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North Area Local Area Partnership Third Sector Update Report

AGENDA ITEM No. ... 9 ...

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

1.0. THIRD SECTOR WITHIN COMMUNITY PLANNING ACTIVITY UPDATES

1.1. Cumbernauld and North Area Get Involved in Local Community Planning Event ⇨

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire Council jointly facilitated a Cumbernauld and North Area Get Involved in Local Community Planning: The Voluntary Sector Making a Contribution Event on Thursday 6 November 2014 at Westfield Community Centre, Cumbernauld. The Event was attended by 35 delegates, mostly consisting of third sector organisations and volunteers, with a small number of Community Planning Partners also in attendance.

The purpose of the Event was to provide an opportunity for the local third sector to discuss local issues and identify opportunities for the third sector to make a contribution to the North Area Local Area Team Action Plan on an ongoing basis. A number of issues, opportunities and priorities were identified at the Event, with a summary report currently being finalised for feeding back to participants in January 2015. Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire Council plan to work together over the coming period to facilitate action planning from the feedback received from third sector delegates.

1.2. Third Sector Community Planning Improvement Programme Update ⇨

Significant progress was made during October-December 2014 with delivery of a Third Sector Community Planning Improvement Programme in North Lanarkshire, with a range of events and self-assessment activities facilitated to support the advancement of the local third sector's connectivity, involvement and effectiveness within North Lanarkshire Partnership.

Community Planning Partners and the wider third sector have actively participated in a Self-Assessment Journey, led by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, The Improvement Service and Voluntary Action Scotland, to consider the third sector's participation in North Lanarkshire Partnership, exploring what connectivity exists and works well, and what could be improved.

The Self-Assessment Journey concluded in December 2014, and has resulted in a number of improvement areas being identified by Community Planning Partners and third sector delegates. Six top priority improvement areas have been agreed with a framework outlined for how each improvement area will be actioned. A draft Improvement Plan will be presented to North Lanarkshire Partnership Board on Wednesday 18 February 2015, with a final Improvement Plan scheduled to be in place by Tuesday 31 March 2015. The Improvement Plan is designed to be a North Lanarkshire Partnership owned document from which activity can commence from Wednesday 1 April 2015 onwards. The final Improvement Plan will be available ahead of the North Area Local Area Partnership meeting of April 2015.

1.3. North Area Local Area Partnership Third Sector Rep from 2015-17 ⇨

As reported at the October 2014 North Area Local Area Partnership meeting, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (on behalf of North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group) will facilitate a nomination and ballot process to appoint a Third Sector Representative to the North Area Local Area Partnership for the 2015-17 representative cycle during January-March 2015. It is anticipated that the newly appointed Third Sector Representative will attend the April 2015 Local Area Partnership meeting.

2.0. LOCAL THIRD SECTOR ACTIVITY UPDATE

2.1. Overview of the Local Third Sector's Contribution to the RCOP Change Plan ⇨

A representative of CACE Older People Active Lives is scheduled attend the North Area Local Area Partnership meeting of Thursday 15 January 2015 to provide a summary overview of the Cumbernauld and North area third sector's contribution to the four-year Reshaping Care for Older People Change Plan. CACE Older People Active Lives is the North Area lead organisation in a North Lanarkshire Third Sector Locality Partnership Development Programme for Reshaping Care for Older People delivery.

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire is currently working with key partners to prepare the local third sector for active participation in the Health and Social Care Integration agenda from 2015. Meanwhile, the third sector's highly successful contribution to the Change Plan in North Lanarkshire continues to be a source of interest to national partners, with a case study recently requested by and submitted to the National Community Planning Group as part of a 'deep dive' study on community engagement and co-production in Scotland.

2.2. Scottish Spina Bifida Association Achieves Volunteer Friendly Award ⇨

Scottish Spina Bifida Association, a national organisation which involves volunteers to provide dedicated services, training and projects for those affected by spina bifida and hydrocephalus, has become the third Cumbernauld based organisation to achieve the Volunteer Friendly Award.

Volunteer Friendly 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.

The other Cumbernauld based organisations that currently hold Volunteer Friendly status are CACE Older People Active Lives and Now You're Talking (Mental Health Support Group).

2.3. Third Sector Employability Network Activity ⇨

North Lanarkshire Third Sector Employability Network is currently developing a third sector position paper on employability to accompany the new North Lanarkshire Employability Strategy. This position paper will highlight where the third sector is currently engaged in employability activity and supports, and the potential for future positive and valuable employability contributions from the third sector.