

## **Increasing volunteering opportunities**

### **Background**

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership for the borough) is likely to receive some funding from central government in exchange for achieving stretch targets agreed in the borough's first Local Area Agreement. This is known as Performance Reward Grant or PRG, and will be paid to the Partnership in two lump sums in the final quarter of financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11.

The Partnership wishes to identify a focus for spending PRG and is currently considering a number of options, including maximising volunteering opportunities. As part of this, Slivers-of-Time were asked to attend a Partnership sub group meeting to demonstrate their software to the group and discuss how this could be used to maximise volunteering opportunities in the borough.

Slivers-of-Time highlighted that their product could:

- build a market of volunteering-seekers who want to find opportunities to fit in around other commitments;
- build a market of organisations who wish to find volunteers on a top-up basis at irregular times; and
- offer both paid (non-volunteering) and volunteering opportunities to 'seekers' within this scope.

### **Project brief**

The Partnership wishes to encourage local residents to take up volunteering opportunities within the borough, particularly those residents who may have become recently unemployed as a result of the current economic downturn and/or those residents who can only offer limited availability.

This aim of this project would be to:

- recruit more local residents for local volunteering opportunities;
- recruit those residents who have not volunteered before; and
- recruit residents who want to find volunteering opportunities to fit in with other commitments.

The project would need to operate in conjunction with organisations which currently provide 'recruitment and matching' services for volunteering opportunities in the borough (such as the Volunteer Centre) and in sympathy with any projects already being undertaken to increase volunteering opportunities in the borough.

### **Scope**

- To build the market for volunteering opportunities in the borough, focussing on first-time volunteers and those who have limited availability to offer.

- To facilitate volunteering opportunities for those seeking to take these up on a flexible or irregular basis.
- To build the capacity of organisations who currently provide 'recruitment and matching' services for volunteering opportunities in the borough.

### **Viability**

- Assess the degree to which it is realistic to build on current levels of volunteering in the borough and if so, how best to target efforts to do this in order to recruit those who have not volunteered before.
- Assess the degree to which organisations wishing to recruit volunteers would be willing and/or able to offer opportunities on a flexible or irregular basis.
- Assess the degree to which Slivers-of-Time can build (or assist in building) the market for volunteering opportunities to suit the scope of the project.
- Assess possible levels of demand for paid (non-volunteering) and volunteering opportunities, offered through this project.

### **Cost**

- Use of/purchase Slivers-of-Time software to enhance the volunteer centre's 'recruitment and matching' service, including set up, support and training costs. *Note - Slivers-of-Time have provided an initial indicative cost of £120k over two years for this.*
- Use of/purchase Slivers-of-Time to build volunteering market.
- RBKC officer time to set up/manage project.