

13th June 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 Members of the Network attended the First Annual VCS Network Event on 21st March 2018 which successfully showcased Area Committees and the VCS working in partnership.
- 3.2 The West AVCSN has met twice since the last Area Committee in March 2018. The West VCSN continues to deliver activities and services which support the Area Committee priorities.
- 3.3 At the March meeting the VCS held a workshop to discuss current and future priorities in the West. These priorities have been incorporated into local area priorities for 18/19.
- 3.4 At the April meeting, the VCS received a presentation on the West Area NEET project and discussion took place on the delivery, targets and methods of referrals.
- 3.5 Sunderland Carers Centre presented information on young carers and the opportunities and support available and how groups could refer and make young carers aware of these opportunities.
- 3.6 The West VCS network continue to be heavily involved in the planning of the West Ship Ahoy! Event, which is taking place in Barnes Park on the 28th, 29th and 30th June 2018.
- 3.7 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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