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

**Wednesday 24th January 2018, 09.30am**

**Room 1, the Gateway**

**Present:**

Alison Cullen (AC) Infrastructure and Volunteering

Steve Cullen (SC) Information, Advice and Social Policy

Janice Hayes (JHa) Culture

Lynne Bennett (LB) Town Centre Management

Matt Parker (MP) Parks and Green Spaces

Derek Jones (DJ) Disability

Wynn Higham (WH) Carers

Eileen Fitzgerald (EF) Older People

Michael Sheppard (MS) Mental Health

James Howes (JHo) Sports

Matt Davenport (MD) Homelessness

Hasan Kazi (HK) Ethnic Communities

**Chair of meeting:**

Steve Cullen (SC)

**Apologies:**

Lydia Thompson (LT) Health

Stef Woof (SW) Infrastructure

Dida Goode (DG) Substance Misuse

Jo Taylor (JT) Third Sector Partnerships

Paul Storey (PS) Young People

Mandy Taviner (MT) Learning Disability

**In attendance**

Cllr Russ Bowden

Lynton Green

Clare Harris

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Apologies**  Apologies received as detailed above. |  |
| **2.** | **Declaration of Interest**  None declared. |  |
| **3.** | **Guest Speakers**  Lynton Green and Cllr Russ Bowden presented the 2018/19 WBC budget, outlining 38 million deficit with 95% of any savings made through income generation.  AC to circulate presentation  SC - new housing developments in the town centre and have WBC take into consideration types of property i.e. bedsits wouldn’t bring in additional revenue if WBC needs to subsidise council tax. RB said much of this would be looking at land assets they have previously sold instead of developing land and building homes that provide a mix to meet the needs of Warrington.  EF - concerned about increase in children taken into care. LG attributed this to reputation management with upsurge in referrals due to being overly risk averse along with continued inspections by Ofsted. SC stated that it would also be a symptom of welfare reform and austerity leading to the breakdown of families. RB commented that the Council needs to be outcomes focused and any solution should look at what is best for the children.  The Hub asked about culture change in social care, what did this mean? LG said that Steve Peddie is leading on the 1.5million savings would be made by looking at:   * Risk assessing at the right time * Early Intervention * Joined up approach to working with health partners * Managing hospital discharge and reduced resources   WH –joined up working was discussed over 20 years ago and it still hasn’t happened. MP stated that with changes in political landscape it would be another 20 years before we see outcomes.  RB suggested that WBC is motivated to work with NHS services but it isn’t a two-way commitment as NHS don’t face the same funding pressures. In addition, prevention services are the long-term solution but there is a need for quick fixes and income generation can do this.  MP - interesting to look at how Manchester through devolution will manage social care.  MS – ‘Warrington Together’ the accountable care partnership has more energy for joined up working as NHS England will not continue to bail out NHS services with crisis after crisis. ‘WT’ will have a people’s reference group to inform change and support system redesigns.  MS- WCL is largest care provider they have never been approached or asked for ideas in homecare provision; any cultural change should include WBC being outward looking instead of continually looking inward for solutions to meet increasing demand. Dementia Action Alliance cited as an example of prevention, requiring minimal funds for administration support to deliver dementia friendly communities. However, project seen as an expense.  MS- WBC external services do not have a good reputation and there is no publicity to promote HR services, Hub members provided a number of examples where WBC are not cost effective e.g. IT and phone systems and admin costs for administrating DBS service, 3rd sector organisations are most often able to deliver services cheaper of source cheaper alternatives.  RB said he agreed with all the comments made but found it difficult to persuade 3000 people in council to change ways of delivery, although there is no excuse to waste money and WBC need to look into this.  SC – welcomed cross cutting themes to make savings across council directorates, but concerned about procedures to negotiate contracts to make savings. 3rd Sector has had nil inflation for many years, plus mandatory pension contributions and rising overheads means many contracts are down to the bare minimum.  There is a need to take into account for base costs but also how the public sector can have direct control over costs and delivery and work with 3rd sector. LG commented that WBC are looking at establishing in-house agency staff provision for social care staffing.  HK – concerned about commercial property rates and small business closing down. LG stated their income from rates is based on big businesses and smaller businesses do receive rate relief.  DJ- need to look at CSR and opportunities for sponsorship and sustainability as businesses are part of the community – how can we have a meaningful dialogue with businesses to share WBC & 3rd Sector wider vision? RB stated WBC are already harnessing this with SME’s but much more can be done. SC said central neighbourhood regeneration could do more to support SME’s.  RB ended with an example of the City of Culture bid and how this is an opportunity to make change work. MP suggested this needs to be a long-term commitment and can’t see any current changes working. | **AC** |
| **4.** | **Notes of the Last Meeting/Matters Arising –**  Notes accepted as a true and accurate record. |  |
| **5.** | **Action Points/Follow Up**  All actions completed |  |
| **6.** | **Health & Wellbeing Board**  Not meeting until 25th January, AC to circulate papers for the meeting MS & SC to report back to next Hub. | AC |
| **7.** | **Central Neighbourhood Renewal Area Board**  There is agreement that a strategic master plan should be developed underpinning other strategies and activities. This started with a scoping exercise with around 15 reps attended SC & MP involved. Likely to be bringing in a consultant with a similar model to Bewsey & Dallam project. Warrington & Co taking an active role as closing the gap hasn’t worked, having identified that the regeneration of businesses has not trickled down to people living in central e.g. Omega project and accessibility, this could have been within transport remit to develop better routes. The CNRA should have potential to lift deprivation. AC stated that there is over 1300 community and voluntary organisations in Warrington many of whom support people in Central even if not based there; these groups’ should be represented. SC to make case for more than one 3rd sector rep on the board. There will be a separate resident’s board to feed into CNRA to ensure that the CNRA board is strategic and effective. JH asked if there is an updated map of the geographical location. AC to find out and circulate | AC |
| **8.** | **News Round-Up**  AC – The Volunteering Strategy has been launched ‘Volunteer Warrington 2018’ , Hub members should have seen article in Warrington Guardian and social media activity. Updated on the My Life website that doesn’t have accurate information about volunteering and is chasing this up with Jo Taylor. Hub members to look at My Life and if they do have information uploaded about their organisation to check it. Citizens Advice is incorrect, My Life also has unregulated organisations listed.  LB – Updated on bid for business improvement, voting for this will open in February. Third sector have commented on bid but haven’t had a response. Concern raised over 1.5% levy on business rates and how this may affect charities that currently receive the discretionary rate. Homelessness planning for James Lee House, we need to ensure Hub members and local business are supporting JLH as recent social media and local press are not giving accurate information by supporting ‘RATI & the Y project’ and this may lead to JLH not receiving the much needed extra beds.  MD - Housing Strategy consultation was extended to 23rd December, but still not enough time due to holiday period. Updated on publicity that ‘RATI & the Y project’ have given false information to the press. JLH has requested right to reply to the Guardian and provide correct information. JLH have also requested apology from RATI&YP but this has not yet happened only an acknowledgement of the request. All the policies and procedures for RATI&YP are those from YMCA which closed down in December so there is nothing in place. All the homelessness agencies have expressed no confidence in RATI&YP due to their data sharing competencies and for this reason are legally unable to work with them. The Rough Sleepers Action Group has now been suspended until these issues are resolved.  HK – Polish School Celebrating 10th Anniversary. WIA celebrated prophet’s birthday and Council of Faiths is delivering activity to take college students around the Faith organisations in the borough.  WH – Shared Care UK posters and booklets for people coming out of hospital. Membership to Carers UK is free and accessed online. WIRED have young carers awareness day on 25th Jan and will be raising awareness in schools.  EF – Raised issue of escalators in the Golden Square, they have been broken for weeks and the centre isn’t accessible from the bus interchange. DJ stated Dave Thompson is addressing this, SC asked if letter could go out from WDP? DJ to action. Lifetime are reviewing their service and EF is keen to know how OPEG fits in, feedback from Lifetime consultation to be shared at the next Hub meeting.  DJ – WDP coordinating an event with business and Job centre on 5th Feb to support people into employment. Updated on Purple an initiative changing the conversation on disability by bringing disabled people and businesses together, Essex being a good example leading on this. Updated on GDPR and ICO – AC confirmed that WVA have delivered training and a planning more briefings before May deadline. New Leaf tenders out for additional mental health services to support people into employment. Questioned Community Circles and is there a strategy behind this event in February? AC stated this had come from the integrated leadership activity and Suzanne Douglas (NHS) leading on this but unaware of any strategic direction. Attended Park House opening, although better than it was before it is still not fully accessible and therefore not suitable for disabled person requiring a crisis bed.  MP – The Play Pitch Strategy has been deferred until February Exec Board. Not all, council members like the format that it is presented in, although commissioned by WBC this is the Sport England format and is set. David Bowyer is reviewing Parks and Open Spaces strategy, we need to be focusing on the diversity of the open spaces and parks we have and making more of them.  JH – Active Warrington sub groups continuing to meet. Emerging priorities have been Holiday Hunger. JH working with Livewire and Paul Flannery coordinating activity programmes so children are fed out of school. Updated on Street Games Youth Conference for 14 – 25 year olds to be held at Orford Park this Saturday. Garry Darcy has circulated survey for sports clubs and groups providing a physical activity offer. Hub members commented that the survey was vague. AC stated difficult to answer the funding questions, as it doesn’t relate to a specific time. LB thought it more appropriate for WVA to develop and send out the survey through their system.  JHa – New exhibition ‘never the less’ representation of people’s rights to vote and Warrington’s Women and suffragette activity. The New Town is 50 years old and the museum are gathering archives and working with WYC with young people digitalising images. Update on a draft report unlocking 5million of external funding to regenerate library and museum building. Urgent repairs are required. WBC needs to support the culture of the town and our historic buildings, draft plan has gone to Feb Exec Board.    SC – Warrington Advice Network Partnership reviewing and updating website, updated on concerns around My Life website and inefficiencies. Information and Advice is currently out to tender. Citizens Advice has submitted tender and will not know the outcome until May. Pointed out that since the last contract in 2010 they have taken a total 40% cut in their contract due to several cuts. | DJ |
| **9.** | **Third Sector Policy Group**  AC updated on Compact training for commissioners and contract managers, more of a refresh on the Hub, demographics of the sector and what to consider when commissioning, i.e. holiday time and resources. Although Information and Advice contract which then went out to tender at Christmas. |  |
| **10.** | **Any Other Business**  None |  |
| **11.** | **Dates of Next Hub Meetings**  Wednesday 21st February 2018  Wednesday 21st March 2018 |  |