

16 MARCH 2015

REPORT OF THE EAST VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR (VCS) AREA NETWORK

VCS PROGRESS REPORT

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The report provides an update with regard to the East Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network.

2. Background

2.1 To develop the capacity and influence of the 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 East Area VCS Network delegates will present a report to each Area Committee meeting informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

3. East Area VCS Network Progress Report

3.1 The East Area VCS Network has met twice since the last Area Committee in December 2014.

- VCS Area Network received presentations on:-
 - An update was provided on the regeneration of the City Centre, delivered by the Planning Team and Sport and Leisure delivered an update on the walking network programme, including the introduction of three heritage walks, to complement the work of the better than basic signage project for the coastal path.
 - Sunderland Area Parents Support based in Doxford Park delivered a presentation on the service provided to carers effected by substance misuse, including respite activities, one to one support, out of hours for crisis support and home visits, advocacy and mentoring, on-line support and telephone support, and therapeutic counselling.
 - Area Arrangements updated the Network on the Area Committee's Work Plan Priorities, SIB allocations and available East area funds.

4. The Big Lottery: The Fourteen Programme

4.1 Fourteen is a programme of The Spirit of 2012 Trust, a body established by Big Lottery Fund as part of the Olympics legacy. The aim is to extend the reach and legacy of the Commonwealth Games, by increasing participation in:

- social action and volunteering;
- grassroots sport and physical activity;
- cultural activity and the arts;
- youth leadership and personal development.

4.3 The Community Foundation Tyne and Wear and Northumberland was approached to work in coastal community of up to 30,000 residents, with the following characteristics:

- 'demonstrable disadvantage';

- a history of engagement, community representation, input and enthusiasm; and
- opportunities to increase participation in either volunteering, sport, culture or youth development, and for increasing inclusion.

4.4 Spirit has allocated £200,000 over three years for grant-making. To secure this investment, a minimum of £125,000 had to be identified as match funding. The Community Foundation's board has identified £90,000 in match funding from its own funds.

4.5 A Local Reference Group (LRG) will be established with its principal role being to guide the *Fourteen* programme in Hendon and Ryhope by:

- Ensuring a *Fourteen* community plan is developed that reflects local aspiration and ambition for increasing participation and describes the changes (outcomes) that the Group wants to see in the community in a manner consistent with the outcomes set for the *Fourteen* programme;
- Making recommendations on all grant awards to The Community Foundation to endorse;
- Working with the Foundation to guide *Fourteen* communications, learning and evaluation activity;
- Finding additional funds to help achieve the outcomes agreed in the community plan.

4.6 Membership of the LRG is:-

- East VCS Area Network representatives x 3
- Hendon ward Councillor
- Ryhope ward Councillor
- Local authority representation
- Gentoo x 1
- BME representative x 1

There will be an opportunity to build connections between both the Area Boards and the LRG, when needed, to consider future locality working and project proposals.

5. Recommendation

5.1 Members are requested:-

- To note the contents of the report presented by the East Area VCS Network.

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