

2nd March 2015

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.
- Following the agreed Terms of Reference for the Network the longest serving VCS Network representative is stepping down on the 31st of March 2015 and a nomination process is currently being carried out to appoint a new representative from 1st April 2015
- The Network has received presentations and information which have included:
 - Details of Activities and Events in the North
 - Details of NEPO Funding Opportunities
 - Changes to the Care Act 2015 and details of Resident Focus Groups
 - Details of European Funding Workshops
 - Consultation on Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment
 - Warm Up North Initiative and Community Challenge
 - Opportunity to provide information to assist with the refresh of Area Committee priorities.
 - Sunderland City Council Procurement Support - Buy Sunderland First and NEPO
 - The network is developing a partnership approach to deliver the North SIB Funded Events which will be delivered in the Easter school holiday period

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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