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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA COUNCIL MEETING – 26 APRIL 2006

PRESENTATION ON THE CHILDREN'S FUND AND THE CHILDREN'S PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

REPORT BY CABINET MEMBER FOR FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. The Children's Fund is a Department for Education and Skills funded initiative and the Royal Borough is both the Lead and Accountable Body.
2. The Children's Fund held a Show Case event on 17 March 2006 at the Town Hall where the results of a recent children's photograph competition were exhibited. The competition asked children what they liked, didn't like, would like to change and where they do and don't feel safe in Kensington and Chelsea. There were twenty entrants from children and young people aged five to twenty years old.
3. The photos will be exhibited at the Council meeting and a ten-minute video, giving a brief overview of the Children's Fund will be shown.
4. Members are invited to look at the photos and see how the views of the children relate to their areas of responsibility.
5. The key message coming from the children through their pictures was one of valuing the play spaces in Kensington and Chelsea as well as a local leisure centre in the area. Children highlighted the importance of play and being healthy and how this supported their physical and emotional growth. They also commented in discussions how this keeps them safe and out of trouble.
6. The photographs also gave clues to what children do not like about Kensington and Chelsea. This was mainly focused around rubbish in the community and the natural environment. It highlighted the importance for children of living in a clean and green space with trees and flowers.
7. The children also gave clear messages as to where and when they felt safe in their discussions. This appeared to be when around family or friends. Concerns around safety included security cameras

not working, graffiti, vandalism, people hanging around taking substances.

8. A copy of the Children's Fund Review Report will be available at the Council Meeting. The report looks at the work of Children's Fund since its establishment in 2003.

Councillor Shireen Ritchie
Cabinet Member for Family and Children's Services