

14th November 2018

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 twice times since the last Area Committee in June 2018. The West VCSN continues to deliver activities and services which support the Area Committee priorities.
- 3.2 The VCS worked in partnership with the West Area team to deliver another successful event in Barnes Park this year – Ships Ahoy! which was held in Barnes Park in June. The event was the most well attended event yet. Groups' feedback to the three Area VCS reps, demonstrates that all of those involved enjoyed their days delivering activities and the groups that attended on the Saturday were over joyed with the money raised from their tombola's and stalls.
- 3.3 The VCS are making plans to support West Residents for the year of Green (2019) and the #Iwill campaign. Cultural Spring provided an update at the October meeting about the partnership work they are doing to create community signage and messages to improve behaviours in relation to litter and fly tipping. The signage is being funded by the West Area Committee as part of their clean and green commitment.
- 3.4 The Area Committee Social Isolation Projects continue to be successfully delivered throughout the wards and are being delivered by the VCS to support our more vulnerable communities. The feedback the groups are receiving from residents is positive and plans for future delivery are being considered across the wards.
- 3.5 The West VCS projects who were successful in securing CLLD funding (and West Area Committee SIB match) have met together with the Area Team and the Chair of the West Area Committee to form a strong partnership moving forward and ensure a shared understanding of each project as well as cross-partnership working.
- 3.6 At the September meeting the VCS held a workshop to discuss Clean and Green, Digital Inclusion and upskilling the VCS, the feedback was incorporated into the People and Place reports for Clean and Green and Digital Inclusion. We continue to discuss the topic of upskilling the VCS and hope to feed this back to a future meeting.

- 3.7 The VCS network continues to receive GRANTfinder and NEPO opportunities on a regular basis and the Area Team continues to support the network with funding advice and guidance.

4. Recommendation

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

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