

15th December 2016**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 since the last Area Committee in October 2016. The West VCSN continues to deliver activities and services which support the Area Committee priorities.
- 3.2 The VCS network met in October and discussed the public consultation being held to review the Sunderland City Council library services.
- 3.3 The network received information relating to Sunderland City Council's budget consultation and encouraged their groups and clients to be involved and feed their views into the consultation process.
- 3.4 The VCS members were invited to attend the Health and Wellbeing Mental Health training relating to supporting our young people, delivered by Washington MIND and funded by the West Area Committee. The training was held over 3 days and over 40 members of the VCS attended, a follow up workshop was carried out to support the development of the future call for projects, facilitated by the West Area Arrangements team.
- 3.5 The VCS are working together to plan local environmental campaigns, including litter picks as well as preparing their 2017 plans to enhance and develop the West's 'in bloom' projects and develop new 'in bloom' activities, following the success at the RHS It's your Neighbourhood Awards and the Sunderland In Bloom Awards 2016.
- 3.6 The network continues to receive GRANTfinder opportunities and so far over £40k has been secured in the West.

4. Recommendation

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

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