

13 December 2023

REPORT OF COALFIELD AREA VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR NETWORK

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The report provides an update with regard to the Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network.

2. Background

2.1 To develop the capacity and influence of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) across the City, Area Networks have been established and delegates represent each Area Network at Area Committee taking forward issues on behalf of the whole VCS in the area, reporting on area priority delivery by the VCS, and reporting back, providing a two-way flow of communication.

2.2 Coalfield Area Network delegates will present a report to each Area Committee meeting informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

2.3 The Coalfield VCS Network is made up of over 100 local groups and strategic local/national/regional partners. The network meets on a regular basis to share good practice, support one another and receives regularly updates as part of an information share e bulletin distributed via the Sunderland VS Alliance.

3. Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network (VCSN) Progress Report

3.1 The Coalfield VCS Network met in October, November and are scheduled to meet on the 5th December 2023 at Easington Lane Community Access Point (ELCAP)

3.2 The meetings have included the following agenda items:

3rd October 2023

Right Turn Service

Right Turn offer support to clients who recognise their own behaviours and realise the impact this has on their own & others' lives. Victims of domestic abuse have a range of support options but it's found that often the perpetrator moves onto another relationship & the cycle continues. Support is available through 1-2-1- and groupwork to break this cycle. Referrals can be made by the individual themselves or by anyone who recognises these behaviours, the referral required consent from the individual seeking support. An assessment can take 4-6 weeks to allow the individual to receive bespoke intervention, suited to their needs. The Make A Change programme offers a 26 week model, with 10 weeks of education, 10 weeks of behaviour change and a further 6 weeks around the impact behaviours can have on Children.

The team can be contacted Monday-Friday, 9-5 at info@rightturn.org.uk or by calling 03001240466. [Right Turn | Perpetrator Services in Sunderland \(wwin.org.uk\)](https://www.win.org.uk)

Coalfield Can Do Project

The VCS Network members were updated about the 'CAN DO' Fund available for groups of young people to design and deliver a small project up to the value of £750 to benefit themselves, other young people and their local community (wards of Copt Hill, Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row only).

Applications were encouraged from the network members with details provided about organisations and groups that can apply.

7th November 2023

Mackem Money

Short presentation was given by Shaun Newton, ELCAP. £130,000 is available to small groups in the area. The Community Foundation (which serves Tyne & Wear) has allocated around £130k to be awarded to community organisations in Sunderland by a panel made up of local residents who have lived experience of the challenges faced by local groups.

Projects will be supported based on 3 themes:

- Supporting inclusive communities
- Creating opportunities for healthier and happier people
- Raising aspirations.

There is eligibility criteria to follow but Shaun expressed the importance that the fund is available for local groups and it is important for those eligible to consider applying. Mackem Money was described as being a similar criteria to Community Chest applications. An information sheet and the presentation slides were made available to the group for further reference, together with links to applying for the fund online.

Northumbria Police Connect

Sgt Tom Scott introduced himself to the group as he is relatively new to the area. He briefly explained how policing in the Coalfields works with the neighbourhood team, halo team & response team all in operation across the area. He noted that over the last few years lack of investment in policing in the area had affected neighbourhood policing, but this is something that has started to change and will hopefully continue to change with more officers being recruited in the area.

Local Priorities:

- Off road bikes
- Reduction in violence & knife crime
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Tackling organised crime.

He finished his presentation by encouraging people to sign up to Northumbria Connected, a new online tool to ensure the police are delivering on the issues that affect local communities. Once you sign up, you receive text or email alerts about issues of interest to that person signing up.

4. Sunderland VCSA Update

- 4.1 Members of the Network received information on the Free membership scheme with Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance (SVSA) and were also invited to attend 'Lets Communicate' online event with SVSA in November 2023.
- 4.2 The Network received an update on progress made on the staff recruitment for the SVSA, they also received information on the support offered to the sector, including the support offered to the sector on funding applications. Information was also received on the Social Value opportunities and the volunteering support offered.

The Network representatives regularly consult with the Network to ensure that the agenda items reflect their requirements.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Members are requested

- To note the contents of the report and consider the opportunities and issues raised by the Coalfield VCSN.

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