1. **WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE WCN MEETINGS?**

**Three main areas identified:**

1. **Networking and collaborating**

*Identifying needs and sharing stories and networking to collaborate; Sharing; To run more network meetings, face to face to help people to connect and learn what is happening in Westminster; Joint efforts and share resources and benefits*

1. **Communicating with the Council – being the voice of the sector**

*Safe space; Enabling sector to speak with one voice; Interface with Council*

1. **Sharing learning and gaining knowledge**

*Connect on a thematic basis e.g. spotlight on the youth sector or the sports/activity orgs; Sharing learning; Resource / knowledge*

**B . WHAT INVOLVEMENT/ROLE SHOULD WESTMINSTER COUNCIL PLAY IN WCN MEETINGS?**

1. **Council communicates to the VCS**

*Update on changes to policies that affect the voluntary sector; To hear the voluntary sector strategy of the Council and VCS premises strategy; Have more departments represented at these meetings - ?Public Health; General updates on latest community programmes ; Provide update on funding or other news*

*2.* **Council listens to VCS and responds**

*To attend to hear from the sector about need ; Council taking back information and ‘asks’ and acting on them ; Getting the people who will listen and be able to action things in response.*

***3*. Relationship with Council is strategic and planned**

*WCC to engage with the Sector more strategically/formally ; One person who is a ‘bridge’ eg. Genevieve, Christine, who would have a slot at every meeting, to update the WCN on Council and to report back on actions taken following questions etc. at previous meeting.*

**C. HOW IMPORTANT ARE VOICE / REPRESENTATION, SHARING / NETWORKING, INPUT / INFO IN WCN MEETINGS?**

*Have people who are community members with lived experience (not a VCS lead) – could be a service user or lived experience of the issues the VCS are dealing with; More speakers from different services and sectors (similar to BME Health Forum). Orgs to be able to talk about what their orgs do; Use survey to ask what themes / subjects people want to discuss*

*Networking. Topic focusses, means the people involved would come*

*Voice / representation. Invite people here, delegate people there; Sharing, networking*

**D. WHAT SHOULD BE THE FORMAT/FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS?**

*Half themed; half round table*

*Quarterly meetings (4), two to be longer meeting plus food with networking*

*Shorter meetings longer lunch; Lunch is important for in-person meetings*

*Use the challenge list to help discuss the issues or provide advice/external speaker*

*Soft start – teas coffees – popcorn effect – chance to engage; Meetings should be face-to-face in person*

*VCS 5 presentations going round the tables each meeting. Or speed dating style.*

*Every three months and to include presentations from service provider organisations*

*Two in person – one in the north, one in the south – and one/two online in between.*

*Hybrid meetings take up too many resources.*

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**KEY**: italicised parts are the suggestions as written by people attending the WCN. Highlighted – immediate blueprint we will adopt for meetings next year. All other suggestions will be addressed by the new Chair and where relevant discussed with Council officers.