

WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE
19th March 2020

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 Network

- 3.1 In Washington, the VCS is made up of a wide range of organisations ranging from independent local branches of national charities through to small, totally voluntary, community groups. Collectively these organisations provide Washington residents with a wide range of local services, activities and opportunities and have a significant role within community life here.
- 3.2 The Network delivers its own work plan. The Network will report progress and issues regularly via People Board and Area Committee. Detailed reports of all activity are presented to every People Board for Member's comments.
- 3.3 As well as partner updates re what is happening across the area, events, opportunities etc. partners regularly attended the Network meetings to present information. The following schemes, initiatives and information have been presented:
- Flood Prevention Schemes for Washington - SCC/Environment Agency funded schemes
 - Healthwatch Report & video re Care Home Life
 - Social Isolation and Loneliness in Sunderland – Public Health Research
 - CCG Pathway to Excellence
 - Assistance and Rest Centres (Emergency Centres)
 - Sunderland Green and Open Spaces forum
 - Community Reuse Network
 - Opportunities for volunteering in Washington
 - NHS Screening Programmes
 - Sunderland Green and Open Spaces Forum
 - CCG Social Prescribing
 - Change 4 Life Presentation
 - SCC Let's Talk Resident Engagement Let's Talk Sunderland
 - Community Lottery Fund

- 3.4 The Area Network partners have also contributed to and supported the SCC Let's Talk Resident Engagement Strategy, assisting with resident engagement, completing questionnaires and being involved in the Area Conversation Events
- 3.5 The Area Network VCS Representatives are now starting to work with the ACDL to produce

the Washington Area VCS Network Annual Report, which will be presented to the next Washington Area Committee Board in April, feeding in the Sector's priorities for the following year to contribute to the Area Committee's emerging Neighbourhood Investment Plan

- 3.6 With reference to the Network's Terms of Reference, it is intended to request the Washington Area Network to appoint a 3rd Area Committee Area Network Representative. The recruitment process for that position will commence at the scheduled March Area Network meeting.

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

Contact: 1. Sylvia Copley, Area Network Representative
Email: s.copley@shineyadvice.org.uk Tel: 0191 3856687

2. Shirley Gillum, Area Network Representative
Email: shirleygillum@communityopportunities.co.uk Tel: 0191 5373231