

Bellshill Local Area Partnership Third Sector Update Report

From: Colin MacFarlane (Third Sector Representative)
To: Bellshill Local Area Partnership Members
Date: Activity to June 2014 included in report

1.0. NORTH LANARKSHIRE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GROUP ACTIVITY

1.1. North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Conference 2014 ⇨

North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group hosted a highly successful North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Conference 2014 on Wednesday 4 June 2014 at New College Lanarkshire's Coatbridge campus. The Conference was attended by 90 delegates and incorporated a theme of Making a Difference.

With national Volunteers' Week, now in its 30th year, taking place from 1-7 June 2014, volunteering was celebrated with 13 local organisations being presented with Volunteer Friendly Awards at the Conference. Volunteer Friendly is a national quality standard which exemplifies excellence in best practice for volunteer-engaging organisations.

The theme of Making a Difference was underlined further as keynote speakers Sandra Mackay, Colin MacFarlane and Laura McKenzie highlighted positive sectoral activity in the areas of Reshaping Care for Older People, Early Years Collaborative, and volunteering at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games respectively.

Kenny Moffat, CEO of Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, provided a local voluntary sector update for attending delegates, whilst a voluntary sector marketplace and four diverse workshops were successfully facilitated.

The day also included a showcasing of success stories from a number of voluntary sector organisations, including Bellshill's Orbison Neighbourhood Centre. A full report of North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Conference 2014 is currently being finalised and will be made available to Bellshill LAP members over the coming period.

1.2. North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Strategy 2013-18: Year One Reflections ⇨

One year on from its official launch at North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Conference 2013, progress made against the objectives of North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Strategy 2013-18 was recently reviewed by North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group. Each of the Strategy's key objectives is highlighted below, with progress to date summarised:

i. Effective Representation

Ensuring that the community and voluntary sector and its representatives are enabled to access all levels of the Community Plan and participate fully in its processes and structures.

- The introduction of a Third Sector Representation Matrix has been an extremely valuable development, enabling recognised monitoring and recording of mandated voluntary sector representation at various strategic partnerships and groups
- Positive voluntary sector participation and representation at the Bellshill LAP has broadened the local voluntary sector's knowledge of and engagement in local Community Planning activities
- Community Planning Partners have acknowledged increased awareness and understanding of the local voluntary sector and its value as a result of bolstered and purposeful voluntary sector representation at strategic partnership level.

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ii. Communication and Engagement

Ensuring that the community and voluntary sector are informed and consulted about Community Planning initiatives and priorities.

- Bellshill Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network events now include information sessions from the Bellshill Third Sector LAP Representative (Colin MacFarlane) and North Lanarkshire Council Regeneration Services Managers
- *Involve*, the quarterly newsletter of Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire which is widely circulated to the local voluntary sector, has been redesigned to include focussed sections on locality and thematic Community Planning activities
- Grassroots voluntary sector organisations and volunteers, as well as being invited to actively engage with Third Sector LAP Representatives, are provided with regular e-bulletins which incorporate Community Planning information updates.

iii. Capacity Building and Collaborative Working

Building the capacity of the community and voluntary sector to develop and deliver services through collaborative working, service level agreements and contractual arrangements across the range of the Community Planning Thematic Priorities.

- The local voluntary sector's collaborative delivery of the Community Capacity Building and Carer Support element of the Reshaping Care for Older People Change Plan has been widely acknowledged as a national model of good practice
- Capacity building of voluntary sector organisations has been significantly enhanced through increased promotion and facilitation of quality standards such as Volunteer Friendly and PQASSO
- The portfolio of organisational development training available for voluntary sector organisations has been diversified, with several new and relevant programmes rolled out for the first time by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire during 2013-14.

iv. Making an Impact

Ensuring that the voluntary and community sector has in place effective monitoring and evaluation arrangements that can be used to gather information and demonstrate the contribution and impact of the sector to the work of the Community Planning Partnership.

- Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire has been mandated to report on wider local voluntary sector activity and objectives within North Lanarkshire Partnership's Single Outcome Agreement and Community Plan for 2013-18
- The Scottish Government's National Community Planning Sub-Group has invited Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire to participate in 'Deep Dive' research into the voluntary sector's connectivity to the Community Planning agenda
- During 2014-15, a new Third Sector National Community Planning Programme will be introduced to research and develop detailed strategies for improving the voluntary sector's participation in Community Planning Partnerships across Scotland.

North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group maintains a reporting template to monitor progress against each of the Strategy's objectives and sub-objectives. North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Strategy 2013-18 is available for download by visiting www.voluntaryactionnorthlanarkshire.org.uk/documents/NLVSS.pdf.

3.0. GENERAL VOLUNTARY SECTOR UPDATES FOR LAP MEMBERS

3.1. North Lanarkshire Council Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Volunteering ⇨

North Lanarkshire Council has entered the final phase of its preparations for involving volunteers to support Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games event delivery taking place within the North Lanarkshire local authority.

Four volunteer training events took place during June 2014, with North Lanarkshire Council and Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire contributing to preparing over 200 local citizens >>

for their various volunteering roles.

North Lanarkshire Council also arranged guided walks around the Strathclyde Country Park venue during May-June 2014 to prepare and advise volunteers scheduled to undertake roles at the Triathlon events taking place on Thursday 24 July 2014 and Saturday 26 July 2014.

Meanwhile, 105 local volunteers experienced an early taste of the spirit of the Games as they proudly participated in the Queen's Baton Relay as it passed through North Lanarkshire on Monday 23 June 2014. The volunteers were selected under specific criteria to acknowledge outstanding work undertaken to support local communities.

3.2. Saltire Award Achievement of Young Volunteers Celebrated ☺

Young volunteers from across the local authority area attended a special North Lanarkshire Saltire Awards Celebration and Presentation event hosted by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire in Wishaw on the evening of Friday 20 June 2014. Saltire Awards is the Scottish Government's national youth volunteering recognition programme, providing certification for 12-25 year-olds in Scotland who give time to volunteering.

Helen Russell, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire, presented Saltire Award certificates to 40 young volunteers at the event. Young volunteers were also entertained with a quiz and a disco on the evening, with Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire adding a focus on making volunteering a lifelong adventure.

3.3. Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire Achieves Investors in People Silver Award ☺

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire has been awarded the coveted Silver Award following Investors in People re-assessment in April 2014, making it in the top 10% of Investors in People organisations in the country.

The organisation previously held Bronze status and reapplied for the same level, but so impressed was the Assessor that an upgrade was provided. The report received from Investors in People praised the organisation's culture, management style and its value for its personnel. As a leading umbrella agency for the local voluntary sector, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire intends to use its Silver Award status to exemplify best practice and encourage other voluntary sector organisations to strive for excellence.