

Washington Area Committee Annual Report 2016-17

Washington - How we made a difference – highlights from 2016 / 2017

Our local priorities for Washington were:

Improving the Environment and Green Spaces by continuing to build on Washington Area Committee's previous investment in developing the Washington Way and continue to develop initiatives to tackle health issues and utilise green spaces.

Improving the physical and environmental appearance of Washington through a 4-pronged, coordinated 'Clean and Green' approach which will deliver neighbourhood and community improvement

To develop the 'Time to Care' Self-harm project; working in partnership with schools, health professions, voluntary and community organisations, young people and their parents.

Ensuring Washington area and communities contributed to the City of Culture Bid 2021

Influencing delivery and design of Place based services devolved to area committee

To identify clear gaps in available provision with regard to financial and crisis support.

Continuing to support the established Washington Voluntary and Community Sector Network

Providing support to young people via a 'Can-Do' project to build their confidence as well as meet Area Committee priorities.

To influence delivery and design of People based services devolved to area committee

Our year in numbers

We approved new or previously aligned funding totalling almost £459,320 of projects during 2016/2017 to implement our local specific priorities –working with partner agencies, our own council departments and the voluntary and community sector organisations, to benefit the residents and communities of Washington.

Events 2017 - a programme of events throughout the year.	£60000
Time to Care Self Harm Project	£50000
Skills Work Event – to bring together schools and employers	£15000
Promotional Work to encourage use of the Washington Way to Wellbeing	£2000
Clean and Green Main project	£85000
Support for 'Friends of' Group – to encourage local active volunteers within specific parks,	£25000
Healthy Spaces, Healthy People Project- as part of the Clean and Green approach to improve small neglected areas across Washington.	£25320
Health and Heritage – at development stage – to work in partnership with Public Health to develop community based projects that promote positive relationships, connect communities and provide real-time people based evidence.	£50000
Education and Promotional Work to complement all strands of the Clean and Green project	£10000
VCS Health Project for Washington residents	£97000
Crisis Support – to work with organisations that provide support and assistance to residents that are experiencing a crisis situation	£10000
Washington Heritage Strategy Project	£30000

We have also awarded 50 Community Chest grants totalling over £63,000, benefiting over 10,000 local residents.

Highlights

169 young people accessed Information Advice and Guidance, **104** received job training and **33** young people were helped into employment as part of a Youth Opportunities and School Opportunities project. This project has successfully engaged young people from aged 14 up to 19 who were struggling attaining academic success or were not in education, employment or training.

The Heritage and Culture project contacted **36** Washington based groups, to identify how culture and heritage in Washington can play a supporting role in the Councils bid for City of Culture. Washington Heritage Groups are ready to play a full and active part in the City of Culture 20121 bid and whether it is heritage or performance local people of the town want to be involved.

5000 local residents attended the 2016 Washington Carnival which was held in September at Albany Park. This event is well established in Washington's calendar and has grown year on year. A Family Fun Day approach has ensured there's something for everyone and the day is well supported by the local VCS, local businesses and the community.

Approximately **2500** residents attended the Xmas Fete held in Washington Village in December 2016.

Over **55** attendees benefit from our Home from Hospital lunch clubs. This initiative also provides information and signposting services for people leaving hospital, Welcome home packs and a variety of supported group activities.

22 Neighbourhoods and community green spaces have been improved through the Neighbourhood Improvement Project. Both the local community and partners have helped deliver a range of projects in parks, open spaces and community facilities.

190 Community volunteers identified and supported through the Community Volunteer Development Officer. 15 new groups have been established and nearly £40,000 additional funding has been successfully secured.

An estimated **2000** local people attended the Concord Switch On in November, a key event in the Washington calendar.