

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Steering Group
held at the Isaac Newton Professional Development Centre, Lancaster Road,
London W11 at 5.30pm
on Monday, 17th May 2004

PRESENT

Members of the Steering Group

Cllr. Merrick Cockell - Leader of the Council (RBK&C)
Doris Besant - Kensington and Chelsea Residents Association
Cllr. Judith Blakeman - Minority Party (RBK&C)
Zrinka Bralo - Representative for Education and Employment (VOF)
Dominic Clout - Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police
Cllr. Timothy Coleridge - Cabinet Member for Housing (RBK&C)
Steve Crow - London Central Learning & Skills Council
Jed Davis - Forum of Faiths
Paul Haigh – Chief Executive, Kensington & Chelsea Primary Care Trust
Menghi Mulchandani - Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
Geeta Nanda - Octavia Housing Trust
Augustine Omara - Director, Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
Dez O'Neill - Representative for Children and Young People (VOF)
Celia Rees-Jenkins - The Kensington and Chelsea Societies
Malcolm Spalding - Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce

Others in attendance

Martin Fitzpatrick – Head of Media and Communications (RBK&C)
Vera Gajic - Economic Initiatives Co-ordinator (RBK&C)
Janine Jolly – Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust
Helen Kay - Partnership Support Officer (RBK&C)
Christine Lawrence - Head of Regeneration and Partnerships (RBK&C)
Steve Modric - Principal Governance Manager (RBK&C)
Derek Myers - Town Clerk & Chief Executive (RBK&C)
Tony Redpath - Director of Strategy and Performance Improvement (RBK&C)
Melanie Smith – Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust
Ainsley Walcroft - Governance Administrator (RBK&C)

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown and Karin Woodley.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH MARCH 2004

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th March were confirmed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Report on the Community Strategy Consultants

Cllr Cockell reported that the Community Strategy Sub-Group had met with a group of consultants immediately prior to the Steering Group meeting. The consultants offered a best practice approach, but their proposals were not deemed innovative enough to sufficiently inspire the Partnership. Before deciding who to appoint, the sub-group has asked to meet with other possible consultants.

Update on Equalities Audit

Zrinka Bralo informed the Steering Group that a meeting had been arranged for Monday 24th May to co-ordinate the Audit.

Appointment of new Chairman and Vice-Chair

Derek Myers reminded the Steering Group that it was approaching the time of year when a new Chairman and Vice-Chair should be elected. He requested that all nominations be sent to him in writing before the end of May.

4. REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Helen Kay gave a short update on the recent reviews of the Community Strategy, Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and partnership 'health'. The draft Improvement Action Plan had been sent to the Government Office for London (GOL) on 30th April to show work in progress.

Part One of the attached papers was the review of partnership health, led by the Agenda Planning Sub-Group, with some comments from other cluster meetings. The previous Accreditation Action Plan had been used for the review and a new Partnership Plan would be drawn up based on the six categories in the old Accreditation Action Plan.

Part Two, the Review of Partnership Delivery, aimed to monitor and measure progress in implementing the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. Since the last meeting of the Steering Group on 17th March, cluster review meetings had taken place for Environment and Transport, Health and Well Being, Learning, Arts and Leisure, Work and Business, and Community Development. Notes of three of these meetings were attached and were to be discussed in item 5 of the agenda. The two remaining clusters would meet by the end of May.

Regarding Part Three, the Improvement Action Plan, this was to be further discussed at the Annual review meeting with GOL to be held on 23rd June. Attendees would include Louise Matlock, a Neighbourhood Renewal Officer and Richard Wragg from the Neighbourhood Renewal office at GOL. Attendees from

the KCP will include Derek Myers, Cllr Cockell, three Council officers and Karin Woodley. Cllr Blakeman felt there were too many council people. Helen Kay suggested Menghi Mulchandani might also wish to attend.

MOVED THIS BIT UP

It was envisaged that the remaining four clusters would present their reviews at the next meeting.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the remaining four clusters would present their reviews to the next meeting of the Steering Group on 7th July.

Action by: Relevant Cluster Coordinators/Champions

5. PRESENTATIONS ON CLUSTER REVIEWS

Work and Business

Malcolm Spalding presented a summary of the special achievements, barriers, possible solutions and action for improvement that had been identified by the Work and Business cluster for the following Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS) issues:

- “Relatively few residents are employed by local public services”

Action for Improvement included:

- Establish baseline information on numbers of local residents directly employed by the Council
- Training and employment projects; e.g. NVQ in Heath administration

The Steering Group agreed that the Social Council should be encouraged to employ people who live in the area, perhaps by advertising in local newspapers. It was also suggested that the North Kensington Opportunities Centre be made aware of appropriate vacancies.

Zrinka Bralo commented on workforce development and connecting training locally. She believed that training would inevitably attract local people.

- “There is no Job Centre in North Kensington”

Action for Improvement included:

- Consider inviting Job Centre Plus to a Partnership meeting, and possibly to sit on the Steering Group.

- “There is a lack of affordable business and office space”

Action for Improvement included:

- Marketing Baseline Business units to social enterprises

Vera Gajic reported that three of the Baseline units were being rented by the Estate Management Board on favourable terms. This type of premises would not normally be converted because their location limited rent levels. The properties were filling up at a steady rate and rental values would be reviewed in the future in accordance with market demand.

Malcolm Spalding informed the Steering Group that Women's Education in Building had gone into liquidation. As a result the Neighbourhood Renewal funding (NRF) awarded to this project had been returned to the Partnership. It had been proposed that the total funds of £65,000 be divided between the next two projects that were on the shortlist at the time of the original scoring exercise:

- North Kensington Video Drama Project
 - £40,000 bid, which would cover 10% of project costs to support young people in training.
- Collaborative project between Portobello Business Centre and the Social Council to develop ten social enterprises
 - £25,000 bid

Derek Myers recommended that the NRF Working Group should have responsibility for redistributing the funds. Any recommendations should then be presented to the Steering Group before Cllr Paget-Brown is requested to release funding.

RESOLVED –

- (2) That the NRF Working Group meets to make recommendations for the distribution of the returned funding of £65,000.

Action by: NRF Working Group

Learning, Arts and Leisure

Steve Crow discussed the special achievements, barriers, possible solutions and action for improvement identified by the Learning, Arts and Leisure cluster for the following NRS issues:

- “Some residents never use the leisure, recreation, library and arts services available in the area”

Action for Improvement included:

- Improving the links between library activities and learning
- Long term, sustainable funding streams need to be identified so that the results of good work do not dissipate

It was reported that targets had been met and exceeded. The least progress was reported in sports, particularly in terms of accessibility.

- “Some youth facilities are adopted by groups which then exclude or discourage others”/ Improved range of activities on offer to young people

Action for Improvement included:

- Identify long term funding to retain Connexions personal advisors when existing funding comes to an end
- Developing a closer relationship between the Partnership, the Connexions service and the 14-19 Forum

The LSC had been developing pan-London capacity-building for post-16 work based learning. Kensington and Chelsea College differed from other London colleges, as it focussed on adult learners rather than young people. The Partnership should therefore encourage the college to attract young adults between the ages of 19 and 25 who may have left school disillusioned at 16 and wish to return to education.

- Raise and support the achievement of ethnic minority children, including those developing English as another language (EAL)

Action for Improvement included:

- New, dedicated funding for EAL, recognising the ongoing need in Kensington and Chelsea
- Look at possible links with Family Learning (Standards Fund)

The NRF-funded post with the Language Development Team had been working well with refugee, asylum seeking and traveller children, introducing a range of initiatives. A key issue identified was the transient population in North Kensington, and the subsequent changes to school rolls each year. One solution to this issue would be a sustainable and flexible source of funding.

Referring to the Equalities Audit, Zrinka Bralo asked if there were statistics available on BME residents using libraries and other educational services. She also said it was important to know the representation of settled communities (Moroccan for example) on school boards or governing bodies and parent/teacher associations. Steve Crow said that new technical developments on data collection would help build up knowledge of different groups using libraries and he would inform the Steering Group of future developments.

RESOLVED –

- (3) That schools would be contacted to investigate levels of BME representation.

Action by: Christine Lawrence

Health and Well-Being

Paul Haigh presented the special achievements, barriers, possible solutions and action for improvement identified by the Health and Well-being cluster for NRS issues. This included variations in the quality and accessibility of local health and care services. Barriers included a lack of health facilities and increasing difficulty in securing funding in the future.

Actions for improvement included:

- Increased representation of hard-to-reach groups
- Links with leisure services to prescribe exercise under the referral scheme and to improve access for under-using groups
- Need more premises to provide services from
- Working with GPs and pharmacists to help people give up smoking

The cluster had discussed incentives to get more patients out of hospital and into a primary care environment. Significant NHS funds were currently being spent on a number of people who could be treated at home.

The overall strategic priorities of the Partnership were also discussed. Paul Haigh asked the Community Strategy and Agenda Planning Sub-Groups to consider making health improvement a cross-cutting issue, e.g. in the new Community Strategy, so that all services are geared towards improving residents' health and well being.

6. CHOOSING HEALTH

Melanie Smith, Director of Public Health at Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Janine Jolly, also from the PCT, joined the meeting to discuss the PCT's 'Choosing Health' consultation. The aim of the consultation was to obtain a view on the role of individual responsibility for health and the role of collective action and to explore ways of tackling modern public health problems effectively. A range of stakeholders had been engaged in a debate on improving health on a strategic level, rather than just treating illness. These included:

- Service users, local residents and people who work in the borough
- Health service employees, including PCT staff
- Public sector employees and local councillors
- Voluntary sector organisations and community groups

The Steering Group was invited to make a contribution. In a straw poll conducted during the discussion, the Steering Group members were asked to agree or disagree with the following statements:

- "Advertising of "junk" food to children should be banned" – Two-thirds agreed
- "All workplaces should be smoke free" - All but 2 agreed
- "Other things being equal, local organisations should favour local businesses when awarding contracts" - Half agreed

The Steering Group was asked what LSP partners could do individually or collectively to improve public health. Suggestions and comments included:

- High density and quality of housing, plus the levels of air pollution, can influence a person's health. The link is proven but the Partnership should focus on actions it could take (as an LSP and as individual organisations)

- The Partnership could persuade schools to take up the Healthy Schools initiative.
- Council and KCP could lobby central government to give allocated funding for the Healthy Schools initiative.
- First generation immigrant communities often have good diets, but their children often develop poorer diets due to peer pressure. Parents need to be supported in re-educating their children
- The KCP could set higher standards for public housing than those demanded by the Decent Homes standard, e.g. better control of damp problems would lead to better respiratory health
- PCT could engage with religious and faith groups to get their message across, especially through Muslim groups
- KCP should be working strategically to improve public health. For example, it could lobby the GLA or the Mayor of London to have a joined up Low Emission Zone across central London

Further steps suggested by Melanie Smith and Janine Jolly:

- Community health “champions”
- Consistent accessible information about health and health services
- Employment policies
- Healthy workplaces
- Procurement policies
- Consider the impact of health of all decisions

Melanie Smith added that the issues discussed should be used to inform every chapter of the new Community Strategy.

The Partnership was encouraged to send its views on the ‘Choosing Health’ consultation to the PCT by the deadline of 28th May, either collectively or as individual partners.

7. CITIZENSHIP PACK

The Steering Group addressed the proposals for a citizenship/welcome pack, as requested at January’s meeting of the Steering Group.

The following concerns and issues were raised during the discussion:

- Complications over length and style
- Ambiguity over the scope of the guide – should it be aimed at residents new to Britain or just to the Royal Borough
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- Focus needed to be on a ‘message’ rather than operational information, which can easily be found on the Council’s website.
- The document would need to be kept up to date with continuous checking.
- Funding for reprinting/updating had not been identified
- Piloting the scheme by sending out information with Council tax bills would be unlikely as there was already a huge demand on using the Council tax bill mailing for distribution.

- A Citizens' Charter was suggested as a contractual agreement between local public service providers and residents, including rights and obligations

Camden's borough guide was identified as a good example, which contained information on Council services and the borough as a whole. It included paragraphs in several languages with details on how to request a translated version of the document. A similar guide was suggested for the Royal Borough that could be expanded to include a map on the back and a small section providing a short history of the borough.

Celia Rees-Jenkins suggested that elements of a guide, such as a Citizens' Charter, could be incorporated into the new Community Strategy with signposts directing new citizens to website pages that could be kept up to date easily. It would also be environmentally friendly. Cllr Cockell added that the Strategy could include a pull-out citizens' charter. One possible complication would be that some residents with no confidence in using computers might not access the updated information.

Cllr Cockell recommended that the Community Strategy Sub-Group address the ideas discussed. Derek Myers added that a graduate trainee would soon be joining the Council and that this would be an excellent project for them to work on.

RESOLVED –

- (4) That the Community Strategy Sub-group examine the citizenship pack proposals as part of the Community Strategy and discuss the next course of action.

Action by: *Community Strategy Sub-group*

8. AOB

Menghi Mulchandani reminded the Steering Group that Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea (ADKC) would be holding its summer festival in Holland Park on the 18th July.

The meeting ended at 7.55 p.m.

Chairman