

Coatbridge Area Local Area Partnership Third Sector Update Report

From: North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group
To: Coatbridge Area Local Area Partnership Members
Date: Activity to Friday 21 March 2014 included in report

1.0 LOCAL VOLUNTARY SECTOR ACTIVITY UPDATE

1.1 Coatbridge 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 Coatbridge Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network event took place on Tuesday 11 March 2014 at Coatbridge Baptist Church, and was attended by 36 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, Archaeology Scotland, Airdrie Citizens Advice Bureau, Alzheimer Scotland, Voice of Experience Forum, Police Scotland, Home Energy Scotland, Routes to Work and The Boys' Brigade Lanarkshire)
- Voluntary Sector Children and Families Network update
- Coatbridge 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 Glenboig Neighbourhood House Achieves Volunteer Friendly Award ⇨

Glenboig Neighbourhood House, an organisation which involves volunteers to provide a range of community services and activities for people of all ages in the village of Glenboig, has become the first Coatbridge based organisation to achieve the Volunteer Friendly Award.

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 Employee and Community Volunteers Team Together to Paint Coatbridge CAB ⇨

A unique team of volunteers came together on Friday 7 February 2014 to give a special day's group volunteering, saving a local charity over £1,000 in the process.

Coatbridge Citizens Advice Bureau has for the past 30 years provided free, impartial and confidential advice and representation for members of the public in a range of issues, most

notably welfare benefits, debt, consumer advice, legal matters, and disputes with employers. The service is supported on a weekly basis by committed volunteers who give their time to assist many vulnerable local citizens who contact the Bureau.

For some time, the public waiting area and interview rooms where volunteers meet clients in the Bureau's Fountain Business Centre premises have needed a fresh lick of paint. However, the lack of time available to the ever-busy team and the prospect of forking out a four-figure sum from the charity's tight financial budget to hire painters have limited the organisation's opportunity to get the decorating done.

That was until the Bureau, assisted by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire and three corporate companies, set about compiling a team of volunteers willing to get their hands dirty to blitz the painting and decorating in one action packed and fun day.

The team of handy people was made up of two employees of the Department for Work and Pensions, two staff members from SSE Renewables, one employee of Warburton's Bellshill, and a further three willing members of the Coatbridge community. Each of the companies promote employer supported volunteering, where they allow staff members allocated time off to give something back to the community.

At 8am on the day of the challenge, most of the eight volunteers had never met one another. By 4pm, they had organised themselves as a team, worked hard, had a laugh, and completed all the painting that was required, refreshing the look of the Bureau for volunteers and clients alike.

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.