

## **PRESENT**

### **Members of the Committee**

Councillor Merrick Cockell, Chairman (Leader, RBKC)  
Councillor Judith Blakeman (Notting Barns Ward, RBKC)  
Councillor Dr. Iain Hanham (Lead Member, RBKC)  
Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown (Cabinet Member, RBKC)  
Councillor Shireen Ritchie (Cabinet Member, RBKC)  
Brian Deans (Borough Commander, LFB)  
Chief Supt. Mark Heath (Borough Commander, MPA)  
Michael Sawyer (Forum of Faiths)  
Jamie Renton (VOF Disability Issues representative)  
Helen Leech (Voluntary Sector)  
Joyce Roberts (Learning and Skills Council)  
Mary Gardiner (Chairman, K&C Social Council)  
Michael Bach (KCSC)  
Angela Spence (K&C Social Council)  
Celia Rees-Jenkins (The K&C Societies)  
Dr. Melanie Smith (Director of Public Health, K&C PCT)  
Malcolm Spalding, Vice-Chairman (President, K&C Chamber of Commerce)

### **Others in Attendance**

Derek Myers (Town Clerk, RBKC)  
Tony Redpath (Director of Strategy and Service Improvement, RBKC)  
Rachel Smith (KCP Support Manager, RBKC)  
Nicola Weaver (KCP Support)  
Annette Furley (Audit Commission)  
Marie Heath (MPS)  
Cameron MacLean (Governance Services, RBKC)  
The Vice Chairman chaired the meeting for Items A1 and A2.

## **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND AGREEMENT TO THE AGENDA**

There were none.

The Steering Group agreed the agenda.

## **2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2008**

The Steering Group agreed the minutes of the meeting of 12 November and authorised the Vice Chairman to sign them as a correct record, subject to the following amendments: That -

1. The list of members present be amended to exclude Cynthia Diaz who was represented at the meeting by Helen Leech;
2. The spelling of Zrinka Bralo's name on page 5 be amended to its correct spelling;
3. The question mark at the end of paragraph number 5 at the top of page 6 be deleted and replaced with "practice."; and
4. The Vice Chairman's name on page 8 be amended, accordingly.

### **3 COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESMENT (CAA)**

The Steering Group heard a presentation from Annette Furley, Comprehensive Area Assessment Lead (CAAL) at the Audit Commission. Ms Furley gave a PowerPoint presentation demonstrating how a CAA joint inspectorate reporting website might work, noting that the example provided in the presentation was indicative of a potential style and structure only.

Ms. Furley explained her role as one of several CAALs relative to the new inspection regime, stating she would be available to attend meetings she might be invited to by the Council. She then went on to compare the CAAL with its predecessor, the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), noting that the CAA focussed on outcomes and planning rather than processes.

Regarding the CAA Inspectorate website, it was noted that this would provide demographic and other information that local authorities would be consulted on before the website went live next September.

In the discussion that followed, it was noted that:

1. The CAA would comprise a system of regular reviews rather than the episodic nature of the CPA, with results published in November of each year;
2. Consideration was being given to ways to alter the status of red flags to reflect changes during the course of the year;
3. A number of local authorities had been involved in trials of the website and that information on the trials could be found on the Audit Commission website;
4. It was for partnerships to involve the voluntary sector and others in the delivery of services, of which outcomes, improvement and prospects of improvement would form the basis for area assessments;
5. The CAA was an attempt to bring a number of inspectorates together in an effort to reduce the number of inspections that took place and

to avoid duplicating the collection and collation of information on the COUNT principle (Collect Once, Use Numerous Times);

6. Different CAALs would be responsible for different areas and that local and national variations would be taken into account when carrying out assessments with Green and Red Flags being the common factor in all assessments;
7. Assessment of the voluntary sector and public opinion was implicit in the assessment of the local authority and the local strategic partnership; and
8. The final CPA results would be published in February 2009, the final CAA framework to be completed in early 2009 and the first CAA results to be published in November 2009.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Annette Furley for her presentation.

#### **4 THE STATE OF THE SECTOR**

Mary Gardiner (Kensington & Chelsea Social Council), by way of introduction to the report that had been circulated and the presentation that was to follow, informed members of the publication of KCSC's "The State of the Sector" report and "Mapping the Voluntary and Community Sector in Kensington & Chelsea" guide. The Steering Group then heard a presentation from Angela Spence on "The State of the Sector" report.

Following the presentation, Mary Gardiner reported that some of the work referred to in the presentation, such as the new partnership on mental health, had already started. In addition, with the transition from grants to contracts, KCSC were reviewing services to see what improvements might be made. In doing so, the number of small organisations run by volunteers had been noted and it was proposed to look at funding for these groups and what role KCSC would want various organisations to play. In particular, the KCSC would be looking at multi-agency work, lobbying and campaigning with a view to strengthening services and engaging in new areas such as climate change

In the ensuing discussion, the following points were made: That -

1. In Kensington and Chelsea, earned income accounted for only 5% of the sector's income, which was below the national average;
2. All nurseries within the borough were fee paying and, therefore, the KCSC might look at nursery provision in relation to earned income (it was noted that there were not many Third Sector organisations within the Borough with assets, such as accommodation, that could be used to generate income);

3. Targets could be set in relation to earned income and beneficiaries of services should be consulted on the appropriateness of the services provided;
4. The economic climate was such that it could be expected that there would be increased competition for funding, as noted by the KCSC in addition to the lack of corporate sponsorship of organisations; and
5. A number of mergers had taken place in response to the changing economic climate and that the strongest bids for LSC funding had come in the form of collaborative bids.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Angela Spence and Mary Gardiner for the report and their presentation and welcomed the work that the KCSC were undertaking.

## **5 NEWS AND VIEWS**

The Steering Group Members reported briefly on matters of current interest.

### **NHS Kensington & Chelsea**

Melanie Smith reported the following items:

#### Change of Name

The PCT has changed its name to NHS Kensington & Chelsea;

#### Star Rating

In the recent Health Care Commissioner assessment ("star rating"), the PCT was judged "good" on the use of resources and "good" on the quality of services. The "Use of Resources" score reflected the PCT's historical position and the PCT was let down on its "quality" score by:

- Smoking cessation services (which needed to improve);
- Chlamydia screening for young people (which was now improving) and;
- The number of dental visits

The PCT was also poor on MMR vaccination uptake, but this had since improved to the level of being one of the best PCTs in London.

The scores for other local NHS organisations were:

1. Chelsea and Westminster: excellent on use of resources, good on quality of services;
2. CNWL Mental Health Trust; excellent on use of resources, excellent on quality of services;

3. The Royal Brompton: good on use of resources, excellent on quality of services;
4. The Royal Marsden: excellent on use of resources, excellent on quality of services.

### **The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea:**

1. Councillor Paget-Brown reported on the following items:

#### Waste Recycling

That the council was considering ways in which it could step up its house and commercial waste collections.

#### The Tabernacle

That Carnival Village had taken over the lease of the Tabernacle and would open in June of next year after refurbishment had been carried out.

#### Community Kitchen Gardens

That it was hoped to have a community kitchen garden, as distinct from an allotment, open and available for use in the next few months.

#### Regeneration Exchange

That the next Regeneration Exchange would take place in January and would have Employment and Jobs as its theme.

2. Councillor Shireen Ritchie reported on the following items:

#### Family and Children's Services OSC

That the Family and Children's Services OSC had set up two working groups to look at:

- Proposed Secondary School in the North of the Borough; and
- Youth provision.

#### Family and Children's Services Voluntary Sector Commissioning

This would be the subject of a Key decision which was presently scheduled on the Council's Forward Plan.

3. Councillor Judith Blakeman reported on the increase in heating and hot water charges, noting that, unlike last year, no hardship fund had been set up by the Council for this year
4. The Chairman, Councillor Cockell, reported on the following item:  
"Be A Councillor" Event

As part of London Councils "Be a Councillor" publicity campaign to encourage more people to consider standing in the 2010 London elections, the Council held an open evening which had been well attended by prospective candidates. The Chairman noted that the campaign would become a national campaign in January of next year.

### **Learning and Skills Council (L&SC)**

Joyce Roberts reported that:

1. The Learning & Skills Council were meeting with their providers and, as part of the Machinery of Government, colleagues from the Local Authority were shadowing the meetings in readiness for the transition of responsibility in 2010.
2. 25 November would see the launch of the L&SC's Annual Statement of Priorities together with its Grant Letter. There had been a delay in publishing the latter due to the current economic climate. The L&SC also expected to hear further news regarding the £350m referred to by John Denham and guidance on how this funding would benefit small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in particular.

### **Voluntary Organisations Forum (VOF)**

Diversity, Equality and Inclusivity: Jamie Renton reported that -

1. The third meeting of the Disability Network, which shares information from a group of people focused on disability had taken place and issues discussed included:
  - The barriers that prevent local disabled people from accessing healthcare and put this to a panel of key staff at the Kensington & Chelsea PCT. These included physical accessibility issues, lack of information in accessible formats and negative attitudes of staff.
  - How disabled people can get more involved in having a say and shaping the services they receive. There was a focus on better feedback mechanisms for those that take part in consultations and the need for the PALS service to be better developed and offer more Borough specific advice.
  - Val Patterson – Westway Community Trust reports that supplementary schools are suffering with a lack of funding. Over 1000 children attend supplementary schools in the borough every Saturday. They do a lot of preventative work. Currently there is funding for community cohesion but supplementary schools face a barrier as funders only want to fund new or innovative projects not ongoing work. The supplementary schools want to campaign and create public awareness of the issues by having an open day – date to be announced.

2. The Voluntary Advice Agencies Forum (VAAF) KCSC was supporting the new Advice Now project, which was awarded funding from the Big Lottery to build a network of advice and information providers within the borough and to build their capacity.

Adult Health and Well Being: Helen Leech reported that -

1. A number of voluntary groups had entered the two PCT funding rounds. The first successful projects were starting and included:
  - A well woman project for Somali Women;
  - A Wayfinder project to support older people to find their way around support services;
  - A carers project to provide fun outside care responsibilities;
  - A project linking isolated older people into activity and a project to support African communities to reach more mainstream services
2. A multi agency action group was looking at affordable warmth and fuel poverty and attempting to address immediate issues of concern; and
3. At the Older Peoples VOF there was an update on the Older Peoples' Mental Health Strategy. Two voluntary sector organisations are alternating on the Older People's Mental Health project board and inputting into the strategy.

Engaging Communities: Angela Spence reported that -

1. KCSC would be hosting a community briefing session on the new Government Empowerment Paper on 3 December.
2. The Race Equality Partnership Kensington & Chelsea (REPKC) REPKC would be closing in March 2009 due to lack of funding and concerns had been expressed regarding the effects that the closure might have.

### **Kensington & Chelsea Social Council (KCSC)**

Michael Bach, Chair of KCSC, reported that -

1. The Annual General Meeting of the Borough Voluntary Organisations Advisory Group (BVOAG) was to take place on 13 November with workshops on Personalisation, Community Engagement, Commissioning (planning the Local Development Framework) and relationships with the Council, followed by questions to a panel of senior councillors and officers.
2. The Main Voluntary Organisation Forum (VOF) met on Wednesday 10th September where Councillor Campbell was a guest speaker. The next meeting of the VOF would be on 3 December at 2.00pm to

5.15pm at the Lighthouse when there would be a presentation by Local Involvement Network.

3. KCSC was currently working with the KCP to look at how the LAA indicator set will be monitored. KCSC will be choosing which indicators it aims to be involved in and how monitoring will be governed.

### **Kensington and Chelsea Societies**

Celia Rees-Jenkins reported that:

1. Along with the kitchen Garden scheme referred to by Councillor Paget-Brown, the North Kensington Environment Project was carrying out a pilot scheme into the outlook of green roofs; and
2. Interest had been expressed by the Green Partners Group in having a Regeneration Exchange on Sustainability, but staffing issues had meant that the Group had not met for a while, though it was hoped to have a meeting of the group in the New Year.

### **Fire Service**

Brian Deans introduced himself as the new Borough Commander and informed the Steering Group that he welcomed the opportunity to continue supporting the KCP. He then reported on the following matters:

1. That London Fire Brigade had just undergone a CPA with the Audit Commission and that he would report back to the Steering Group on the outcome of the assessment; and
2. The need for sprinkler installations to be fitted to the new School proposed for the North of the Borough.

### **Metropolitan Police Service**

The Borough Commander reported on the following items:

#### Halloween and Fireworks Night

That significant additional numbers of police officers and PCSOs were deployed on both nights.

#### Cannabis Factory

That police had raided premises used to house a cannabis factory in the Borough

#### Crime Figures

The number of robberies, burglaries and car crime were all down within the Borough and that the overall crime rate within the borough was down by 5%. In addition, reported youth violence offences were down 34%.



## **Chamber of Commerce**

Malcolm Spalding reported that:

1. There would be a meeting of the Learning, Work and Business Sub Group the next day which would consider Local Area Agreement targets;
2. The launch of the Earl's Court Society whose inaugural annual general meeting would take place on 2 December; and
3. The Chamber of Commerce would be hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner for the American community in London at the Rembrandt Hotel on 27 November and that members of the Steering Group were welcome to attend.

## **6 THE NEW COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

The Steering Group considered Items 6A and 6B together, as follows:

### **The Future of Our Community**

The Steering Group considered a report on the first proof of the Council's third Community Strategy, "The Future of Our Community", seeking the Group's comments on and approval of the strategy before it was submitted to the Council for approval on Wednesday, 3 December 2008. Matters raised were, as follows:

1. Single Person Households: Reference was made to the high number of single person households in the Borough relative to the Office for National Statistics figures, and it was proposed that attendant issues of isolation and loneliness should be highlighted in the report.
2. Illustrated Maps: It was noted some of the maps, particularly those showing only underground stations and hospitals, were not particularly helpful in themselves and that consideration should be given as to how they might be made more useful by the inclusion of additional information.
3. GP Services in the Borough: It was noted that there was no GP service in the south west corner of the Borough and that local residents would use the nearest GP service which was located in Westminster.

### **A Picture of Our Community**

The Steering Group was invited to:

- Consider the first designed proof of the 2008 publication of "A Picture of Our Community" and provide comments on the content, design and layout of the publication;
- Approve the proof for publication, pending final amendments; and

- Delegate authority to Councillor Cockell, as Chairman, to approve the final version which will be shared with the Partnership via email.

Resolved - That:

1. The first proof of the Community Strategy, "The Future of Our Community", be approved, subject to further consideration being given to -
  - Highlighting social issues associated with single households; and
  - Including additional information on certain of the maps;
2. Approval be given to the proof version of "A Picture of Our Community", pending final amendment; and
3. The Chairman be given delegated authority to approve the final version of "A Picture of Our Community" before publication.

### **Delivering for Our Community – An Update**

The steering Group considered a report that set out the process to gather information for the new Community Strategy Monitoring Plan which had been approved by the Community Strategy Sub Group.

It was noted that the Monitoring Plan would include Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets.

Mary Gardiner asked when the new Cross-cutting Theme Group on community and equalities would meet and Rachel Smith responded by saying that this was being led by the Community Engagement Team. Melanie Smith added that invitations would soon be sent to all Steering Group members asking for nominations from their organisation/sector.

### **Resolved -**

That the contents of the report be noted.

## **7 REFRESHING THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

The steering Group considered a report that set out the process to refresh the Local Area Agreement (LAA), and which outlined some early issues.

The report stated that the new Community Strategy Monitoring Plan, "Delivering for our Community" (also known as "D4C"), would, in effect, after being refreshed, become the new LAA. Publication of the revised D4C was scheduled for April 2009.

Central government had raised the issue of the effect of the economic downturn on LAA targets. The report identified targets that may be affected and set out various proposals for the Steering Group to consider in relation to these targets.

Rachel Smith stated that revised and updated information would be sent to Government of London as part of the process of refreshing the interim monitoring plan.

The following points were noted:

1. Target 161: Learners Achieving a Level 1 Qualification in Literacy - a downturn in the economy might make this target easier target to achieve as there would be an a greater number of candidates;
2. Targets 152/3: Working Age People on Out-of-Work Benefits and Working Age People on Out-of-Work Benefits in the Most Deprived Neighbourhoods, respectively - that numbers should be linked to national unemployment rates;
3. That negotiations with Government of London on the targets would continue between now and March of next year; and
4. Care should be taken to avoid setting targets that were not likely to be achieved.

#### **Resolved -**

That approval be given to proposing reduced target levels which reflect the changing economy based on the latest available data on economic trends.

## **8 FORWARD PLANNING**

The Steering Group noted forthcoming meeting dates (all Wednesdays):

1. 14 January 2009
2. 11 March 2009
3. 13 May 2009
4. 15 July 2009
5. 16 September 2009
6. 11 November 2009

#### **ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS**

There was item of other business, as follows:

#### **Agenda Planning Group**

The Chairman asked if anyone was willing to sit on the Steering Group's agenda Planning Group.

The meeting ended at 7.17pm

**CHAIRMAN**