

WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE
15th November 2018

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 has commenced delivering its own work plan attached as **Annex 1** which includes detail of progress. One of the key outcomes that has been the delivery of the first Drop In mentoring and advice session which was held 16th October. The sessions were attended by grassroots organisations who all received a range of support, information, advice and guidance across a number of topics from key partners and mentoring organisations - SNCBC, ShARP, Washington MIND, CAB, Social Enterprise Acumen, Community Partnership support (SCC), and Groundwork NE.

The Network will report progress and issues regularly via People Board and Area Committee.

- 3.3 One of the three Area Network Representatives has resigned their post. Jacqui Reeves has stood down after a number of years in the position. Jacqui's key focus is prioritising fundraising for Washington MIND following funding cuts, and the future sustainability of the organisation.

The recruitment of a replacement representative was launched with a deadline for Expressions of Interest 26th October. No applications were received. The role will be promoted once again March 2019. The terms of reference for the Area Network and details of the role are attached as **Annex 2** for Member's information.

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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