

Item No. 11.	Classification: Open	Date: 4 October 2016	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Communities	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board note and comment on the draft Southwark Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy (Appendix 1).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Making good on a Council Plan commitment to enhance the work of the voluntary and community sector, in 2014 the Southwark Health and Wellbeing Board established an independent Early Action Commission with our neighbours in Lambeth.
3. Published in 2015, the Commission's report was welcomed as an important contribution to putting prevention and early action at the heart of service delivery. More specifically the Early Action Commission identified four goals that deliver better outcomes. These were "resourceful communities", "preventative places", "strong, collaborative partnerships" and "systems geared to early action".
4. The Commission celebrated the positive work of the voluntary, public and private sectors that help people flourish, reduces demand on costly public services, and creates the right conditions for prosperity and well-being.
5. As well as the successes and initiatives already underway, all partners recognised there are opportunities to be bolder and to go further. For example, the report gave less attention to the ways in which the VCS working with partners can help communities address current challenges in by making early action the 'norm'.
6. In light of this, a new VCS strategy for Southwark has been developed, which embeds early action in service delivery; harnesses the unique position and relationships the voluntary sector has to build community resilience in collaboration with public and private partners, and creates a sustainable sector.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. This new strategy is a three-way collaboration involving the VCS, the council and the NHS.
8. The timing means the new strategy is being developed as Southwark refreshes its Council Plan to achieve a fairer future for all. The council has worked jointly with NHS Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to set out a fresh Five Year Forward View of health and social care to 2021. The draft strategy

sets out key areas of alignment with Council Plan and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Five Year Forward View Priorities.

9. Over 200 people attended the Four Listening Events and their input and contribution is the core content of the co-produced strategy.
10. It sets out a new deal between the VCS and its public and private sector partners, where impact is measured by the contribution made to establishing and sustaining strong and flourishing communities.
11. The ambition for this strategy is to create a sustainable, confident and resilient voluntary and community sector that works in collaboration with public and private partners to create a safer and fairer Southwark. It will:
 - Enhance the work of the VCS with an emphasis on improving quality and outcomes for residents that reduce and prevent future demand on high cost, high demand services;
 - Sustain and build strong, cohesive communities where no one group or community is left behind.
12. These outcomes will be delivered through four priorities:
 - Better partnership working to improve outcomes for residents
 - Improved commissioning and grant-giving to focus on outcomes and be more cooperative and community-led
 - Better use of community assets as a route to revitalize neighbourhoods and create preventative places
 - More resilient communities that are connected and resourceful
13. Within the strategy are actions which will add value to the Council Plan and CCG Five Year Forward View priorities. These include:
 - Agreeing a set of core outcomes for the benefit of the whole community against which impact is measured and aligned against Council and CCG plans
 - More responsive and jointed up ways of working using existing structures to harness the power of and knowledge of local communities to help reduce the impact of reductions in local authority and NHS resource
 - Changes to the Council and CCG commissioning approach
14. The strategy is not a commissioning approach but contains commissioning policy direction and principles. A report to Cabinet in December will set out arrangements for how the council working with the CCG will improve the co-ordination of commissioning and how council wide/CCG oversight of commissioning intentions is to be delivered. The strategy foreshadows a number of the engagement principles that will inform new commissioning arrangements.
15. The final version of the strategy will be presented to Cabinet in November with a launch event on the 14 November.
16. The implementation of the strategy will be monitored through the Council/CCG/VCS Liaison group.

Policy implications

17. The strategy links to other strategies with respect to the local VCS. These are:

- Council Plan
- Southwark and Lambeth Early Action Commission Report
- Southwark CCG and Southwark Council Five Year Forward View of health and social care
- Southwark Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Implementation of the Southwark Mental Health Social Care Review
- Establishment of the Partnership Commissioning Team between NHS Southwark CCG and Southwark Council
- Review of Commissioning within the Council
- Changes to the Southwark Community Safety Partnership and the Southwark Adult Safeguarding Adults Board
- Refresh of the Housing Strategy
- Southwark Advice Strategy

Community impact statement

18. The new strategy is intended to have a positive community impact. The strategic objectives are to sustain and build strong, cohesive communities and neighbourhoods and to build a sustainable, confident and resilient voluntary and community sector. Its development and these strategic objectives have been informed by and involved the broadest possible reach across the partners and within Southwark's diverse range of community organisations and representatives.

Resource implications

19. There are no specific additional resource implications emerging as a result of the new strategy.

Legal implications

20. Legal implications if any will be identified when reporting to Cabinet.

Financial implications

21. Financial implications if any will be identified when reporting to Cabinet.

Consultation

22. The strategy has been developed following Four Listening Events attended by over 200 people.

23. There has also been consultation through the following networks; the Forum for Equalities and Human Rights, Departmental Commissioning Officers and the Council/CCG/VCS Liaison Group.

24. Consultation on the draft strategy will continue until Cabinet.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

25. Legal implications if any will be identified when reporting to Cabinet.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

26. Financial implications if any will be identified when reporting to Cabinet.

Other officers

27. These will be identified when reporting to Cabinet.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
VCS Strategy –Overview	Communities Division, 160 Tooley St	Andy Matheson 020 7525 7648
VCS Strategy	“ “	“ “
Background consultation documents Link: https://communitysouthwark.org/sites/default/files/images/VCS%20Strategy%20Draft%205_0.pdf		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Draft Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2017 - 2022
Appendix 2	One Page Overview

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
Report Author	Andy Matheson, Senior Commissioning Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	26 September	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	26 September 2016	