

# Coatbridge Local Area Partnership Third Sector Update Report

**From:** North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group  
**To:** Coatbridge Local Area Partnership Members  
**Date:** Activity to June 2015 included in report

## 1.0. THIRD SECTOR WITHIN COMMUNITY PLANNING ACTIVITY UPDATES

### 1.1. Coatbridge Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network ⇄

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, on behalf of North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group, will facilitate its latest round of Voluntary Sector Locality Network Events for third sector organisations, volunteers and relevant partners of the third sector during August-September 2015.

The Coatbridge Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network Event is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 16 September 2015 at Coatbridge Community Centre from 6.00pm-9.00pm. An invitation is extended to Community Planning Partners, with an agenda for this Event to be released in early August 2015. For further information or to confirm attendance, contact Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on 01236 748011 or e-mail [info@vanl.co.uk](mailto:info@vanl.co.uk).

### 1.2. Third Sector Community Planning Improvement Programme Update ⇄

North Lanarkshire Partnership's Third Sector Community Planning Improvement Plan 2015-18 (contained within the publication *A Framework for Third Sector Connectivity to Community Planning in North Lanarkshire 2015-18*) is now operational following a successful local Third Sector Community Planning Improvement Programme delivered during 2014-15. The Improvement Plan is centred around six priority improvement areas for advancing the third sector's connectivity to Community Planning in North Lanarkshire.

To support Year 1 implementation of the Improvement Plan, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire has committed resources to appoint an Improvement, Communication and Information Manager (Craig Russell) for 2015-16. Based on the outcomes contained within the Improvement Plan, a comprehensive Workplan for Year 1 implementation has been produced. North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group has appointed a new Improvement Sub-Group to strategically guide and monitor Improvement Plan progress over the next three years.

The Improvement Plan has received an overwhelmingly positive reception from the national Third Sector Interface Network, with a number of Third Sector Interfaces establishing contact with Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire to seek advice and further information relating to third sector structures within Community Planning in North Lanarkshire. Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire recently shared its positive improvement planning experience at a national Public Sector Improvement Framework Learning and Networking Event (hosted by The Improvement Service) on Thursday 18 June 2015 at St Mungo's Museum, Glasgow, and within a designated workshop at the National Community Planning Conference on Friday 26 June 2015 at Strathclyde University, Glasgow. For further information relating to Improvement Plan progress or activity, contact Craig Russell at Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on 01236 748011 or e-mail [craig.russell@vanl.co.uk](mailto:craig.russell@vanl.co.uk).

### 1.3. Strong Local Participation in North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Conference ⇄

A number of third sector organisations and volunteers from the Coatbridge area were amongst 90 delegates participating in a highly successful North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Conference 2015 at The Jim Foley Community Centre, Craigneuk, Motherwell, on Tuesday 2 June 2015.

The theme of the Conference, which was facilitated by North Lanarkshire Partnership Board Third Sector Representatives June Vallance and Francis Fallan MBE, was valuing the voluntary sector. Keynote speakers Alex Neil MSP (Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights), Gavin Whitefield (North Lanarkshire Council) and Janice Hewitt (North Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Integration Partnership) underlined the Conference theme by emphasising the importance of the role of volunteers and third sector organisations within local communities. Kenny Moffat, CEO of Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, echoed the sentiments of the keynote speakers in his address to delegates, highlighting the significant contribution that the third sector makes to local health and wellbeing, community safety, lifelong learning and regeneration.

Hosted during National Volunteers' Week 2015, 13 third sector organisations were presented with Volunteer Friendly Awards at the Conference following a thorough assessment of their volunteer-involving policies and procedures over the last twelve months. The Volunteer Friendly Award is a national quality standard which recognises organisations who have evidenced excellent practice in involving volunteers. Coatbridge Citizens Advice Bureau (Coatbridge) and The Safety Zone (Bargeddie) were amongst the achieving organisations to be presented with Volunteer Friendly accreditation by Mr Neil.

The Conference also incorporated an informative overview of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Sector by Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire John Brown, a third sector market place, and funding workshops delivered by The Big Lottery Fund, The Robertson Trust, Baird Watson Charitable Trust, and Asda.

## **2.0. LOCAL THIRD SECTOR ACTIVITY UPDATE**

### **2.1. Third Sector Locality Infrastructure for Health and Social Care Integration ↻**

The local third sector's transition from delivering key objectives of the Reshaping Care for Older People Change Plan to supporting the implementation of Health and Social Care Integration is advancing well, with a strategic framework for Community Capacity Building and Carer Support currently being finalised.

Glenboig Neighbourhood House has been installed as the locality lead organisation for coordinating and supporting third sector activity relating to Health and Social Care Integration in the Coatbridge area. The organisation, which represents Coatbridge within a Community Capacity Building and Carer Support Third Sector Locality Partnership Development Programme, is currently operating to a 'Transition Programme' which will see key thematic areas and interventions being introduced and progressed on a staged basis during 2015-16.

### **2.2. Launch of Voluntary Sector Dementia Network ↻**

A new Voluntary Sector Dementia Network, introduced by North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group as part of the Third Sector Community Planning Improvement Plan 2015-18, was launched on Thursday 25 June 2015 at One Wellwynd Social Enterprise Centre, Airdrie.

The purpose of the launch Event, which was attended by over 50 delegates, was to bring together third sector organisations with an interest in dementia to discuss and share key information and establish partnership links. Alzheimer Scotland, a leading national charity which supports people with dementia and their carers, and Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire co-facilitated the Event.

The Network has been developed on the back of extremely positive local partnership activity in the field of dementia in recent years, which has seen the rise of Dementia Friendly Communities and the introduction of several local dementia cafes. A number of Coatbridge based third sector organisations, including Glenboig Neighbourhood House and Lanarkshire Deaf Services, actively supported the launch Event.

The launch incorporated valuable information sessions from third sector organisations who support action on dementia, including ASH Scotland, The Link Group, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Football Museum and Shelter Scotland. Several useful partnership links were established on the day, and the Network has agreed to facilitate an e-mail contact forum and host its next Event later in the year.

### **2.3. Third Sector Locality Profile for Coatbridge Area ↻**

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire has produced an updated 2015 summary profile (A3 map) of the third sector in the Coatbridge area. The profile outlines Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire research indicating that 280 third sector organisations listed premises in the Coatbridge area as their main address as at March 2015, with an estimated total 1300 third sector organisations, including a high proportion of local authority wide and national agencies, having a footprint in the Coatbridge area.

The summary profile highlights that from January 2014 to December 2014, 220 new volunteers from the Coatbridge area were successfully matched with local volunteering opportunities through support provided by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire. During the same period, 135 volunteering opportunities located in the Coatbridge area were promoted, with the most common types of opportunity available being working with children and young people and working in a health or care setting. Notable volunteering activity facilitated by statutory partners, including NHS Lanarkshire (for example at Coathill Hospital) and North Lanarkshire Council (mainly through Active Schools North Lanarkshire, Community Learning and Development, North Lanarkshire Shopmobility and secondary schools), is also detailed in the profile.

Partners can request a copy of the A3 summary profile by contacting Craig Russell at Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on 01236 748011 or via e-mail at [craig.russell@vanl.co.uk](mailto:craig.russell@vanl.co.uk).

### **2.4. Coatbridge Organisation Hosts BBC Children in Need in North Lanarkshire ↻**

Parent Action For Safe Play, a Coatbridge organisation which develops and improves play, youth and sports services for local children and young people, was the host venue for a BBC Children in Need grants programme information session in North Lanarkshire on Monday 29 June 2015.

Through the support of local volunteers and funders such as BBC Children in Need, Parent Action For Safe Play has been successful in establishing a state-of-the-art play area in the heart of the Kirkshaws community. The organisation also provides street play services in several local neighbourhoods, bringing play workers and play equipment to the children.

The information session encouraged local organisations that support disadvantaged children and young people to apply for BBC Children in Need grants and benefit just as Parent Action For Safe Play has. Third sector organisations working with those aged 18 and under who are deprived as a result of illness, distress, abuse, neglect, disability, poverty or behavioural / psychological difficulties are eligible to apply to the fund. The Main Grants programme provides awards ranging from £10,000 to £120,000, whilst a Small Grants Programme funds activity between £100 and £10,000.