

Westminster Community Network (WCN)

Manifesto for a strong, sustainable and vibrant Civic Community in Westminster

Who we are

The WCN is an independent network of local charities and community organisations working in Westminster. It works to build relationships, share ideas and influence strategic decision making across the city, and beyond into Tri-Borough, for the benefit of the diverse communities that make up the City of Westminster and the voluntary sector.

The WCN is a core vehicle for informing the co-design and development of a vibrant civic community sector in Westminster for the future. It plays a pivotal role in communicating with the statutory sector and commissioners of services delivered by the voluntary and community sector in the borough.

OUR MISSION

- To be the recognised and respected voice of the voluntary and community sector in Westminster.

OUR VISION

- To be the go to point of reference for those wishing to understand and service the diverse communities that make up the City.
- To provide statutory partners and others with clear, evidence based information to inform their strategic decision making.
- To represent the sector at key groups and committees and to ensure quality feedback to the voluntary and community sector.
- To act as a critical friend to colleagues in the statutory and private sectors

OUR VALUES

- To be open, transparent and accountable to the organisations and communities we represent.
- We believe in strong and active partnerships, in which everyone operating in the voluntary and community sector, who wants to, can have a voice

How we operate

The WCN is served by an Advisory Board and an elected Chair and Vice-Chair.

The Advisory Board operates under agreed Terms of Reference, and Members are chosen for their capacity to act as the voice of the sector in order to represent the sector as a whole rather than advocate on behalf of any particular organisations.

Advisory Board Members attend and engage with other Westminster networks, forums and boards, to gain an overall perspective of the sector and to discuss and promote sector issues, concerns, priorities, achievements, though these forums.

The WCN is committed to represent the diversity of the communities we serve in all we do. The Advisory Board and the Network Forum convene at least four times annually

Key actions

- The Chair, Vice-Chair and Advisory Board will actively promote the unique contribution the WCN and its membership can play in service development, delivery, and in supporting quality of life within Westminster.
- The Chair, Vice-Chair and Advisory Board will actively encourage the widest possible involvement and attendance of the voluntary and community sector at full WCN meetings and to ensure that all express their views and concerns.
- The Chair, Vice-Chair and Advisory Board will actively develop a strong relationship with key statutory partners – councillors, officers, etc. ensuring that they understand and recognise the strengths of the WCN and begin to utilise its role.