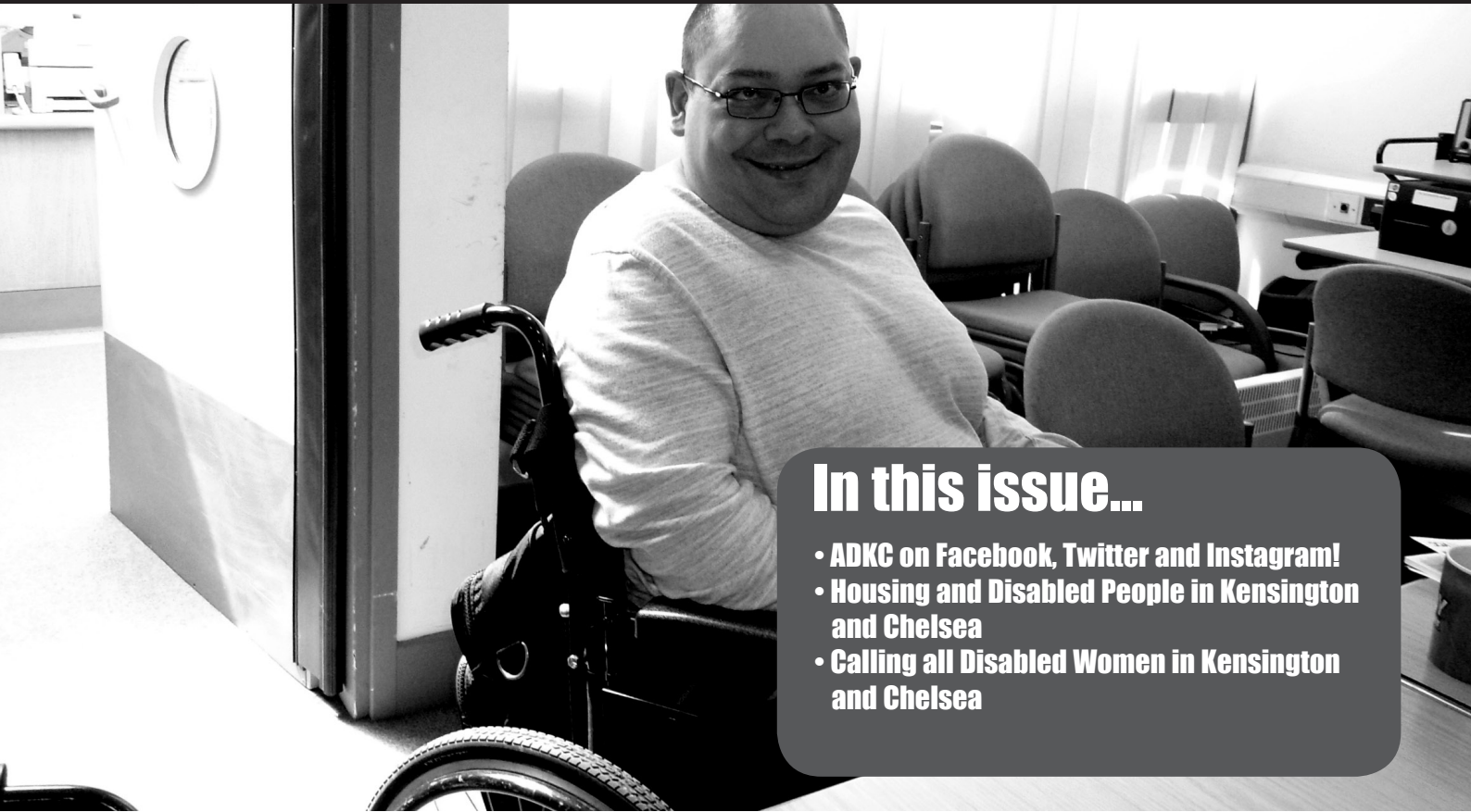


NEWSflash

April 2018

ADKC
Action Disability
Kensington & Chelsea
A Centre for Independent Living

The Voice of Disabled People in Kensington & Chelsea



In this issue...

- **ADKC on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!**
- **Housing and Disabled People in Kensington and Chelsea**
- **Calling all Disabled Women in Kensington and Chelsea**

Coming soon: ADKC will be increasing our presence on Social Media!

To help us reach more people, we will be setting up accounts with Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, which will allow us to share what is going on in ADKC; our news, events and other things of interest to local disabled people.

Don't know what Social Media is all about?

No problem! We will be holding a "social media drop-in" so you can bring in your smartphone, tablet, computer or laptop, so we can help you to set up a social media account. You can "follow" us...

Don't have a smartphone or computer?

We can set you up with an account that you can access on a public computer (e.g. a computer in the local library or "internet café" etc.)

Don't feel confident with technology?

This might be something to talk to Glenda, our "Personal Development Officer" about ... she could work with you to find a course or workshop to give you the skills to make you feel more confident.

Don't want to use technology...

- We will still provide our Newsflash and flyers in print / audio versions...
- You can still call on the phone for "disability-related" enquiries.
- You can also meet face-to-face at our Information and Advice drop in (Mondays from 2-4 at ADKC) or on the last Monday of the month (10.30am-1pm at World's End Neighbourhood Advice Centre).

Jenny Hurst

*Independent Living Project
Co-ordinator*



Welcome to the spring issue of Newsflash.

In this issue, you'll find information from a recent meeting of our Positive Rights Action Group held with guests from RBKC's Housing department. Housing is generally recognised as one of the most important local issues. And we're, of course, particularly concerned about the lack of accessible housing for disabled people in the Royal Borough.

As you'll see, RBKC are committed to building a lot of new properties and making at least some of these fully wheelchair accessible. We'll be doing our very best to hold them to their word on this. The housing officer who attended the meeting suggested that our Access Group should get round the table with the designers as soon as possible, to make sure that access is built in from the very start of the

design process. A suggestion we're most certainly going to be following up on.

With the local elections coming up in May and the tri-borough arrangement slimming down to bi-borough (Hammersmith & Fulham are going, leaving just Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea), these are times of big potential change for the local authority. Whatever the outcome of all of this, we'll be in there, doing all we can to represent the interests of local disabled people.

The next issue of Newsflash should be with you in June.

Jamie Renton
Chief Executive

Housing and Disabled people in Kensington and Chelsea

Back in March, Rob Shaw and Kathy Jones from RBKC's Housing Department attended a meeting of our Positive Rights Action Group, to answer questions put forward by local disabled people.

Here are some of the things they told us:

- ⇒ Disabled people make up a higher proportion of Grenfell survivors who are currently in temporary accommodation than non-disabled people. There were already 2,776 people on the housing waiting list before Grenfell. There are now, of course, more people on the register. RBKC is going to develop social housing in order to try to meet this need. All social housing must meet Lifetime Homes standards and at least 10% must be fully wheelchair accessible.
- ⇒ ADKC's Access Group is hopefully going to have a role in promoting accessibility in these new properties by working with the developers involved.
- ⇒ The waiting time for accessible housing in the borough depends on supply. Larger properties take a long time. Two bed properties also take a long time, due to demand.
- ⇒ Making adaptations and repairs of existing properties is the responsibility of Social Services OTs (020 7361 3013)
- ⇒ Any concerns about the quality of materials in properties should initially be raised with your landlord. It can then be taken to RBKC Environmental Health. Alternatively, you can go through the complaints procedure.
- ⇒ The council doesn't have its own architects. Developers have their own architects who don't currently have to liaise with RBKC OTs, however, RBKC is about to make this an obligation.
- ⇒ There is currently a commitment to build at least 200 new properties in the borough. At least 10% of which need to be fully wheelchair accessible. At least 35% need to be affordable, 85% of which should be social rents.
- ⇒ If you're a disabled person who has a problem neighbour, you should at first contact your landlord. The council and housing associations should have a team to deal with this and can also refer to the police. If it is persistent, Joint Action Groups can be called in. If you feel that you are in any way at risk, you can go to the Housing Department to be rehoused. Referral has to come through social services or the police.

ADKC Disability Connect and Information & Advice Projects

At the World's End Neighbourhood Advice Centre which is at the World's End Estate, London SW10 0HE (off the Kings Road) on the last Monday of the month (except Bank Holidays). The two projects alternate each month.

Please contact Simone or Marian for more information or to confirm dates.

The ADKC staff



Jamie Renton
Chief Executive



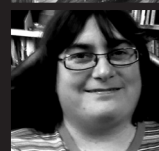
Marian O'Donoghue
Information and Advice Officer



Simone Galloway
Disability Connect Co-ordinator



Martha Issa
Lifelong Learning Project Co-ordinator



Jenny Hurst
Independent Living Project Co-ordinator



Glenda Joseph
Personal Development Officer



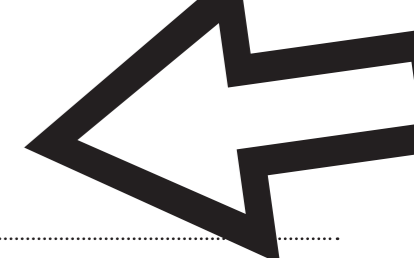
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Disclaimer
ADKC's Newsflash aims to provide a forum for local disabled people. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of ADKC or its Executive Committee. We obtain our news and information from reputable organisations.



Calling ... Disabled Women in Kensington and Chelsea

This year marks the 100th anniversary of women being given the right to vote.

ADKC will celebrate this with a new short project this summer / autumn, called:

“Strong against the odds - Disabled Women speak out”.

We need YOUR help to:

- develop the project,
- take part in workshops,
- share your stories / experiences
- celebrate success of local disabled women
- identify next steps to promote equality.

Contact Glenda/Jenny for more information.

