KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP

18TH JANUARY 2006

**UPDATE ON REVIEW OF COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT NETWORK
(VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM)**

> This paper gives an update on the outcome of the self-assessment review of the Community Empowerment Network (Voluntary Organisations Forum / VOF).
>
> **For Information**

1. Introduction

1.1 The Kensington and Chelsea Social Council (KCSC) currently co-ordinates and services the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) for Kensington and Chelsea. This network meets quarterly, and is open to all voluntary and community organisations in the Borough. There are a number of sub-forums also serviced by KCSC that feed into the Community Empowerment Network (see diagram **appendix A**). The CEN and the sub-forums elect representatives to sit on various Borough-wide partnerships, including the Kensington & Chelsea Partnership.

1.2 Community Empowerment funding from Government Office for London has been used to fund servicing the CEN and sub-forums for the last few years, but this funding is due to end 31st March 2006.

1.3 Government Offices have requested that all CENs undergo a self-assessment review, to assess 'fitness for purpose' and identify actions to improve the networks.

2. The Review Process

2.1 Discussions with sub-VOF members (Housing & Hostels, Older People, Children, Young People and Families) on effectiveness and role of the forums at meetings in September. Issues discussed included how the forums fit with the new community strategy themes, how links with the sub-VOFs and the main VOF (CEN) can be strengthened, and the role of the CEN / LSP reps.

2.2 Participative Review Day held on Friday 4th November, open to all VOF members to give the opportunity for them to feed in their views on the effectiveness of VOF and the Performance Management Framework questions. 12 VOF members attended. This day offered VOF and sub VOF members the opportunity to discuss and score the key questions asked by the review, and suggest possible ways forward. The issues for discussion were based on the PMF self-assessment template. Workshop sessions and participative methods were used to enable all attendees to feed in their views (scoring ladders, post-it boards and small group discussion).

2.3 Joint Focus Group with external facilitator held on Dec 1st with VOF members and KCP members. 14 people attended, of whom 5 were KCP members. This focus group brought together KCP members, including (Councillors), the LSP Manager and VOF

members to look in detail at some of the key issues highlighted by the VOF review day, and address issues it had not been possible to discuss at the Review Day. Further ideas for ways forward were identified and the group came to consensus scores for the PMF questions.

2.4 <u>Survey to KCP members</u> unable to attend the Joint Focus Group. The survey focused on key questions in the review, although comments were invited on any aspect of the review to date and a draft copy of the PMF was sent to all KCP members. Support was offered in terms of extra information and completing the questionnaire through KCSC. 2 responses were received.

2.5 <u>Draft results</u> compiled for December 7th VOF (CEN) meeting followed by submission of draft report to GOL mid-December 2005.

2.6 <u>Update report</u> on the review to go to the January 18th KCP meeting.

2.7 <u>Submission of final report</u> to Government Office for London / feedback

3. Key Recommendations from the Review

3.1 The following section outlines key recommendations from the seven sections of the review. A full report on the findings including strengths and weaknesses, overall scoring and full list of recommendations can be found in **appendix B**.

3.2 <u>Communication and Information</u>
- Ensure wider CEN membership know who the CEN / LSP reps are and how to contact them
- Consider e-news as a way of improving information flow between sub-forums and main CEN, and co-ordinating activities between meetings
- Update CEN publicity

3.3 <u>Organisational Capacity and Learning</u>
- Support groups to engage with LSP work, for example joint induction for new CEN members run by LSP Manager and CEN Co-ordinator.
- Continue to target training on Representation Skills at existing representatives and groups still under-represented on Borough wide partnerships

3.4 <u>Inclusivity</u>
- South of Borough groups identified as under-represented at meetings – actions to improve attendance identified
- Established members to introduce / support smaller groups attendance through a 'buddying' system

3.5 <u>Representation and Accountability</u>
- Establish clear feedback mechanisms for sub-forums and LSP reps
- Ensure CEN section on website carries details of all elected reps plus information on the partnerships that they serve
- Offer email updates / reminders of up & coming elections to CEN and Sub-forums to engage more people in selecting representatives. Publicise elections and nomination opportunities by website

- Consider mentoring for potential new LSP reps

3.6   <u>Neighbourhood-Level Development / Service Delivery</u>
- Investigate links to potential new forums – eg Arts Network, Golborne Forum
- Encourage larger local organisations to share skills / mentor smaller and emerging groups
- Hold an event that investigates / debates / raises awareness of commissioning as an option for local VCS service delivery
- Continue to fund local VCS activity / group / network development through small grants programme if possible

3.7   <u>Influence and Impacts (ie contribution to KCP, enabling local community to organise effectively, impacts of CEN on deprived areas)</u>
- Need to ensure publicise the purpose and priorities of KCP and role of CEN representatives more widely
- Investigate role / contribution of VCS locally in service delivery

3.8   <u>LSP Context</u>
- Simplify KCP paperwork to help reduce workload for representatives and improve effectiveness of representatives
- Work on clear guidance for the distribution of funds by the KCP

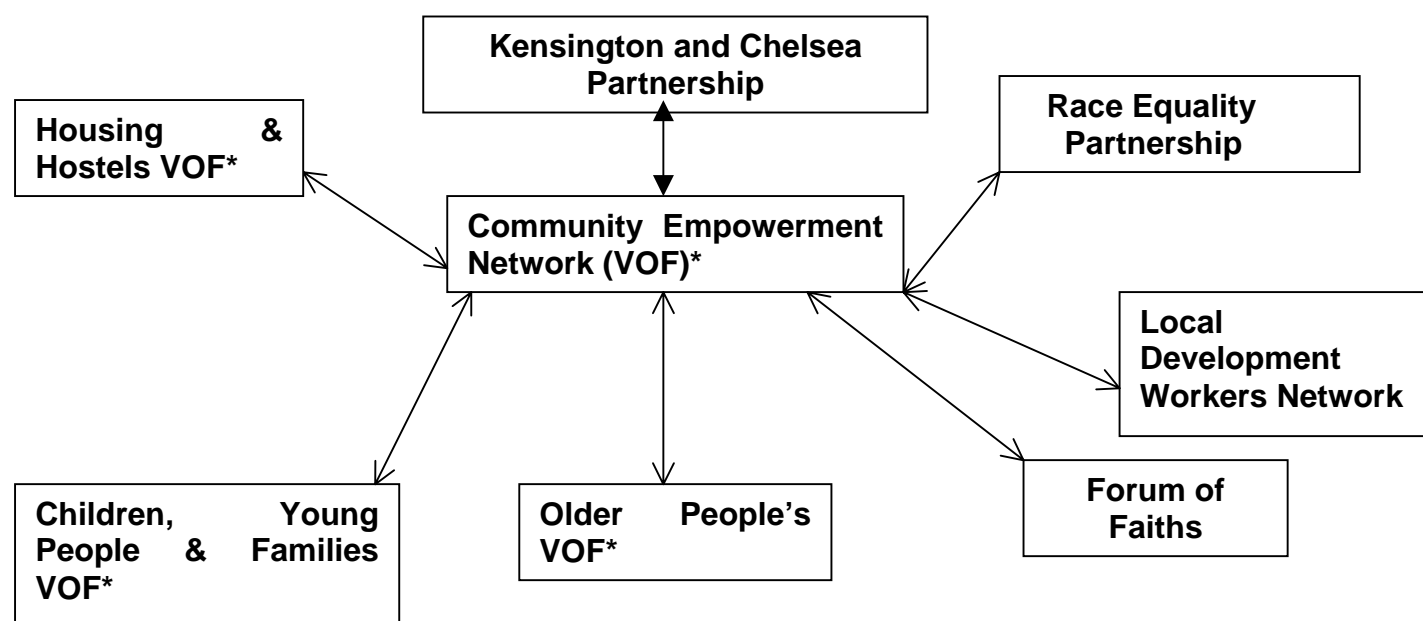## 4.   Conclusion

4.1   The partnership is invited to note the recommendations from the report. Feedback on the review from Government Office for London will follow in late Spring 2006 and will be reported to the KCP.

Kensington and Chelsea Social Council
January 2006

"Voluntary Organisations Forum" VOF

Community Empowerment Networks in K&C


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Kensington & Chelsea Partnership: Meetings held every other month. Is the Local Strategic Partnership for Kensington & Chelsea, Brings together representatives from the voluntary, statutory and private sectors.

Voluntary Organisations Forum (VOF): Network of community and voluntary sector organisations in the Borough. Acts as the Community Empowerment Network for K & C. VOF meets quarterly. *Serviced by KCSC.

Race Equality Partnership: A membership organisation that maintains an overview of race relations in the Borough and ensures co-ordination of the different strands of activity related to the promotion of race equality and diversity in K&C.

Older People's VOF: Quarterly VOF for voluntary organisations providing services for older people in RBKC. *Serviced by KCSC.

Housing & Hostels VOF: Forum for voluntary sector groups providing housing / hostels services in RBKC. *Serviced by KCSC.

Children, Young People and Families VOF: Quarterly VOF for voluntary organisations who provide services to children, young people and/or families in K&C. *Serviced by KCSC.

The VOF also elects representatives to sit on the **Borough Voluntary Organisations Advisory Group, The Child And Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), The Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC)** and the **Sure Start Board.**

DRAFT
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM (CEN)

Performance Management Framework

A Framework for Assessing Progress and Development

2004

OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Neighbourhood
Renewal Unit

1.1 Communication and information – scoring sheet

All CEN members need to be well informed about what is happening locally and in the LSP. The CEN needs to ensure that it is adequately informed about different community needs and aspirations. It also needs to facilitate communication between communities and between them and the LSP representatives.

Question	Comments on progress / issues	Score (circle your score)
Does the CEN have up-to-date information about the VCS, especially local activity in deprived neighbourhoods?	Mailing list for CEN and Sub-forums are held on one database. Email lists need to be widened. New KCSC Information Worker to help update lists. Members have offered to check lists for Sub-forums (eg Children, Young People and Families) and add any groups / organisations that are missing.	0 1 2 <u>3</u> 4 5
Is appropriate information effectively disseminated to the VCS and local groups about the CEN, its role and opportunities for involvement?	The LINK newsletter disseminates information on a monthly basis about CEN to local groups, including meeting dates, reviews of CEN meetings and who to contact about CEN meetings. Email updates have been used to promote special CEN meetings to encourage attendance.	0 1 2 <u>3</u> 4 5
How is effective communication ensured within the CEN?	Feedback from LSP reps is a standing item on each CEN agenda. However, members at the Open Day said the Sub-forums need more information, feedback and two-way dialogue from elected reps on what is happening at LSP level. Need to explore alternative ways to feed information from Sub-forums to main CEN if members cannot attend all meetings.	0 1 2 <u>3</u> 4 5

1.1 Communication and information – recording sheet

Total score for this section: <u>9 out of 15</u>   **Date of review: <u>November / December 2005</u>**

Strengths/achievements – weaknesses/issues – possible ways forward

<u>Key strengths/achievements</u>	Evidence
- Have a list of CEN members and separate lists for each of the sub-groups. Email lists are also being developed, although these need to be expanded. - Standing item for LSP feedback at CEN meetings - Last CEN survey carried out in early 2005 to find out issues of importance to the sector - LINK newsletter is published monthly and is available online to the voluntary and community sector (VCS), local councillors and statutory partners. - Sub-forums have information that is relevant to their interests – developments, funding, legislation, RBKC policy	Mailing lists and email lists Standing item on agendas (copies attached) Survey – copy attached Samples of newsletter attached.
<u>**Key weaknesses/issues**</u>	**Evidence**
- Members would like a clearer reporting / information exchange with LSP reps at Sub-forum level in addition to existing arrangements for reporting to the main CEN - Members would like more information on LSP reps and how to engage with them - LINK newsletter font could be easier to read - In addition to features, celebrate and explain what we've done & achieved in LINK - Need space on the website for CEN & Sub-forums to post / circulate info - Need updated leaflet on with examples of work KCSC does, workers and roles	Feedback from the Nov. Open Day for members, with attendance from Sub-forum members where workshops around the development themes were held.

Possible ways forward

- Each Sub-forum to identify additional contacts by looking at gaps in existing mailing lists
- Ensure all groups who have applied to the Single Community Funds are on the CEN list, as the application forms have provided up to date information, including email contacts
- Arrange a session at CEN to raise awareness of LSP reps, what they do. Also expand section on the website and provide more information in LINK.
- Meet with LSP reps to look at reporting arrangements to the Sub-forums & improving two way information flow
- Target groups who have received Single Community Funding and encourage them to get involved in the CEN / Sub-forums
- Consider using e-news as a way of keeping members updated on the activities of the Sub-forums

1.2 Organisational capacity and learning – scoring sheet

The CEN needs to be able to organise effectively and to ensure that network members have the skills and knowledge they need to get the views of the VCS heard by the LSP. It needs to have a clear purpose, to be active and to be forward thinking.

Question	Comments on progress/issues	Score (circle your score)
How far has the CEN developed its organisational structures and processes?	The CEN has a Terms of Reference and there is a six-monthly work plan that sets out targets for the CEN. Progress on this workplan is reported back to Government Offices. Some elements of reporting and communication between the CEN and the Sub-forums need to be strengthened. Surveys have been used to gather satisfaction levels and planning information from the wider membership. Information on Steering groups and focus groups used to look at more detailed information on performance and processes (such as this review) to avoid over-burdening the main CEN meetings.	0 1 2 _3_ 4 5
What opportunities are provided for CEN members to develop the skills and knowledge to operate and engage with the network and potentially the LSP?	CEN members have access to the KCSC training programme, and examples of training work include Presentation Skills, Project Management, Arts Networking event and budgeting skills / one to one financial support for groups who have received Single Community Funds. CEN meetings offer good opportunities to network.	0 1 2 3 _4_ 5
How is the CEN relating to the LSP, including the individual partners?	See 'LSP Context'.	0 1 2 _3_ 4 5

1.2 Organisational capacity and learning – recording sheet

Total score for this section: _10__ out of 15   **Date of review: <u>November / December 2005</u>**

Key strengths/achievements	Evidence
• Groups are aware that they can get training through CEN or the Social Council, and training programme has good take up from groups. Training has included: Making Partnerships Work, Presentation Skills, Using Arts and Dance to Engage Young People, Arts Networking Event, Community Accountancy workshops on Budgets, annual accounts and financial reporting. Training popular – often over-subscribed.	Training programme publicity, training attendance lists and evaluation forms, Single Community Funds related training courses, attendance lists, surveys.
• Networking Events (eg Arts) arranged	Feedback from November 05 Open Day
• Different methods of engaging members are used to minimise partnership burden, eg focus groups, a steering group and an Open Day have been used to gain views	
• Survey of members used to review and inform CEN and Sub-forums	
• Support around Single Community Fund applications has been good	Minutes of LSP meetings
• CEN and Sub-forums offer good networking opportunities	
• Voluntary sector reps have contributed to learning at LSP through papers on Citizenship, Inclusive K&C	Community Chest / Learning Chest Project applications
• Community Chest / Learning Chest funds have been used to strengthen individuals representation & leadership skills, particularly in under-represented groups, for example: 1) Representation Skills for older people; 2) London Citizens London Citizens Community Leadership Training. The training was aimed at increasing the personal leadership skills of people who want to play a more active role in their local community and are looking for support in doing so. 3) A project called 'XPRESS'. Involved training group of young people to design a website and learn HTML skills. At end of project, group will create 'XPRESS.net' website which will be used as a forum for young people to express their views, ideas & aspirations.	
Key weaknesses/issues	**Evidence**
• Work more with Residents Associations and community centres	Feedback from November 05 Open Day
• Different levels of training need to be provided so larger voluntary organisations can also benefit	

Possible ways forward
- New CEN members could be surveyed as to training needs and given background information to the Forums
- Explore offering different levels of training to suit varied needs of members
- Continue to offer training that helps CEN members play an active role in local partnerships and forums
- Encourage Residents groups to attend CEN meetings
- Investigate how to involve community centres
- Look at ways grassroutes membership can feed into LINK newsletter
- Feedback more to members on impacts and achievements of training – eg case studies, statistics
- Support groups to link with the LSP – eg run joint induction to new CEN members with LSP Support Manager
- Produce updated publication on CEN and what it offers
- Continue to target training on representation to under-represented groups
- Clarify and agree the role of CEN in the delivery of the Community Strategy

1.3 Inclusivity – scoring sheet

The CEN needs to ensure that it reaches out to all communities and encourages the active involvement of marginalised communities and groups from the most deprived communities. The CEN must reflect the diversity of the local population, including under-represented groups.

Question	Comments on progress / issues	Score (circle your score)
Is there a strategic action plan to encourage wide-ranging involvement from the VCS and is it implemented consistently?	Discussions held recently on encouraging more groups from the South of the Borough to participate, and practical ways forward suggested by CEN members. These suggestions will go into the next six monthly workplan for the CEN. Series of themed meetings held to raise awareness of diversity of VCS and encourage wider ranging involvement.	0 1 2 3 <u>4</u> 5
How far is the diversity of communities reflected within the CEN and by those acting/speaking on its behalf?	Recent CEN meetings have taken a theme for each meeting in an attempt to attract less represented groups in the community, for example groups working with drugs and sexual health issues, South of Borough issues, young people, environment and community action. Elected representatives to the LSP represent employment and training, arts and cultural issues, young people's issues and disability (co-opted)	0 1 2 3 <u>4</u> 5
What resources are available to help neighbourhood-based and other community groups (eg those based around identity or special interest) take part in the CEN?	The Sub-forums support community groups based around special interest. Funds have been made available to under-represented groups in the past, such as Travellers Groups to take part in national conferences and support their involvement.	0 1 2 3 <u>4</u> 5

1.3 Inclusivity – recording sheet

Total score for this section: 12 out of 15   **Date of review: November / December 2005**

Strengths/achievements – weaknesses/issues – possible ways forward

Key strengths/achievements	Evidence
- Meetings are excellent for networking with other voluntary organisations and community groups - Informality of the meetings, particularly Sub-forums means groups can 'dip in' and attend without pressure - Themed meetings on issues such as working with drugs and sexual health issues, South of Borough issues, young people, environment and community action and race, diversity and the community sector have attracted groups to attend who may not have previously attended the CEN meetings - Two awareness raising training sessions around the Disability Discrimination Act arranged and promoted to CEN members 'Inclusive K&C' – disability access report from Action Disability Kensington and Chelsea. The aim of this document is to inform the future work of the **Kensington and Chelsea Partnership** in championing the inclusion of disabled people and was taken forward by the LSP Disability representative nominated by the CEN - Community Chest funds have supported under-represented / hard to reach groups to support the involvement of representatives in key national / local for a, eg representative from Westway Travellers site	Feedback from Nov. Open Day Copies of agendas for themed meetings / Attendance lists from themed meetings Training attendance lists / evaluations Copy of report / minutes (LSP) Community Chest application
Key weaknesses/issues - Ensuring continued attendance by small groups - South of Borough groups are less well represented at CEN meetings - Need to expand mailing lists - Disability is not fully represented through CEN, although awareness raising work has begun (eg see report above).	**Evidence** Attendance lists, feedback at South of Borough issues CEN meeting, feedback from CEN Open Day.

Possible ways forward

- Ensure member suggestions to address gaps in CEN attendance from the South of Borough VFO groups go into next 6 monthly workplan
- Link with RBKC Community Relations and volunteer centre to identify further groups and resources
- Cross reference with other databases for example Childrens Information Services at the Town Hall
- Ask participating groups about ideas / suggestions for groups they know have been missed from mailing lists
- Investigate whether Housing Trust information can be shared to boost membership lists
- Ensure that all Single Community Fund applicants are on the main CEN mailing lists
- Advertise in local free press to make wider population aware of the forum?
- Make sure there are more articles on the Sub-forums in LINK
- Before CEN meetings call a sample number of people to encourage attendance, explaining why it is important and relevant to attend
- Ensure that meeting dates are set a year in advance to allow people to diarise
- Established members can introduce or support smaller groups attendance through a 'buddying' system
- Need to find out why more disabled orgs don't attend CEN meetings (organise an informal gathering)

1.4 Representation and accountability – scoring sheet

The CEN needs to ensure that representatives are properly selected. It then needs to ensure that they are equipped to feed VCS views into the LSP, to make an impact and to be accountable back to local communities.

Question	Comments on progress/issues	Score (circle your score)
How are representatives selected from across the range of groups in the VCS?	Elections held in two-year cycles. Last election held Dec. 2004. Nomination forms sent out to entire membership (including Sub-forum members) in advance of meeting with clear instructions on process and accountability responsibilities, and how representatives will be elected. Elections are held at a main CEN meeting.	0 1 **2** 3 4 5
How are people being trained and empowered to play an active role in CEN leadership and to act on its behalf?	A number of elections have been held from both the main CEN and the Sub-forums. A broad range of reps have come forward to represent the CEN and sub CENs. Training relevant to play an active representation role has been offered.	0 1 **2** 3 4 5
How are representatives briefed and supported to feed information to the LSP and back to the CEN and wider community?	LSP pre-meetings held for CEN / LSP reps. Agenda slots for feedback at CEN meetings. Written feedback used if rep unable to attend meeting. Ideas for improvement listed in 'possible ways forward'	0 1 **2** 3 4 5

1.4 Representation and accountability – recording sheet

Total score for this section: ___6_ out of 15   **Date of review: <u>November / December 2005</u>**

Strengths/achievements – weaknesses / issues – possible ways forward

Key strengths/achievements	Evidence
<u>**Key strengths/achievements**</u> • Clear process for nominating and electing representatives to LSP • Ballot papers and instructions provided for other key partnership • Standing item for feedback from LSP reps at CEN meetings • Elections have been held for: o **Borough Voluntary Organisations Forum** (Nov 1st 2004, main CEN meeting) (12 reps across a broad range of services) o **Kensington & Chelsea Partnership** representatives (Dec 12th 2004, main CEN meeting) (3 reps elected) o **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)** Steering group (17th Feb 2005, Children & Families CEN meeting) 2 reps elected o **Area & Child Protection Committee (ACPC)** (17th Feb 2005, Children & Families CEN meeting) 2 reps elected o **Sure Start Board** (17th Feb 2005, Children & Families CEN meeting) 5 elected reps elected • Training offered to CEN members on Presentation & Speaking Skills, Working Together and Networking Event that involved partnership building skills • Community Chest / Learning Chest funds have been used to strengthen individuals representation & leadership skills, particularly in under-represented groups, for example: 1) Representation Skills for older people; 2) London Citizens London Citizens Community Leadership Training. The training was aimed at increasing the personal leadership skills of people who want to play a more active role in their local community and are looking for	**Evidence** Copies of ballot papers Copies of minutes Training attendance lists / evaluations Community Chest / Learning Chest Project applications

support in doing so. 3) A project called 'XPRESS'. Involved training group of young people to design a website and learn HTML skills. At end of project, group will create 'XPRESS.net' website which will be used as a forum for young people to express their views, ideas & aspirations.	
Key weaknesses/issues • Feedback to the Sub-forums from LSP reps needs to be clearer • Need to publicise details of reps elected to all partnerships via meetings and website • Need to ensure that Sub-forums are aware of all elections at CEN level. • Partnership and trust are issues for CEN reps and other partners on LSP • LSP has a lot to do – packed agendas remain an issue	**Evidence** Feedback from Nov. Open Day

Possible ways forward
- Establish clear feedback mechanisms with Sub-forums for LSP rep feedback
- Ensure CEN reps have a clear purpose on the LSP
- Ensure CEN section on website carries details of all elected reps plus information on the partnerships that they serve
- Offer email updates / reminders of up & coming elections to CEN and Sub-forums to engage more people in selecting representatives
- Publicise up & coming elections and nomination opportunities via the website
- Use LINK to feedback on actions / decisions of CEN to wider community
- Ensure rota of LSP representative feedback to meetings is maintained
- Allow members to submit ideas to elected reps via email
- Mentoring for potential new LSP reps
- Provide Representation training
- Offer training on cross-cutting issues

2.0 Neighbourhood-level development – scoring sheet

It is at the neighbourhood level that most people use and experience services, build links, get involved in activities, and develop the understanding and impetus to engage in wider networks or more formal participative arrangements. The CEN has a significant role in supporting this progressive participation and in enabling local communities to influence change and development.

Question	Comments on progress/issues	Score (circle your score)
1. Is the CEN using its small grants and development work to support voluntary effort and stimulate activity in neighbourhoods?	See achievements section.	0 1 2 3 <u>4</u> 5
2. Is the CEN supporting the development of skills and capacity in VCOs so that they can engage at neighbourhood level?	6-monthly training programme is offered to CEN members. Arts Networking Event investigated interest in setting up an Arts Network. Training offered to groups who have participated in local Single Regeneration Projects that operate at ward level.	0 1 2 <u>3</u> 4 5

3. Is the CEN supporting the VCS so that it can contribute to the delivery of local services?	Neighbourhood Action grants prioritise the development of local networks. CEN LSP representatives were involved in the shaping the open bidding process for Neighbourhood Renewal funds. CEN reps have fed into consultation events on the Local Area Agreement. Need to investigate issues around and awareness of commissioning services to VCS locally.	0 1 2 <u>3</u> 4 5
4. Is the CEN helping to ensure that the voice of people in neighbourhoods is being heard where it matters?	The CEN has facilitated elections to local partnerships / structures, eg Sure Start Board, Borough Voluntary Organisations Advisory Group, Area Child Protection Committee. Arts Networking Event identified interest in setting up an Arts Network. CEN is funding the filming of a video by young people in the Dalgarno Neighbourhood that will feed into the final evaluation of a Single Regeneration Project.	0 1 2 <u>3</u> 4 5

2.0 Neighbourhood-level development - recording sheet

Total score for this section: <u>13 out of 20</u>   **Date of review: <u>November / December 2005</u>**

Key strengths/achievements	Evidence
• Single Community Fund projects have been used to stimulate activity in key deprived wards, as identified in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. 7 deprived wards targeted as the priority neighbourhoods for the grants.	Monitoring of grants awarded to groups with project beneficiaries in deprived wards
• Wide variety of groups accessing funding, eg arts, BME, disability, Environmental and faith groups	Monitoring of type of groups grants awarded to
• Priority is also given to specific themed interest groups as agreed by CEN, eg BME, migrant & refugee groups, and disability groups	Monitoring of type of groups grants awarded to
• The Grants Panel is nominated by the CEN and each nominee represents a specific interest group. The panel members understand the needs of the local groups and communities	Grants Panel election (minutes) / Nov. Open Day feedback
• Projects funded by the grants have been invited to present back on their achievements at CEN meetings and thus get involved with the CEN	CEN meeting minutes
• Training also publicised to groups who participated in local Single Regeneration Projects that operate at ward level.	
• CEN members receive information on 6-monthly training programme and CEN funding has paid for training and one to one support to help grant recipients manage their grant funding.	Training Programme Monitoring of financial training and one to one support offered to groups who received grants.
• Single Community funds used to fund projects that enhance skills of local groups and management committees, train members of their own communities to carry out research into community needs	Monitoring of type of projects funded
• Neighbourhood Action grants encouraged projects within specific neighbourhoods, eg environmental improvements	
• Involvement in Community Strategy design / development	CEN Training
• CEN is funding the filming of a video by young people in the Dalgarno Neighbourhood that will feed to the final evaluation of a Single Regeneration Project.	

Continued overleaf…

Key weaknesses/issues	Evidence
• Development of new local networks dependent on demand from community. • Need to develop closer links with South of Borough based neighbourhood forums • VCS delivery of services via routes such as commissioning needs to be investigated and discussed more with local VCS, particularly in light of Neighbourhood Renewal funding and Single Regeneration Funding ending 2006. • Different levels of training aimed at different sizes of organisation is needed.	Monitoring of grant funding for the development of new networks South of Borough Issues Special CEN meeting Feedback from Nov. Open Day

Possible ways forward
- Develop links with existing South of Borough neighbourhood forums as part of strategy to involve more South based groups
- Investigate potential links with any new Neighbourhood structures that may emerge, eg Golborne Forum
- Continue to work with RBKC to investigate setting up an Arts Network and potential for feeding into the CEN / Sub-forums structure
- Investigate how local environmental groups can have a voice locally, for example in the delivery of the community strategy
- Hold an event that investigates / debates / raises awareness of commissioning as an option for local VCS service delivery
- Encourage larger local groups to share skills / mentor smaller and emerging groups
- Promote work and raise the profile of Single Community Funded groups at KCSC AGM (stalls / displays / demonstrations)

3.2 Influence and impacts – scoring sheet

This is about communities exercising greater influence, control and responsibility over the decisions made by LSPs and other partnerships, in ways that improve their quality of life.

Question	Comments on progress / issues	Score (circle your score)
Has the CEN affected the ability of local communities to organise effectively?	Hard to measure impacts of representatives elected by CEN and Sub-forums, although Sub-forums in particular are recognised by the Local Authority as a representative channel, as evidenced by in crease in number of recent elections at Children & Families CEN.	0 1 <u>2 3</u> 4 5
Is the CEN contributing effectively to the LSP?	Should not underestimate the positive impact CEN had in years 2 & 3 of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund allocations. Still need more information on the role of the LSP – difficult as the LSP's role is developing over time therefore makes it hard for wider CEN membership to understand where and how to engage.	0 1 2 <u>3 4</u> 5
Is the CEN helping the LSP to have a positive effect in deprived neighbourhoods?	Most direct impacts felt though influence via Neighbourhood Renewal Fund grant allocations (reps sat on grant decision panel and helped to design system for grant applications) and contributions to the Community Strategy.	0 1 2 <u>3 4</u> 5

Influence and impacts – recording sheet

Total score for this section: 9.5 out of 15   **Date of review: <u>November / December 2005</u>**

Strengths/achievements – weaknesses/issues – possible ways forward

<u>Key strengths/achievements</u>	Evidence Feedback from focus group
- CEN had positive effect in Years 2 & 3 of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding – opening up a more open and transparent process for allocating funds - CEN reps sat on Neighbourhood Renewal Fund grant decision panel for years 2 & 3 funding - Main impacts in deprived areas felt through the small grants programme and voluntary sector reps on the grants panel - Skilled representatives mean representation role is growing. Growing number of representatives should have positive impact on influence in the Borough. - LSP agenda planning group feeds into agenda setting for the partnership - Pre-meets before LSP meetings for voluntary sector reps help to bring together views and present a more 'united' front - CEN reps have consistently performed and contributed at LSP meetings - Being included and having access to information is empowering for CEN / LSP reps. - CEN / LSP reps take back information to their respective networks – enables more coordinated information exchange, for example synchronizing consultation processes to avoid consultation fatigue. - Increased number of elections held via Sub-forums - CEN reps involved in the recently updated Community Strategy (via involvement in LSP sub-group)	Minutes Children & Families CEN meetings LSP Community Strategy Sub-Group minutes
<u>Key weaknesses/issues</u> - Lack of clarity over LSP role in Neighbourhood Renewal Fund process. Distance between LSP and service delivery makes it hard to see direct connection. - Where CEN has been effective, it does not always filter through to wider membership	Evidence Feedback from focus group LSP / CEN rep survey feedback.

▪ Difference levels of effectiveness, depending on which Sub-forum you look at. ▪ Still hard to say if LSP is an equal partnership – difficulty comes from RBKC being the accountable body. ▪ LSP processes can be confusing as no clear directives re governance ▪ LSP not always recognised by communities and its work is not that well publicised so community organisations not aware of it and how it fits in with other decision making processes in the Borough. ▪ The LSP adds additional paperwork & overload to already overworked CEN reps and this needs to be simplified. ▪ How separate the impact of CEN and it's member organisations? ▪	

Possible ways forward

- Clarify representation role at main CEN, purpose, information flows etc
- Give credit to the Sub-forums via the main CEN
- Ensure reps are briefed / increase caucus representation
- Need staff resources to research & communicate information to reps
- Publicise the LSP more – purpose and priorities
- Simplify LSP paperwork
- Make LSP agendas more relevant and shorter
- Provide information to LSP on services delivered local by voluntary sector, and added value CEN brings to these

3.1 The LSP context – scoring sheet

Question	Comments on progress/issues	Score (circle your score)
Is there a sufficiently influential level and range of VCS representation on the LSP?		0 1 2 3 <u>4</u> 5
Is effective induction, training and information provided for all VCS representatives on the LSP?		0 1 2 <u>3</u> 4 5
Do LSP decision making processes include VCS representatives in a way that allows them to contribute and have real influence?		0 1 <u>2</u> 3 4 5
Are LSP Partners supporting CEN work at neighbourhood level?		0 1 2 <u>3</u> 4 5

Is the CEN fully involved in LSP accreditation and performance management?		**0 1 2 <u>3</u> 4 5**

3.1 LSP context – recording sheet

Total score for this section: ___15__ out of 25   **Date of review: <u>November / December 2005</u>**

Strengths/opportunities – weaknesses/challenges – possible ways forward

	Evidence
Key strengths/opportunities ▪ By participating in the LSP, CEN / CEN reps on the LSP bring a community approach to a number of different issues. For example, have influenced the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund process in years 2 & 3 allocations. ▪ The reps have also contributed to the Community Strategy.	**Evidence** Year 2 & 3 NRF allocations to community / voluntary sector organisations Community Strategy sub-group minutes / membership
Key weaknesses/challenges ▪ Differences in working cultures and power between different reps on LSP ▪ CEN / CEN reps appear at a disadvantage as have to fight for resources and to a degree are dependent on the Council / PCT for funds ▪ On a few occasions, ground rules for NRF underspend unclear – creates an atmosphere of mistrust and competitiveness that is not good for partnership working ▪ Lack of clear guidance / information on LSP items concerning resources means CEN reps can feel they do not have adequate mandate / information to make decisions. Sometimes feel pushed to rubber stamp decisions.	**Evidence** CEN / LSP representative survey

Possible ways forward

For action by the CEN

- Information to LSP on CEN representative role, and how they relate to wider CEN membership

For action by the LSP

For action by the Government Office (GO)

- CEN / LSP / GO need to work on clear guidance on resources for and by the LSP. At the moment it is not clear how & why resources come for distribution to the LSP. Also need to make clear which agenda items are for decision and which are for information.