

24 JUNE 2024

REPORT OF EAST AREA VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR NETWORK

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The report provides an update regarding the work of the East 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. 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 Network delegates will present a report to each Area Committee meeting informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

2.3 The East VCS Network is made up of over 100 local groups and strategic local/national/regional partners. The network meets on a regular basis to share good practice, support one another and receives regularly updates as part of an information share e bulletin distributed via the Sunderland VS Alliance.

3. East Voluntary and Community Sector Network (VCSN) Progress Report

3.1 The East VCS Network met in April at St John's Methodist Church and in June at Stockton Road United Reformed Church.

3.2 The meetings included the following agenda items:

- A presentation about the Stronger Shores project and associated volunteering opportunities
- A presentation about the work of the Family Hubs focusing on the recently opened Hendon Hub known as Winnibell based on Lombard Road
- A presentation from Northumbria Police's Force Specialist Cyber Protect & Prepare Officer about how to 'Beat the Scammers' and protect yourself and your organisation against cyber crime.
- An update about the Links for Life Sunderland project and information about how local community organisations can register their information on the [Community Directory](#)
- Networking and Information Sharing Opportunities

3.3 The meetings were well attended and provided participants with opportunities to share information about activities and events happening in their respective organisations.

3.4 The Network received the East Area Committee call for projects to provide activities and food during May half term and the summer holidays (Fancy a Day Out). The applications were considered by the East Area Committee at the beginning of May and successful applicants received funding in anticipation of the May half-term holiday. Activities will continue to be delivered throughout the summer.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Members are requested to:

- note the contents of the report and consider the opportunities and issues raised by the East VCSN.

Contact:

- Julie Maven (Co-Chair) julie.maven.chance@gmail.com
- Kumareswaradas Ramanathas Ram@youngasianvoices.co.uk
- Trish Cornish trish@sunderlandmind.co.uk
- Joanne Cooper jcooper@backonthemap.org