



COMMITTEE: HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Date: 20th July 2021

REPORT TITLE:	WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR
REPORT OF:	JULIE WEBSTER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

At the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on 31st March 2021 a proposed approach to working with the Community, Voluntary and Faith sector to improve health and reduce inequalities was presented and endorsed. This report provides an update on the work programme.

This matter affects all wards within the Borough; it is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to note the update provided within this report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To provide members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on work to enhance the working relationship with the Community, Voluntary and Faith sector.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The option to do nothing was considered however the CVF sector provide valued support through a wide range of activities and services to residents. The sector is therefore a key partner in the delivery of the Wirral Plan and an important bridge between the Council and its relationship with local people. The option to do nothing was therefore not considered as a plausible option.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board supported the proposed approach to working with the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector (CVF) on 31st March 2021 and that a working group is established to oversee the approach taken to working with the Community, Voluntary and Faith sector.
- 3.2 There are four main workstreams to inform next steps and to build on existing work including:
- The CVF sector leadership with Wirral Council and the wider Wirral Partnership;
 - Business support for not-for-profit organisations;
 - Co-ordinating funding bids across the CVF sector;
 - Commissioning the CVF sector; and
 - Volunteering need and opportunity.
- 3.3 To enable wide engagement and to develop this work a conference was held on 9th June 2021. The conference was designed and facilitated by and with the sector, led by a task and finish group comprised of representatives from a range of CVF organisations reflecting the sectors diversity, and officers from Wirral Council. Thirty-eight local Community, Voluntary and Faith sector representatives attended along with several senior Council officers and Cllr Yvonne Nolan as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 3.4 A Conference Report is provided to the Board as an appendix to this update. The key themes that emerged were as follows:
- Voice of the CVF Sector

It was acknowledged that whilst leadership responsibility for this work is shared the CVF sector representatives must drive the work and that any subsequent strategy should be led by the sector.

- **Tackling inequalities together**
Easy to access services was repeatedly recognised as an important factor. Digital accessibility was explicitly identified both in terms of physical equipment, maintenance, affordability, and literacy.
- **Collaborative working**
There is a number of CVF network groups already established for example, the Covid-19 Humanitarian Cell, the Community of Practice Network, the HWB Reference Group and CVF Chief Officer Forum. Clarifying how these fora work together, the participation arrangements (e.g. voting) and how they connect to public sector governance was identified as a required action.
- **Volunteering**
Existing volunteers became beneficiaries during the pandemic and new volunteers need to be retained going forward. Protection of volunteer's mental health is important, working closely with DWP.
- **Sustainability and resourcing**
A centralised strategic place for organisations to tap into to share skills and support each other was identified as a need. Further understanding about what the sector requires in terms of support to operate was also highlighted.

3.5 The Working Group which includes co-opted representatives of the CVF Sector will lead on the development of work under each workstream through thematic focused groups. These focus groups will report actions back to the Working Group in early August 2021.

3.6 A further conference with the broader CVF sector is scheduled for 9th September 2021 which will provide an opportunity to further develop actions.

3.7 An updated report detailing progress will be presented to the Board at the meeting on 29th September 2021.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The work programme outlined within this report will inform future financial implications and any subsequent commissioning intentions which may include pooling resources across the Council and or with Partners.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report, however future actions taken may have legal implications which will need to be addressed at the relevant time and

any future procurement will need to be conducted in accordance with the Council's contract procedure rules.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 The work described within this report will identify any future resource requirements.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Continuing engagement from the CVF sector is key as is the contribution from Wirral partners. As part of this action plan relevant risks and mitigating actions will be identified related to the workstreams outlined and presented back to Health and Wellbeing board on 29th September 2021.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 A fundamental tenet of this work is to enable a co-produced programme of work engaging with the many local CVF networks and organisations to inform how the Council and sector will work together in the future to improve health.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

9.2 This report has no impact on equalities, however we will ensure that any associated actions meet our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty, such actions will be subject to individual Equality Impact Assessments where appropriate.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 No direct climate implications.

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APPENDICES

Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector Conference Report, 9th June 2021

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Community Wealth Building Strategy

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Health & Wellbeing Board	31 st March 2021