

Independence and Wellbeing consultation feedback

Telephone conversation with a local resident -11 April 2008 pm

Mr X raised concerns about groups maybe being concerned about the impact on their funding if they speak out about what works and what doesn't in Kingston.

- It's clear that to build a diverse and cohesive community education is vital, to promote integration and help understanding
- Could run seminars to promote integration
- RBK should work constructively with Kingston Hospital and Primary Care Trust as a major community leader to promote the wider health agenda in all communities, whether coming to their services or remote from them
- Affordable gym and leisure services (e.g. bridge club)
- Mental Health – engagement with GPs – GPs need to understand what community support is available and which communities may have problems accepting mental illness – better health information and access to advice and support
- Meetings for mutual support – mental health is often neglected
- Social clubs, social events
- Access to work and volunteering opportunities
- Keep mental agility going – e.g. scrabble, bridge clubs, quizzes
- Effective communication from GPs is really important
- GPs should give people more time, especially with mild mental ill health – this could reduce numbers of repeat visits and may prevent longer term engagement with acute services
- There is a recession on its way, can lead people into mental ill-health – we need to be able to respond, or even be proactive, about hardship in the community
- Advise people where they can get financial and practical and emotional support
- Nurses and carers should be able to share their knowledge and experience about what works best and what support people need
- Use business people in the community to level funding or action
- In some communities people hide away – we need to encourage people to feel comfortable talking about mental health, abusive relationships, dealing with discrimination/harassment, managing financial difficulties, trafficking etc.
- Use Voluntary and Community Sector as a key means of educating people – providing information, advice and support and signposting to relevant places/services
- Encourage businesses to champion various aspects of health – Chamber of Commerce, Kingston Town centre Management etc
- Encourage volunteering, raise its profile – Kingston Voluntary Action and Kingston Volunteer Centre
- Refugee Action – mentoring and support from migrants who have been in UK for several years for those who are new migrants
- Access to furniture/basic household items
- Work with neighbourhood policing
- Recognise the positive impact of migrant community on the economy
- Develop much better shared knowledge about different sources of funding and financial support and work together to access it