**VCS Sector Support – update and proposal for next steps**

The following themes have been pulled together by following discussion that took place at ASG, Karl's report and also drawing in some of the existing sector support arrangements.

Following the initial ‘launch workshop’ the aim would be to use these high level themes to host workshops in February.

The bullet points are not provided as a prescriptive list or limit what could be included, and act only as a prompt for discussion in the workshops.

**The workshops would draw on the ABCD approach established at the launch event:**

* Start with what is strong
* Where are there gaps and opportunities?
* What can people and organisations do for themselves?
* What can they do with just a little help?
* What do they want/need the support structure to deliver that they cannot do alone?

**Other key principles which should be considered from the Review:**

* Ensure equality and inclusion with a focus on diversity
* Create efficient solutions which are as streamlined as possible
* Make it easy for people and organisations (and the system) to understand and access
* Consider use of technology/digital where appropriate
* Consider what the priorities are based on need and impact
* Consider where delivery could be supported through a mixed model include some paid for services.

**1. Volunteering**

* increase, develop and facilitate volunteering across our sector.
* Improve volunteer management within the district
* Increase the range and quality of volunteering opportunities
* Increase engagement in volunteering at a governance level

**2. Engagement / Voice and Influence**

* to co-ordinate and provide strategic representation from within the sector to influence at a strategic, policy and service design level across the District as well as at a locality level
* to use insight from across communities including communities of interest to inform decision making and strategic engagement
* to provide an support mechanism that enables engagement activity with people and communities around key strategic pieces of work/ priorities
* to facilitate the sector and organisations to mobilise around key issues
* to facilitate the sector to come together around creative ideas and approaches, to inform influencing and commissioning.

**3. VCS resources/resourcing**

* to support the generation of income from outside the District for the sector to deliver activities that support people and communities
* to support diversification of income within the VCS organisations
* reduce over-reliance on public sector grants by supporting new models including but not limited to social enterprise and active giving/CSR
* to support organisations of different sizes to enhance their efficiency through provision of a range of different practical support and/or back office functions
* to provide a conduit for funding from inside and outside the District to be brokered to the sector enabling reach to the small.
* to provide a contract management function.

**4. Insight and information**

* to facilitate access to key information which allows VCS organisations and partners to within the system to operate effectively and sustainably
* to manage and maintain a comprehensive database of VCS organisations to facilitate access to services and information, and inform data/intelligence about the sector
* to collect and analyse data and insight across the sector to inform ‘Voice and Influence’ and demonstrate collective impact.

**5. Capacity building**

* to support organisational development based on a range of needs
* to facilitate collaboration using a range of models
* to support the sector to enhance the consistency of quality across service delivery
* to support organisations to build capacity around demonstrating impact
* to support organisations to strengthen through a range of learning and development opportunities.
* to enable the start-up of new VCS organisations
* to support good governance within VCS organisations
* to support financial management of VCS organisations
* to support the development of strong leadership and governance across the sector including developing leaders of the future, supporting diversity and enable system leadership