' series of three workshops ran from March – April 2002. The training was designed for BME voluntary sector groups to develop effective management, organisational and strategic planning skills.

2.5 Interpretation and translation - Improve access for people whose first language is not English and with hearing disabilities:

The Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy documents have been translated into community languages as part of the community consultation process (Arabic and Somali). Several of the consultations have taken place with interpreters in Eastern European Languages, Farsi, Portuguese, Somali, Tigrinya and Arabic.

The commissioning of a mapping exercise on interpretation sign language and translation services available to people in Kensington & Chelsea has been reconsidered in the light of similar studies recently undertaken. The work will now focus on reviewing existing studies of available services so that recommendations can be made for improvement.

The Kensington & Chelsea Social Council have also publicised services that are available in the borough to EAL and mother tongue groups through LINK.

2.6 In collaboration with other LSP partners, consult in a number of ways on the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy between 23 January and 1 March 2002:

The draft strategies were widely circulated to everyone who has taken part in the consultation to date and to appropriate organisations and individuals in the borough.

20 Community consultation workshops on the draft Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy have been carried out, targeting in particular the following groups - travellers, people in the African-Caribbean middle range age group, groups on estates such as World's End, user groups, Migrant & Refugee groups, Disability groups have been carried out a consultation with their members. 3 workshops for residents and tenants groups were held in North, South and Central areas of the borough.

Articles have been published in the Social Council newsletter *LINK*, February and March issues.

2.7 Community Chest - Ensure that voluntary and community groups are informed about and make applications to the Community Chest.

Information about the Community Chest fund was widely disseminated in January 2002 and applications encouraged from excluded and hard to reach groups through publicity in the Social Council's newsletter LINK and liaison with umbrella organisations such as the Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum. Community Chest forms with a covering letter were sent out to all community and voluntary groups on the Voluntary Organisations Forum mailing list. The two Community Chest workshops organised in the North and South of the borough in February 2002 were both well attended with over 50 organisations represented, the majority being from BME and excluded communities. The workshops were followed by outreach work undertaken by the Social Councils and Migrant Communities Refugee Forum assisting with funding applications and good practice. 60 applications were received and 22 received funding, the total amount allocated was 55,000K.

FOR INFORMATION

Similola Towry-Coker
Community Partnership Officer

Contact Officer: Similola Towry-Coker, Community Partnership Officer **Tel:** 0207 351 3210