

London Borough of Newham & Voluntary Sector Meeting

This briefing note provides a summary of the main topics discussed at the London Borough of Newham and Voluntary Sector meeting held on 10th October 2011.

The meeting is chaired by Dr Graeme Betts, Executive Director of Adults, Community and Leisure and is attended by cross section of Third Sector organisations who are members of the Change Up group.

Update on Council business

- The Council is operating in challenging times due to cuts by central government; we are particularly concerned about the effect of savings from NHS budgets which may impact on council finances and services.
- An Executive Senior Management review is currently underway which will achieve council savings. The group will be updated on any changes to senior management posts.
- In preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games, LBN are organising a programme of events called 'Lets get the party started'. Funding is available through our Inspiring People Grant which offers a one-off payment towards organising an event for the community.
- At our next meeting in December, LBN officers will provide an update on service delivery during Games Time and our planned 2012 events and how the third sector can get involved.

Building resilience in Newham

The group received a copy of the LBN resilience delivery plan, 'Quid Pro Quo, not Status Quo', that sets out our vision on resilience in Newham and how together with our partners we can achieve it.

A workshop will be organised for third sector partners, as part of our programme of consultation and engagement to discuss the resilience outcomes, performance measures and how the third sector feels it can contribute to the outcomes.

Discussions are continuing on an approach to Social Return on Investment and it is proposed to hold a workshop in January/February 2012.

Strategic Commissioning

An update was provided on the Active and Connected and Young People's commissioning programme, there are 25 contracts from the eight tendered lots.

Comments were noted from the third sector regarding the contracts running on an annual basis as opposed to three years. At the next meeting, LBN will present a detailed plan / timetable outlining issues, risks and solutions.

LBN/Third Sector Partnership Action Plan

The meeting was updated on the progress of the LBN and third sector partnership action plan. The group agreed to refresh the Newham Compact to ensure that it still meets the needs of the third sector and LBN.

External Funding

NVSC updated the meeting on a pilot project being undertaken with LBN to map external funding in Canning Town and Custom House. A questionnaire has been produced and a list of organisations drawn together. The findings from the mapping pilot when complete will be reported back at a future meeting.

The next meeting will take place on 6th December 2011.