

Subject:	Power of Volunteering Action Plan		
Date of Meeting:	28th November 2016		
Report of:	Acting Director of Public Health		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Emma McDermott	Tel: 29-577
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

1.1 In January 2016 the NCE Committee, on behalf of the city council, signed up to the Partnership Pledge included in the city's [Power of Volunteering](#) document. As part of signing up to the pledge committee requested that a report be brought back on council plans to support and develop volunteering activity as part of the action plans developed from the pledge.

1.2 The committee also endorsed the Council's involvement in the Volunteering Champions Group to support the co-ordination and promotion of volunteering across the city.

1.3 This report provides committee with an update on the short term actions proposed by the council (appendix 1) to help deliver the commitments in the Power of Volunteering. The council is a member of the Volunteering Implementation Group (VIG), established under the City Management Board (CMB), to develop and oversee delivery of the Power of Volunteering action plan. All the key public sector organisations in the city are members of the VIG. Appendix 2 of this report include actions proposed by the other members of the VIG: University of Brighton, BSUH, and CCG. At time of producing this report East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, Sussex Police, City College and Kent, and Surrey, Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company also members of the VIG were due to submit their plans. Also provided (appendix 3) is a diagram of the key groups/forums driving volunteering improvements in the city.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That NCE committee approve the council's actions to deliver against the commitments in the Power of Volunteering as set out in Appendix 1.

2.2 That NCE committee notes the actions proposed by the other public sector organisations in the Volunteering Implementation Group.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Following the adoption of the city's new Power of Volunteering Pledge by the various public sector organisations, the lead for volunteering in each of those organisations has met several times to agree the objectives and actions that should and can be taken forward to deliver the commitments. The group consists of the city council, BSUH, CCG, Sussex Police, University of Brighton, Kent, Surrey, Sussex CRC, and City College. It has initially focused on immediate short term actions to gather momentum.
- 3.2 Following approval by the respective organisations of their actions the group will continue to meet to oversee delivery, share learning and best practice and develop joint initiatives. The group is particularly keen to look more closely at how organisations can make better use of their resources, individually and collectively to train volunteers and improve publicity and outreach to under-represented communities. This latter is of particular importance if the city is to deliver on the pledge to improve the accessibility of volunteering and increase the number of people committing to volunteer from all communities.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 No other option was considered as by signing up to the Power of Volunteering Pledge the council was committed to action planning against its delivery. Moreover as part of the council's community collaboration programme (reported to NCE committee in July 2016) the council is already working to increase and improve volunteering opportunities alongside council services. At its meeting in July committee approved the council's new [Volunteering Policy and Toolkit](#).

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 No additional community engagement has been carried out to devise the action plans as this was carried out as part of developing the Power of Volunteering. Individual actions may require some consultation or engagement and this will be done on a case by case basis.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Many of the actions in the council's action plan were under development as part the council's community collaboration work programme, and thus align well with the objectives and commitments of the Power of Volunteering. Resources for the actions included in the plan, for example the skills training for staff recruiting and managing volunteers have been identified either from the council's transformation fund, the Digital First programme or within existing Communities, Equality and Third sector budget, the latter being predominantly staff resource.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The staff resources for supporting the actions included in the plan will need to be managed from within existing budget allocations.

Finance Officer Consulted: Name Mike Bentley

Date: 03/12/16

Legal Implications:

7.2 There are no legal implications arising from the report

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 5/11/16

Equalities Implications:

7.3 Improving the accessibility of volunteering and increasing the number of people committing to volunteering from all communities is two of the five commitments of the Power of Volunteering. The VIG has agreed that more is required on these two commitments. In the first instance all organisations have agreed to review how they promote and advertise volunteering opportunities for example are the images used to promote volunteering opportunities reflective of the diversity of people in the city and also are the opportunities advertised with explicit reference to flexibility and reasonable adjustments. As part of the skills and learning development for council staff this will include making your volunteering opportunities accessible.

Sustainability Implications:

None

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.4 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. BHCC Power of Volunteering Action Plan
2. Partners Power of Volunteering Actions (to follow)
3. Volunteering Structure Chart for Brighton & Hove

Background Documents

1. Power of Volunteering 2016

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 1.1 No specific implications

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 1.2 In order to achieve the improvements in volunteering that is necessary, it is vital we are not tentative about involving and empowering volunteers to work alongside services. This will need strong leadership and practical and cultural shifts in how we design and manage services.
- 1.3 The timescales to develop the digital platform is critical to ensure we have a functioning system to recruit volunteers and record and manage data and information. If this not done in a timely way there is a possibility that managing checks and data could overwhelm HR and staff managing volunteers, especially in relation to DBS checks. It is also critical that the skills and learning programme is of the highest standard and delivered in a timely manner to have maximum impact.

Public Health Implications:

- 1.3 There is a wealth of evidence that shows the positive impact of volunteering on both physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- 1.4 *Doing Good is Good for You:* 2013 Health and Volunteering Study reveals that 76 percent of adults who volunteer report that volunteering has made them feel physically healthier, and 78 percent report that volunteering lowers their levels of stress, leading to feeling better than adults who do not volunteer. The study also illustrates that employers benefit from employees who volunteer in terms of better employee health and in professional-skills development that employees use in the workplace.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 1.4 As collective effort through the VIG and the other volunteer forums/groups in the city gains momentum the quality and number of volunteering opportunities in the city should increase along with the diversity of individual taking up and benefiting from volunteering.

