

19th June 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 April.

- VCS Network will continue to work on developing and supporting the VCS re collaboration, communications, intelligence and mapping.
- The Network has received presentations and information which have included:
 - The opportunity to influence the Place and People Board priorities
 - Sunderland City Council Communications Team presented the All Together Sunderland campaign which can give the opportunity to work together and promote the services and activities delivered by the VCS in the Washington
 - Various procurement opportunities have been circulated to the Network
- 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 Washington Trust is now recruiting for the Community/Volunteer Co-ordinator post funded through SIB. 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 on-going commitment' i.e. a 'bank' of local volunteers.
- The Network meeting held in June has agreed a workshop approach to discuss health priorities – in particular to identify where shared priorities can be determined and where the opportunities to deliver through a partnership approach can be developed. It is anticipated the workshop - with Public Health, the Council, CCG and other 'sector' leads, and the local VCS will take place in July and will feed into the proposed activity identified through the People Board to deliver the health outcomes in the Board's new work plan.
- The Network will also look to present an 'Annual Review' to the Area Committee to highlight successful projects and activity which have contributed to delivering the Area Committee's priorities. The Area Reps will have a key role in collecting and collating information and case studies from members of the Network and presenting the report to Area committee as part of the annual reporting processes.

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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