

**18<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

**REPORT OF WEST AREA VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR NETWORK**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

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

**3. West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (AVCSN) Progress Report**

The West AVCSN has met twice 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 West VCSN on the Transition Project has identified that the VCS in the West are delivering activities and services which support the Area Committee priorities of Streetscene and Environmental improvements, Activities for Young People, Health and Wellbeing, Job Prospects and Activities for older persons to reduce social isolation. In delivering these services and activities the VCS have highlighted they continue to experience the following challenges:
  - Funding Support – including support in identifying funding and completing funding applications
  - Promotional/Marketing 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 West AVCSN.

Contact: Anita Heskett-Saddington, Area Network Representative  
Tel No: 0191 5657605

Bill Leach, Area Network Representative.  
Tel No: 0191 5346661

Edna Rochester, Area Network Representative  
Tel No: 0191 5344707