

9th March 2016**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 VCSN has met twice since the last Area Committee in December 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 At the January meeting, the VCSN welcomed the Live Life Well service and received information on the services offered and how residents can contact the service. The 'Have a Word' promotion was discussed and opportunities on how the local groups could become involved. The network received a presentation from the Council's Children's Services West Locality Manager – she talked about the services delivered within the locality and how the VCS network and the locality teams can work closely together in the future.
- 3.3 At the February meeting the network welcomed the Leader of the Council who discussed the proposal for regional devolution and the combined authority, the meeting was well attended with questions on how this would impact the community and the residents of Sunderland.
- 3.4 Following the discussion at the October Area Committee, a Coding Workshop will begin from April at Silksworth Youth and Community Centre, the coding workshop has been made possible by the partnership working of the Libraries Service; Software Centre and the Voluntary Community Sector.
- 3.5 The network received a call for project to be involved in the West Area Event, opportunities were available for all 3 days.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Members are requested
- To note the contents of the report

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