WCN notes from meeting held 12th Nov 2024 at the Abbey Centre

1. Catherine Mahoney (CEO of Unfold) was introduced as the newly elected chair of the WCN. She thanked everyone for voting and the other candidate – and talked about some of her aspirations as chair. These include sharing the duties of chair with Marwa, who introduced herself as a trustee and service user of Unfold. Everyone welcomed this arrangement – and the opportunity to widen the WCN more generally to service users.
2. Natalie Watkins (OS team One Westminster) presented the progress on developing the WCN, based on the consultation in June; followed by discussion. Her presentation is [**here.**](https://www.onewestminster.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Findings%20from%20the%20WCN%20.pdf)
3. Tony Staples (WCC Community Hubs Team South) gave a presentation on the progress of work on Community Hubs, plus questions and discussion. The presentation is [**here.**](https://www.onewestminster.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2024.11.12_CH%20Westminster%20Community%20Network.pdf) **An email from the team will follow this one.**
4. Emma Plouviez (OS team One Westminster) presented the proposals for a Civil Society Covenant with the government – presentation is [**here.**](https://www.onewestminster.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Covenant.pdf)

Action points:

1. Arrange permissions when signing in to allow WCN meeting attendees' contact details to be shared.
2. When time allows, do a round of self-introductions at the start of the meeting.
3. Online meeting – include a focus on the work of one or two local VCS organisations.
4. Invite all VCS members to bring a service user to WCN meetings.
5. Organise a group response from WCN to the draft Covenant – several suggestions were made, including that the Covenant should be compulsory. ***Please read and make responses individually to NCVO – as well as contacting Jackie or Emma at OW with suggestions for group response.***