

7th April 2014

REPORT OF NORTH AREA VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR NETWORK

1. Purpose of the Report

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

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

- VCS Network will continue to work on developing and supporting the VCS re collaboration, communications, intelligence and mapping.
- VCS Reps are to give both oral and written updates to the Area Committee, as requested.
- The North VCSN has met twice since the last Area Committee in January 2014.
- The Network has received presentations which have included:
 - Overview of the Health Trainer Service to ensure the service offered is promoted to the community and to discuss opportunities for voluntary and community sector premises in the North to be hired to base the programme and staff
 - Southwick Community First Funding – to encourage applications from organisations based and delivering services and activities in the Southwick Ward.
 - Family, Adult and Community Learning (FACL) – to follow on from People Board presentation to ensure North VCS organisations are aware of the commissioning opportunities from FACL and also encourage the use of local venues.
 - Cultural Spring – to ensure the delivery of the cultural spring project has engagement of local VCS organisations and encourages community involvement in discussing the delivery of activities. VCS organisations have raised concerns over the difficulties of engaging with this project and ensuring that proposals are taken forward
 - Hylton Castle – to keep the network up to date on the development of Hylton Castle Project and to ensure the community led element of the project is encouraged with the involvement of VCS and the community.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Members are requested

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

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