

15th January 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 September 2013.

- 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.
- Recently a number of projects in the West received funding from the Big Lottery 'Do a lotta good' fund all of which contribute to the West Area priorities and include:
 - Lambton Street Youth Centre receiving £21,363 to support and promote the engagement of girls and women in sport to promote healthy lifestyles.
 - South Hylton Tansey Centre receiving £16,000 to provide a drop in facility 5 days a week to reduce social isolation.
 - St Gabriel Camp Group receiving £18,320 to fit out a container with catering equipment.
 - St Mary's and St Peter's receiving £17,500 to deliver intergenerational horticultural activities, to help them adopt a healthier lifestyle.
 - Youth Almighty receiving £13,575 to set up an intergenerational project
- As part of the transition project the VCSN highlighted funding and resources as an issue. In response to this SCC procurement team will be attending the West VCSN to offer advice and information on how groups can sign up to Sunderland First as well as offer the opportunity for groups to attend training on the procurement process.
- The West VCSN has received presentations from Sunderland CCG and Public Health to help inform them of the issues regarding health in the West and how further partnership working can be established.

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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