

20 OCTOBER 2014

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 three times since the last Area Committee in June 2014.
- With the dissolution of the East Sunderland Area Forum, the Area Network members agreed to refresh the membership. Up until September 2014, the East VCS Area Network has a membership of 219 members.
 - As well as refreshing the membership, it was agreed to elect an independent co-chair. The Area Network unanimously elected Mr Ross Wares from Volunteer Centre Sunderland.
 - Paula Hunt from Ryhope Community Association was also unanimously elected as the VCS Area Network representative. Both Ross and Paula are entitled to serve for three years.
 - Hazel Clark presented the Annual Report, which was well received by the Network.
 - VCS Area Network received presentations on:-
 - Sport and Leisure and Children Centres Services from Sunderland Council to make members aware of what they do, how they can help, and what support is available to groups.
 - Heritage Team from Sunderland Council delivered a presentation on Heritage Week in September and promoted the new World War I website www.sunderlandinfirstworldwar.co.uk.
 - Scrutiny and Area Arrangements updated the Network on the Area Committee's Work Plan Priorities, SIB allocations and available East area funds.
 - Representatives from Hendon, Millfield, Ryhope and St Michaels have been promoting access to the government's Community First funding programme.
 - The Network would like to raise the profile of the opportunity for public services to utilise local voluntary and community buildings as a base from which to deliver locality working in the community.

5. Recommendation

5.1 Members are requested:-

(a) To note the contents of the report presented by the East Area VCS Network.

Contact: Paula Hunt, Co-Vice Chair Area Network Representative
Email: paula@paulahunt.wanadoo.co.uk

Hazel Clark, Area Network Representative.
Email: hazelclarkcc@yahoo.co.uk

Jen McKevitt, Area Network Representative
Email: jmckevitt@backonthemap.org