

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Councillor Gerard Hargreaves (Chairman)
Councillor Elizabeth Campbell
Councillor Timothy Coleridge
Councillor Monica Press
Councillor Mary Weale

Voluntary Organisation Representatives in Attendance

Angela Spence	(Kensington and Chelsea Social Council)
Charles Barber	(Advice)
Helen Leech	(Health and Well-being)
Jane Gray	(Advice)
Michelle Abbey	(Community Centres)
Val Patterson	(Education)
Vicki Davies	(Community Centres)

Also in Attendance

Tony Redpath	(RBKC, Director of Strategy and Local Services)
Melanie Marshman	(RBKC, Head of the Community Engagement Team)
Peter Westmore	(Tri-borough, Senior Public Health Officer)
Isabella Jewell	(Community Engagement Project Officer)

Minutes

Helen Fagan	(RBKC, Third Sector Development Officer)
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- 1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, AND INTRODUCTIONS**
 - 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Karimah Bint Dawoud and Jamie Renton.

- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

- 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**
 - 3.1 An inaccuracy was reported on paragraph 6.5. It was agreed that this paragraph was to be removed.
 - 3.2 With this amendment the minutes of the previous meeting (1 September 2015) were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

- 4. OLDER PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

(Presentation by Helen Leech, Director of Open Age)

- 4.1 Helen Leech highlighted some stark statistics on the impact that isolation can have on the health of older people and provided an overview of the services that Open Age provides within the Borough.
- 4.2 Open Age's engagement methods included approaching people on the street, putting up posters in pharmacies and GP surgeries and attending the events of other organisations. The most effective method, particularly since being based in St Charles Hospital, is direct referrals from health care professionals who sometimes even walk their patients down to the Second Half Centre.
- 4.3 Open Age wished to note that in relation to adult learning classes they can sometimes find it difficult to demonstrate rigid progression targets. Mr Redpath recognised that these are not appropriate for the demographic group involved but the progression targets are prescribed by national funders and so RBKC is currently unable to change these.
- 4.3 In answer to Cllr Coleridge's query about what resources Open Age require to move towards the aim that no one within the Borough being lonely, Helen Leech recognised the importance of the Silver Sunday brochure which brought information on activities for older people being offered to a much wider audience than Open Age could reach on its own.
- 4.4 Val Patterson and Vicki Davies both highlighted that the over 55s are disproportionately represented at their own courses and conferences and so Council funding strategies may need to be revisited to reflect that activities that are not targeted at older people often attract more than is reflective of the local population.
- 4.7 Cllr Hargreaves offered his congratulations to Open Age on its coordination of the Silver Sunday programme this year.

5. REFRESH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA COMPACT

- 5.1 Miss Fagan explained how the Kensington and Chelsea Compact was being refreshed and outlined how within the refresh work, good practice had been identified from other local authority Compacts and from Compact Voice, such as the inclusion of Social Value.
- 5.2 CIG and commissioners have been involved through the Compact Refresh sounding board.
- 5.4 Miss Fagan invited BVOAG members for feedback at the meeting or alternatively by contacting her after the meeting (helen.fagan@rbkc.gov.uk). The draft Compact will be made available for consultation.

6. VOLUNTARY SECTOR MATTERS

(Report of the Chief Executive Officer of the Kensington and Chelsea Social Council)

- 6.1 Angela Spence went through the Voluntary Sector Matters paper.
- 6.2 AS reported that the Corporate Property Department was reluctant to take part in a strategic property group at this time. AS suggested the idea of a property working group be kept on future agendas to bolster engagement between the voluntary sector and this department.

Action: Community Engagement Team to keep the item on future BVOAG agendas.

Action: Councillor Press, Tony Redpath and Angela Spence or an alternative voluntary sector representative to meet to discuss how a more strategic picture of the voluntary sector's needs might be progressed, in the absence of a joint BVOAG/Council Group.

6.3 Borough Voluntary Organisation Members recognised that there are a lot of property issues that will affect the voluntary sector in 2016.

6.4 The Compact Implementation Group and Borough Voluntary Organisations Advisory Group are to be reviewed in order to refresh the purpose of both groups and what they aim to achieve.

6.5 Delays in funding payments are still an issue. Mr Redpath asked any voluntary groups affected to contact Ms Marshman to resolve as soon as possible.

6.6 Refugee crisis – RBKC is still awaiting guidance from National Government to inform its approach to the refugee crisis.

6.7 Voluntary sector organisations wish to highlight that new commissioning arrangements in Youth Services offer no opportunity for new organisations within the Borough attracting funding from Children's Services.

Action: Melanie Marshman to ask Paul Williamson to update Vicki Davies on this matter

7. COUNCIL GENERAL MATTERS

(Report of the Head of the Community Engagement Team)

7.1 Canalside House – a proposal for a consultant to assess future options for Canalside House is to be brought to Council in February and the decision will be discussed at BVOAG.

7.2 Property policy affecting voluntary sector tenants in Council-owned property – Angela Spence highlighted one group that attended the Q&A session has further questions.

Action: Angela Spence to put Mr Redpath in contact with said organisation

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Cllr Hargreaves wished to congratulate Val Patterson on the celebratory event recently held to mark one year of Westway pop-up crèche, funded by the Innovative Projects Fund.

Meeting ended 19:55

The date of the next meeting will be on 24 February 2016