



COMMITTEE: HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Date: 20th 2021

REPORT TITLE:	WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR: UPDATE REPORT
REPORT OF:	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.

A progress report was provided to the Board on 20th July 2021 and this report provides a further 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 and comment on the update provided within this report and endorse the ongoing work programme included.

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 working with the community, voluntary and faith sector.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report is for information and therefore no other options are considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board supported the proposed approach to working with the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector on 31st March 2021 and the establishment of a working group to oversee the work programme.
- 3.2 The Working Group, which is made up of a variety of representatives reflective of the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector (see Appendix 1), has led the development of work through the following thematic focused groups:
- Increasing collaboration
 - Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector representation
 - Modernising volunteering
 - Behaviours that reflect values
 - Tackling health inequalities
- 3.3 These groups have identified opportunities and proposals against each theme building on the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector conference held in June 2021. This work was presented at a further workshop held with the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector on 3rd September 2021 to enable wide engagement and input. 35 local community, voluntary and faith sector groups attended along with several senior Council officers and Cllr Yvonne Nolan as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 3.4 A report outlining the outputs from this work to date is provided in Appendix 2 which includes the following recommendations:

Continue to develop this work with ongoing leadership from the Sector in collaboration with key partners

The representatives of the sector, who have dedicated time to this work, will continue to contribute to its ongoing development providing leadership and working with key stakeholders. This should now extend to sector partners to reflect and develop these recommendations and identified action further. Updates will continue to be provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board, as the sponsor committee for this work programme, by the working group.

Dedicate resources to support and progress the actions identified

The Public Health Grant has provided a small resource to support the work being undertaken by the sector as part of this work programme. To enable the ongoing progression and delivery of this work it is recommended that a longer term approach and delivery plan is developed.

It is therefore proposed to work with stakeholders to develop a delivery plan and business case to ensure adequate resources to deliver action identified for 2022/2023 and beyond.

Create the right conditions and culture for collaboration

A commitment is needed from all public sector partner organisations across Wirral to work with the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector to co-design a collaboration framework. Previously example of this type of framework include COMPACT.

It is proposed that partners from stakeholder organisations are convened to form a steering group alongside Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector representatives which will lead the development of a collaboration framework.

Develop a representative and engagement arrangement for the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector

A new representative mechanism is needed for the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector to fully participate in strategic planning. It is proposed that partners work together in a dedicated group to develop this arrangement.

Enabling infrastructure that support the sector to operate

The Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector needs dedicated support with communication, a dedicated catalogue/website to aid collaboration and roles which can help gather, share, and facilitate this. It is proposed that interim secondments or dedicated resources within these specialist areas to support communication on an interim basis is provided from public sector partners until the development programme is concluded and a delivery and business plan is developed.

A system volunteering development group is needed to bring together skills, strengths, and resources for the benefit of Wirral. Partners are recommended to identify how this can be taken forward collectively.

Digital infrastructure such as a Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector website, catalogue and voting tool is required to underpin/improve collaboration, communication, and representation. Financial support is requested to procure the necessary digital infrastructure.

- 3.5 It is proposed that the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector working group continues to develop the recommendations identified in 3.4 developing a delivery plan and business case to support a long-term approach. Engagement to date has focused on the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector to develop an approach, partners will now be engaged further to inform the ongoing work programme. Resource will be provided, via the Public Health Grant, to support the development

of this work whilst a long term delivery plan which identifies required resources is being developed.

- 3.6 A further update will be provided to the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board in November 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.
- 4.2 The Public Health Grant will be utilised to fund this development work programme. Subsequent resource requirements will be identified in the delivery plan and business case for consideration for members.

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 Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector is key as is the contribution from Wirral partners. As part of this work relevant risks will be identified related to the workstreams outlined.

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 Community, Voluntary and Faith networks, and organisations to inform how the Council and sector will work together in the future to improve health and wellbeing.

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 All meetings and workshops have been undertaken by virtual means helping to reduce the borough's carbon footprint.

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APPENDICES

- 1.CVF Sector Working Group and Task and Finish Group Membership
- 2.Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector Task and Finish Group Report September 2021

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Community Wealth Building Strategy

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Health & Wellbeing Board	31 st March 2021
Health & Wellbeing Board	20 th July 2021

APPENDIX 1

CVF Sector Working Group and Task and Finish Groups Membership

CVF Sector Working Group and Communication Channels

Communities of Practice Group

Chief Officers Group

Humanitarian Cell

Faith Cell

BAME Cell

Thematic Groups

A number of thematic groups have been established to across the five themes. Membership for each group is as follows:

Volunteering

Zel Rodgers- Community Action Wirral

Jenni Jones- Leasowe Development Trust

Sandra Gilbert- Wirral Mind

Micha Woodworth- Healthwatch Wirral

Chris Allen- Make it Happen

Myrtle Lacey- Salvation Army

Julie Kay- Older People's Parliament

Lisa Leece- Forum Housing

Behaviours

David Maguire- Wired

Tiffany Subinyoung- Wirral Change

Aline Macready- WMO

Lewis Macdonald- Eastham Delamere Centre

Julian Eyre- Wirral Community Trust

Amy Butterworth- Make it Happen

Chris Allen- Make it Happen

Strategic Influence and Development support

Jamie Anderson- Age UK

Sandra Gilbert- Wirral Mind

Bev Morgan- Koala NW

Alex Fisher- Community Voice

Natalie Calvert-Young- PCW GP Federation

Keith Addenbrooke- Faith sector leader- Bidston and St James

Carol Johnson-Eyre- Wirral CAB

Tackling Inequalities Together

Laura Stevenson- WEB Wirral

Alex Fischer- Community Voice

Bev Morgan- Koala NW

Tiffany Subinyoung- Wirral Change

Julie Kay- Older People's Parliament

Sharon Nicholson- Wirral Mencap

Keith Addenbrooke- Faith Sector Leader- Bidston and St James.

Louise Healy- DWP

Carol Johnson-Eyre – Citizens Advice Wirral

Collaboration and Equal Partnerships

Keelan Early- Cradle to Career

Zel Rodgers- Community Action Wirral

Sonia Holdsworth- One Wirral CIC

Sharon Nicholson- Wirral Mencap

Justine Molyneux- Involve Northwest

Phil Dickinson- Faith sector leader

Anna-Louise Van Der Merwe- Foundation Years Trust

APPENDIX 2

Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector Task and Finish Group Progress Report

September 2021

1.0 Background

The community, voluntary and faith (CVF) sector plays a hugely important role in Wirral, contributing to the local economy and providing a wide range of activities and services to residents that improve health and wellbeing. The sector is therefore a key partner in the delivery of the Wirral Plan and an important bridge between the public sector and local people.

In March 2021 the Health and Wellbeing Board supported the development of a work programme to build momentum on the considerable work already undertaken with the CVF sector during the pandemic and to look to identify opportunities for working collaboratively in the future to improve health.

To inform this work programme a CVF conference was held in June 2021 to begin exploring the role the sector has played during the pandemic, the potential for further growth to help tackle local challenges and to understand how the CVF could be further empowered and enabled. From the conference key themes emerged from the discussions which laid the foundations for further CVF led work; these themes were:

- Increasing collaboration
- CVF Representation
- Modernising Volunteering
- Behaviours that reflect values
- Tackling health inequalities

A working group including a range of representatives from the CVF, and with input from Council Officers, came together and have been working with the wider sector to build on the themes that emerged during the June conference.

This report details the outputs from this work to date and sets out recommendations for the next stages of this work programme.

2.0 CVF-led Approach

Following the June conference, single topic groups were arranged to enable participants to discuss what is already in place, what can be built upon and what is needed to empower, enable and grow. From these sessions smaller groups of volunteers came forward, forming task and finish groups; offering a safe space to define the CVF 'offer' and 'ask'.

The Humanitarian Cell, Faith Cell, Communities of Practice group and Chief Officers groups have acted as the formal communication channels and conduit to the wider CVF to encourage openness around the process and conversations, and to encourage participation and inclusiveness. What has become apparent during this time is the interdependence of

sectors within the borough and the desire and willingness from the CVF to work with partners to truly make Wirral the place it could and should be.

A follow up conference in September brought together the findings and gathered further insight into what the CVF proposals should be for inclusion in this report.

3.0 Findings

Each task and finish group explored the themes in more detail but was clear in its aim to develop ideas and solutions and a blueprint for a longer-term development programme. The principles that emerged were:

- Democratic ways of working
- Co-designed by the CVF
- A learning and adaptive mechanism
- Inclusive
- Respectful
- Being willing to challenge
- Solution focused

The following summaries outline the work areas identified for action from each of the Task and Finish groups.

3.1 Representation Task and Finish Group

The group agreed there was a need for a single representative mechanism for the CVF sector. It should be democratic and will facilitate the voice and expertise of the CVF in developing local strategy and action alongside public sector partners. This new mechanism will learn from the past and ensure robust and clear communication channels, defined roles and a code of conduct.

The CVF sector recognise that there will be occasions where specific organisations need to be engaged rather than a CVF representative which is understood but for true representation, partners must use the agreed mechanism and are asked not to circumvent this.

3.2 Collaboration Task and Finish Group

Collaboration within the CVF and with external stakeholders is a key component in our collective ability to deliver on our vision for Wirral. Existing examples of local good practice should be more widely adopted. These include the early years alliance model and the Brighton and Hove collaborative framework.

Having a co-designed collaborative framework creates a common understanding of why and how we collaborate. Working outside of this should be open to respectful challenge to ensure these refreshed ways of working are embedded at all levels across the Wirral system.

To complement this a network of CVF champions within partners organisations would develop a better understanding of the sector, help develop meaningful relationships and aid communication and implementation of the framework, especially helpful within very large organisations.

3.3 Behaviours Task and Finish Group

Collaboration is dependent on mature relationships and trust. Open and frank discussions were had regarding stakeholder behaviours including the Sector, citizens, partners and elected members. There was some concerns raised about how willing and/or able the CVF were to hold people to account over behaviours that negatively impact on relationships; this emphasises the importance of addressing behaviours. It was agreed that some common understanding and expectations around how we work together is important and should be developed. Without this collaboration is going to be challenging.

3.4 Volunteering Task and Finish Group

Volunteering delivers benefits for the volunteer, the organisation, the local community and Wirral partners. The group felt that there was opportunity to work more as a system to encourage and develop volunteering in Wirral. A system wide plan and commitment to working collaboratively to recruit, mobilise, support, recognise and develop volunteers has been identified. Smaller organisations who often feel disadvantaged in securing volunteers as they are not able to offer what larger organisations are.

The need to modernise our approach whilst not losing what we know works was also recognised. Digital infrastructure is important but we must also offer a more human option, providing advice, support, buddies to help people make the first step. Organisations have begun to be more creative and flexible rather than maintaining traditional ways of involving volunteers and this has achieved great outcomes which should be shared and more widely adopted.

3.5 Health Inequalities Task and Finish Group

The role of the CVF in understanding and tackling health inequalities could certainly be expanded. Although Infobank is a great resource for members of the public to find local services it does not provide a platform for the CVF to connect and collaborate. It was felt that something separate and dedicated to the sector should be created. CVF organisations do not always have the resources for more specialist roles such and communication or data analyst roles, however by having some CVF specific roles we could gather more insight from communities to build a better picture of what's strong and where there are needs or gaps.

There was agreement to build on what's strong and to learn lessons from the past so we avoid making the same mistakes time and time again.

4.0 Recommendations

Based on the work undertaken the following recommendations have emerged:

1. Continue to develop this work with ongoing leadership from the Sector in collaboration with key partners

The representatives of the Sector, who have dedicated time to this work, will continue to contribute to its ongoing development providing leadership and working with key stakeholders. This should now extend to Sector partners to reflect and develop these recommendations and the identified action further as well as continuing engagement across the Sector building on the two conference events. Updates will continue to be provided to the HWBB, as the sponsor Committee for this work programme, by the Working Group.

2. Dedicate resources to support and progress the actions identified

In addition to the investment into the infrastructure support commission, which ceases at the end of September 2021, the Public Health Grant has also provided a small resource to support the work being undertaken by the Sector as part of this work programme. To enable the ongoing progression and delivery of this work it is recommended that this small investment continues to support the development of a longer term approach and delivery plan.

CVF organisations require local funding opportunities, both grants and contracts to support work around health inequalities. Core funds should also be considered to allow the CVF sector to be able to engage in representation in addition to delivering their services. This will increase the sectors' ability to influence and local policy will be strengthened from the knowledge the CVF will bring.

It is therefore proposed to work with stakeholders to develop a delivery plan and business case to ensure adequate resources enable the action identified for 2022/2023 and beyond.

3. Create the right conditions and culture for collaboration

A commitment is needed from all public sector partner organisations across Wirral to work with the CVF to co-design a collaboration framework as well as implement in their respective organisations and contribute to evaluation. Support to revisit ABCD with senior leaders across the system and then defining the professional behaviours that support ABCD principles is recommended as part of this.

It is proposed that Sector partners from stakeholder organisations are convened to form a steering group alongside CVF representatives which will lead the development of a collaboration framework. This will also be an opportunity to engage Partners in the work that has been developed and to inform the ongoing work programme and business case.

4. Develop a representative and engagement arrangement for CVF

A new representative mechanism is needed for the CVF to fully participate in strategic planning in a democratic way. It is proposed that a collective team of partners work together in a dedicated group to develop this arrangement. Partners will need to identify where they have CVF representation and where they require CVF representation. As well as formal governance arrangements, roles and responsibilities additional support to enable wide ranging participation and inclusion should be developed as part of this to ensure that no one is disadvantaged from participating.

5. Enabling infrastructure that support the sector to operate

CVF needs dedicated support with communication, a dedicated catalogue/website to aid collaboration and roles which can help gather, share and facilitate this. It is proposed that interim secondments or dedicated resources within these specialist areas to support communication on an interim basis is provided from Public Sector Partners until the development programme is concluded and a delivery and business plan is developed.

A system volunteering development group is needed to bring together skills, strengths, and resources for the benefit of Wirral. Partners are recommended to identify how this can be taken forward collectively.

Digital infrastructure such as a CVF website, catalogue and voting tool is required to underpin/improve collaboration, communication and representation. Financial support requested to procure the necessary digital infrastructure.

Next Steps

This report will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 29th September 2021 at which support for the continued development of this work programme will be sought.

Report by: Karen Livesey on behalf of CVF Sector Working Group Membership