

## Washington Voluntary and Community Sector Network Meeting

**Notes of meeting held on:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 9.30am, The Life House, Washington Mind

### Present:

Cllr Linda Williams, Chair of Area Committee (Chairperson)  
 Karon Purvis, Sunderland City Council  
 Jacqui Reeves, Washington Mind, Area Committee Area VCS Representative  
 John Rostron, Washington Trust, Washington Millennium Centre, Area Committee Area VCS Representative  
 Bryan Beverley Washington Trust  
 Trish Cornish, VCAS  
 Andrea Baxter, Groundworks NE  
 Ev Ripley-Day, Foundation of Light  
 Wendy Hadlington Healthwatch  
 Paul Barrett, Wearside Women in Need  
 Ben Johnson, Age UK  
 Vivienne Hogarth, Columbia CA  
 Elaine Harbron, SCC ICT  
 Adrienne Mason, Washington MIND

### Apologies:

Jackie Nixon, Public Health, SCC  
 Hazel Young Age UK  
 John Moiser, DWP  
 Joanne Coulson, Gentoo  
 Denise Hepplewhite Apexra  
 Jemma Amer SNCBC

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Welcome, Introductions, Apologies</b></p> <p>Cllr Linda Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made and apologies acknowledged.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Actions from Previous Meeting (November 2016) and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The notes of the previous meeting held were agreed as a true record. All matters arising and actions covered by agenda</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Washington Area Network Annual Report 2016/17</b></p> <p>BB confirmed the Network's Annual Report has been submitted for March Area Committee. The report outlines the issues facing communities of Washington, the challenging and changing environment for the sector, and activity of 2 x key sub groups (collaborative working and supporting volunteering). The report also presents examples of Washington VCS collaboration and looks forward to the coming year identifying likely challenges such as reducing capacity of partners, how to continue to attract additional funding, and the recruitment and support of volunteers.</p>	<b>KP to circulate report following Area Committee</b>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Washington Community Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Washington Collaboration Group – committed to working together and sharing, structured approach to funding opportunities.</b> Key leads have met to agree common areas of</li> </ul>	

	<p>work re collaboration. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Health &amp; Well Being</b></li> <li>○ <b>Volunteering</b></li> <li>○ <b>NEETs</b></li> <li>○ <b>Training and Employment</b></li> </ul> <p>The group has agreed to meet on needs basis coming together to either pull together partners/bid, if opportunities are relevant to the priorities identified e.g. Area Committee Calls for Projects, or other opportunities raised via the Washington Area VCS Network. The group would come together to identify relevant needs, roles etc. for a specific commitment re working collaboratively. Capacity and maintaining core delivery of each organisation was highlighted as being important whilst collaborative work is driven forward.</p> <p>The group also asked to be recognised as a good mechanism to help support and develop re CLLD Strategy at a local level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Volunteer Plan for Washington. Co-ordinating, supporting, matching offers and opportunities, communication.</b> In line with the Area VCS Network priority regarding supporting volunteers, the CVDO Officer has facilitated meetings to take this forward the 3 aims/benefits identified for organisations to come together: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can we achieve more by working together?</li> <li>○ Do individual organisations have individual programmes and bidding to take forward?</li> <li>○ Are there economies of scale working together?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Joint training, joint bidding and a better system to refer prospective volunteers to organisations is the main focus at the moment. This group will only meet as required now and anticipates a review in 6 months. BB invited any organisation who wishes to be involved in the work to just get in touch.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Nomination Process for Washington ACVS Network Area Committee Representative</b></p> <p>Following one of the three VCS Reps to Area Committee standing down, nominations for the vacant position are now invited. KP to circulate self-referral nomination forms and terms of reference. Closing date for application is 27<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>Should there be more than one application, applicants will present to the Area Network meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April and the VCS Members present at that meeting will vote and determine appointment.</p>	<p><b>Self Referral forms circulated</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>People Board</b></p> <p>KP highlighted discussions and recommendations at last People Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recommendation for funding to set up a local led Washington Support Network for Crisis Support</li> <li>● Consider developing an approach/project with Public health re using heritage to tackle health issues</li> <li>● Project updates re YOP, Washington Way to Well Being, CVDO</li> </ul> <p>Next People board 5<sup>th</sup> April</p>	

	<p><b>Place Board</b>          KP highlighted discussions and recommendations at last Place Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Neighbourhood Improvement Project</li> <li>• Update on Heritage and culture work</li> <li>• Consider developing an approach/project with Public health re using heritage to tackle health issues</li> <li>• Update on taking forward Washington Clean and Green approach (funded by Area Committee).</li> </ul> <p>Next Place board 26<sup>th</sup> April</p>	
7.	<p><b>Washington VCS and Project Updates, Information Sharing including funding opportunities</b></p> <p><b>Washington MIND:</b> International Women’s Day 8<sup>th</sup> March. Some new courses have commenced at MIND but all have filled up. JR looking for additional dates and extra sessions.</p> <p><b>NEPO:</b> Opportunities circulated.</p> <p><b>Groundwork:</b> Groundwork working in schools. Wendy Fail based at Campground currently delivering recycling initiative in all schools. Recruitment of Health Navigators underway. Groundwork looking forward to working with Washington community groups.</p> <p><b>SCC ICT:</b> Elaine mentioned support for community groups via SCC ICT</p> <p><b>Healthwatch:</b> WH informed the meeting Healthwatch could attend any group or organisation to talk about support available</p> <p><b>Columbia CA:</b> Vivienne Hogarth newly appointed Treasurer for the CA attending for the first time. Looking forward to networking and finding out what goes on in the area.</p> <p><b>Foundation of Light:</b> Hub had publicity launch February 23<sup>rd</sup>.</p> <p><b>VCAS:</b> TC asked the group to note VCAS AGM is 14<sup>th</sup> March. Launch of new ‘Health Respect’ funding (Health Lottery Initiative). Launch is 15<sup>th</sup> March – ‘Stage 1’ on line applications close 4<sup>th</sup> April – short window of opportunity via VCAS for funding £5k - £50k for support. Decision within 5 days re 10 x Sunderland projects to go forward to Stage 2. This meeting will be Trish’s last meeting – she is leaving VCAS. Contact is now Gillian Mcdonough</p> <p><b>Age UK:</b> BJ reminded the group of support available for those socially isolated.</p> <p><b>WWIN:</b> PB updated the meeting and raised concerns relating to contract changes and loss of funding for domestic abuse services in Sunderland</p> <p><b>Washington Trust:</b> Completed partnership work with Beamish re School Strike re-enactment. 6 – 7 schools visited plus local residents. Over 500 attended during half term to take part in the activities. 5 local heritage groups also had displays. 3<sup>rd</sup> June Heritage Fair at Bowes Railway Museum. BB reported on the successful Keep Britain Tidy spring Clean which had taken place over the weekend. More than 200 people had been out across the area over the weekend and new volunteers have come forward for Keep Washington tidy – 30 new people now want to be more involved.</p> <p><b>Washington Millennium Centre:</b> Following damage to the 3G pitch (vandalism) it may be closed for at least 1 x week to allow repairs. The Centre also to consider that kids currently can use it free – but given that a number of youth sessions may cease in the future this might</p>	

	change. In addition following Library Review the library space in the Centre will at some point be available for an alternative use. Some ideas being explored – children’s library linked to the soft play provision currently being delivered in the Centre	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 9.30am, The Life House, Washington Mind.</p> <p><b>Meeting for rest of year agreed:</b>  6<sup>th</sup> May 2017, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017.</p> <p>All meetings to be held at the Life House (Washington MIND), 9.30am start.</p>	
	<b>Partners Networking</b> – An opportunity to network with partners within the Washington Area	