

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 23 March 2016

Wards: All

Subject: Update on Volunteering and Community Strategy Action Plan

Lead officer: Simon Williams, Director of Communities and Housing

Lead member: Councillor Edith McCauley, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Engagement and Equalities

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Recommendations: That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission:

- A. Notes the update to the Volunteering and Community Strategy Action Plan 2015/16 provided by MVSC;
 - B. Suggests any issues to be considered as part of the 2016 refresh of the Volunteering Strategy.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To provide an update on the Merton Partnership Volunteering and Community Action Strategy Action Plan for 2015/16 and to consider priorities for a future update of the Volunteering Strategy.

2 DETAIL

- 2.1 The Merton Partnership Volunteering Strategy was agreed in July 2011. The objectives for the Strategy were updated by the Merton Partnership in 2012. Appendix 1 sets out an update against the objectives for 2015/16 and key highlights include:
 - The development and launch of VolunteerMerton, a new online portal that seamlessly links up volunteers with volunteer opportunities through a digital platform. This will make it much simpler and quicker to link volunteers to actual volunteering opportunities;
 - Identifying and developing a wider range of more informal and 'light touch' volunteering opportunities for citizens who want to volunteer but perhaps have more limited time and availability;
 - Identifying and advising 2,203 new volunteers;
 - Assisting 850 volunteers who require specialist support to enable them to volunteer;
 - A new quality standard, Youth Approved Volunteering Award (YAVA), to improve the standard of volunteering opportunities and experience for young people;

- ValueYou: a new accreditation scheme to recognise individuals who have delivered over 100 hours of volunteering and offer them discount cards at local businesses;
 - An on-going joint programme to promote volunteering which will culminate in National Volunteers Week and Merton's Volunteering Awards in June 2016.
- 2.2 A refresh of the Merton Partnership Volunteering Strategy is planned for 2016 and due to be completed by November 2016 (this is part of a wider refresh of the overall Voluntary Sector Strategy). Overview and Scrutiny are invited to comment on any issues that they think a refreshed Volunteering Strategy should address.
- 3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**
- 3.1. None for the purpose of this report
- 4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**
- 4.1. The Volunteering Strategy action plan is regularly considered by the Merton Partnership and also the Merton Compact Board.
- 5 TIMETABLE**
- 5.1. See Appendix 1
- 6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**
- 6.1. None for the purpose of this report
- 7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**
- 7.1. None
- 8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**
- 8.1. Volunteering levels are a good proxy indicator for levels of community cohesion.
- 9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**
- 9.1. None for the purpose of this report
- 10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**
- 10.1. None
- 11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**
- Appendix 1 Action Plan 2015/16 update.
- 12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**
- Merton Partnership Volunteering Strategy 2011
 - Update to the Merton Partnership Volunteering Strategy Action Plan 2012