WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE **Item 3**

15th October 2015

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE PEOPLE BOARD

People Board Progress Report

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide an update of progress against the current year's (2015/16) People Board Work Plan.

2. Background

2.1 Earlier this year the Local Area Plan's priorities associated with People were referred to the Washington People Board to action on behalf of the Area Committee. The People Board continue to initiate action on those priorities and **Item 3 Annex 1** outlines progress to date.

3 Area Governance Arrangements

3.1 The Area Committees are part of the Council's Executive Function and have two key roles:-

a. Influencing decisions on services delivered at a local level; and

b. Identification of key priorities for their areas, in the context of supporting the delivery of the Council's Corporate Outcomes Framework at a local level and ensures maximum impact where necessary through utilising its own resources.

3.2 Area Place and People Boards were set up to support the Area Committee in identifying areas of priority and ensure action in line with those priorities.

3.3 Each ward has one elected member representative, whose role it is to liaise with their ward colleagues in between meetings and feedback collective views into the Board meetings. Members will work alongside key officers in what will be practical action orientated groups. It should be noted that the Board is not a decision making body and the work / recommendations of the Board will be presented to the Area Committees for final endorsement. Elected member representation on the People Board for this Area Committee is as follows:-

Ward	**People Board Membership**
Chair	Cllr Louise Farthing
Washington Central	Cllr Dianne Snowdon
Washington East	Cllr David Snowdon
Washington North	Cllr Jill Fletcher
Washington South	Cllr Graeme Miller
Washington West	Cllr Dorothy Trueman

4. Key Areas of Influence/Achievements up to 30th September 2015

4.1 Outlined below is a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the Washington People Board up to 30th September 2015.

Action Taken	**Outcome**
Local priority: Health and Well Being	
Develop a strategic approach to health and well-being through a partnership approach	• The Board has considered how to make progress and develop a strategic and partnership approach to addressing the health and well-being of local people. Building on the Washington Way to Well Being the Board is recommending that a joined up and co-ordinated approach with relevant partners be implemented to help address wider health inequalities with a focus on self-harming and mental health/emotional well-being. **It is proposed the Washington Strategic Partners Health Group be re-established** This group will lead on developing a focus on the impact on families of young people who self-harm, and proposals for an 'Out of hospital' Befriending and

	Support Project for older people (already funded via CCG and SIB 2014/15). Area Committee is also requested to identify any other relevant issues this group could address. • **Annex 2** details proposals and recommendations for aligning SIB from the 2015/16 budget for the above project re Health and Family Support/Impact of Self Harming. Area Committee will be requested to agree the People Board's recommendation under **Item 6 Finance Report.** • The People Board are also considering how to support the 'Out of hospital/Befriending' priority for older people. This will be in partnership with the CCG and the VCS. • Elected Members are already working alongside their communities to both develop and deliver Local Area Plans and in doing so support the development of the Area VCS networks. This mechanism provides the potential to achieve much greater impact through the utilisation of additional resources from partners. Matching their funding streams with existing SIB resources to develop projects that will build additional capacity in the voluntary sector. • Washington Way to Well Being – Charter Mark Scheme now underway. 7 organisations have completed their applications. More are currently being supported to complete. The Bike Hub is now open and courses and cycling activities underway. A range of exercise classes, walk to jog sessions and live well sessions are well attended.
Local priority: Community Inclusion and support for VCS	
VCS Network	• The Network is keen to contribute to the action planning to deliver services for local residents. The Network is drafting a work plan which is representative of AC's work plan and priorities. • The Network is keen to empower the smaller grass roots groups to contribute to delivering local priorities and the AC Network Reps have produced a leaflet to promote what they do, how the Network works, and how the Network partners the AC • The Community & Volunteer Development Officer (Washington Trust) has met with a number of organisations and partners. The project is looking at opportunities to provide individual support to organisations such as CAs. The Volunteer Steering Group is now established and is looking to implement an action plan to co-ordinate activity across the area.
Young People	• The Board has considered how to continue to support young people to participate and be involved in delivering local projects, partnerships and in developing approaches to ensure young people are heard. Support for young people and regular dialogue re youth provision has always been included in the committee's plans and proposals. Support from AC has included: ◦ Holiday activities programme ◦ Influencing the youth contracted provision ◦ Influencing the delivery of XL Villages via a local operational group ◦ School Opportunities and Youth Opportunities initiatives ◦ Support for the Phoenix Project ◦ Addressing youth related ASB via partnership approach ◦ Various youth related events and initiatives (Graffiti project, Music Events)

	• Development of the Washington Youth Council The People Board recommends a small funding pot to support young people to participate, be involved, and deliver local initiatives be set up. This approach will develop a level of 'ownership' and encourage young people to participate as active citizens as well as contributing to delivering AC priorities. **Annex 3** includes information to inform the proposed Call for Projects via the SIB Small Grants Scheme and the methodology and criteria to administer such a scheme. • Area Committee will be requested to agree the People Board's recommendation to approve SIB to implement a Smalls Grant Scheme to support young people's 'Can Do' project under **Item 6 Finance Report**
Holiday Hunger	• Area Committee agreed to fund a project over the school summer holidays to respond to concerns raised by a number of elected members across the city and a recommendation from a recent Children's Service Scrutiny Panel, looking at Child Poverty which asked that options to address holiday hunger be considered and progressed. The project is a pilot scheme which offered weekly holiday food vouchers for families with children entitled to free school meals, during weeks 3, 4 and 5 of the summer holidays. • An interim report re numbers accessing the scheme and some comparative figures is included for Members information as **Annex 4** • An evaluation and analysis of the pilot scheme has been requested by the board and will be shared with Area Committee.
Local priority: Employment, enterprise and lifelong learning	
Employability Support Services	• Area Committee aligned £20,000 to support the local VCS to develop employability support services for Washington residents. A working group of the People Board has been working with the VCS to develop a way forward. • The Working Group, in conjunction with relevant local VCS organisations now agrees that because of the changing picture in that sector to recommend that the **£20,000** be returned to the SIB budget. This will be considered by Area Committee under **Item 6 Finance Report** • However, the People Board asks the Area Committee to be mindful of local need, to see if wider initiatives have an impact or if specific VCS organisations raise new issues and gaps, and to revisit this priority should evidence be brought forward. Area Committee to consider contributing to a collaborative approach with regards to identifying support for residents following: • Implementation of Universal Credit and local need arising from that • Consider the impact of wider initiatives – BBO/ESF etc. • Board propose AC invite DWP to December meeting for update
Financial Inclusion	• The People Board has considered how to develop a local approach to improve the resilience of families most in need, through the provision of co-ordinated services focusing upon increasing financial capability, improving health and well-being and enhancing community self-help support systems. The board recommends consideration be given to aligning SIB and developing a local project will: o Be based on robust evidence and identified need, and will provide local financial inclusion and support services for Washington residents o Provide information, advice and guidance to support

	Washington residents to access financial inclusion services, debt advice, and relevant support services. • **Annex 5** details proposals and recommendations for aligning SIB from the 2015/16 budget for the above project re Financial Inclusion Project. Area Committee will be requested to agree the People Board's recommendation to align SIB under **Item 6 Finance Report.**
Influencing roles	
Health and Well Being	• Active Sunderland Partnership – Everyone Active presented to the People Board in July 2015, explaining the Joint Venture working arrangements and the new Washington Leisure Centre operations. Further updates will continue to be presented to future boards. Active Sunderland also presented information outlining how the Council will work with partners and local projects to change behaviour and get people more active. • Live Life Well Service also presented an update regarding the development of the new service and gave Members the opportunity to identify key assets and discuss relevant issues within the local community
Employment	• Vince Taylor presented the Board with information relating to the International Advanced Manufacturing Park/Economic Assessment. Members were able to raise local issues and concerns. Further updates will continue to be presented to both People and Place Boards.
Education	• Members received data and statistics relating to school places across Washington and discussed concerns.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Members are requested to consider the progress with regard to the Washington People Board's Work Plan for 2015/16 as detailed in **Annex 1** and the report above**.**

4.2 Members are requested to support the People Board recommendation to align SIB funding as detailed under **Annex 2** to implement a strategic approach to addressing health and well-being of local residents and to propose the membership of the Washington Strategic Health Group.

4.3 Members are requested to support the People Board's recommendation for a Call for Projects for a young person's 'Can Do' Project as detailed in **Annex 3**

4.4 Members are requested to support the People Board's recommendation to align SIB to develop a Financial Inclusion project as detailed in the report above and **Annex 5**

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Annex 1 – People Work Plan 2015/16
Annex 2 – Support for families of young people who self harm
Annex 3 - Call for projects 'Can do' Project for Young People
Annex 4 - Holiday Hunger Data
Annex 5 - Financial Inclusion Project