

WASHINGTON VCS AREA NETWORK: WORK PLAN 2018/19

Priority	Challenge/Need	Proposed activity	Progress Report
Supporting smaller grassroots organisations to grow and develop and be informed and engaged at whatever level they require	Identify appropriate mechanisms for engaging & involving smaller grassroots organisations	1. Washington Area Network Communications Plan - to determine appropriate methods of engagement for the different groups across the Washington Area Network via survey, 1 to 1s, meetings and forums 2. Propose 'Mentoring' Project where the more capable organisations support smaller organisations to engage and become involved	1. New Leaflet to promote Reps, services and support and mentoring proposals – invite to small organisations to request support. Washington MIND/Reps/ ACDL to meet to draft. 2. Develop WellBeing Info/What's On page as a resource for Area Network members. Also consider Washington Face Book page. ACDL/Washington MIND to meet to determine mechanism and methodology. 3. Survey grassroots organisations re support requirements, how do they want to be contacted etc. ACDL. 4. Organise monthly Drop Ins as part of a programme of support, advice and mentoring. 4. Build activity into VCS Support Project (signposting)
Recruitment of more volunteers and help to support, train and co-ordinate volunteers.	20 organisations responded identifying nearly 500 volunteers working for a range of organisations in Washington. Capacity within individual organisations, some quite small, to manage, support and train volunteers can be limited.	1. Area Committee to consider Call for Projects for a VCS Support Project – which includes support and co-ordination of volunteering as a proposed project outcome. 2. Washington Area Network members to establish and commit to Washington Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan	1. Develop a Washington Volunteers Passport Scheme. (highlights experience and skills and can be used for interviews, for UC and DWP, work experience). Needs to link to REACT, Clean and Green, Health Champions, young people's projects, to be recognised 'currency' across local VCS organisations – need organisations to sign up. Can this be a role for VCS Support Project as part of the project outcome of "Volunteers are recruited and supported to work within a specific organisation in the area, to contribute to the development of that organisation, and to form a 'bank' of volunteers who give time on an ad hoc basis to a number of volunteering opportunities and local activities."

Longer term sustainable business planning and future proofing VCS organisations	Changing landscape of funders and funding strategies – less money available and competing priorities. This priority needs to support some of the smaller organisation to plan for their sustainability using a business approach to address needs, gaps, and opportunities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Area Committee to consider Call for Projects for a VCS Support Project – which includes supporting the VCS to future proof the organisation as a proposed project outcome. 2. VCS Support Project to identify, prioritise and assist those organisations requiring business planning/future proofing. 3. CPS to support VCS Network and VCS support Project to identify additional opportunities for resources and support to future proof small to medium VCS organisations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Included in the Project Brief for VCS Support Project being presented to Area Committee June 2018. 2. As above 3. Community Partnership Service links already established via ACDL. 2. Community Partnership Service links already established via ACDL.
Improved use of community run buildings to help sustain VCS organisations	A number of VCS organisations who deliver much valued services for local people request various levels of support to assist with managing their community buildings. As external funding opportunities reduce for the 3 rd Sector and larger funders redraft their strategies and criteria, it is becoming increasingly difficult for groups (especially those run entirely via volunteers) to access funds to help them either maintain their buildings or repair or refurbish them.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CSP will ensure all relevant external funding opportunities circulated. 2. Linked to supporting smaller organisations via Network Mentoring 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SCC – Member Support & Community Partnerships Service (ACDL) + Washington ANW links and signposting already established. Regular bulletins detailing current funding opportunities circulated to all Network members. 2. Utilise volunteering scheme for gardeners, decorators, handyman service to assist VCS organisation re managing community buildings and sites. Links to Clean and Green and REACT.
Identify longer term core funding opportunities	Many larger organisations highlight the need for longer term funding to support core costs as they struggle to deliver more with less and to sustain core interventions that have worked, whilst responding to the shorter term opportunities which come along. Sustaining the programmes and		

	activities that are proving to have a positive impact but have been piloted using short term funding is also an issue.		
Partnership working and collaboration embedded	Area Committee has encouraged partnership working and collaboration via the local VCS to deliver joint priorities for some time. That support was confirmed at the last Area Committee. Where local organisations work together for funding opportunities (AC) and submit collaborative bids, WAC is happy to target such opportunities where appropriate	<p>1. Encourage collaborative bidding for AC opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCS Support Project • REACT • WISP <p>2. CSP to identify external opportunities where shared or joint priorities/criteria are identified. All key organisations to confirm priorities for 2018/19</p>	<p>1. In place. SCC – Member Support & Community Partnerships Service (ACDL) + Washington ANW</p> <p>2. ACDL to confirm focus/priorities of key organisations and work with them to identify opportunities to collaborate. Regular bulletins circulated to ANW Members</p>
Help sustain VCS organisations re governance	Aging committees, lack of volunteers, capacity of volunteers. There is a need to grow volunteers who can step in and support some of the more ‘aging’ committees and governance structures of VCS groups and organisations	1. Area Committee to consider Call for Projects for a VCS Support Project – which includes supporting the smaller VCS organisations to recruit and grow new volunteers as a proposed project outcome.	1. Included in the Project Brief for VCS Support Project being presented to Area Committee June 2018. SCC – Member Support & Community Partnerships Service (ACDL).
Meeting the ever changing needs of the local community and increased demand	<p>Organisations are also struggling with trying to continue to deliver services to more people and having the time to seek additional funding to support the organisation going forward.</p> <p>To support staff to deal with clients with higher levels of need and more complex issues. More and more local residents need help and whilst the local VCS are willing to try and help as many as possible, the challenge is the capacity of organisations and their staff.</p>		<p>1. Identify shared priorities of WAC and Area Network</p> <p>2. Work together to achieve added value for Washington – via Area Network reporting, collaboration, and links between SIB projects – WISP, Time 2 Care, REACT, Clean and Green – recognising capacity will determine delivery.</p> <p>3. Confirm key priorities and new challenges – on-going</p> <p>4. Set up Washington Area Network Provider Group to map, audit, and prioritise re opportunities.</p>