

10th April 2014

REPORT OF WASHINGTON AREA COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY SECTOR NETWORK

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report provides an update with regard to the Washington Area Community and Voluntary 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 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.

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

The Washington ACVSN has met twice since the last Area Committee in January.

- VCS Network will continue to work on developing and supporting the VCS re collaboration, communications, intelligence and mapping.
- The Network has been invited to contribute to discussions with regards to the outcomes of City Council's VCS Relationship Transition Project. The project will consider how best the council can work with the sector to achieve joint objectives and priorities going forward. A meeting with all VCS Network Representatives has been arranged for 28th April to discuss proposed amendments for the Area Network Terms of Reference and how the sector and the Council work together going forward.
- The Network is keen to find a way to ensure the right support is in place for grass roots organisations to take advantage of opportunities coming forward. This includes the Community Programme for Washington 50 and other local events during 2014, any Call for Projects which the Committee might offer and other small grants opportunities. The Network reps are also keen to discuss how to broaden the reach of the Network and ensure the roles of the reps are developed and promoted and support the development of local grassroots organisations. The Network is also keen to discuss how to ensure adequate community development is available to those organisations that need support and to ensure a thriving VCS in Washington.
- The ACVSN representative attended the last People Board held March 19th. A discussion with the Board focused on the needs of the sector and how the Committee could work with the sector to deliver and support a thriving Washington VCS.
- The Washington Trust has submitted an application for SIB for a Project Co-ordinator. The project proposes two key strands, one to support current organisations operating in Washington and help them with succession planning and ensure sustainability to develop a thriving VCS in Washington and secondly a strand that will develop and support a cohort of volunteers - this work will be split into two elements, the first will support the succession planning as detailed above developing volunteers to help organisations and the second element will recruit volunteers who are able to give time on an adhoc basis, to support community and locality projects, without having to make an ongoing commitment' i.e. a 'bank' of local volunteers. This proposal will be considered under **Item 8**.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are requested
- To note the contents of the report and consider the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington ACVSN

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