

8th June 2016

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

- 3.1 The West AVCSN has met once since the last Area Committee in March 2016. The West VCSN continue to deliver activities and services which support the Area Committee priorities of Health and Wellbeing, Improving Job Prospects, Increasing skills and personal aspirations, Activities for Young People, Heritage and Environment, Greenspaces and Shopping Centres.
- 3.2 In the April meeting, the VCSN received a presentation from Karen Alexander on the 2016/2017 Family Adult and Community Learning (FACL) opportunities and how the VCS can apply. The network welcomed the opportunity of the funding and raised concerns over the eligibility criteria of learners to access courses for free. This information was fed into the Area Committee priorities proposed for 2016/2017.
- 3.3 The VCS discussed the proposed West Area Committee priorities for 2016/2017 (People and Place) and their comments are incorporated into the final priorities presented to Area Committee.
- 3.4 The VCS members have been working closely with the West Area Community Development Lead, looking into external funding opportunities using GRANTfinder, as well as continuing to work on effective partnership working, with ideas already coming forward such as an equipment share and how to best utilise the assets within the Area.
- 3.5 The VCS were invited to a volunteer event hosted by the Royal Horticultural Society and held at Parker Trust (organised through the RHS Greening Grey Britain programme as part of a funded project being delivered by Pallion Traders). The event was a great success with volunteers producing hanging baskets for local community venues.
- 3.6 The VCS continue to be heavily involved in activities being delivered at the Road to Rio West Area Event in 2016.
- 3.7 Following the Terms of Reference the longest standing VCS Network Representative is standing down and the network will be asked to elect a new representative in the coming

weeks. The West Area VCS Network would like to thank Edna Rochester for all of her help and support she has offered throughout her time as West Area Network Representative.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Members are requested

- To note the contents of the report

Contact: Bill Leach, Area Network Representative
Edna Rochester, Area Network Representative
Joanne Laverick, Area Network Representative

Tel No: 0191 5348435
Tel No: 0191 5344707
Tel No: 0191 5238000