Position statement, January 2016

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Voluntary and community organisations who attended the MEI workshops reported serious concerns over the purpose and ethical standing of community data collection. People seeking support in the community can be experiencing complex, challenging and distressing situations. To be asked multiple questions at these times of crisis or need, especially where those questions are of an intrusive or personal nature, can be inappropriate. For example, asking someone who appears vulnerable and socially isolated a set of questions that includes Z } Á o } v o Ç Z À asking them to respond on a • o }(í š } ñ (Œ } u Z Æ š Œ u o Ç o } v o Ç [š } Z v } š o } v o Ç š o o [ ] • Z • š v Œ ‹ µ • š] } v] ( ] ( ] (

listen to volunteers and volunteer managers. Hear their experiences of trying to protect people seeking support from excessive data and inappropriate demands for information. Develop action plans and initiatives to prioritise dignity in data collection.

We envisage a City where ensuring the dignity of people seeking support in our communities is a priority shared by all those involved in funding and offering support and where accountability is maintained through simple, substantive data reporting that enables us to learn and collectively respond to the needs of our communities.

We ask voluntary and community organisations, commissioners and funders to consider this call to action and to respond. We propose a next step is to seek agreement on the need to reverse the trend for excessive data collection requirements that result in a loss of dignity for people seeking support in our communities and which are disproportionate to the encounter. We encourage those concerned to invoke a through which principles of proportionality, appropriacy and dignity can be collectively invoked and upheld.

Through ongoing dialogue with funders, grant professionals, commissioners and contract managers we would encourage a that:

Refocuses on the support of citizens rather than requirements to collect data from them

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