

## North Area Committee

21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

### REPORT OF SUNDERLAND VOLUNTARY SECTOR ALLIANCE (SVSA)

#### 1 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The following report provides an update from SVSA for the North Area Committee for the period of October 2023 – February 2024

#### 2 Background

- 2.1 Area Committee agreed that regular updates from SVSA would be provided to 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 October 2023 we have had a busy few months recruiting, inducting and training our new team, together with piloting our offer and ensure robust processes and practices are in place moving forward.
- 3.2 We have achieved Real Living Wage status setting a standard in terms of valuing voluntary sector work force in delivering quality services.
- 3.3 We have recruited our first **Community Volunteer** who has over 20 years' experience working for the National Lottery and Awards for All. This additional support is providing bid writing surgeries for VCSE sector organisations across the city.
- 3.4 In February we launched our free membership for VCSE organisations based or delivering in Sunderland. We have registered **53 members** within a two-week period.

#### 4 Funding and Investment

- 4.1 SVSA has helped secure **£287,500** for Sunderland Voluntary Sector by supporting the completion of funding applications.

#### 5 Sector Support

- 5.1 **33** VCSE organisations have been supported support.

- 3 Social Value opportunities have been delivered.
- 3 Training Events have been hosted with a total of **44 attendees**.
- 2 Networking Events have been hosted with a total of **66 attendees**.

## **6 Communications and Engagement**

- 6.1 In February we presented an overview of the Alliance at Health Integrated Care Board (ICP) Central and raised our profile by highlighted funding priorities which were informed by the Sunderland VCSE sector from across the city.
- 6.2 We have launched our Sunderland **Volunteering** Facebook page and re-launched our SVSA LinkedIn Page.

## **7 Trustee update**

- 7.1 We have successfully appointed a new Independent Chairperson – Sarah Reid together with 2 new trustees Lesley Spuhler from the Foundation of Light and Trish Cornish from Sunderland Mind. We have **11 trustees** with one remaining role we are currently advertising the Treasurer role.

## **8 Future developments**

- 8.1 Following our inaugural Volunteer Network we are developing the format for further networks and a proposal for a Volunteer Passport scheme.
- 8.2 On 20/03/2024 we are facilitating an 'Ageing well' Network Event
- 8.3 March 2024 We will launch quarter 2 Training and Events programme
- 8.4 March/April 2024 Launch Community Transport Grants

### **Contact Officer**

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