

11th December 2019**REPORT OF WEST AREA VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR NETWORK****1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The report provides an update with regards 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 are in place 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.
- 2.3 The West VCS Network is made up of over 60 local groups, as well as strategic local/national/regional partners. The network meets in the West on a regular basis to share good practice and support one another. The network feeds into a virtual network and feed into and receives weekly updates as part of an information share.

3. West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (AVCSN) Progress Report

- 3.1 The West VCS network has met twice since the last Area Committee in September 2019. Contact is made regularly with support and advise enabling organisations to deliver as effectively and efficiently as possible across the area. The network continues to deliver activities and services which support the Area Committee priorities and support our communities.
- 3.2 At the September meeting the VCS elected a new Representative. Kelly Brougham – Active Families NE CIC was elected and joins Joanne Laverick and Bill Leach. The network thanked Andrea Lanaghan for the years of support she had offered groups and welcomed Kelly into her new role.
- 3.3 The network received an update on the Neighbourhood Fund project Clean and Green delivered by Sunderland North Community Business Centre. The project is delivering well across the West area and have successfully recruited 4 volunteers.
- 3.4 The network received a presentation on the Sunderland Green and Open Spaces Forum and the groups were encouraged to promote and join if it was relevant.
- 3.5 The West VCS organisations continue to be supported to attract external funding to delivery projects that benefit local residents. The West VCS received training on social media and ICT protocols.
- 3.6 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 as well mentoring board members / trustees and development of sustainability plans to ensure the sector continues to be able to deliver and thrive.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Members are requested

- To note the contents of the report

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