

WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE
16th November 2017

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, and recognised capacity issues and the need for statutory partners to support the sector, Including the Volunteer Plan for Washington. Partners had met and agreed to support the development of a shared approach to volunteer support and co-ordination. A project brief was circulated on 29th September to call for applications to deliver a project on behalf of Washington Area Committee. An opportunity develop and implement a Volunteer and Community Support Project in the Washington area.
- 3.4 Washington Partnership.
Partners have met regarding local Crisis Support and agreed to take forward a number of actions to begin the development of a partnership to pilot a response which will ensure an improved, person centred coordinated response is available to alleviate the difficulties of those in acute crisis.
- 3.5 Washington CLLD Workshop
Following the government approval for Sunderland's funding application, workshops will be held in the targeted communities across the City. Washington is one and a workshop will be held on 10th November, to invite interested parties to come together to look at opportunities for the area and discuss:
- What is Community Led Local Development?
 - How can organisations access it?
 - Ideas for projects.

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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