20th January 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 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 three times since the last Area Committee in September 2013.
- The Network has received presentations which have included the procurement opportunities from Sunderland City Council and how to access and training available. The Network raised the challenges of not receiving the opportunity to be invited to access funding opportunities and this feedback is being addressed and taken forward by procurement in that:
   o Procurement will provide to the Network a breakdown of quote invites by organisation type (where know) and location
   o Procurement forward plan and training dates to be provided to the Network
   o Procurement to aim to invite one VCS organisation for quotes where possible
   o Procurement to look at focussing opportunities at ward areas
- VCS organisations across the North delivering a wide range of services and activities addressing social isolation have provided extensive support and information to the Area Community Officer (North) in order to inform the priority of the People Board.
- VCS organisations have raised concerns on the impact on their organisations on providing access to ICT equipment and staff to support both young people and adults in seeking work.

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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