

27th June 2024

REPORT OF WASHINGTON AREA VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR NETWORK

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The report provides an update with regard to the Washington Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

2. Background

2.1 To develop the capacity and influence of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) across the City, Area Networks have been established and delegates represent each Area Network at Area Committee taking forward issues on behalf of the whole VCS in the area, reporting on area priority delivery by the VCS, and reporting back, providing a two-way flow of communication.

2.2 Washington Area Network delegates will present a report to each Area Committee meeting informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

2.3 The Washington VCS Network is made up of over 70 local groups and strategic local/national/regional partners. The network meets on a regular basis to share good practice, support one another and receives regular updates on relevant opportunities.

3. Washington Voluntary and Community Sector Network (VCSN) Progress Report

3.1 The Washington VCS Network met in person in April and June 2024

3.2 The April meeting included the following agenda items:

- Music Hubs introduction from Together for Children

The June meeting included the following agenda items:

- Culture House Update
- Family Hubs Update Together for Children

3.3 Liam gave an update on Sunderland Music Hub and what their out of school and community provision is.

Key points:

- If you are supporting a young person or a group of young people and music is there thing, then Sunderland Music Hub are here to help make the music happen!
- Two different offers, one to schools and one to out of school provisions.

Sunderland Music Hub delivers, supports, and champions music making activity across the city. They aim to unlock musical potential and ensure young people have opportunities to progress regardless of their background.

3.4 Leanne Littlewood provided the meeting with an update on the progress of Culture House.

- 3.5 Helen Errington from Together for Children provided an update on the work of Family Hubs and how local community members can get involved.
- 3.6 Members of the Network shared information on emerging issues they have faced over recent weeks, including increased numbers of home schooled children and level of need when attending sessions, working families affording school holiday childcare and recent changes in community banking requirements causing issues for some groups.
- 3.7 The Network were reminded that the meeting is to meet their needs and asked to feedback to their representatives should they have a particular request, to ensure that the agenda items reflect their requirements.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Members are requested

- To note the contents of the report and consider the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington VCSN.

5. VCS Rep Contact

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