**Better Together Action Plan 2019**

| **Objective** | **We will do this by:** | **We will measure success by:** | **Lead organisation** |
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| **Increase the capacity of VCS organisations to adapt and thrive in times of diminishing resources and increasing demand** | Facilitating new ways of collaborative working that reduce pressures on VCS core costs | **Introducing new ways of working that include at least 5 different organisations** | **VODA** |
| Making best use of the Social Value Act to increase capacity of VCS organisations | **Monitoring the impact of Social Value through our contract management systems** | **NTC** |
| Developing mutually beneficial relationships between different sectors | **Producing a report every 6 months that includes at least one case study of the impact this has had** | **VODA** |
| Launching a VCS grants programme | **Monitoring the take up of the grants and the impact they have** | **CCG** |
| Sharing training and development opportunities with VCS organisations | **Identifying training and development opportunities and the take up of these** | **VODA / NTC / CCG** |
| Providing a range of free core services to VCS | **Monitoring the take up of these and reporting on this to both the CCG and Council at least every 6 months** | **VODA** |
| Ensuring commissioning and procurement processes do not unintentionally exclude VCS organisations | **We will monitor who has been successful and work with the VCS to see if there are things we need to do differently** | **NTC / CCG** |
| Continuing to explore ways in which council-owned buildings can be managed by VCS organisations. | **We will continue to look at ways of make the best use of any council asset and report on this as part of the monitoring of this strategy** | **NTC** |
| Supporting Ward Members to make best use of Local Community Capacity Grant | **Monitoring take up of the grant and reminding ward members about the fund as part of the ward briefings** | **NTC** |

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| **Supporting residents to play a more active role in managing their own health and wellbeing, as well as the health and wellbeing of their local communities** | Investing in initiatives such as Recovery College that take an asset-based approach to enabling people with ‘lived experience’ | **Monitoring the success and identify any lessons that could improve outcomes** | **CCG** |
| Supporting residents to design their own Social Action projects with a focus on sharing key health messages. | **Producing at least one case study every 6 months** | **VODA** |
| Sharing health messages | **Identifying how messages have been shared and what impact this has had. We will produce at least one case study every 6 months to demonstrate this** | **VCS** |
| Investing in Social Prescribing | **Monitoring the impact of Social Prescribing on the health and wellbeing of residents** | **NTC / CCG** |
| **Ensure every resident has the opportunity to contribute to their community through volunteering and social action** | Increasing positive image and awareness of volunteering | **Developing case studies to be reproduced in NTC and VODA communications about local residents who volunteer** | **NTC / VODA** |
| Ensuring easy and equitable access to volunteering | **Monitoring the demographics of the people that use the Volunteer Centre** | **NTC / VODA** |
| Supporting a rich and varied offer of high quality opportunities | **Collecting case studies and working with potential volunteer placements to make sure that all have volunteer agreements and understand the mutual benefits of volunteering** | **VODA / NTC** |
| Ensuring regular celebration and recognition of volunteers | **Developing new ways to recognise and celebrate volunteering** | **VODA / NTC** |
| Valuing the involvement of volunteers in grants programmes, procurement, and commissioning | **Ensuring that commissioners understand how the role of volunteers can increase the services that VCS organisations are able to offer** | **VODA / CCG / NTC** |
| **Support systems that facilitate positive engagement and  partnership working between the sectors** | Working With VCS | **Continuing to arrange quarterly “working with the community and voluntary sector” events and monitor attendance to ensure they continue to be of value** | **VODA / NTC / CCG** |
| State of the Area | **Monitoring attendance to ensure that the VCS have a strong voice in helping to shape initiatives that flow to and from this event** | **VODA / NTC** |
| Chief Officers Group (for registered charities based in North Tyneside) | **Ensuring that this forum continues to meet quarterly with an agenda that is set by the Chief Officers** | **VODA** |
| Themed networking events around specific themes | **Keeping a list of events and sharing this as part of the monitoring of this strategy** | **VODA / NTC / CCG** |
| Action Learning | **Continuing to develop and monitor an action learning set approach for leaders in business, the VCS and Statutory organisations in North Tyneside** | **VODA / NTC** |
| **Support the VCS to have a strong and meaningful role in influencing policy by speaking up on behalf of the people they represent** | Ensuring a clearly defined role for VCS reps attending strategic meetings | **Producing defined roles and monitoring the impact that attendance is having** | **VODA** |
| Offering support to enable VCS reps to fully engage | **Facilitating briefing sessions for VCS representatives attending NTC / CCG committees / strategic meetings** | **NTC / CCG** |
| Arranging meetings in a manner that enables VCS to make a full contribution | **Encouraging feedback from VCS representatives and ensuring that this is used to improve engagement** | **VODA / NTC / CCG** |
| Regularly reviewing the value/impact of VCS involvement | **Annually produce a short update on the impact of VCS involvement in making North Tyneside a better place to live, work and visit** | **VODA** |