

3rd December 2014**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

The West AVCSN has met twice since the last Area Committee in October 2014.

- 3.1 The West VCSN continue to deliver activities and services which support the Area Committee priorities of Streetscene and Environmental improvements, Activities for Young People, Health and Wellbeing, Job Prospects, Skills & Training and Activities for older persons to reduce social isolation.
- 3.2 The VCSN welcomed information regarding Healthwatch Sunderland and how they can work together with them to support mutual priorities. The VCSN were keen to develop an increased understanding of Healthwatch Sunderland, to ensure the communities of the West of Sunderland understand and benefit from the service. Healthwatch will continue to work closely with the VCSN, as well as attend local events and meetings, to continue to raise awareness.
- 3.3 The VCSN received information regarding Housing Renewal. The VCSN welcomed the information on Landlords, accredited Landlord Scheme and the support and advice services available to residents from the Sunderland City Council Housing Renewal Team. The VCSN made links to services available in the community and partnership working with existing services in the community.
- 3.4 Sport and Leisure from within Sunderland Council presented information on their developing plan on a page, linked to the Maximising Greenspaces and improving health and wellbeing. The VCSN were keen to develop projects to support the use of Greenspaces and link with the walks and activities being developed by Sport and Leisure.
- 3.4 The West VCSN continue to support Area Committee within the community and are hosting the Area Events as well as supporting the marketing of the Area Events to local communities and residents.
- 3.5 At the most recent VCSN meeting, the Essence Service presented the new service available to the City and the Library service discussed opportunities for E- Learning.
- 3.6 The VCSN also received the Local Multi Agency Partnership (LMAP's) presentation which was presented to the West People Board in November. The network welcomed this information and discussed opportunities to support the partnership.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Members are requested

- To note the contents of the report

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