

WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE
20th October 2016

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 At the last meeting the Area Committee supported the Network in encouraging collaboration with Area Committee to deliver shared priorities. A Washington Community Plan is being developed and a workshop was held in August with the following priorities identified:
- Priority 1: The support and development of a Community Hub. This to include a one stop shop approach - bank of resources to share/loan (e.g. printing, display boards, ICT), meeting spaces, funding advice, information share, signposting.
 - Priority 2: A Volunteer Plan for Washington – co-ordinating, supporting, matching offers and opportunities, communication.
 - Priority 3: Washington Partnership – committed to working together and sharing, structured approach to funding opportunities. Set up working group/target key organisations to develop partnership bids. Specific niche/sectors. Those groups committed to providing the evidence of need and data relevant to Washington.
 - Priority 4: Communication – use Wellbeing.info as a platform. Develop a 'Network' resource. Promote self-management of directory. Regular e mails and bulletins to inform members when something of interest goes on. Information Officer key to keeping everything up to date and co-ordinating site/pages. Better use of social media, websites and newsletters. Promote our message.
- 3.3 Members are requested to support the Network's priorities and to note the Washington Area VCS Network members will gather evidence of need and keep the Area Committee informed of progress

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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