

West Area Committee

REPORT OF SUNDERLAND VOLUNTARY SECTOR ALLIANCE

1 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The following report provides an update from SVSA for the West Area Committee for the period of March 2024 – May 2024

2 Background

- 2.1 Area Committee requested regular updates from SVSA at each Committee meeting to enable members to be up to date on current SVSA developments, projects, and priorities and to encourage collaborative working and 2 way communication.

3 General Update

- 3.1 Since March 2024 we have grown our membership figures to 140 unique VCSE organisations based or delivering in Sunderland.
- 3.2 We held our 2nd Volunteer Co-ordinator Network in the Coalfield locality (27 attendees) an Ageing well Network in the East locality (33 attendees)
- 3.3 All remaining employees completed their TUPE transfer, therefore as of 1st April all employees are officially employed by SVSA.
- 3.4 We have reached out to members sharing a Volunteer Needs Survey to identify what community and corporate volunteering needs are in the city.

4 Funding and Investment

- 4.1 We linked up with Karbon Homes (Surgeries held in the East locality) and Community Foundation (event held in Coalfield locality) and Breez programme (surgeries held in East locality) to facilitate conversations between these funders and the sector.
- 4.2 We were nominated for and attended the Sunderland City Council Stars 2024 awards, for Partnership of the year. This was recognition for the partnership we have developed with SCC procurement team and

celebrating the great work we have achieved working and delivering our Social Value Programme.

- 4.3 Launched our Community Transport Grant to the sector, receiving 30 EOI and 19 applications.
- 4.4 We have supported Funding applications collectively worth a total value of £347K.
- 4.5 A total of 4 social value opportunities have been successfully completed, with a total value of £4182.

5 Sector Support

- 5.1 **56** VCSE organisations have been supported (of which 18 were new organisations March-May 2024)
4 Social Value opportunities have been delivered.
3 Training Events have been hosted with a total of **59 attendees**.

6 Communications and Engagement

- 6.1 We have presented at East, West and Coalfield Locality Area arrangements networks.
- 6.2 We have launched our Sunderland **Volunteering** online enquiry form for individuals wanting to volunteer in Sunderland.
- 6.3 We featured in the Voluntary Organisation's Network North East (VONNE) funders Network E Bulletin.
- 6.4 We produced and circulated our April 2024 E Bulletin with the sector.

7 Trustee update

- 7.1 In April we held a Development Day with our Board of Trustees to re visit our strategic vision for 2024/2025. We used this as a celebration event and invited our Operational Board and Staff to mark our 1 year anniversary as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

8 Future developments

- 8.1 Following our first 2 Volunteer Networks and in partnership with Sunderland VCSE sector we are developing the format for further networks and a Volunteer Passport scheme.
- 8.2 Over the summer we are facilitating a 'Bridging the Gap' Network Event, focusing on VCSE organisations that are delivering to individuals furthest from the job market and impacted by the cost of living crisis.
- 8.3 We have sourced a CRM System for our organisation and will be developing this over the coming months.
- 8.4 Community Transport Grants will be awarded.
- 8.5 Holding further training, surgeries and events including funding drop-ins and outreach sessions in each locality.
- 8.6 Developing a Volunteering E Bulletin to be distributed during Volunteer week.

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