



Item 9

26th March 2019



Glasgow Community Planning Partnership

Strategic Board

Report by David Maxwell, Acting Chief Executive, Volunteer Glasgow
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GLASGOW'S VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY

Purpose of Report:

To seek endorsement of the refreshed Strategy and action plan for 2019-24 and to ensure individual partners have approved the inclusion of proposed actions for which they are responsible.

Recommendations:

GCPP Strategic Board is asked to:

1. Endorse the Strategy and action plan contained at appendix 1.
2. Confirm their own organisation's specific commitments, including the target to become a signatory to the Volunteering Charter (if they haven't already done so) by April 2020.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Community Planning Partnership first approved the city's Strategic Volunteering Framework (SVF) in 2009/10. It was an element of the city's Legacy 2014 and 2018 ambitions under the Inclusive Legacy theme.
- 1.2 With the introduction of agreed action plans to deliver shared SVF objectives in 2012, we effectively developed the Framework into a fully-fledged strategy and as such we are now referring to it as *Glasgow's Volunteering Strategy*.
- 1.3 Volunteering continues to be important to virtually every aspect of life in the city, to the vast majority of public and third sector partner organisations and to an increasing number of wider policy objectives including ten National Performance Framework outcomes.
- 1.4 Scottish Government is currently, "working with stakeholders to develop an outcomes framework for volunteering".
- 1.5 The refresh of the Glasgow Volunteering Strategy is an agreed action in the city's Community Action Plan within the Resilient Glasgow focus area.
- 1.6 Every authoritative definition of volunteering refers to three required elements: it is unpaid, undertaken by choice, and benefits people outside the volunteer's immediate family.

2 Refreshed Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan

- 2.1 The Executive Group received an update report in March 2018 and agreed to remit consideration of their contribution to the process of refreshing Volunteering Strategy action plans to their representatives on the Strategy Governance Group, to Volunteer Glasgow and to the Partners' officers charged with developing the Community Action Plan.
- 2.2 Following this, Partners worked with Volunteer Glasgow to (a) publish a report with accompanying films on the city's Strategy and its achievements to March 2018 (see volunteerglasgow.org/svf), and (b) engage a wide range of stakeholders on the city's needs and issues in relation to volunteering in order to refresh the Strategy and develop the associated action plan which is presented below at appendix 1.
- 2.3 The Strategy Governance Group has met 3 times since last September to (a) consider a report of the online surveys and two stakeholder workshops, (b) agree new terms of reference (appendix 2) and (c) work with Volunteer Glasgow to finalise the action plan.
- 2.4 Partners are asked to note the actions to which their colleagues have made a commitment for their organisation to be lead agency or delivery partner.
- 2.5 In particular, Partners are asked to consider the proposed objective 1 key indicator target that *all members of the CPP Strategic Board are signatories to the Volunteering Charter by April 2020*.
- 2.6 The Strategy action plan for years 2-5 will be further developed following the Scottish Government's publication of its National Volunteering Outcomes Framework and action plans. The National Framework is likely to be announced in the next quarter with development of supporting action plans taking place thereafter.

3 Glasgow's Volunteering Charter

- 3.1 Launched following endorsement by the CPP in 2016, the Charter was designed to enable Partners to help achieve shared objectives by pledging

their own organisation to specific actions *to increase inclusive and appropriate volunteering.*

- 3.2 Phase 1 of the Charter aimed to test this new programme by supporting Partners and selected Third Sector organisations to make a commitment to pledge #1 *“to create and expand appropriate volunteering opportunities within their organisation”* and/or pledge #2 *“to ensure their opportunities are accessible to all sections of the community, with their volunteering workforce reflecting the demographics of the city.”*
- 3.3 Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) conducted a process evaluation of the Charter (phase 1) and recommended that we roll out the Charter with some minor changes on the basis of Partners’ feedback. The full GCPH report was published in February 2018 and is available at http://www.gcph.co.uk/publications/752_evaluation_of_glasgow_s_volunteering_charter
- 3.4 In March 2018, Executive Group members also agreed to consider how they could each achieve the Volunteering Charter Mark if they hadn’t already done so.
- 3.5 The Governance Group have agreed to make the 3rd Charter pledge available for new and existing signatories, enabling them to make a public commitment to, *“facilitate and enable our staff, members and/or service users to undertake volunteering activity which improves their wellbeing and benefits Glasgow”*.
- 3.6 Signatory organisations must make a commitment to one or more of the three pledges and can add further pledges of their own. For example, organisations that fund other organisations have also pledged to, *“encourage third sector organisations that [we] support and fund to sign up to the Charter in their own right”*. There is also the flexibility following the GCPH evaluation for funding organisations to sign up to this additional pledge only, where appropriate.
- 3.7 Crucially, in order to achieve the Charter Mark, signatory organisations need to (a) produce and publish an appropriate baseline and (b) develop a robust action plan to achieve each of their pledges. Further information on the Charter is available at volunteerglasgow.org/charter
- 3.8 The Charter is an innovative programme for which the city deserves some credit. It is a key mechanism for individual Community Planning Partners - and many other organisations - to make a clear, public commitment and contribution to achieve our shared Strategy objectives.

4 Recommendations

GCPP Strategic Board is asked to:

- 4.1 Endorse the Strategy and action plan contained at appendix 1.
- 4.2 Confirm their own organisation's specific commitments, including the target to become a signatory to the Volunteering Charter (if they haven’t already done so) by April 2020.

Appendices to follow