



2017/18 Annual Review

About the Warrington Third Sector Network Hub

The Warrington Third Sector Network Hub is a group of representatives who, through their links with grassroots organisations are well placed to comment on the effectiveness of the nature, time and place of services that are delivered in the Borough. The Hub is made up of 19 different sub-sectors (see appendix 1), whose representatives channel information to and from their sectors. These representatives are democratically elected due to their knowledge, expertise and ability to represent the views of their sector at a strategic level.

Over the last 12 months, the Network Hub has been actively involved in representing the third sector at various strategic boards, forums and working groups including but not exhaustive:

- Health & Wellbeing Board
- Libraries Partnership Board
- Mental Health Partnership Board
- Active Warrington
- Cultural Commission
- Adults and Childrens Safeguarding
- Learning Disabilities Forum
- Carers Partnership
- Central Neighbourhood Renewal Board
- Homelessness Forum
- Staying Connected Forum
- Facilities and Playing Pitch Forum
- Warrington Together

As the voice of the sector, the Hub ensures effective representation to tackle any issues raised by the sector to be fed back to strategic boards and through the Third Sector Policy Group and the Commissioning Sub Group as appropriate.

In May 2017 we welcomed Matt Parker representing Parks and Green Spaces and Janice Hayes representing Culture Warrington. In October 2017 we co-opted Wyn Higham, replacing long standing member Dorothy Carter to represent Carers and Dave McNicholl to represent Children and Families both of whom are past Hub members, we are pleased to see their return to making a positive contribution.

Hub members also welcomed Jo Taylor, WBC Strategic Partnerships and Commissioning Manager, into the role as the local authority representative.

The Hub terms of reference have been updated to address some of the long term gaps in sub-sectors from previous years and to ensure the Hub aligns with new and emerging strategic boards.

Work through the Commissioning Sub Group (CSG) has included reciprocal activity with WVA briefing WBC Commissioners and Contract Managers on the role of the Hub, the Compact and commissioning from a third sector perspective. This was returned with an Introduction to Commissioning for the sector from WBC colleagues. Dialogue at the Commissioning Sub group has included Compact compliance with slipping timeframes e.g. a 16-week implementation for the LD framework expected to be delivered in 8 weeks and contracts outlining payment in arrears.

A well-received event 'Adults Social Care Addressing Challenges' was delivered through the CSG on behalf of the Hub to encourage a dialogue between the third and statutory sector around health and social care services and prevention solutions. The aim was to develop ideas and opportunities for collaboration, and to meet local demand. This activity will be followed up by CSG and Hub.

Guest Speakers

The Hub actively welcomes speakers to meetings to ensure members are regularly updated and have the opportunity to feed into local strategies, policies and any new initiatives. Speakers this year included:

Wellbeing Hub – presentation on partnerships and pathways. Members of the Hub have been involved in the development of the new Wellbeing Hub based at the Gateway and continue to engage via two-way client referrals and training provided to the Wellbeing Hub.

Rugby Cares – presentation on their model of delivery

Youth Zone – presentation and update on progress

Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group – Changes to Stroke Service, need for third sector representation on the Health Forum, the Self Care consultation and an update on their financial internal turnaround. Hub fed back concerns about that existing services being affected by this with funding cuts, CCG to clarify this with affected charities.

Warrington Public Health - social prescribing & 'Make Every Contact Count', particularly how third sector organisations can incorporate these initiatives into existing work. Comments from Hub members have helped towards redesign of MECC training delivery.

WBC annual budget - held at the January Hub outlined the 38 million deficit the Council faces and how 95% of any savings will be made through income generation. Hub feedback to Cllr Russ Bowden included:

- Welfare reform and austerity leading to the breakdown of families, Hub suggested that the Council needs to be outcomes focused and any solution should look at what is best for the children and families.
- Hub recommended any cultural change should include WBC being outward looking instead of continually looking inward for solutions to meet increasing demand.
- WBC externally offered services do not have a good reputation. There is little appetite to promote WBC back office services, e.g. HR. Hub members provided a number of examples where WBC are not cost effective. Third sector organisations are most often able to deliver services cheaper of source cheaper alternatives.
- Hub welcomed the cross cutting themes to make savings across council directorates, but are concerned about procedures to negotiate contracts to make savings. Third sector has had nil inflation for many years, plus mandatory pension contributions and rising overheads means many contracts are down to the bare minimum.

Activities

All Hub members are involved in partnership work across Warrington representing the work they deliver for their respective organisations, on many occasion they will wear two hats and speak for the wider sector at the meetings they attend as part of their role on the Hub.

The activities listed below highlight the collective work of the Hub to respond to concerns, consultations and activities over the past 12 months:

Involvement with Central Neighbourhood Renewal Board (CNRB). The Hub made a successful case for wider representation from third sector to reflect the size and breadth of the sector. Hub members have also been involved in a scoping exercise to appoint a consultant to progress the CNRB similar to the Bewsey & Dallam project model.

Concerns raised about Neighbourhoods grants (renamed Community Initiative Fund) being-coordinated by elected members and accountability. This has been challenged and resulted in a place for WVA on the panel.

Four Hub members now sit on the various Cheshire Community Foundation grants panels ensuring Warrington's Community and Voluntary organisations are well represented and are supported to access the funds.

Hub members provided a collective response to the 'My Life' website following concerns about inaccurate organisational information, the prominence of out of town organisations and unregulated groups and accessibility. Feedback has been taken into consideration with the website being updated as appropriate and a positive dialogue held with the site administrator.

Following the unsuccessful City of Culture bid, Hub members have engaged to help put Warrington on the culture and heritage map, through feedback and a place on the Cultural Commission, developing the strategy for the Town's cultural offer.

Hub members attended and fed back at the final Transport Summit meetings in November focusing on alternative methods of transport to benefit residents and the local economy. Members also attended and provided feedback at the BME Stakeholder Engagement event.

We have a continued presence on the Active Warrington agenda along with the facilities and playing pitch strategies, noting a lack of suitable facilities in the town, work includes an opportunities audit, and integrating local strategies

The Hub requested Healthwatch to raise concerns regarding the lack of confidentiality for patients with mental health issues at A&E due to refurbishment. It is evident there is no parity of esteem for patients with Mental Health on communication issues regarding the refurbishment timeframe.

The Hub has representation on the Homelessness Forum, which has focused on the Homeless Reduction Act, that came into force in April 2018. This included the impact of implementation, on services in Warrington. The Third sector continues to work in partnership with the local authority on the prevention agenda and with the hard to house panel. Hub members are supporting James Lee House following recent social media and local press not providing accurate information on Warrington's homeless situation.

Third Sector representation on Libraries Partnership Board has contributed to the decision to keep open all libraries, subject to sustainability plans, and increased book fund and capital investment in premises.

The Hub has responded to the Warrington BID (business improvement district) raising concerns over 1.5% levy on business rates and how this may affect charities that currently receive the discretionary rate.

Hub members formed a third sector alliance and have been involved in the progression of the ACP which has been branded 'Warrington Together'. Terms of Reference have been agreed with reference to collaborating with the sector around commissioning.

We look forward to the continuation of our work in the coming year, helping to build the resilience of the sector, and ensuring we are actively engaged at a strategic level. We are stronger and more effective when we work together.

Steve Cullen

Chair

Warrington Third Sector Network Hub Membership – 2017/18

	Representative Name	Sub-sector
1	Steve Cullen	Advice & Social Policy
2	Janice Hayes	Arts & Culture
3	Wyn Higham (co-opted)	Carers
4	Dave McNicholl (co-opted)	Children & Families
5	Derek Jones	Disability
6	Hasan Kazi	Ethnic Associations
7	Vacant	Faith
8	Lydia Thompson	Health & Social Care
9	Matt Davenport	Housing/Homeless
10	Alison Cullen	Infrastructure
11	Mandy Taviner	Learning Disabilities
12	Stef Woof	Infrastructure
13	Michael Sheppard	Mental Health
14	Eileen Fitzgerald	Older People
15	Matt Parker	Recreation & Green Spaces
16	James Howes	Sport
17	Dida Goode	Substance Misuse
18	Lynne Bennett	Town Centre
19	Paul Storey	Young People