2 December 2015

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

3.1   The West AVCSN has met once since the last Area Committee in October 2015. The West VCSN continue to deliver activities and services which support the Area Committee priorities of Health and Wellbeing, Improving Job Prospects, Increasing skills and personal aspirations, Activities for Young People, Heritage and Environment, Greenspaces and Shopping Centres.

3.2   In the October meeting, the VCSN received a presentation from the Charity Investing in Children.   Investing in Children provides research and participation services to organisations that work with children and young people, the VCS learnt about the benefits of membership and the potential for future funding opportunities.

3.3   The VCS members and there users were invited along to a Budget consultation session which was held in Pallion Action Group. Attendance was good and questions were raised on various issues, including how the community can encourage more volunteers, how successful 'Love where you live' clean-up campaigns were and how we could do more. Other issues raised were about understanding services that are being delivered and ensuring that residents and the VCS are aware of these services to ensure we maximise the use of our limited resources across the city.

3.4   The network received up to date information on Family, Adult and Community Learning (FACL) provision and the continued opportunity to be involved. The network also continues to receive NEPO procurement opportunities on a weekly basis.

3.5   Following on from the discussion at the October Area committee the West Area will be a pilot area for a Coding Workshop in 2016, in conjunction with the Library service. The VCS network will be provided with the information on when and where the courses are to be held to ensure that West residents are fully aware of this opportunity.

3.6   The VCS discussed ideas for the West Area Event in 2016 and are regularly feeding in ideas. Ideas discussed so far are Trampolining for the school children and the Saturday family event, as well as the opportunity to sample food from different countries.

4.   Recommendation

4.1   Members are requested

- To note the contents of the report

Contact: Bill Leach, Area Network Representative - Tel No: 0191 5348435
Edna Rochester, Area Network Representative- Tel No: 0191 5344707
Joanne Laverick, Area Network Representative -Tel No: 0191 5238000