

2 December 2015

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 (VCS) 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 the Networks 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.

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

The Coalfield VCSN has met twice since the last Area Committee in October 2015.

3.1 October 2015

Area Committee - The Network reps gave feedback from the October Area Committee and communicated to the group that the Committee were very supportive of the work of the sector, which was reflected in the approval of a total of £115,000 SIB funding to develop a Community and Volunteering project and a Youth Social Action project. Calls for Projects were promoted through the Network.

Live Life Well - A presentation from Jan Milner from the Live Life Well (LLW) service updated the Network on the progress the service has made. There are 30 clients from the area receiving 1-2-1 support for diet, exercise and smoking cessation advice. LLW is working with Gentoo and other partners within the locality to signpost to relevant services. The Stoptober campaign at Houghton Feast engaged hundreds of local people and a number of brief interventions carried out. The network provides a good opportunity to share information and develop joined up and partnership working. Jan offered information and resources for Alcohol Awareness week in November.

Better Health and Care - Mike Lothian from Age UK (commissioned by the CCG to carry out a number of public engagement events) updated the group on the public engagement programme across the City, set in a context of the new services commissioned by Sunderland CCG under the 'Better Health & Care for Sunderland' banner. The new service will deliver Integrated Care across Sunderland with the establishment of integrated teams which would be operational in each of the five areas across Sunderland from 1 November 2015. There are 90 staff in each of the integrated teams including district nursing, community matrons, social workers, GPs and Age UK Living Well workers, wrapped around groups of GP Practices so that care can be provided in a more coordinated and proactive way particularly for the most complex patients who are at risk or avoidable emergency admissions to hospital.

Concerns were raised about the confusion between Living Well link workers and Live Life Well service and mentors. Members of the group also raised concerns about what the role of the voluntary sector would be in the new model, and the reliance on local organisations to provide more social care and activities within the community. VCS organisations need support and resources to build capacity to cope with any additional demand. The Age UK Living Well Link worker for the area will be attending future meetings. The Network would

appreciate further discussion with the CCG regarding the role of the sector. A CCG representative will be invited to attend the Network early in 2016.

November 2015

Budget Consultation – The November meeting was dedicated to Budget consultation. A number of Council officers attended to inform the Network of the hard decisions to be made during the budget setting process and gathered the views of Network members and additional attendees.

VCS Network Representatives – In order to promote the purpose and value of the Network, an information leaflet has been produced. The three Network representatives will use the leaflet to engage new groups to attend the meetings and/or sign up to the mailing list, and to remind existing groups of the benefits of the Network and the role of the Representatives.

The Coalfield VCS Network meetings continue to be well attended and are seen as the recognised route for local organisations to receive and share information with Sunderland City Council, statutory and voluntary sector partners and each other. On average 30 – 35 people attend the meetings and over 100 are on the mailing list.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Members are requested

- To note the contents of the report
- To continue to support the Sector when developing and implementing actions against local priorities

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