

29<sup>th</sup> February 2016

## 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 twice since the last Area Committee in December 2015.
- A successful nomination process has been carried out and the December VCS Network selected Paul Gowans of Wearmouth Learning Trust to be the new VCS Network Representative
- December Area Committee received a network request for the VCS to be involved in engagement/networking opportunities in relation to the Seafront regeneration this was referred to the Place Board who discussed and members received an update on the Seafront Workshops which have engaged with VCS organisations delivering within Roker Park and the Seafront and also a network representative is attending and will provide regular updates to the Network.
- January Area Network raised the following issues to be referred to Area Committee:
  - Two recent contracts awarded via NEPO – Welfare Advice and Live Life Well Service have included locality working as key to delivery. Providers are approaching VCS organisations in the localities for access to venues however indicating that no funding available for room hire – this is impacting on local VCS organisations in the North.
  - The network requested an update on the Council position in relation to Youth Zones and feedback on the results of impact assessments carried out on existing commissioned youth providers in the North by the Council.
- The Network has received presentations and information which have included:
  - Details of Activities and Events in the North
  - Details of NEPO Funding Opportunities
  - Presentation on the Summer Holiday Project 2015
  - Details of Call for Projects for Easter/Summer Holiday Activities 2016.
  - Age UK Sunderland Update on Better Health & Care for Sunderland - Patient & Public Engagement Project
  - Devolution/Combined Authority
  - Opportunities to link and work together on Safeguarding and promoting activities for families and young people
  - Seafront Workshop

### 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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