

**6<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**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 three times since the last Area Committee in February 2016.
- The Network has received feedback from the Boards on contracts awarded via NEPO for locality delivery and welcome the update that venue hire is included within the contracts.
- The Network has received presentations and information which have included:
  - Details of Activities and Events in the North
  - Details of NEPO Funding Opportunities
  - Presentation on FACL Opportunities and the support available for VCS organisations to access these opportunities
  - Presentation by Pallion Action Group on the North Area Commissioned Welfare Advice Project
  - Presentation on the Tall Ships Project and the opportunity to promote Sail Ambassador and Sail Trainee Opportunities to young people in the North
  - Sunderland City Council Welfare Rights Service
  - Presentation on Heritage Event in the North during Heritage Week in September
  - Update on the Roker Park – HLF Application
  - Update on the Beacon of Light Project
  - Future Youth Provision in the North
  - Seafront Workshop Feedback

**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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