

21st March 2019

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 twice since the last Area Committee in November 2018.
- The July meeting selected carried out a nomination and selection process for a new VCS Network representative to attend Area Committee on behalf of the Network and Richy Duggan of Sunderland Community Action Group was successful in gaining the nomination.
- January Area VCS Network discussed VCS organisations concerns around the affordability and accessibility of green spaces across the area managed by schools. The Chair of the VCS network, Cllr D. Wilson made a commitment to refer this to Area Committee in order to discuss potential to refer to People Board.
- A Network representative was given the opportunity to attend the Sunderland Neighbourhood Plans – Scoping Workshop and feedback was provided to the Network.
- The Network has received presentations and information in 2018/19 which have included:
 - Details of Activities and Events in the North
 - Details of NEPO Funding Opportunities
 - Details of Grantfinder Funding Opportunities
 - Presentation by Sunderland College – Student Placements within VCS organisations Programme
 - Social Isolation and Loneliness Research Feedback from Public Health
 - Citizens Advice Bureau Presentation
 - Healthwatch Presentation on Care Homes
 - Seascapes Tyne to Tees Shores and Seas presentation
 - Springboard Futures presentation
 - Age UK Front Door Project
 - Assistance Centre Project Update

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
- To consider the request to refer the issue around access to school fields to the People Board

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