

**7<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**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 2017. The West VCSN continues to deliver activities and services which support the Area Committee priorities.
- 3.2 The VCS discussed the proposed West Area Committee priorities for 2017/2018 (People and Place) and their comments are incorporated into the final priorities presented to Area Committee.
- 3.3 At the May meeting, the VCS had an opportunity to learn more about the Prince's Trust and how to refer young people into the course, members were also keen to understand about the work experience opportunities and how they could link in.
- 3.4 The First for Money credit union came along and presented information regarding the services offered, the network were keen to promote the credit union and welcomed the opportunity to understand more.
- 3.5 The VCS network continues to work on making themselves more sustainable and were grateful for the support from the West Area Committee to support their buildings to be more energy efficient. Work is on-going and the successful organisations are keen to see an impact later in the year. Match funding has been secured for two buildings from the Empower Community Fund supported by Gentoo.
- 3.6 The VCS network continues to receive GRANTfinder and NEPO opportunities on a regular basis.

**4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 Members are requested
- To note the contents of the report

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