

**8<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

**REPORT OF WEST AREA VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR NETWORK**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The report provides an update with regard to the West 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 West Area Network delegates will present a report to each Area Committee meeting informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

**3. West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (AVCSN) Progress Report**

The West AVCSN has met twice since the last Area Committee in June 2014.

3.1 The West VCSN continue to deliver activities and services which support the Area Committee priorities of Streetscene and Environmental improvements, Activities for Young People, Health and Wellbeing, Job Prospects and Activities for older persons to reduce social isolation.

3.2 The VCS have received updates regarding newly developed services in the area which can be accessed to support delivery including the Social Inclusion and Dyslexia programme which has opened in the former Jobcentre in Pallion and offers support to VCS organisations as well as residents.

3.3 The VCS provided an update on activities for young people delivered during the 6 week holiday period, these were wide in variety, offering activities for the age range 5 years – 19 years and were very well attended.

3.4 The West VCS continue to support Area Committee in the community and are hosting the events as well as supporting the marketing of the event to local communities and residents.

3.5 At the most recent VCS meeting, organisations were asked for input into the maximising greenspace of Area Committee. Feedback and input provided included:

- Lack of cycle routes in and across the West area including Grindon, Thorney Close and Pennywell.
- Signs to destinations obstructed or not there at all, examples given included (Silksworth Sports Park and Lambton Street Youth Centre)
- Mini goalposts requested for land adjacent to Pennywell CA
- Mini goalposts or trim trail on land to rear of Tansy Centre.
- Development of natural habitats in Barnes extension.
- Promotion and development of Children's Forest at Pennywell, potential to include off road cycling and orienteering all of which is delivered out of area at the moment.
- Heritage walks – Walk Leaders
- Simple map of area and each ward showing what was available (matrix of facilities).
- Lighting of existing areas (MUGA's/Play areas)
- Develop dementia friendly gardens.

- LSYC has capacity to develop outdoor bowling green targeted at older or disabled persons
- Adequate litter bin coverage.
- Clean up industrial estates, Pennywell mentioned as key entrance to the city, detracts from area and Children's Forest.

#### **4. Recommendations**

##### 4.1 Members are requested

- To note the contents of the report and consider the opportunities and issues raised by the West AVCSN.

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