

Washington Area Committee Call for Projects

Application for Support for the VCS

The Project Outcomes expected for this Call for Projects are:

1. The project could and does support the council's journey with regards to our partners doing more.
2. The project is successful and is good at what it does and is keen to grow the informal groups to become more structured and stronger - but it has taken a year to realise the initial focus on CAs has not been successful.
3. The project could build further ties to the Washington Area Network's aspirations re the mentoring/peer support by larger organisations for smaller informal groups.
4. The current post could take on or facilitate further opportunities - to deliver elements of other Area Committee funded projects making it about additionality rather than another post or another organisation. Whilst at the same time assisting with sustaining a project the Area Committee has already invested in.
5. The volunteering element of the current project is now growing and it needs a real push - again this will help be able to contribute to the Council's agenda. The gap in this element is the deployment of volunteers and there needs to be a longer term plan.
6. The Washington Trust would also be required to access additional funding to present a sustainable approach.

The December Area Committee agreed a targeted approach to continue community inclusion and support for the Washington VCS (including volunteering) via an invitation to the Washington Trust for continuation of the Community Volunteer Development Project.

The Washington Trust has submitted an application for consideration:

The new project will commence October 2016 and end September 2017.

Rather than be seen as a 'continuation' of the current initiative, this new remit will deliver a new phase. The current outcomes and milestones will continue along with additional measures identified for Phase 2.

Meeting the Project Outcomes

The project will also:-

- Continue to support volunteers and volunteering, including the further development of 'collective volunteering'. This can be evidenced by how the council and the community works together re the 'Keep Washington Tidy' collective. Building on activity undertaken to date, the new phase will
 - Provide local opportunities for individuals who require support before they take up a volunteering role
 - Support local groups to be more inclusive and be more volunteer aware/friendly
 - Support collectives of people to form and govern community groups to address local issues
 - Work with partners to develop town wide volunteer activity
 - Facilitate one off volunteering via the Washington 100 Project which doesn't require individuals to join a group or volunteer on an on-going basis

- Develop a plan in partnership with other stakeholders to increase levels of corporate volunteering
- A key aim of Phase 2 will be to develop increased levels of publicity to try and increase the numbers of volunteers operating in Washington and improve community understanding of the benefits that volunteering provides.
- Provide support for the informal grassroots groups to become formal community organisations – a range of support mechanisms will continue to include introducing governance arrangements, managing money, roles of officers, safety of volunteers and users, fund raising, publicity, understanding the local scene and the role of partners (including the council). The project will also continue to support those groups who need some help with the management of buildings and assets to help them deal with the inherent challenges the VCS now faces.
- Continue to ensure groups understand the new way in which the City Council will need to work with the VCS and why those groups now need to become less dependent upon Council services and support in the future.
- The new project will also look to further embed the referral processes and assessments it has introduced in Phase 1 – because referrals from a number of sources is likely to continue the Trust has developed internal processes to ensure any proposed work and support reflects the SIB funding conditions and the Area Committee priorities it has been funded to address, and that no duplication of activity takes place. A key objective is that sustainability and not dependency is the outcome for any group which comes to the project for support. The Trust will continue to signpost groups to other providers if that is the most relevant route for individual groups.

The project application identifies how it will support the Council's journey with regards to partners doing more and identifies how it will develop a structured exit strategy which will ensure that groups and community understand the project will not be replaced by council resources, and how it will support groups including CAs to develop their own forward plans. It will also support volunteers to gain skills and confidence to sustain their own groups. The project is also ideally placed to act as a connector between council initiatives and the VCS – as the Volunteer Learning Lounge develops the Trust could have a role in ensuring as many volunteers as possible connect to this development.

The project will also aid the Area Network to provide a conduit between larger more secure VCISOs and the smaller volunteer groups – this will ensure joint working is made easier and will promote peer working via mentoring - one of the key aims of the Network.

The project identifies partners and other organisations it works with, including the Area Network, larger VCISOs, VCAS, Volunteer Centre, relevant SCC departments, Washington Volunteer Steering Group Partners, Keep Washington Tidy, Age UK, Gentoo, CAs.

The project application identifies appropriate new milestones and outputs – 12 new organisations supported and an additional 80 beneficiaries. This new phase intends to deliver at least 6 x Washington 100 volunteering events, engage an additional 50 volunteers, carry out a survey and support local VCS organisations. It is also the intention to deliver at least 2 corporate giving events. It should be noted that the project will continue to deliver the support to VCS groups via business planning, SWOT process and analysis and 1:1 support for groups re governance, roles and responsibilities, volunteering, policy and procedures, funding plans and fund raising, publicity plans, asset management, and safe working practices.

The Washington Trust fully acknowledges the need to identify alternative funding opportunities if the project is going to be sustainable after the city council funding comes to

an end. Therefore during phase 2 the Washington Trust will develop and implement an appropriate sustainability plan/exit strategy. This will be done by means of an inclusive approach which will include important partners including the city council and other VCSO's operating within Washington.

Budget (including anticipated £3,000 from Phase 1)

Extension/continuance will fund all post and salary costs	£33,200
Equipment, supplies and services	£ 2,200
Additional volunteering support	£ 1,000
Management costs	£ 1,600 (<5%)

This application:

- 1. Evidences a good track record of successful delivery and experience.**
- 2. Evidences it meets at least one of the key priorities of the Washington Local Area Plan.**
- 3. This proposal meets the project outcomes as requested and agreed by Area Committee (December 2015 meeting).**

Initial assessment indicates this application:

- Does support the council's journey with regards to our partners doing more
- Identifies how successful it has been and is good at what it does, and is keen to grow the informal groups to become more structured and stronger
- Identify how it could build further ties to the Washington Area Network's aspirations re the mentoring/peer support by larger organisations for smaller informal groups.
- Identifies how the current post could take on or facilitate further opportunities - to deliver elements of other Area Committee funded projects making it about additionality rather than another post or another organisation.
- Evidences how the volunteering element of the current project is now growing - again this will help be able to contribute to the Council's agenda. The gap in this element is the deployment of volunteers and there needs to be a longer term plan.
- Identifies how the Washington Trust will present a sustainable approach

Members are also asked to refer to the December Report which includes a summary of all activity to date.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE