

## Barnet Community Participation Action Plan 2019-2020

Item No.	Action	When	Outcome	Measurement	Progress as at Sept 2019
1.1	Work with the VCFS to increase the number and breadth of volunteering opportunities for residents and council employees via the Employee Volunteering Scheme	Ongoing	Unlocks the substantial capacity of residents and the local workforce and uses it, efficiently, for local community benefit	Number of volunteering opportunities	Volunteering Barnet have reported that there have been 728 volunteer registrations with a placement rate of 29.6% compared to national average of 14%. A total of 5 council staff have so far undertaken ESV placements, since the re launch of the programme. While this has been a slow start, there are several placements in the pipeline including a number of group volunteering days.
1.2	Work with the VCFS Development Partner to develop a skill sharing programme for the Employee Volunteering Scheme, which will deliver pro-bono workshops for the VCFS in identified areas of need, such as social media management	Year 1	Unlocks the substantial capacity of the council's workforce and uses it, efficiently, for local community benefit	Number of workshops provided	The council's media officer delivered an Introduction to Social Media workshop on 24 September to 27 people representing 14 VCS groups. This received positive feedback.
				Number of volunteers	The council's Chief Executive volunteered at The Larches, assisting the organisation with their with business planning. Pro bono opportunities for other CMT members are currently being organised. The Strategy team gave a presentation to Finance about ESV and there is some interest from officers to support VCS with financial advice and support through ESV.
			Allows us to lead by example, to promote similar schemes to, and share learning with, other local employers.	Number of organisations supported	Pro bono volunteering has been promoted internally and through VB's comms channels.
1.3	Develop and pilot a framework which outlines the offer for community groups that are able to take on more responsibility, for example Friends of Parks groups. This framework will reflect the roles and responsibilities for both the council and community groups and will reflect a scalable offer based on groups of different sizes and maturity	Year 2	Standardised support frameworks to support staff	Production of a pilot framework	The Community Participation officer meets regularly with the Friend of Parks in Barnet network and will work with them to develop a support framework in 2020. The provision of free litter picking equipment has inspired a wave of new community groups and the framework will be developed so as to provide structure for these where needed.
			Community groups are better supported to take on greater responsibilities		
1.4	Identify and provide good volunteering management practices to all those who manage volunteers within the council. Scope options for a Volunteering Policy to recruit and retain volunteers	Year 1, with scoping paper in Year 2	Better experience and increased retention of residents who volunteer their time	A list of all services which involve volunteers	An audit has been conducted of council services that use volunteers, however a comprehensive picture has proved hard to obtain. Development of guidance for staff using volunteers will commence in year 2, in partnership with VB.
				Volunteer management training offered to those identified	VB provide a quarterly volunteer coordinators meeting, where anyone using volunteers can network and share good practice..
1.5	The council will use its own communication channels to promote volunteering opportunities with the council and in the VCFS sector. This will include increased presence on website and use of Barnet First	Ongoing	Increase awareness and take-up of volunteering opportunities in the borough	Increased take up of volunteering opportunities in the borough	Barnet First magazine includes a volunteering page listing current opportunities and directing people to the VB website. Opportunities are also promoted through the CTN bulletin to a wide network of VCS groups.  A resident perception survey will be carried out in 2020. This will provide us with a new measure of volunteering among residents in the borough.

2.1	A new, targeted approach to reach harder to reach groups to increase sign up to the Barnet Community Directory	Ongoing	Better Golden Record of VCFS organisations in the borough which can be used by the sector, the council and partners to better support residents	Number of organisations signed up	Progress on this has been disappointing, but there are wider issues with the directory itself. A review of the directory, its functionality and hosting is about to be launched.
2.2	<a href="#">Work with Public Health to scope and secure finances to open up and share data from the Directory via an open API[1] . This will allow partners to 'pull' data from the Directory without the need to manually download and upload files</a>	Year 1	Increased use of the data within the Barnet Community Directory to support better signposting of services across different areas of the borough	API interface	This is on hold pending the review of the Barnet Community Directory
2.3	A joint survey with strategic partners to identify the challenges and opportunities of the sector	Year 1	Better support for the sector which will lead to a stronger, more resilient VCFS in Barnet	Research report	The survey was undertaken and reported in March 2019.
3.1	Set up a Working Group to review current practice and scope a Social Value Policy for Barnet	Year 1	Increased benefit from the Social Value Act for the borough	Production of scoping report and subsequent implementation of policy	The Strategy team has been researching and developing a draft social value policy since April. A lot of work has been done to investigate good practice in other LAs, and develop options for Barnet's approach. The policy is now at the stage where a decision is required from CMT as to how social value might be resourced in the council. This will inform the final content of the strategy and the direction of travel for this area of work.
				Delivery of additional Social Value	Once the SCV policy is developed and implemented this will unlock significant social value for the VCS and residents.
4.1	We will work with the CTN Steering Group to ensure that CTN remains relevant and useful to all	Ongoing	To enhance the council's strategic relationship with the local VCFS, allowing information exchange and dialogue	Increase the number of attendees at CTN meetings.	Attendance at the meeting on 19th was significantly higher than previous meetings (46 attendees) with many new organisations being present
			To allow the council to have early sight of strategic issues affecting the VCFS	Increase the number of individuals on the CTN Bulletin	The CTN bulletin is now being distributed to over 1200 email addresses with an average of 42% open rate and 17% click through rate
4.2	Set up an online / social platform to develop a self-facilitated networking and support community	Year 1	A more joined up VCFS in Barnet, which can come together to share skills, experience and knowledge	Implementation of platform	The Communities Together Network Facebook group was launched in the summer of 2019. It now has 125 members with at least 10 postings per week
4.3	We will draft guidelines on how VCFS organisations can work with the council to share information that will amplify messages and share information on services and events through our communication platforms	Year 1	By amplifying the VCFS message, residents will benefit from being able to access information from a range of organisations that are delivering services or events to meet their needs	Case studies	Formal guidelines are still in development, but our comms channels such as the CTN bulletin and Barnet First magazine have increased the amplification of messages from the sector. The Together we are Barnet campaign has highlighted a series of community organisations through case study posters and online content.

5.1	We will work to continue to provide support for crowdfunding opportunities in the borough	Year 1	Increased funding for local VCFS to deliver projects of local benefit	Number of projects per year	The contract for our Crowdfunding platform was relet and the platform has been relaunched as Crowdfund Barnet. Three new projects have already been listed in this time, and one has already met its target - Grow at Totteridge Academy.
				Number of successful projects	1 successful project since relaunch
				Amount of funding made to Barnet projects	LBB pledged £5000 towards Grow, contributing to its total funding of over £155k.
5.2	We will work with John Lyon's Charity and the Estates Team to ensure that the council's data is included in the new venue bank and that the venue bank is signposted from the council website	Year 1	Local VCFS will be able to advertise and search for venues that will support their ability to deliver services to Barnet's residents	Webpage hits	Legal and data issues had slowed progress on the venue bank but it is now ready and a soft launch is being planned by Young Barnet Foundation for October 2019.
5.3	Co-ordinate the production of thematic insight, facts and statistics to support grant applications for larger funding pots	Year 2	Increased funding into the borough as a result of better quality data within grant applications	Delivery of thematic insight reports	There remains a lack of insight and statistical data about community needs. There is however significant hunger for collaborative bid-making in the VCS sector. The CTN meeting held on 19 Sept showcased partnership working and how community groups can bid to National Lottery Communities Fund. Support with bid-writing and evidencing is a potential ESV activity for council staff. Working with partners in the council to gain better insight about the borough is a priority for the Strategy team for Year 2.
5.4	Refresh the information offer from the council, making use of the new website capabilities	Ongoing	Increased understanding locally of what support is available from the council for residents or groups to become more active in the civic sphere	Webpage hits	Fortnightly provision of information to LBB Comms for inclusion on News Hub and Barnet First e-newsletter and magazine
6.1	Work with Volunteering Barnet to ensure that local business and strategic partners are linked in as a source of volunteers and skills sharing	Ongoing	Increased partnership working with local businesses on shared priorities	Number of organisations supported with ESV	Small business and VCS event is planned for 13 Dec at HTH to showcase skills that the business sector has and how local businesses can work with local community groups to benefit local residents
6.2	Support the VCFS Development Partner to provide networking opportunities between the VCFS, strategic partners and local businesses in order to support joint grant proposals (for example, using a local designer in a proposal)	Ongoing	Increased funding into the local economy, benefiting the local community and residents	Number of networking events (or similar) for VCFS, strategic partners and the local business community	Inclusion Barnet have provided two funders fairs, a training programme and other networking opportunities to support the sector. They have worked in partnership with the FSB to forge links between VCS and local businesses.
6.3	Set up an annual Pitch and Pledge event where crowd funders can pitch to local businesses for support with the council's pledge pot	Annual	Increased funding for projects of local benefit	Delivery of annual Pitch and Pledge event	Provisional date for this year's Pitch and Pledge event is 13 December.
				Amount of funding secured	