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North Area Local Area Partnership Third Sector Update Report

From: Eleanor Campbell (Third Sector Representative)
To: North Area Local Area Partnership Members
Date: Activity to Friday 21 March 2014 included in report

1.0 LOCAL VOLUNTARY SECTOR ACTIVITY UPDATE

1.1 Cumbernauld and North Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network ☺

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire facilitated its latest round of six Voluntary Sector Locality Network events on behalf of North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group during February-March 2014.

A Cumbernauld and North Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network event took place on Friday 21 February 2014 at Cumbernauld New Town Hall, and was attended by 63 delegates. Voluntary Sector Locality Network events are organised twice yearly and enable information sharing, communication and networking across the voluntary sector. The Networks are widely supported by statutory and other partners. The following information sessions took place at the event:

- Short presentations and information sessions from voluntary sector and community organisations (including Volunteer Scotland, Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services, Phoenix Futures, Routes to Work, Friends of the Earth Scotland, Archaeology Scotland, North Lanarkshire Handy Person Service, Alzheimer Scotland, Airdrie Citizens Advice Bureau, Forward Training Partnership, and Scottish Hydro)
- Voluntary Sector Children and Families Network update
- North area local Community Planning update
- Session exploring the changing environment of the voluntary sector and its effects on localities
- Key information round-up for Voluntary Sector Locality Network delegates.

A full report of this event is available upon request by contacting Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on 01236 748011, or via e-mail at info@vanl.co.uk.

1.2 Cumbernauld Organisations Achieve Volunteer Friendly Award ☺

CACE Older People Active Lives and Now You're Talking have become the first two Cumbernauld based organisations to achieve the Volunteer Friendly Award. CACE Older People Active Lives involves volunteers to provide an array of services for older people and carers in the Cumbernauld area, whilst volunteers at Now You're Talking assist Cumbernauld citizens to be emotionally, mentally and physically well.

Volunteer Friendly, introduced in 2012, is a Scotland-wide quality standard which volunteer-involving organisations can achieve through evidencing in detail their excellence and commitment to involving and supporting volunteers. Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire is the local facilitating agency for Volunteer Friendly Awards, with an experienced assessment panel awarding accreditation based on portfolio evidence.

1.3 Scotland's Best Employability Programme Kicks Off in Cumbernauld ☺

Volunteer Scotland, Scotland's national centre for volunteering, has launched delivery of an exciting new youth employability programme in the Cumbernauld area.

Scotland's Best will be delivered to 1,000 young unemployed people aged 16-24 in five local authority regions across Scotland, with the first national delivery now underway at New College Lanarkshire's Cumbernauld campus. The programme combines a tailored package of training and volunteering, with a view to increasing participants' skills, experience and employability. SCQF Level 4 accreditation is achieved through participation.

Participants are offered and supported to undertake at least 20 hours of volunteering as part of Scotland's Best. Many of the volunteering opportunities will tap into sporting and cultural events that Scotland will host in the next two years, including the Ryder Cup.

The Wise Group has been contracted by Volunteer Scotland to lead on delivery in the North Lanarkshire area, with Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire actively supporting the programme and encouraging local participation.

2.0 NORTH LANARKSHIRE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GROUP ACTIVITY

2.1 North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Conference 2014 ⇨

North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Conference 2014 has been scheduled for Wednesday 4 June 2014 at New College Lanarkshire's Coatbridge campus. The Conference provides a valuable annual networking and information sharing opportunity for volunteers, voluntary sector organisations, and other key community partners from across North Lanarkshire.

This year's Conference coincides with UK National Volunteers' Week (1-7 June 2014), and will incorporate a theme of 'Making a Difference'. Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, on behalf of North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group, has established a Conference Planning Group to take organisation of the Conference forward.

2.2 Voluntary Sector Children and Families Network Update ⇨

The Voluntary Sector Children and Families Network, on behalf of North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group, hosted a successful local authority wide special event on Friday 17 January 2014 at Sir John Wilson Town Hall, Airdrie, focussing on children and families structures and connectivity for local voluntary sector organisations.

The event included latest updates for the voluntary sector relating to GIRFEC (Getting It Right For Every Child) (by Colin MacFarlane of Bellshill and Mossend YMCA) and Early Years Collaborative (by Lorraine Fisher of North Lanarkshire Council). North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group has communicated to key partners the voluntary sector's intention to play a key role in local activity relating to the Scottish Government's Early Years Change Fund over the coming period.

2.3 National Review of Voluntary Sector Engagement in Community Planning ⇨

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire is one of three Third Sector Interfaces in Scotland that has been approached by Voluntary Action Scotland to participate in a pilot research programme on behalf of the Scottish Government to explore the voluntary sector's relationship with Community Planning Partnerships across Scotland.

The purpose of the exercise is to derive examples of good practice models of voluntary sector connectivity to Community Planning Partnerships, with a view to sharing this information across the Third Sector Interface Network in Scotland. Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire has agreed to participate and further updates will be provided as the research progresses.

3.0 GLASGOW 2014 COMMONWEALTH GAMES VOLUNTARY SECTOR ACTIVITY

3.1 Support with Recruitment of North Lanarkshire Council Volunteers ⇨

To support Games' events taking place in North Lanarkshire (Triathlon at Strathclyde Country Park and Cycling Time Trial in the Northern Corridor), Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire has

provided support to North Lanarkshire Council with recruiting in excess of 100 volunteers. These volunteers are in addition to several North Lanarkshire volunteers who have already been selected to be 'Clydesiders' (official Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games volunteers).

North Lanarkshire Council roles for the Games include Volunteer Stewards, Volunteer Security Assistants, Volunteer Ambassadors, Volunteer Transport Assistants, Volunteer Information Providers, and Volunteer Field of Play Assistants.

3.2 Selection of Baton Bearers for Queen's Baton Relay in North Lanarkshire ➡

In the lead up to the Games, the Queen's Baton will be carried through North Lanarkshire by over 50 selected volunteers on Monday 23 June 2014. Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire was invited to participate in the judging panel which assessed local nominations for Baton Bearers. A total of 293 nominations were considered by the judging panel, with the top 50 selected nominees guaranteed roles as Baton Bearers.