The CEC is asked to:-

i) note recent projects volunteer team have completed

ii) receive update on the status of the volunteer recognition event

iii) discuss and Consider future improvements/projects for the team

1. Background

1.1 Since the introduction of the Volunteer Team, we have recruited a Projects Officer and currently have a temporary admin supporting the upcoming events in our team.

2 Ongoing projects

2.1 Updates and improvements to Volunteer Handbook (to be completed by 2nd May 2017).

2.2 Production of Volunteer Policy in line with relevant legislation and law which affects Volunteers (in progress).

2.3 Volunteer training, networking and recognition event planned for July 15th 2017. 397 Volunteers invited, 113 RSVP received. An online event to be planned for those who cannot attend, this will not necessarily take place only on the night of 15th July, but across the week following to allow all volunteers to participate. Input from the CEC on how the online event may differ from the face to face are welcomed. The volunteer steering group continue to input ideas for this event and some members have stepped up to be more involved. The project is currently running to budget and to time scale with 6 staff members from the office working on making this event a success.

2.4 More formal Radio Host role created, recruited and 15 students attending training in May 2017. Current regular hosts also invited to attend to be part of the training.
2.5 HLM project (updates given by Nicola Powell in separate paper).

2.6 Supporting Grassroots Project to consider purpose and role of new volunteer to support local community work and Nations Representatives.

2.7 Supporting the implementation of a greater marketing campaign for OUSET, including the recruitment and training alongside the Operations Team for OUSET ambassadors (as approved by OUSET trustees Feb 2017). This role to be announced at the recognition event, we have already had interest from some HLMs who were recently surveyed.

3. Proposed outcome

3.1 Volunteers team do not currently have an officer supporting the team, which is something I feel could benefit the team in the future, and is worth considering when the remit review comes up later this year. In the interim, I would like to open discussions around what would be the best way for the Volunteer Team to share updates with the CEC.

3.2 We would like to be able to offer community volunteering opportunities in a similar way to other Student Unions across the UK and in the nations, and wanted to open this idea to the floor for discussion.

3.3 As this idea is in its infancy, some points to consider:

- Should there be a criteria for the sort of projects we support?

- Would these be isolated to local areas e.g. we would not pay expenses for a student living in Manchester to volunteer for a project in Scotland.

- Should we be linking up with existing charities to support local initiatives or should these be student led projects which are set up by students to achieve something in their local community and then supported by the volunteer team to advertise and recruit others. Or could both be viable?

- Where should the projects take place? E.g. If a student abroad wanted to set one up – can we support?

Beth Metcalf
Head of Student Volunteering