

9th April 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 January 2014.

- 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.
- As part of the transition project the VCSN highlighted funding and resources as an issue. In response to this SCC have ensured that a presentation on Family and Adult Community Learning was delivered to the Network highlighting the opportunities available to the network:
 - To become a training provider.
 - Market their venue for use to deliver training.
 - Identify gaps in the training currently offered.
 - Identify groups currently receiving training that could be incorporated into the FACL offer.
 - Market and promote the FACL offer to their users.
- The network received information on the Credit Union and how it can be used to assist users of services in terms of budgeting, saving and low cost loans. The network were also made aware of the opportunities to become a local 'bank' and deliver credit union services within the community.
- Public Protection and Regulatory Services attended and advised the network of their responsibilities and services, helping the network to understand how they can work in partnership with PPRS to address local issues.
- The NHS Health Training Service attended and advised the network of the services they provide and how these can be delivered within local venues adding value and supporting the improvement of Health and Wellbeing in the West. A number of groups have taken up the offer to provide checks and a health improvement plan for groups within the community.
- A number of groups within the network are working with Library Services to expand the new offer across the West area of the city with groups becoming community book collections and developing community activities in partnership with Library Services including Knit and Natter groups, Children's reading groups and the books at home service.

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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