

Item No. 12.	Classification: Open	Date: 26 March 2018	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy Progress Report and Action Plan 2017/18	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Communities Strategic Director of Children's and Adults Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes progress of the implementation of the Southwark Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy and the Strategy Action Plan for 2017/18 Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The historic vitality, diversity and richness of the voluntary and community sector is recognised as an invaluable resource within Southwark. It provides services for residents to improve their wellbeing and for communities to be healthier, safer, more engaged, greener and more vibrant.
3. The VCS strategy *Common Purpose, Common Cause* starts by celebrating this strong presence and sets out a dynamic cross sector approach for positive change that makes the most of the opportunities presented by a changing borough. The vision is:

"To support a sustainable, confident and resourceful voluntary and community sector that can work alongside the public and private sector to deliver the best outcomes for Southwark residents."

4. The key objectives are:
 - Improving outcomes for residents that reduces and prevents future demand on high cost, high demand services
 - Sustaining and building strong, cohesive communities where no one group or community is left behind
5. The VCS strategy sets out a bold and transformative vision that is predicated on all sectors working together to improve collaboration and co-production in order to deliver shared outcomes that will have demonstrable impact on residents and communities in Southwark.
6. This five year strategy sets the links and contribution to the Fairer Future promises and Southwark Five Year Forward View where there are synergies with the work of the VCS. The shared unity of purpose about the challenges to be addressed provides the basis for the collaborative approach to the partnership activities contained in the Strategy Action Plan 17-18.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. The Action Plan 17-18 sets out priorities for action. It sets out responsibility for strategic leadership and what has been done to date.
8. The four key priorities are:
 - Better partnership working to improve outcomes for residents
 - Improved commissioning and grant-giving to focus on outcomes
 - Making better use of community assets to revitalise communities
 - Communities that are connected and more resourceful

The priorities are inter-dependent and the success of strategy relies on cross-sector progress being made in each priority area for it to be transformational and system changing.

Better partnership working

9. Improving partnership and collaborative working in VCS is progressing, most notably the ongoing work around service reconfiguration for older people and disabilities hubs to provide information and advice services for these groups.
10. Under the developing better partnerships priority there is a focus on improving links with the corporate sector. Southwark Giving – a place based giving scheme designed to unlock time, talent and resource from the business sector – has secured five corporate founding funders and is currently developing priorities and approaches to maximise investment in community led initiatives.
11. Other work under this priority over the next 12 months will be to develop core principles that outline and quantify expected standards for working together, early engagement, co-design and collaboration. There will also be a focus on opening up access to data across agencies by sharing aggregated, anonymized data.

Improved commissioning and grant giving to focus on outcomes

12. Progress has been achieved through changes to how commissioning is carried out. A cross-sector commissioning task group has identified what needs to be fixed and come up with solutions to the issues.
13. The new resources which build upon existing good practice are:
 - The Southwark Common Outcomes Framework (SCOF)
 - A VCS Commissioning Forward Plan 2017-2022 which lists the totality of currently commissioned services both statutory and discretionary, how they are commissioned and when they end
 - A screening checklist for VCS commissioning.
14. The changes to how commissioning is coordinated, with all council departments working together with the CCG and VCS as strategic partners, is intended to deliver better outcomes for residents. The Southwark Common Outcomes Framework is a single commissioning plan for the council. It provides a shared understanding of agreed common outcomes and improves our ability to deliver them. The Commissioning Forward Plan has been welcomed by the VCS as a

useful tool to facilitate planning for future commissioning opportunities.

15. The SCOF has been developed to align with existing council, CCG and VCS plans. The Social Regeneration Framework that is being developed by Public Health has also adopted the framework headings listed below.
 - Safer communities
 - Healthier communities
 - Engaged communities
 - Greener communities
 - Vibrant communities
16. Cross council commissioners next priorities are to embed this more coordinated commissioning approach. This will include:
 - Identifying areas of service commissioning (Information Advice and Guidance is the first one) where starting with a totally new approach may result in improved services and better value for money
 - Identifying areas of duplication
 - Improving sharing of data on indicators and outcomes across all partners
 - Planning a partnership conference on the framework outcomes to celebrate achievements and identify challenges
 - Use intelligence gathered to seek additional external investment and innovative ways to address challenges
17. As a result of these changes a number of commissioning programmes have moved from discreet departmental areas e.g. Community Safety grants moving to Communities Division. In other areas e.g. Youth Services, major service redesign linked to budget reductions have meant that a new approach is needed for future commissioning.
18. To make data more accessible and improve funding co-ordination the council has published our grants data for 2016-17 on 360 Giving. <http://www.threesixtygiving.org/>. 360 Giving is an open data platform for funders to publicly share their grants data in a local authority area and to build an overview of placed based funding. Southwark is the second local authority in London to publish its data on this platform.
19. Local independent funders are keen to publish their grants data on the platform and to co-fund strategic initiatives to ensure that resources are most effectively used.

Make better use of community assets to revitalise communities

20. This priority seeks to improve the use/ownership of community spaces to increase wellbeing; make better use of buildings and other physical assets/estate and to embed co-production and co-design into place based strategies as is closely linked to the work of the Social Regeneration Strategy.
21. Over the coming twelve months' work will focus on developing an online presence providing information on premises relevant to the VCS. Identification of gaps in VCS premises and ensuring availability of a range of VCS spaces through affordable business spaces, incubation units, encouraging and supporting co-location, promoting meanwhile use of existing properties and making better use of council premises such as TRA halls will continue.

22. Southwark has a TRA halls estate comprising 97 premises across the borough. The council is investing in this resource significantly. The size, build and use of such premises vary greatly. Southwark CCG is piloting work into how Patient Participation Groups and TRAs can come together to develop solutions to problems in their areas. There is huge potential for more activities to improve wellbeing with greater use of the halls.

Communities that are connected and more resourceful

23. The final priority aims to unlock community assets to improve health and wellbeing, create stronger community connections and to support people to develop their ideas into action and support increased social action.
24. The CCG is supporting work in Walworth and Rotherhithe to understand how to unlock and integrate community assets with the health and social care sector. The aim will be to demonstrate the conditions and methods by which a neighborhood care network can improve wellbeing by unlocking community health assets. This action research report will be published in June 2018.
25. There is growing momentum behind developing a comprehensive social prescribing model in Southwark. The Local Care Networks are leading on this work with a number of VCS providers (including SAIL).
26. In addition, the Southwark Volunteering Strategy has an outcome on “increased awareness amongst GPs on the benefits of volunteering on wellbeing through social prescribing”. A number of activities are looking at how volunteering and voluntary services can link with GPs to support positive health and wellbeing. These sit alongside a large number of initiatives that help health and wellbeing and reduce isolation.
27. The opportunities for increasing social action and community connections need to be better supported by improving digital connectivity. The VCS will continue to play a major role in supporting residents to have the skills and confidence to increase their use of online services leading to less digital exclusion and is this reflected in the SCOF.
28. The longer term goal is for digital tools to deliver better outcomes by intervening earlier and helping people manage their own conditions and strengthen their social networks. Examples of more effective use of technology and online resources that can strengthen and connect communities are referred to below.
29. Spacehive is a crowdfunding platform specifically for civic or public projects. Projects range in scale from a small event to ambitious ideas to improve a place or building. Southwark is one of the most successful boroughs in the country for creatively developing new grass roots ideas, and has become a thought leader in how to make crowdfunding work for community groups. We continue to develop training and awareness of how the platform can work for groups across Southwark, and are investigating the potential to provide a small match funded pot of funding in 2019.
30. Walk Elephant is an initiative which has been co-designed with the community sector led by Southwark Living Streets and the Walworth Society. The initiative seeks to improve walking routes across the heart of the borough, delivering

greening and sustainability, celebrate local history, and encourage community involvement. A technology called Commonplace is being used to enable the community to input their ideas in an open source way. Following the creation of the vision a range of new projects have been conceived by the community and the council is helping different groups to develop and fund their ideas.

31. Blackfriars Stories is an event programme which celebrates the history of the Blackfriars area. Each year three creative producers work with community groups across the Blackfriars area to develop events which animate the area, remember the history, and develop community involvement. The ideas generated have led to new sources of funding, new partnerships and collaborations, and a legacy of historical research.

Policy Implications

32. In addition to the policy initiatives set out above, the recommendations of this report support a number of council policies and strategies, including:
 - Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
 - Social Regeneration
 - Approach to Equality;
 - Economic Wellbeing Strategy;

Community impact statement

33. The initiatives and recommendations of this report are intended to have a significant positive impact on the community and to improve standards of the delivery of outcomes across the three partners.
34. There is a legal duty on local authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to promote equal opportunities, eliminate discrimination and to promote positive community relations between people with a protected characteristic and people without.
35. The vision of the SCOF in delivering a more outcomes based commissioning approach is to build and sustain strong, cohesive communities where no one group or community is left behind.
36. The VCS Commissioning Forward Plan sets out service areas that are currently commissioned and for which in the future the SCOF will be used. In many cases the services listed in the plan provide additional targeted support for people with protected characteristics for example older people, people with disabilities, women and people from a range of different communities of identity and interest.
37. In developing the framework partners have carefully considered the wording of the outcomes. As well as promoting positive outcomes for Southwark residents generally, the outcomes are intended to ensure that for particular groups of people with protected characteristics commissioned services will meet the specific needs of those groups. The SCOF is intended to provide sufficient flexibility for organisations to demonstrate in their bids how they will evidence the impact their services will make and who the service beneficiaries will be.
38. The Screening Checklist for VCS Commissioning includes within Stage 2, Strategic screening a question about the need for an Equality Impact

assessment.

Resource implications

39. The changes to commissioning have been made within the council's budgetary framework.

Consultation

40. Consultation on the SCOF has taken place with the VCS at an event in May 2017 at which the council, the CCG and the sector met to discuss progress on the early stages of developing an action plan for the implementation of the strategy. The framework was well received and amendments have been made to take these into account. It is intended to be a living document and will be revised and updated to maintain its relevance.
41. Consultation has also taken place with locally based independent funders who are founding funders of Southwark Giving and are part of the working groups that will take forward the activities to deliver the strategic objectives.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

42. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked simply to note the matters referred to in the Recommendation section, at paragraph 1.
43. The council is subject to the "Best Value" duty (Local Government Act 2003) to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness". The government's Best Value Statutory Guidance requires the council to approach "value" as including economic, environmental and social value, and to be responsive to the needs of the voluntary and community sector. The council's approach as outlined in this report appears to be consistent with these duties.
44. Health and Wellbeing Board is reminded that the council is subject to the public sector equality duty in section 149 Equality Act 2010, and attention is drawn to the community impact section of the report in this regard. The duty requires the council, in the exercise of all its functions, to have due regard to the need to:
- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The duty is a continuing one.

45. Health and Wellbeing Board is referred to the consultation undertaken, as described at paragraphs 40 to 41 of the report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

46. There are no financial implications.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
VCS Strategy –Overview	Communities Division, 160 Tooley St	Andy Matheson 020 7525 7648
Southwark Common Outcomes Framework	“ “	“ “
VCS Commissioning Forward Plan	“ “	“ “
Screening checklist for VCS commissioning	“ “	“ “
Walk Elephant Project Details	www.southwark.gov.uk/walk-elephant	Dan Taylor 0207 525 5450
Link: www.southwark.gov.uk/walk-elephant		
Blackfriars Stories project details	http://www.southwark.gov.uk/regeneration/borough-bankside-and-london-bridge?chapter=2	Dan Taylor 0207 525 5450
Link: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/regeneration/borough-bankside-and-london-bridge?chapter=2		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy Action Plan 2017/19

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Michael Scorer, Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation David Quirke-Thornton, Strategic Director of Children’s and Adults		
Report Authors	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning Mark Kewley, Director of Transformation, Southwark NHS, CCG Gordon McCullough, Chief Executive, Community Southwark		
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Dated	20 March 2018		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy		Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance		Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member		Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			20 March 2018