



Newsletter

October, November, December, 06
January 2007

Kingston Council's new Voluntary Sector Board

Kingston Council has set up a Voluntary Sector Board to improve its partnership working with the local voluntary sector and to increase communication with elected Members.

The Board has its first meeting in October and will be meeting at least three times a year to provide a forum for discussion of important strategic issues for the voluntary sector. The meetings will be chaired by Councillor Rolson Davies, Executive Member for Health and Community and the Vice Chair is the Chief Executive of Kingston Voluntary Action, Hilary Garner.

The first meeting will discuss voluntary sector membership and how representatives of different sectors of the voluntary sector will be elected to sit on the Board. KVA will be seeking nominations in the near future.

Capacity Checking Framework

The Capacity Checking Framework is an organisational health check developed by the South London CVS Partnership for the voluntary sector. The *Capacity Checking Framework* examines the extent to which a voluntary and community organisation (VCO) is making a measurable difference to the lives of the people using its services. This form of assessment is thought to provide the strongest affirmation of an organisation's fitness for purpose.

The framework covers: Ethos, Service planning and delivery, Monitoring and Evaluation, External relationships

The framework engages the VCO through semi-structured interviews and a focus group with the VCO beneficiaries. There is a step-by-step guide throughout the framework and it can be used effectively by fairly inexperienced development workers as well as adapted by a skilled capacity builder.

We are looking for two organisations who are interested in implementing the Capacity Checking Framework.

If you are interested please contact Zahida Saddiq on 020 8255 3335 or at communitydevelopment@kva.org.uk

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KVA Staff

KVA:

Hilary Garner, Chief Executive

Lynda Evans, Deputy Chief Executive

Jackie Bennett, Business Manager

Linda Palmer, Finance / Admin Worker

Barbara Riddell, LiNC Development Worker - Kingston

Maria Tunmer, Health & Social Care Manager

Zahida Saddiq, Community Development Worker

Kingston Furniture Re-use Development

Jim Christmas, Operations Manager

James Deane, Driver/Volunteer Co-ordinator

Matthew Burge, Driver/Warehousemen

Adrian Collins, Administrator

Superhighways Partnership Team

Kate White, Project Manager

Marcus Otite, Maher Al-Ugaily, Paul Allen,
Ngozi Mayo, ICT Support Workers

Kingston Volunteer Centre

Maria Jarvis, Manager

Chris Guinness, Buddy Scheme Co-ordinator &
Supported Needs Co-ordinator

Pat Stanley, Volunteering Outreach Worker

Partnership Worker

Jacqui Finn, South London CVS Partnership
Co-ordinator

Mission Statement

KVA exists to promote and encourage the development of Kingston's voluntary sector; and to facilitate communication between the voluntary sector and the statutory authorities and the public.

Newsletter Information

KVA's Newsletter is distributed free of charge four times a year to all known voluntary organisations in the Borough, key personnel in the statutory sector as well as local councillors. Copies are also distributed to libraries, doctors' surgeries and schools. The Newsletter provides an opportunity to promote your organisation or forthcoming events. We welcome material and comments for inclusion. Inserts can be included by prior arrangement. Insert costs are £35 for statutory bodies and £20 for voluntary organisations. The Newsletter can be put on tape if required.

If you have an amendment to our mailing list please contact Linda Palmer, lindap@kva.org.uk tel: 020 8255 3335. We are always looking for articles, news and information on matters affecting voluntary and community groups in Kingston. If you would like to submit an item to the Newsletter please contact Linda Palmer on lindap@kva.org.uk or phone 020 8255 3335.

Copy Deadlines

February, March, April - 20th January 07

May, June, July - 20th April 07

Disclaimer – information contained in the Newsletter & inserts come from a wide range of sources. Opinions or statements expressed may not necessarily reflect those of KVA.

KVA aims to ensure all information is correct and up to date.

KVA Membership. Membership of KVA is open to all voluntary and community groups who are based or work in Kingston. For details of how to become a member contact Linda Palmer, email lindap@kva.org.uk



Kate White, Superhighways Project Manager, will be taking maternity leave from October. We would all like to take this opportunity to wish her well.

Maher Al-Ugaily will be acting Project Manager in Kate's absence and during this period we will be making every effort to continue to provide direct ICT Support to Kingston groups although this will be on a limited basis.

Kingston Community Wireless Project

KVA and Superhighways, working in partnership with the Royal Borough of Kingston, have secured funding from the London South Learning & Skills Council to set up a Community Wireless Network providing the infrastructure to develop learning, delivered by voluntary and community organisations and statutory providers.

The project will be developed over three years and aims initially to provide residents and community centres in Norbiton and Chessington areas with free wireless broadband Internet access.

Setting up a website - ePublish training days

Maher Al-Ugaily will be running another ePublish training day on Thursday 9 November at the Access Learning Centre, North Kingston.

Please contact maher@superhighways.org.uk (tel. 020 8255 8040) to find out more and book a space.

Take a look at two sites recently created by using the tool:

www.kingstonepublish.org.uk/kingstontoylibrary

www.kingstonepublish.org.uk/cap

Stop Press:

If you wish to borrow a projector for your AGM or another event, please book it well in advance .. currently demand is exceeding supply! Contact Maher - details as above.

Community Furniture Re-use Project -

people on low incomes are able to buy furniture at low cost - if you know anyone in need of such items, please refer them to the Project, tel. no. 020 8942 5500.



Please also contact this number if you have furniture to donate.

The Project is now opening on the 1st and 3rd Saturday morning of every month for clearance sales. To find out more contact the above number or email: furnitureproject@kva.org.uk

KVA Subscriptions 2006/07 – for those affiliated groups who have not already responded, we are enclosing a further renewal notice and would ask that you pass it to your Treasurer for payment. If you have already sent in your subscription, please ignore this reminder.

Kingston Voluntary Action AGM

We are holding our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 6th December at the Hawker Centre in Lower Ham Road, Kingston. The formal meeting will be followed by a Christmas social for the voluntary sector and our partners.

If you can attend please complete and return the slip on the back cover of the newsletter.

Fax: 020 8255 8804

Email: lindap@kva.org.uk

KVA Directory of Voluntary & Community Organisations - it has come to our notice that the telephone number on Page 37 of our directory for the **Family Information Service** is incorrect. Please delete this number from your records and insert 020 8547 6582, which is the Early Years Information Service.



The cornerHOUSE is a Community Arts Centre encouraging and supporting the arts within the local community with special emphasis on working with young people.

The following events will be taking place:

- 18-21 October Upstage's production of Comfort and Joy
- 9-11 November Kingston Youth Theatre's production of Wind in the Willows, rescheduled from July
- 5-9 December The Nativity – a promenade performance of a part of the Passion Plays trilogy – cast members wanted!

To audition email: Leo Ellmers at Lellmers@aol.com or call him on 07949 800929 or 020 8390 1167. Alternatively, email Jon Constant at constantjonathan@hotmail.com

The Trust is always open to ideas and suggestions from the community, so if there is something you would like to see happening at the cornerHOUSE, either involving you or with you as audience, please let them know.

Help wanted

CornerHOUSE need help with their work day on 25th November. Tasks include painting, tidying and minor repairs. Refreshments will be provided.

Contact 020 8296 9012 or visit

Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness is holding its AGM on Monday 13th November at 8pm at the Emmanuel Church, Tolworth. Tel: 020 8255 2439 for more details.

LOVE New Malden

In summer 2004 up to 300 young people from all over the world daily filled the pews of Christchurch New Malden for a week of action and mission. The reason they were there - Soul in the City, London's biggest coordinated week of social evangelism ever undertaken. Two years on from Soul in the City young Christians across New Malden and Kingston Borough are being asked to come together again in a week of action, mission and evangelism in a smaller, but by no means less important event given the working title of LOVE New Malden.

During half term (25th - 28th October) churches and their young people will be involved on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings with worship and teaching which will be followed by an afternoon of social action projects including sports tournaments, tea dance and clean up projects. Closing the week on the Saturday afternoon and evening will be a festival fun day where people from all over the world can come together in worship and celebration of cultural unity and diversity.

Anyone wishing to find out more about LOVE New Malden should contact the Oxygen office on 020 8547 0566 or email info@oxygen-online.org

Do you look after a relative or friend who couldn't manage at home without you?

If you do, then please drop in and find out about services, support, benefits, learning opportunities and much more:

Carers' Rights Day Friday 8th December between 10am and 5pm at Market House, Market Place, Kingston

Contact Kirstie on 020 8547 6124 for details.

Office Moves... MeWe have moved to Chichester House, 145a London Road, Kingston KT2 6NH (new tel: 020 8974 6565) which was African Families Support Services old office.

AFSS have moved across the road to 1/1a Endeavour House, 2 Cambridge Road, Kingston KT1 3JU and have kept the same tel: 020 8974 9993.

Kingston and Merton Real Nappy Network is a small, independent voluntary organisation that promotes the use of real nappies and to reduce the number of disposables going in to landfill. They provide training sessions for parents, carers, health professionals and child care professionals on the use and the types of real nappies available. Using real nappies can save up to £500 per child and stop 4000 disposable nappies per child going into landfill.

For further details contact Mariana Cervantes-Burchell P O Box 428 New Malden KT3 9AU Tel: 07949 628 148 Email: kingstonmertonrnn@yahoo.co.uk



Born Too Soon Group for Families
This group is for parents who have had a baby or babies cared for at the Neonatal Unit at Kingston Hospital. It meets every Wednesday between 1-00p.m. and 4-00 at Welcare House, 53-55 Canbury Park Road, Kingston. There is a large room with toys with access to the kitchen and garden. Please come along and meet other parents. For further details contact Pauline Woods on 8974 9157 or via www.bornতোsoon.org.uk

There is a Babies Memorial Service on Wednesday, 1st November at the Shiraz Mirza Hall behind Norbiton Station at 7-30p.m. This service is for any family who has been bereaved by miscarriage, stillbirth, the death of a baby or child. For further details contact either Pauline Woods on 8974 9157 or Ian Reid, Hospital Chaplain on 8546 7711 Extension 2429.

Kingston WelCare

Kingston WelCare is holding a Voluntary Sector Consultation day on 20 November at WelCare House. 10am to 1pm (with lunch at 1pm) It is a chance for you to share with the forum what your service plans are for the future; consider developing a joint project with Kingston Welcare and have a say about the services Kingston Welcare should be delivering. If you would like to attend, please contact Marjie Grant Project Manager on Tel: 020 8546 3258.

KATA – Kingston Area Travellers' Association

Is a campaigning group that fights for better public transport. It was set up in 1991 and covers the Royal Borough of Kingston, Merton, Hampton and Twickenham.

KATA lobbies with the transport companies about bus shelters, timetables, train stations, fares, the oyster card, bus routes and anything else to do with public transport.

All information regarding their latest campaigns is in their quarterly newsletter.

To join KATA's membership or to get in touch with them to discuss any transport issues you have experienced in Kingston contact the Chair, Tony Adams Tel: 020 8541 1583 or by post KATA 31 The Bittoms Kingston KT1 2AR



The Fircroft Trust provides a day service to support and maintain adults with mental health problems in the community. The Centre is now providing a new group for men with mental health problems living in the community .

Fircroft are busy fundraising and have their AGM coming up

November 3rd - Fircroft Centre are putting on a ladies fashion show as a fundraising event. There will be an opportunity to buy ladies wear at bargain prices. Tickets cost £5 and include refreshments. They are hoping to attract about 80 people, so come along, bring friends and spread the word.

November 14th - The Fircroft Trust AGM - Simon Pearce, Head of Community Care Services - will be speaking on Working Together to improve Outcomes for Mental Health Services Users in the Community.

For more details on the above events and services please contact Ann on 020 8399 1772 or email office@thefircrofttrust.org.

Workforce Development in the Voluntary Sector

12.30 – 4pm Wednesday 1st November 2006
Shiraz Mirza Hall, 76a, Coombe Road,
Norbiton KT2 7AZ

KVA will be holding a free half day seminar to examine workforce development issues relevant to the voluntary sector, including:

- Why is workforce development important; to you, your organisation and the people who use your services?
- Investing in a qualified workforce
- Recruitment and retention of staff and volunteers
- What are the national priorities?
- Leadership and management development
- Local training providers and accredited learning opportunities

For more information or to reserve a place at this event please contact:

Maria Tunmer Tel: 020 8255 3335
Email: mariat@kva.org.uk

Disability Law Service

The Disability Law Service provides high quality, value for money legal training to those advising or advocating for disabled people. The next series of training takes place in October 2006 and applications for places are now invited. All training takes place in fully accessible premises at Whitechapel.

There will be four sessions in October:

- * Thursday 19 October - Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance, a Guide to Successful Claims
- * Friday 20 October - Mental Capacity
- * Monday 23 October - Disability and Employment Law, Capability Dismissals and Reasonable Adjustments
- * Wednesday 25 October - Part Three of the Disability Discrimination Act, Access to Goods and Services

All courses are from 2pm to 5pm with an inclusive sandwich lunch at 1.30.

Courses cost £65 per session for voluntary organisations and £100 for Local Authorities, Health Trusts, Trade Unions, private solicitors firms and others (there are reductions for some multiple bookings). All courses attract CPD Professional Development points from the Law Society.

For further information please email training@dls.org.uk or telephone Christine Goodall, Development Officer on 0207 791 9828.

Age Discrimination Act October 2006

This new legislation will take effect from the 1st October 2006. We ran an article in the last edition of the KVA Newsletter about Age Discrimination and Retirement.

The new regulations protect employees from discrimination and harassment on the grounds of age. It is there to stop age stereotyping in the workplace such as 'younger staff do not have the experience to be managers' and 'older staff are just waiting to retire'.

Practices and procedures may need to be revised to ensure they are compliant - for example:

- training must be accessible to all - older workers still want to develop their careers
- recruiting for new jobs must not deter people – avoid a minimum/maximum length of experience in recruitment advertisements unless an age restriction can be objectively justified.
- do not ask for date of birth on the application form (this should be on monitoring form) or unnecessary dates of employment history.

Please look on www.direct.gov.uk or www.acas.org.uk for further information.

Fire Safety Law New fire safety rules affecting all non-domestic premises in England and Wales came into force on 1 October 2006. If you are responsible for business premises, an employer or self-employed with business premises, a charity or voluntary organisation or a contractor with a degree of control over any premises, then you need to ensure you have a suitable and sufficient risk assessment in place. Visit www.communities.gov.uk, and link to Fire Gateway or www.fire.gov.uk/workplace+safety for more details and an online compliance self-assessment form.

Charities Unaware of Ways to Cut Legal Bills

Foundry Chambers, a London set of barristers, found in their recent survey that UK charities are unaware of new rules which enable them to make savings of up to 50 per cent on lawyers' fees.

Many groups were unaware of a 2004 change of legal services rules which allowed any person or organisation seeking legal advice or representation to go direct to a barrister without first going through solicitors. The new rules give people the freedom to choose between using a barrister or a solicitor and the opportunity to save on lawyers' fees.

Foundry Chambers has launched an Employment Rights Unit where barristers directly provide charitable organisations with legal advice and representation in employment tribunal matters in order to assist charities cut the cost of such tribunals.

For further information, Contact: Yetunde Ruban
Work: 0845 130 5958
www.foundrychambers.co.uk



New Guidelines from City Parochial Foundation & Trust for London

The City Parochial Foundation and Trust for London have launched their new funding guidelines for 2007-11.

City Parochial Foundation's open programme has four priority areas. They aim to:

1. To improve employment opportunities for disadvantaged people;
2. To promote the inclusion of recent arrivals to the UK;
3. To promote social justice;
4. To strengthen the voluntary and community sector.

Trust for London are not able to fund all small, new and emerging organisations that apply to them. They will therefore fund areas of work which have one (or more) of the following aims:

1. To challenge discrimination faced by disabled people;
2. To promote the inclusion and integration of recently established communities;
3. To strengthen mother-tongue and supplementary schools to provide creative educational opportunities;
4. To address new and emerging needs.

Closing dates

They have three closing dates for proposals to be submitted by. They are:

- 7 February for the June Grants Committee;
- 30 May for the October Grants Committee;
- 25 October for the February Grants Committee.

Further details are available from:

Phone: 020 7606 6145

Website: www.trustforlondon.org.uk
www.cityparochial.org.uk

Grants for Community Buildings

A Community Buildings programme with fifty million pounds to invest in physical hubs for communities, such as community centres and village halls, has been launched by the Big Lottery Fund.

Grants of between £50,000 and £500,000 are available to improve, replace or introduce a building into a community that provides services and activities to meet the needs of a range of people, in England.

First stage applications must be submitted by 30 April '07. Contact The Big Lottery on 08454 102030 or www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Family Learning

Big Lottery Fund launched Family Learning on 19 September, a programme that helps parents to understand more about how their children learn and encourages adults and children to learn as a family.

They have £40 million to invest until 29 August 2008. Grants of between £10,000 and £500,000 are available. Contact The Big Lottery on 08454 102030.

Thames Community Foundation

Local Network Fund Grant Panel Members Wanted!

Thames Community Foundation would like to appoint up to three more members to its Kingston grant panel which looks at applications from voluntary organisations for grants from Sport Relief and the Local Network Fund for children and young people.

Panel members make a very real contribution to voluntary sector activity in Kingston by ensuring that funds are awarded to the most effective projects.

Training will be provided but experience and knowledge of some of the following would be also be helpful:

- The voluntary sector either professionally or as a volunteer
- The issues affecting children and young people (age range 0-19) locally
- Grant making or fundraising
- The areas of need in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
- A commitment to the values of the voluntary sector

In addition, panel members should be able to commit to attend up to six grant panel meetings per year. Each meeting is held on a weekday afternoon and lasts one to one and half hours.

Panel members are also invited to visit applicant groups in the Borough before a grant is awarded or during the course of a funded project. Training will be provided.

If you would like to help the valuable work of this grant panel, please call Thames Community Foundation on 020 8943 5525 for more information.

Children in Need

Grant application materials for 2006 should be available now - check the website www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey



Training

Community Development Project

KVA, through our Community Development Worker, provides advice and support to voluntary and community organisations on a wide range of issues including:

- how to set up a group
- how to draw up a constitution
- how to register as a charity
- roles and responsibilities of a management committee
- financial and human resource management
- fundraising
- PQASSO
- Training

Autumn 2006 Training Programme

Planning for the Autumn Training Programme is now complete.

New to Fundraising

Tuesday 17 October 2006

Managing your Time Effectively

Thursday 2 November 2006

Child Protection

Saturday 4 November 2006

Stress Management

Tuesday 7 November 2006

Emergency First Aid

Thursday 16 November 2006

Basic Food & Hygiene

Thursday 23 November 2006

How to be Assertive

Thursday 30 November 2006

Project Management

Thursday 11 January 2007

Implementing PQASSO

Thursday 18 January 2007

Above is a short selection of training courses KVA has organised.

We would appreciate your suggestions and comments on your organisation's training needs, both to ensure your organisation accesses relevant training courses in the future and also to help KVA to develop appropriate new training opportunities for groups.

Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations (PQASSO)

PQASSO is a quality assurance system that has been designed specifically for small and medium voluntary sector organisations. It is designed as a workpack, it is simple and straightforward to use, offering a flexible and staged approach to implementing quality.

PQASSO covers twelve quality areas and promotes continuous improvement through self-assessment. It helps staff and management committees identify what the organisation is doing well and what needs to be done in order to improve. The areas are:

- Planning for quality
- Governance
- Management
- User-centred service
- Staff and volunteers
- Training and development
- Managing money
- Managing resources
- Managing activities
- Networking and partnership
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Results

PQASSO is an evidence based system. The evidence is used to demonstrate that the organisation has achieved a particular level for each of the quality standards. These standards are based on best practice and regulatory requirements.

PQASSO helps you answer the following key questions in Quality

1. What are you trying to do?
2. How do you know whether you have done it?
3. What do you do with the information?
4. Are you as good as you want to be – or could be?
5. How do you know how good you could be?

Please contact Zahida Saddiq, Community Development Worker on 0208 255 3335 or email communitydevelopment@kva.org.uk for further details regarding the items featured on these pages and to book a place on the training courses.



SLCVS Trustee and Governance Conference

Friday 1st December, 10am-3pm Braithwaite Hall, Central Croydon

Theme

A practical day for trustees and management committee members of voluntary and community organisations in South London

Introducing and exploring the latest tools and ideas on governance and trusteeship. It's an exciting time for trustees with many changes afoot - the Charities Bill; changes to public service delivery; and an expanded level of support for trustees via the new national Governance Hub.

Practical and interactive workshops on three new tools for trustees.

Programme

- 9.30 Arrival and registration
10.00 Welcome – Chair of Sutton CVS and Conference Chair
10.05 Keynote speaker – Jolanta Lasota, Head of the Governance Hub (the National Hub of Expertise in Governance for England)
10.30 Workshops: choose from:
- Code of Governance - Peter Dyer, Community Links Bromley
 - National Occupational Standards – Governance Hub facilitator
 - Trustee Recruitment - Simon Croft, Richmond CVS
- 12.00 Lunch
12.45 Workshops repeated (see above)
2.15 Plenary session - profiling the experiences of a local voluntary organisation in developing good governance
2.45 Closing remarks (Chair of Conference)

Governance Training

KVA can now plan, organise and deliver management committee training using the Code of Governance. We can organise sessions in the following areas of governance:

Duties and responsibilities of trustees

The role of the board

Governing or managing?

Understanding your stakeholders

Thinking creatively

Building an inclusive and diverse board

Your role on the board

Social Enterprise Event

Kingston Voluntary Action in partnership with Social Enterprise London and Kingston Council held a social enterprise seminar on 22nd September to help develop the knowledge and capacity of local voluntary and community organisations in Kingston who are interested in becoming social enterprises.

“a social enterprise is a business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners.”

Department for Trade and Industry

Social enterprises form part of the social economy and sit neatly in between the voluntary and community sector and public sector/private businesses. Social enterprises function with the following principles: members are stakeholders and own the organisation; the aims of the organisation are social and economic, and income is primarily from grants and trading.

There are many types of Social enterprises including: charity trading arms, development trusts, cooperatives, credit unions, community businesses, social firms, employee owned businesses and intermediate labour market. Once you have set out clear aims and objectives for your organisation then you can choose the appropriate legal structure.

Some successful examples of social enterprises include: Cafédirect, Speke Community Credit Union, Greenwich Leisure Ltd, Furniture Resource Centre and Hackney Community Transport.

If you would like further information please contact Hilary Garner on 020 8255 3335 or at hilaryg@kva.org.uk

Access Learning Centre Open Sessions are now held every Friday at the Access Learning Centre, North Kingston, Richmond Road between 10 and 12.30. If you would like to drop in and try out some of the equipment such as specialist keyboards and mice or voice recognition software, please contact Superhighways first on: accessibility@superhighways.org.uk

We can arrange to do an assessment of your needs to make recommendations.



Health & Social Care

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR THE NHS IN KINGSTON

Many people are aware that the NHS is in a period of reforms and changes and that Kingston Primary Care Trust (KPCT) is undergoing a financial recovery plan to deal with a current financial deficit. There are concerns locally over how the KPCT recovery plan will affect Kingston Hospital and, along with alarming reports in the media about potential loss of hospital staff and services, this creates uncertainty for patients and the public in a time of change.


The Kingston Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel at their September meeting held an in depth review on proposed changes to our local healthcare services. Witnesses were called upon to report and give clarity to the situation. GPs, consultants, clinicians, PPI representatives, RBK officers, local councillors and members of the public discussed the proposals that are the subject of the ongoing public consultations. All those present at the meeting expressed a commitment to ensuring that patients will not suffer as a result of the changes. However one expert witness, Dr Jeremy Harris, said "it is inevitable that patient care will be affected".

Important points for the public to consider are:

- KPCT needs to achieve financial balance and are aiming to do this by providing more cost effective services in the community.
- Community health care may reduce demand for hospital care, which could in turn create financial difficulties for Kingston Hospital.
- One major South West London Hospital will be closing down.
- Kingston Hospital will become a Foundation Trust in the near future.
- It is vital that people are aware of the changes and are involved in current plans.

The next Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting will take place on:
7th December, 7.30pm at the Guildhall, Kingston. (see information below about NHS consultations)

Kingston's NHS Public Consultations

Kingston  **KPCT** is in the process of consulting with the public on their plans for changes to how and where services are delivered and to keep the impact of change to a minimum.

KPCT are encouraging the public to engage with the consultation process, particularly people from black and minority ethnic communities who are currently under represented.

For more information about the Primary Care Trust Consultation Tel: 020 8339 8008 or
Email: mail@kingstonpct.nhs.uk

 The **Kingston Hospital** consultation runs until 6th October and after that they are aiming to engage local people to support proposals for Foundation Trust status and to consider membership.

For information about the Kingston Hospital Consultation Telephone 020 8934 3843
Email: ftconsultation@kingstonhospital.nhs.uk

To find out more about becoming a member you can call 0870 707 1479 or email
Ftmembership@kingstonhospital.nhs.uk

Kingston Co-operative Initiative (KCI)

The KCI is made up of a membership of GPs from all but two of the GP practices in Kingston. It has been set up as a group to coordinate Practice Based Commissioning under the new Commissioning a Patient Led NHS arrangements.

KCI membership currently is solely made up of GPs but it may in future consider extending membership to include other partners or stakeholders in order to involve patients and the public.

The KCI also has responsibility for coordinating the new Kingston Clinical Assessment Service (KCAS). This is a service whereby patient referrals are assessed by KCI members and then referred to the most appropriate treatment provider under the new "Choose and Book" system.

KCAS is presently proving to be confusing for patients as has been evident by the increased number of calls to the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) particularly for information about the KCAS system. As with any new practice, teething troubles can be expected initially.

KCAS is currently under review by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)

Following a review of Patient and Public Involvement Forums the Department of Health (DOH) announced in July that PPI Forums will be replaced by LINKs.

As yet the DOH has not published details on the expected timescales for these changes or how the networks will be expected to operate and be supported. There is speculation nationally that local Councils for Voluntary Services will be the preferred agency to take on this role with support from their local authority. KVA would be keen to follow this through and support the establishment of a Local Involvement Network in Kingston.

It had been previously announced that the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) will be abolished in the summer of 2007, but no exact date has been revealed. An intense and complex legislative process has to be enacted in order to put the new proposals in place. The Kingston PPI Forums will continue their work until further notice.

National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations (NCVCCO) Free Commissioning Workshop

Friday 10th November St Christopher's Fellowship,
Putney 10.30 am – 3.00 pm.

A sandwich lunch will be provided.

Aims and objectives of the workshop

- Raise awareness amongst voluntary and community sector organisations of the Every Child Matters agenda in relation to commissioning, recognising the cultural shift to being child centred and outcomes focussed.
- Formally recognise the constructive contribution which the voluntary and community sector has to make to the commissioning process, including the devising of commissioning strategies
- Explore the potential for taking forward the learning from this event to further enable voluntary and community sector organisations working with children, young people and families to engage in and contribute to the development of the Every Child Matters agenda.

For further details and booking contact:

Rebecca Edwards (rebecca@ncvcco.org)
Unit 4, Pride Court, 80-82 White Lion Street, London
N1 9PF
Tel: 0207 833 3319 Fax: 0207 833 8637
www.ncvcco.org

UNISON...

campaign to keep the NHS working

UNISON and, for the first time, non TUC affiliated professional organisations are to demand an end to the "marketisation" of our health service.

The NHS is changing faster than at any time in its history. Record investment and service modernisation have delivered real improvements in the services offered to patients, services that remain free at the point of use

UNISON is concerned that all this has been put at risk by the government's decision to change the way services are delivered, through the introduction of a competitive healthcare market and the increasing involvement of the private sector. This has led to the instability and financial debt faced by many hospital and primary care trusts. UNISON is calling on the government to stop expanding the role of the private sector in the NHS to prevent further damage from the closure of wards and services and more announcements about job losses

Unison is asking for people to contact their MP and to get more active.

For more information see the UNISON website:
www.unison.org.uk

Reaching out Changing Habits

Improving services for people with mental health and substance misuse difficulties (Dual Diagnosis) and their families

This is an opportunity for service users, carers, providers and commissioners to receive up to date information on best practice and some of the key national publications relating to Dual Diagnosis.

There will be 4 national free events, which will give information on:

- The Cannabis Toolkit
- The In-patient Guidance on Substance Misuse
- The Dual Diagnosis Capabilities Framework
- The Carers DVD

There will also be a variety of workshop presentations on best practice and service improvement relating to Dual Diagnosis at each event.

To book for the London Event on 30th October contact Hayley Barlow:
hayley.barlow@londondevelopmentcentre.org
Tel: 0207 307 2421

Notice Board

Cycle to Work Schemes

There are three money saving cycle to work schemes which may help you if you are thinking about commuting to work by bike:

Nationally "Cycle to Work" is a government scheme under which any employer can buy a bike VAT-free, lend it to an employee as a tax-free benefit for a period such as 18 months or 2 years when the employee can buy it outright for a much reduced price. Employers can set this up for themselves or can use one of the ready-made schemes often offered by bike shops.

Two local ones

Personal Travel Planning funded by Transport for London, run by Kingston, email:

Louisa.Gent@rbk.kingston.gov.uk for more information and advice on personal routes and discounts from bike shops.

50% club also organised by Kingston, contact Louisa Gent for more information, email as above. Arranged periodically with employers for a limited number of people to commit to making at least 50% of their commuting journeys by bike for a fixed period with help, advice, accessories and bike loan as needed. At the end, bike purchase may be arranged. Lots of information on these links:

www.kingstoncycling.org.uk
www.cyclescheme.co.uk
www.halfordsb2b.com
www.bikeforall.net
www.evanscycles.com
www.dft.gov.uk



The Children's Network

Following a very successful networking meeting in July the next Children Network meeting will take place on 8th November 2006 at the Shiraz Mirza Community Centre in Norbiton between 6.00pm, to 8.00pm.

There will be a 'Youth' focus for the meeting with information about the Youth Opportunities Fund and the Youth Capital fund, how to apply for funding and the grant process. We also hope that a member of the Kingston Youth Council will speak to the network.

For more details please contact Patricia Turner, Children's Voluntary Sector Worker on 0208 547 6024 or email at

patricia.turner@rbk.kingston.gov.uk.

Access Learning Centre Hire and Charges

To hire the Access Learning Centre at the North Kingston Centre please contact RaKAT Tel: 020 8481 0031

	Four hour slots Mon- Fri	Four hour slots Weekends*	Hourly Rate
Unfunded groups	£20	£50	£6
Funded groups / statutory	£40	£50	£12
Private/ Commercial	£80	£50	£24

*at discretion of ALC and incurring additional caretaking charges.

For laptop use there is an additional charge of 50% of hire charge, i.e. £30 instead of £20 for a 4hour slot for unfunded group. These prices are subject to change so please check when booking.

Kingston Voluntary Action AGM Wednesday 6th December 2006

Booking form

Demand for places is always high. If you would like to attend please confirm your booking NOW by returning this slip to: Linda Palmer at KVA or telephone her on 020 8255 3335, fax 020 8255 8804 or email: lindap@kva.org.uk Last date for booking is Monday 27th November so that we can make catering arrangements.

Name:

Organisation:

Daytime telephone no:

email:.....