

16TH SEPTEMBER 2013

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

The North VCSN has met once since the last Area Committee in June 2013.

- 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 Network has been invited to contribute to discussions with regards to the City Council's VCS Relationship Transition Project. The project will consider how best the council can work with the sector to achieve joint objectives and priorities going forward.
 - Discussions with the North VCSN on the Transition Project has identified that the VCS in the North are delivering activities and services which support the Area Committee priorities of greenspace/environmental improvements, accessibility and provision of services, facilities, events and information, heritage, employment support, activities and services which address social isolation and activities for young people. With the following concerns and challenges of the sector to continue to deliver these services and activities:
 - Funding Support – including support in identifying funding and completing funding applications
 - Promotional Support
 - Lack of Volunteers
 - Support to work in partnership
 - More demand on services as Welfare Reform impacts on the community
 - More demand on services as public service efficiencies impact

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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