

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Steering Group
held at St. Charles' Hospital, Exmoor Street,
London W10 6DZ at 5.00 p.m.
on Wednesday, 15th September 2004

PRESENT

Members of the Steering Group

Cllr. Merrick Cockell, Chairman - Leader of the Council (RBK&C)
Cllr. Judith Blakeman - Minority Party (RBK&C)
Dominic Clout - Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police
Jed Davis - Forum of Faiths
Paul Haigh - Chief Executive, Kensington & Chelsea Primary Care Trust
Menghi Mulchandani - Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
Augustine Omara - Director, Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
Dez O'Neill - Representative for Children and Young People (VOF)
Cllr. Nicholas Paget-Brown - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Community Safety
and External Relations (RBK&C)
Malcolm Spalding - Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce
Celia Rees-Jenkins - The Kensington and Chelsea Societies

Others in Attendance

Helen Kay - Partnership Support Officer (RBK&C)
Christine Lawrence - Head of Regeneration and Partnerships (RBK&C)
Derek Myers - Town Clerk & Chief Executive (RBK&C)
Tony Redpath - Director of Strategy and Performance Improvement (RBK&C)
Ainsley Walcroft - Governance Administrator (RBK&C)
Inspector Stephen Whitfield - Metropolitan Police Service

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Timothy Coleridge, Zrinka Bralo, Doris Besant, Geeta Nanda, Dez O'Neill and Karin Woodley.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown, Jed Davis and Derek Myers.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH JULY 2004

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th July 2004 were confirmed as a correct record. Regarding item 5, News and Views, it was noted that Dez O'Neill was a member of the Westway Project, not the Westway Development Trust.

MAIN BUSINESS

3. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS INITIATIVE

Presentation by Chief Supt. Dominic Clout, Borough Commander

See slide handouts attached

Dominic Clout gave a presentation on the Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative, the Metropolitan Police's new 'model' of policing. The initiative was inspired by the Chicago 'CAPS' experience where crime was significantly reduced in areas that were made to feel safer through regeneration and higher police presence. In London there was currently a reduction in reported crime but the public did not feel any safer according to surveys on 'fear of crime'.

The London-wide model suggested that two Sergeants, two PCs and three PCSOs be allocated to each Safer Neighbourhoods ward. In Kensington and Chelsea, however, one Sergeant, two PCs and ten PCSOs were assigned to each of its Safer Neighbourhood wards. There were also two permanent beat officers on every ward in the Borough and a consultation process was underway for the next deployment of PCSOs, to be introduced to three further wards.

Immediate successes of the PCSOs included the reduction of cycling on the pavement by the issuing of an average of ten tickets per month. Secondary benefits included increased housing prices, reduced truancy, better social inclusion (particularly of the elderly) and business improvement. Also, the increasing number of PCSOs in the Royal Borough allowed for the greater flexibility of police officers.

In response to questions from the Steering Group members, it was acknowledged that the value of a PCSO increased the longer they stayed in post. Although people always moved on, Dominic Clout assured the Steering Group that turnover was not high. It was difficult to recruit officers living in the Borough due to Met recruitment policy, but there were a small number of PCSOs living in Kensington and Chelsea. Around 14% of PCSOs were of an ethnic minority background and the split between male and female officers was even.

Officers in the Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative teams worked 8-hour shifts, in contrast to the 12-hour shift patterns of officers on 999 response. As a result there were few volunteers, but most did not want to go back after a six month trial period.

A significant concern was whether officers should patrol in pairs or on their own. Despite the obvious increased coverage with lone patrolling, Dominic Clout said that the PCSOs were working much more effectively in pairs as they often had the confidence to intervene in situations that they would normally avoid if alone.

4. THE CHILDREN BILL

Presentation by Derek Myers, Town Clerk and Chief Executive

See slide handouts attached

Derek Myers spoke of the Government's aspirations to improve all levels of public service that may have contact with children. The public inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié at the hands of her 'aunt' resulted in the Green Paper "Every Child Matters". This led to the formulation of the Children Bill, which was expected to

become law in November 2004. The Bill would require the Council, the PCT, the Police and other appropriate bodies to co-operate effectively in improving the well being of local children.

A key issue identified was the need to decide how far “the State” should take responsibility for the welfare of individual children and at what stage intervention was necessary. The level of information sharing and possible tax burdens were also important issues. There would certainly be a continuing role for the KCP Steering Group and, as well as the Council and statutory bodies, some partners would need to contribute eventually.

Responding to a question regarding individual management, Derek Myers explained that the Bill would not strengthen Council services, for example, but would instead strengthen accountability, leaving no doubt as to who was responsible for certain actions or outcomes.

A major concern shared by the Steering Group was that schools would not be subjected to the obligations of the Bill. Although seemingly vital, the co-operation of schools was not practicable, particularly as good schools were awarded a high degree of autonomy. Nevertheless, the Steering Group discussed routes through which schools could be involved, which included the regular CRB checks and social services visits, the churches’ influence on many schools and the police officers visiting schools.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That a letter would be written to the Government, expressing the Partnership’s view that schools should be included in the Bill.

Action by: Derek Myers

5. NEWS AND VIEWS

Forum of Faiths

Jed Davis informed the Steering Group that the Forum of Faiths had recently had a successful AwayDay at a Buddhist Centre in Maidenhead.

Jed also said he would be taking a three-month sabbatical between April and July 2005 in order to pursue inter-faith dialogue. He would be shadowing Rumman Ahmed, the Royal Borough’s Community Relations Adviser, and invited fellow members of the Steering Group to contact him if ‘faith’ was a significant element of their work or they knew of any initiatives on inter-faith dialogue..

The World After 9/11 Event

Cllr Paget-Brown reported on the previous week’s event held in the Council Chamber that marked the third anniversary of the September 11th atrocities. Around 120 attendees were present, including representatives from the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths and the three main political parties.

Government Office for London LSP Compact

Helen Kay clarified that the draft protocol prepared with Similola Towry-Coker of the Social Council used principles of the compact. No further instruction had been received from GOL. Tony Redpath reminded the Steering Group that the introduction of compacts had been prompted by struggling Local Strategic partnerships. In contrast, the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership had been performing well and had consequently been able to take a flexible approach.

RESOLVED –

- (2) That Helen Kay would clarify the situation with the Government Office for London.

Action by: Helen Kay

Entente Cordiale Centenary Celebration

Malcolm Spalding reported that the Kensington and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce had organised a four-day event to celebrate the centenary of the Entente Cordiale, the treaty signed between Britain and France in 1904. It was to be held from the 6th to the 9th of November in the Mayor's Parlour and members of the Cannes Chamber of Commerce were among the 100 invitees.

AGM of Kensington and Chelsea PCT

Paul Haigh invited interested members of the Steering Group to the Kensington and Chelsea PCT's Annual General Meeting at the Town Hall on the 30th September at 6.00pm. New services developed with users would be showcased.

Inclusive K&C Project

Menghi Mulchandani reported that the Inclusive K&C audit would be very challenging. She indicated that she wanted to bring a paper to the next KCP steering group meeting which could lead to a Disability compact - the first of its kind in the country.

INTERNAL BUSINESS

6. ISSUES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Report of the Community Strategy Sub-Group

The Chairman reported that progress had been made with the consultants, OPM. At present a basic consultation plan had been agreed upon, which would include the Residents' Panel, hard-to-reach groups and a posting on the Royal Borough website. The skills of appropriate voluntary organisations would also be utilised and a lot of work would be completed with the elders of minority ethnic groups and the World's End estate.

Tony Redpath reported that formal consultation would run between October 2004 and January 2005. The first stage of the consultation would focus on areas of common concern for residents throughout the Borough, regardless of economic status. These could include health, recreation and sports, diet, and environmental issues such as recycling and waste. More general questionnaires were also going onto the Council and Partnership websites. The Baseline Briefings would be used for deeper consultation on 'issues'.

Tony clarified that the rearrangement and renaming of some of the clusters in the Community Strategy was carried out merely to aid the consideration of the Strategy's content. This did not necessarily reflect the final headings that would be used.

b) Agreement of KCP Progress Report for Printing

Helen Kay reported that the Partnership's progress report would be sent for printing the following day, so any comments should be received beforehand. Some chapters of the report would be used in early consultation for the Community Strategy.

c) Agreement of Letter in Support of TMO Bid

Helen Kay referred to the draft letter to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in support of the Tenant Management Organisation's bid for additional funding. Cllr. Coleridge was not present at the meeting but had requested that the following amendment be made to the letter:

Fourth paragraph, amendment in bold:

'Thirdly, the stock managed by the ALMO has the highest percentage of flats of any ALMO in the country. This brings into play particular issues for residents around quality of life at such high densities, which some of the additional funding would help the ALMO to address.'

The Steering Group approved the letter and those members present were happy to add their names. Helen Kay would circulate to all members by e-mail so that those who were not present at the meeting would have the opportunity to opt out.

RESOLVED –

- (3) An amended letter would be circulated to all members of the Steering Group by e-mail for agreement.

Action by: Helen Kay

d) Reference to Kensington and Chelsea Social Council in Minutes of Steering Group Meeting held on 17th September 2003

Augustine recalled a comment made by a member at the Steering Group meeting of September 2003 when discussing the appropriateness of the Social Council conducting an Equalities Audit for the Partnership. The minutes stated that: Cllr Blakeman thought some members of the minority ethnic community had issues with the Social Council. Augustine did not feel that the comment was fair and had had no apology or explanation for it despite repeated requests for information or evidence to back it up. Cllr Blakeman reassured the Steering Group, that she had met with the Chairman of the Social Council and the issues were being addressed. She said that the situation had much improved and the Social Council was now working productively with BME groups.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND

Christine Lawrence reported a slow start due to staff recruitment and so forth. A new NRF programme manager was commencing employment the following week and she would produce a realistic projection of what projects would have spent by the end of the year. This would determine if further action was needed.

FORWARD PLANNING

8. NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING QUESTIONNAIRES AND CONFERENCES

Steering Group Skills and Interests

In preparation for October's Away-Evening, Helen Kay requested that all members of the Steering Group provide a short paragraph detailing their skills and interests.

RESOLVED –

- (4) That all members of the Steering Group would send a 'mini-CV' to Helen Kay before the 22nd October.

Action by: All Members of the KCP Steering Group

Steering Group Organisations' Environmental Practices

Helen Kay would be circulating a short questionnaire to all members of the Steering Group. This would contain questions on each partner's environmental practices.

LSPs and Sustainable Development Conference at the Town Hall

The Steering Group was informed that the Council was hosting a conference for South West London on Local Strategic Partnerships and Sustainable Development. All members were invited to attend the conference, which was taking place on 26th October 2004.

9. FORWARD PLAN FOR NEXT TWO MEETINGS

Noted.

The possibility of an Inclusive K&C presentation at the next meeting was acknowledged, as the future agendas were not fixed.

10. AWAY-EVENING ON GOVERNANCE AND MAINTENANCE

Derek Myers presented a draft itinerary for the proposed event. As well as a chance to assess operational aspects, it was also an opportunity to explore local ambitions and identify ways in which the Partnership could add further value to public services.

RESOLVED –

- (5) That a venue for the event would be secured for the Away-Evening on 22nd October.

Action by: Helen Kay

The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

Chairman