

**WEST Children's Community**  
Voluntary Sector Forum  
Progress update  
October 2016  
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# What does a Children's Community look like?

- Save the Children have described the basic principles which a Children's Community should reflect...and any WEST development must take these principles into account...
- 'Each Children's Community will need to develop a strategy informed by the local context and decide what kinds of actions and interventions are needed. However, we are proposing that all Children's Communities follow the same framework within which to work. This framework is made up of:

- **'A Children's Community** (otherwise known as a Children's Zone) brings together a range of existing services in a specific geographical area to work in a co-ordinated way to tackle childhood disadvantage, with a specific focus, from cradle to career across all the contexts in which children live and learn'.

- **A series of principles that a community must embody**
- Offer a doubly holistic approach: support children from birth to adulthood and across all contexts of their lives
- Focus on a coherent place that makes sense locally
- Involve a wide a range of partners to work jointly and under a common strategy
- Base this strategy on a deep local analysis and robust, continuous evaluation

- **. A series of outcome domains that a community must address**
- Children's material, physical and mental well-being
- Children's learning
- Children's social relations and personal development
- Employment and local economic prospects
- Community capacity

# What the Children's Community can offer...

- Greater capacity to collaborate and develop initiatives in this area
- A strong coherent multi agency partnership...avoid duplication of effort...
- Support when considering potential developments or funding opportunities
- Access to schools perspectives and colleagues within a clear Governance structure
- The opportunity to contribute to one of only **5** such initiatives across the UK

# What Children's Community is not...

- There is **no** funding at this time to develop or commission work...this can only happen when we have our structures in place and the Community is established.
- The Community is **not** seeking to direct or determine partners work, priorities or developments.

# Why the WEST Schools Trust?

- WEST have been involved in discussion with colleagues from Newcastle University regarding how we can develop a Children's Community for a number of months...
- We offer a '**specific geographical area and a coherent place that makes sense locally**'...the school population of the 7 schools who are WEST.
- The WEST has an established profile and Governance model



- We are looking to develop new partnerships with colleagues across the WEST area...and develop our capacity to work collaboratively.
- We are especially well placed to address the themes described within the 'outcome domains' a Children's Community must address...

# WEST Priority themes...

- ***A stronger, tolerant community***
- A vision of a West End where everyone works together, building a cohesive, supportive environment.
- ***Reducing inequality***
- Challenging poverty to ensure everyone can achieve and be healthy, and ensuring people are accepted for who they are

- ***Starting early and supporting transitions***
- Getting things right from birth, ensuring healthy child development and supporting children through key transitions in their lives.
- ***Realising aspirations***
- Aiming high for young people and providing more opportunities for success

# Over-arching theme....

- **Develop approaches which improve emotional wellbeing and encourage improved resilience amongst pupils** within the Trust as being an essential component of any Children's Community development in the WEST.

# Proposed activity and actions July – October 2016

- Agree the geographical scope of the Community
- Governance
- The focus and activity to be developed within the WEST Children's Community
- Developing a 'Theory of Change'
- Review of data and needs analysis

- Developing parental and community engagement
- Understanding the views and aspirations of our children
- Reporting to WEST and Children's Community Partners
  
- Meeting partners/ organisations and sharing our ideas and promoting our aspiration to develop the Community

# How can VCS colleagues support and get involved?...

- Engaging with our local community and those we need to reach
- Engaging children in the developments as work progresses
- Support and advice on priorities and how we seek to address them
- Representation and contribution to Governance structure

- What can you offer and suggest to help this initiative develop and become established?
- ALL IDEAS WELCOME !
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