

19th October 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 June 2016. The West VCSN continue to deliver activities and services which support the Area Committee priorities.
- 3.2 The VCS network in the September meeting discussed ways in which they could work together to be more sustainable, workshops are being planned to include topics such as energy saving ideas, facilities and equipment share and skills.
- 3.3 The VCS members have been working closely with the West Area Community Development Lead, looking into external funding opportunities using GRANTfinder, as well as continuing to work on effective partnership working, with ideas already coming forward such as an equipment share and how to best utilise the assets within the Area.
- 3.4 The VCS have been working on improving the environment with various litter picks, planting and hanging baskets/planters. They have received support from residents, members and the Royal Horticultural Society. Ideas for next year have been discussed and new initiatives are being developed.
- 3.5 The VCS were heavily involved in activities which were delivered at the Road to Rio West Area Event in 2016 and the legacy of the event has seen more groups working in partnership and resources being shared.
- 3.6 At the July VCS network meeting the network elected a new representative and has welcomed Andrea Lanaghan as a new Representative for the West.

4. Recommendation

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

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