

Bellshill Local Area Partnership Third Sector Update Report

From: North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group
To: Bellshill Local Area Partnership Members
Date: Activity to March 2015 included in report

1.0. THIRD SECTOR WITHIN COMMUNITY PLANNING ACTIVITY UPDATES

1.1. Bellshill Local Area Partnership Third Sector Representative from 2015-17 ⇨

A transparent process (facilitated by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on behalf of North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group) to identify and appoint a Third Sector Representative to Bellshill Local Area Partnership for the period 2015-17 had reached its concluding stages at the time of report submission, with the newly appointed Third Sector Representative expected to be in place ahead of the Bellshill Local Area Partnership meeting of April 2015.

Full details of a nomination and appointment process were circulated widely to third sector organisations and volunteers in the Bellshill area during January 2015, with expressions of interest invited over a six-week period prior the closing date for nominations of Friday 20 February 2015.

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire will formally communicate with the Convenor of Bellshill Local Area Partnership prior to the upcoming meeting to inform of the newly appointed Third Sector Representative. North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group records its thanks to Colin MacFarlane for undertaking the Third Sector Representative role for the period 2013-15.

1.2. Third Sector Community Planning Improvement Programme Update ⇨

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire has published a draft version of North Lanarkshire Partnership's key final product from the Third Sector Community Planning Improvement Programme in North Lanarkshire, entitled *A Framework for Third Sector Connectivity to Community Planning in North Lanarkshire 2015-18*.

As previously reported, a comprehensive self-assessment process involving Community Planning Partners and third sector delegates had been facilitated by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, supported by The Improvement Service and Voluntary Action Scotland, during September-December 2014 to identify priority improvement areas for advancing third sector connectivity to Community Planning in North Lanarkshire. The following six priority improvement areas were identified through self-assessment:

- ◆ Developing a database or directory of third sector and Community Planning Partnership services
- ◆ Strengthening the third sector's locality and thematic approach within Community Planning
- ◆ Assessing and measuring the impact of the third sector in communities
- ◆ Building the capacity of the third sector to engage in Community Planning
- ◆ Improving reporting and information sharing between the third sector and Community Planning Partners
- ◆ Developing an asset register of third sector and Community Planning Partnership resources.

An Improvement Plan outlining strategies and actions for taking forward the six priority

improvement areas (and additional and miscellaneous improvement areas) has been incorporated into the draft *Framework* publication. Ensuring strong third sector engagement and participation within Local Area Partnerships is acknowledged as highly important within the Improvement Plan. The draft *Framework* was presented to and provisionally endorsed by North Lanarkshire Partnership Board on Wednesday 18 February 2015.

As well as detailing an Improvement Plan for advancing third sector connectivity to Community Planning over the next three years, the draft *Framework* also includes a number of recommendations, proposals and tools for initiating delivery of the Improvement Plan. A first phase impact assessment of the third sector in North Lanarkshire, aligned to North Lanarkshire Partnership's themes of community safety, health and wellbeing, lifelong learning and regeneration, is also featured in the draft *Framework*.

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire is seeking the support of all Community Planning Partners and third sector organisations in preparation for the *Framework* becoming operational in April 2015. The draft *Framework* can be downloaded from the following web link: www.voluntaryactionnorthlanarkshire.org.uk/documents/AFrameworkforThirdSectorConnectivitytoCommunityPlanninginNorthLanarkshire2015-18draft.pdf. For further information or enquiries relating to the draft *Framework*, contact Craig Russell at Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on 01236 748011 or e-mail craig.russell@vanl.co.uk.

1.3. Bellshill 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 2015.

A Bellshill Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network Event was hosted on Tuesday 3 March 2015 at Bellshill Cultural Centre, Bellshill. The Event was well supported, with attendance consisting mainly of members of third sector organisations, volunteers, and other key partners in the community. The following information sessions / discussion items were hosted at the Event:

- ◆ Introduction to draft *Framework for Third Sector Connectivity to Community Planning in North Lanarkshire 2015-18 (by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire)*
- ◆ Update on integration of third sector feedback into Bellshill Local Area Team Action Plan following the Bellshill Get Involved in Local Community Planning: The Voluntary Sector Making a Contribution Event of October 2014 *(by North Lanarkshire Council)*
- ◆ Third Sector progress in relation to the Reshaping Care for Older People Change Plan, Health and Social Care Integration, and Early Years Collaborative *(by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire)*
- ◆ Overview of the Lord Lieutenancy for Lanarkshire and establishing links with the local third sector *(by Lord Lieutenancy for Lanarkshire)*
- ◆ A range of short presentations / information sessions delivered by third sector organisations and Community Planning Partners
- ◆ Key information update for third sector organisations and volunteers *(by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire)*.

At the time of report submission, a full report of the Event was being prepared and will be made available on Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire's website in the coming weeks (at www.voluntaryactionnorthlanarkshire.org.uk). The Bellshill Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network continues to act as a highly successful vehicle for information sharing, communication and networking across the third sector in the local area. The excellent support which Community Planning Partners provide to the Network on an ongoing basis is extremely valuable.

1.4. North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Conference 2015 ⇨

The annual Conference of the third sector in North Lanarkshire has been scheduled to take place on Tuesday 2 June 2015 at The Jim Foley Community Centre, Craigneuk, Motherwell.

This year's staging of North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Conference, which is hosted by North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group on behalf of North Lanarkshire Partnership, coincides with National Volunteers' Week 2015 and will have a theme of 'Valuing the Voluntary Sector'. For full Conference details and booking information, contact Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on 01236 748011 or e-mail info@vanl.co.uk.

2.0. LOCAL THIRD SECTOR ACTIVITY UPDATE

2.1. Bellshill Volunteers Achieve Saltire Award Certification ⇨

Fifteen young volunteers of North Lanarkshire Council's Bellshill Community Learning and Development team were recently recognised for their contribution to the community through the Scottish Government's Saltire Awards programme.

Saltire Awards is the national programme for recognising young people aged 12-25 who give time to volunteering in Scotland. As part of the programme, young volunteers are certificated for the number of hours volunteering they undertake, with awards made on completion of 10, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 500 hours volunteering. A Challenge Award is also available to recognise team volunteering activities, and a Summit Award can be presented to those who achieve exceptional accomplishments through their volunteering.

The young volunteers at Bellshill Community Learning and Development received Saltire Awards ranging from 25-hour certificates to 200-hour certificates for helping lead groups where young people can learn new skills, build confidence, and have fun in a safe and friendly environment.

Meanwhile, young volunteers from local organisations Befriend in Bellshill and Bellshill Sharks Amateur Swimming Club also achieved Saltire Award recognition in early 2015.

2.2. Third Sector Preparing for Contributions to Key Scottish Government Agendas ⇨

As the Scottish Government's Third Sector Interface, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire is currently working with the third sector in locality areas to lay the foundations for successful third sector contributions to a number of key Scottish Government agendas in 2015-16.

Co-produced activity is underway to develop and implement appropriate third sector infrastructures relating to the upcoming Integration of Health and Social Care, Early Years Collaborative, Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill, employability, and inequalities during the operational year. For further information, contact Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on 01236 748011 or e-mail info@vanl.co.uk.

2.3. New Chair and Vice Chair Appointed by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire ⇨

June Vallance has been appointed as the new Chair of Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire following the decision of former Chair Francis Fallan MBE to retire from the organisation's Board of Directors in February 2015.

June, who is Executive Manager of third sector organisation Getting Better Together Ltd, brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the role of Chair, having been a founding member of the organisation and Vice Chair since its inception in 2010. Colin MacFarlane, Association Manager at Bellshill and Mossend YMCA, has been appointed as new Vice Chair.