



City of Westminster



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

WCC & RBKC Health & Wellbeing Board

Date:	05 October 2023
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Vibrant and Healthy Communities from 8 th June Joint Health and Wellbeing Board
Report of:	Angela Spence KCSC Jackie Rosenberg, OneWestminster
Wards Involved:	All
Report Author and Contact Details:	

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The meeting on the 8th June had the opportunity for HWBB members to understand and discuss the role of the VCS and its leadership of the Vibrant and Healthy Communities (VHC) programme.
- 1.2 Although the programme area is complex and is driven by a strong prevention and early intervention approach requiring collaborative working across the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and public sector partners, there was good recognition of the role of the VCS. The VHC starts from a “community asset based” approach to health and wellbeing that sees communities and citizens as holding the solution rather than seeing them as a problem to be fixed. This is embedded through the Health and Well Being Strategy and is referenced in a number of ambition areas.
- 1.3 The programme is the newest of the five place based programmes and is presently still in the design stage. However, it is ambitious and covers:
 - Enabling the VCS as a full partner in the Bi-Borough Place Based Partnership, strengthening capability and capacity and understanding and measuring VCS impact

- Focus on Connector roles and workforce including 'Project Octopus': bringing together the wide range of best support and personalised care for residents, linking to the development of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams
 - Tackling known health inequalities in our communities, starting with community developed solutions for improving uptake of screening, vaccinations and immunisations
 - Realistic funding to support community delivery through aligning funding and shared decision making for some budgets.
- 1.4 The VCS sector has a significant role to play to influence and support working across existing place based partnership priorities including complex care, children young people and autism, healthy weight and mental health, providing the test for the balance of prevention across the spectrum of interventions, planned transformation and service models.
- 1.4 The meeting heard from Zohra Davis, a local resident and Mental Health & Wellbeing Project Lead for Al-Hasaniya. She talked about her experiences of working with local people, highlighting some of mental health struggles facing women they support and gave a strong and passionate talk about the importance of services being responsive and close to where people live and being culturally sensitive.
- 1.5 There were three stalls highlighting the need for multi-disciplinary working across partners to address the wider social determinants of health to support residents. This included the work of community champions and how they help to understand and raise the voices and issues of local people.
- 1.6 Following the break there was a wider discussion on the role of the VCS supporting to address inequalities across communities. Key points raised included:
- The talk from Zohra shows that there is still a lot of work to do
 - The VCS Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out clearly the position of the sector within the prevention agenda but also as key partners within the health and care system
 - We want VHC to be an example that can be followed in community centred approaches in tackling health inequalities
 - Having a longer term vision and plan which includes resourcing the VCS is critical.

END