



Simple Truths – VCS Thought Leadership Group Meeting

Wednesday 4 December, 10am – 11.30am
Canalside House
383 Ladbroke Grove
W10 5AA

KCSC will be hosting a new group for VCS leaders to gather on a quarterly basis to discuss all of the things that matter most working in the voluntary and community sector and dealing with the many complex issues we all face.

We want to create the space for us to think about what we need and how to get there in an inclusive environment where we can all share and agree the steps that need to be taken.

We know that in today's world we are dealing with many of the issues highlighted below:

- Financial uncertainty – what this means for both mainstream and global majority led organisations
- How to create efficiencies with ever tightening budgets
- Maintaining good services for residents and dealing with increasing demand
- Recruiting and maintaining good trustees
- Leadership development within your organisation
- Recruiting and maintaining staff as well as staff burnout and so many more:

Our first meeting which will be held on Wednesday 4th December, 10am – 11.30am, at Canalside House. We are aiming our first meeting at local organisations that are led by and for global majority organisations so please join us there.

If you are thinking what will these thought leadership meetings be about, below are some Q&As

1. What do we need to influence and how?

Talking truth through sharing our experiences and insights. All of these simple truths need to be understood from the varying perspectives of

large/medium and small/grassroots/global majority led organisations and community groups. Building trust between us to share honestly.

2. How do we make our impact in coming together?

By talking through and respecting those simple truths that we all have and believe to be critical factors that influence ways of thinking. Addressing the barriers exist whether structural or symptomatic of environment we are operating in. Focussing on what needs to be done to overcome those barriers and what will make a difference if we work together.

3. How do we maximise data/information that we need to support this area of work?

We need to work with relevant institutions to seek data/information that already exists to evidence need or work together as a group to compile information where this lacking e.g. responding to surveys to gather a sample

4. How do we leverage our position within the VCS to wield influence?

By coming together, this is about us as voluntary sector leaders utilising our knowledge and skills as position within the local community as leverage. We don't need to be experts in subject matters, this is about being inspired, being evidence driven and using our collective position to influence change.

The VCS Simple Truths thought leadership group will:

- Agree priority areas for discussion
- Share new initiatives and ideas that further our purpose
- Support any working groups that emerge
- Act as a consultative group
- Act as a representative group with decision makers
- Advises and/or works collaboratively on VCS initiatives that aim to strengthen the sector and its role.

Interested in our new *'Our Community, Our Voice'* workshops?

KCSC are thrilled to announce that our bid for funding from the **Westway Trust Transformation Fund** has been successful!

This means we can now officially announce our new community programme, **Our Community, Our Voices**.

Starting in late January 2025, this dynamic series of 2-3hour workshops will run throughout the year, offering monthly evening sessions designed to help community members develop, or enhance, key skills, connect across communities, and amplify their voices.

The programme is specifically, though not exclusively, aimed at various sectors of the North Kensington communities who may experience being marginalised, from time to time. This, in essence means global majority communities, women, and working-class communities in social housing or the rental sector.

Here's what you can look forward to:

 **Your Voice: How to Make it Heard!**

Led by [Leigh Andrews](#), author and renowned speech and language therapist.

 **The Art of Public Speaking**

Master the art of speaking in any setting with [Dr. Dave Smith](#), author, activist, and lecturer.

 **Building Stronger Communities**

Work with [SHAC](#) in two sessions focused on creating or strengthening tenants' or residents' associations.

 **Shaping Policy and Local Government**

Learn from Richard Lee of [Just Space](#) about how to influence policy and set the local agenda.

 **Trauma-Informed Planning**

Reflect on how the tragedy at Grenfell could shape a new approach to planning in our borough, and how to achieve this change.

 **Campaigning: How to Make a Difference**

Join veteran campaigners for insight into what it takes to run an effective campaign.

 **Listening to your community, and getting things done!**

Discover how to identify community needs, and how to host impactful events.

 **Making the Most of Parliament and Your MP**

Learn how to engage with Parliament and ensure your voice is heard. A guide to how to use Parliaments power for your community, presented by **Damien Arness Dalton** an officer of the Parliamentary Estate

We'll add a few more exciting sessions including "**Train the Trainer**", so stay tuned for more details.

To know more and to sign up to attend, contact **Joe Batty, Head of Community Development, KCSC** at joe@kcsc.org.uk