**Notes from the meeting of the Third Sector Network Hub**

**Wednesday 21st February 2018, 09.30am**

**Room 1, the Gateway**

**Present:**

Alison Cullen (AC) Infrastructure and Volunteering

Steve Cullen (SC) Information, Advice and Social Policy

Derek Jones (DJ) Disability

Wynn Higham (WH) Carers

Hasan Kazi (HK) Ethnic Communities

Stef Woof (SW) Infrastructure

Dida Goode (DG) Substance Misuse

Jo Taylor (JT) Third Sector Partnerships

Paul Storey (PS) Young People

Dave McNichol (DM) Children & Families

**Chair of meeting:**

Steve Cullen (SC)

**Apologies:**

Mandy Taviner (MT) Learning Disability

Janice Hayes (JHa) Culture

Lynne Bennett (LB) Town Centre Management

Matt Parker (MP) Parks and Green Spaces

Eileen Fitzgerald (EF) Older People

Michael Sheppard (MS) Mental Health

James Howes (JHo) Sports

Matt Davenport (MD) Homelessness

Lydia Thompson Health

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Apologies**  Apologies received as detailed above. |  |
| **2.** | **Declaration of Interest**  None declared. |  |
| **3.** | **Guest Speakers**  None |  |
| **4.** | **Notes of the Last Meeting/Matters Arising –**  Notes accepted as a true and accurate record. It was agreed that once approved, the minutes should be uploaded to the WVA website. |  |
| **5.** | **Action Points/Follow Up**  Most actions completed.  JT to follow up on the Central Area map and send to AC for circulation.  DJ contacted Golden Square regarding the broken down escalators. Waiting on parts has prevented the escalator being fixed. Will follow up again promptly. | JT |
| **6.** | **Health & Wellbeing Board**  There was a progress update of the ACP which has been branded ‘Warrington Together’. The group have decided on Terms of Reference, and are keen to start collaborating with the sector around commissioning.  There was an update on the ‘Strong and Resilient’ strand of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, full details can be found in the papers available on the WBC website. The new Central Neighbourhood Renewal Area Board (CNRAB) will be a key delivery partner for this strand, and the third sector will be involved in specific working groups going forward where appropriate.  Leftover funds from Warrington Partnership in the region of £200k have been allocated to develop and transform services in Warrington, half of which will be committed to Central and the CNRAB. |  |
| **7.** | **Central Neighbourhood Renewal Area Board**  Andy Farrell gave a presentation about development of the Master Plan. There was a discussion around the new Terms of Reference. Simon Kenton presented on the initial role-out of the ACP which will focus on people living in Central who are the most regular users of services. The consultants gave examples of similar transformation plans in other towns re: affordable housing and transport solutions, which would directly benefit the Town Centre regen’. |  |
| **8.** | **News Round-Up**  SW – The Cultural Commission met for the first time last week, and is tasked with developing the strategy for developing the Town’s cultural offer. The group is using the City of Culture bid as a starting point, and reflecting on the feedback given by the panel. WVA have distributed a charity governance survey and have received a decent response rate of 10%. AC noted that there are 344 registered charities in Warrington in total, so the aim is to get a 50% response rate. SW noted that those who have completed the survey have commented on how it was a useful development tool, and will be discussing their survey responses with the rest of the Board.  AC – This year the theme of the Assembly will be Good Governance, and will be held in November during National Trustees Week. This will be a good opportunity to highlight the survey results and address support needs, including sharing good practice from other local charities.  There is around £380k left in the Cheshire Community Foundation Older People’s Programme. CCF have suggested a similar approach to the Young Minds Matter programme to offer much larger grants (£50k) to partnership initiatives, which would fit in with local strategies.  The Volunteer Warrington ’18 campaign is going well, already seeing an increase in social media engagement and people enquiring about volunteering. WVA are planning a large volunteer recruitment/celebration event on the Town Hall lawn during volunteers week in June, more details to come.  HK – The Sikh community are actively engaging with local schools which is going well. 60 people attended the Mosque open day, and was very successful. Lots of Q+A, which results in the Mosque being more open and transparent in the community.  DJ – The Disability Confident event for employers was very successful. 30 people attended, including 10 new employers. All attendees were committed to having inclusive recruitment and retention policies. Raised lots of awareness.  WDP will be administering Personal Health Budgets from the 1st April, including providing advice and support. There was a discussion around the issue of direct payments, and overheads unaccounted for such as payroll, pension contributions, and bank charges.  The Avatar employment programme for people with Autism will continue for 12 months supporting 12 adults in total.  The disability organisation Purple is doing a piece of work nationally around building representation on the boards of businesses and researching their policies and procedures. The findings will be published.  People Plus are the current provider for the work programme in Warrington, WDP are a specialist provider. Nationally primes are pulling out of the programme due to lack of resources, PP have assured this is not the case in Warrington.  Warrington Credit Union are setting up a collection point at WDP HQ to address location and accessibility gaps.  WDP are involved in the Get Creative Festival which starts on the 17th March.  In conversations with the new Youth Zone around planning for disability and accessibility. DM commented that he is happy to be working so closely with WDP on the development of the Youth Zone, as accessibility is a high priority.  WH – Carers UK have produced their ‘State of Caring’ report and vision for 2018. Headlines include: a quarter of carers have not had a day off in 5 years.  A report has been produced between Carers UK and the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness outlining how carers can become isolated, which has provided a strong voice for carers in Parliament. SW to circulate both reports.  WBC are consulting on admin charges for ‘self-funders’ i.e. those who do not receive a local authority contribution to their cost of care. SW to circulate the consultation link.  The Carers Partnership Board will meet in March.  PS – The National Youth Conference are recruiting for a local Youth Representative, which would be good for Warrington. The young person would need to already be involved in a youth group. Deadline this Friday.  The Warrington Safeguarding Children Board have distributed a 7 minute briefing, SW to circulate. Both PS and DM commented that this was a good concise and effective document which is accessible for different audiences, which should be fed back to the Board.  SC – The bid for the extra beds at James Lee House has been deferred twice. The JLH contract has been pulled for scrutiny by a number of councillors who claim there is a ‘monopoly’, and will be discussed at the next Exec’ Board.  The interview for the CAB service tender is March 1st. The contract isn’t Compact compliant as it outlines payments in arears. This needs to be fed back through the policy group, and Compact training needs to be referred to, as all commissioners have been trained.  The decision of non PIP payments for people with mental health conditions has been overturned as it was found unlawful and discriminatory. Each case will be reviewed, and some will receive backdated awards.  UC claimants continue to be sanctioned for the DWP’s own admin’ errors.  The main issue for CAB customers is rising debt, particularly for low income working families in receipt of benefits.  DM – 4 bids have been submitted from Warrington to CCF’s programme ‘Young Minds Matter’, and they have received 10 bids overall from across Cheshire. WYC have partnered with Warrington Wolves in order to work with as many young people as possible, and to increase chances of success for Warrington. The partnership programme will offer mental health services for children, young people and their families which are complimentary to existing statutory/charitable services.  The NCS programme delivery model is being altered to meet the challenges of retaining young people to complete.  Planning permission for the Youth Zone has been submitted. There were some issues with ground contamination due to previous use.  WYC are moving offices from the Peace Centre to the Base. Lots of furniture if anyone needs it. SW to circulate details.  DM and WYC continue to work and communicate with the statutory youth service to address gaps and provide joined up services for young people.  DM is putting most energy into developing from a Youth Club to a Youth Zone, which requires more staff and more volunteers to transition into a brand new different service. Unfortunately receiving no funds from the Council for this provision, however Cllr Jean Carter now sits on the Board and is an advocate for the organisation across the Council.  MD (*emailed update*) – Warrington's new choice based letting scheme 'Under One Roof' has changed the range of options on their offers to 'take it or leave it' rather than 'where would you like to be'.  The Homelessness Reduction Act is due to come into force from April and this changes the way homelessness is assessed and addressed.  There has been an exceptional number of triggers of the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) this winter so far in Warrington and this is likely to continue into March.  The Warrington Rough Sleeper Action Group (RSAG) have updated their terms of reference and information sharing protocols and are jointly working to ensure that no one needs to be street homeless in the town. Help is being targeted at people who need support and assistance and are willing to receive it.  LB (emailed update) – Main update from the TC Partnership is about the Warrington BID. Essentially – this will affect anyone based in the town centre with a rateable value of £15k of more. Asked how this fits in with statutory and discretionary rate relief for charities and the answer that I received was:  *Full details of the level of the levy and any discounts will be released within the final business plan in the coming weeks. However, the board are reviewing options that will see any charity with a hereditament with a value of less than £15,000 excluded, and a 25% discount for charities based in Golden Square and Cockhedge due to the existing significant services charges which deliver a range of services that the BID will enable to see rolled out across the wider town centre.*  Voting is to take place between 28th February and 28th March – anyone eligible to vote should receive a personalised ballot paper. Organisations based in the Gateway received the glossy brochure yesterday. | SW  SW  SW |
| **9.** | **Third Sector Policy Group**  Next meeting April 11th. AC updated that the Commissioning Sub Group are planning an event for April 24th at the Gateway in order to start a dialogue between the third sector and the statutory sector (including CCG) around health and social care services and prevention solutions. The aim will be to develop ideas for future funding opportunities. AC to send out a save the date email via WVA’s mailing list. | AC |
| **10.** | **Any Other Business**  None |  |
| **11.** | **Dates of Next Hub Meetings**  Wednesday 21st March 2018  Wednesday 18th April 2018 |  |