

Third Sector Update Report

From: Colin MacFarlane (Third Sector Representative)
To: Bellshill Local Area Partnership Members
Date: Activity to June 2015 included in report

1.0. THIRD SECTOR WITHIN COMMUNITY PLANNING ACTIVITY UPDATES

1.1. Bellshill 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 Bellshill Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network Event is scheduled to take place on Thursday 10 September 2015 at Bellshill Cultural Centre from 1.00pm-4.00pm. 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.

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.

1.3. Strong Local Participation in North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Conference ↻

A number of third sector organisations and volunteers from the Bellshill 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. Active4All's Yooz project, a Bellshill based social enterprise which recycles and reuses surplus materials from construction companies, civil engineers, local councils and the general public to make products and sell on at low cost, was one of 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, BairdWatson 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.

Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre has been installed as the locality lead organisation for coordinating and supporting third sector activity relating to Health and Social Care Integration in the Bellshill area. The organisation, which represents Bellshill 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 Bellshill based third sector organisations, including Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre and Enable

Scotland, 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 the Bellshill Area ↻

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire has produced an updated 2015 summary profile (A3 map) of the third sector in the Bellshill area. The profile outlines Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire research indicating that 164 third sector organisations listed premises in the Bellshill area as their main address as at March 2015, with an estimated total 1100 third sector organisations, including a high proportion of local authority wide and national agencies, having a footprint in the Bellshill area.

The summary profile highlights that from January 2014 to December 2014, 119 new volunteers from the Bellshill area were successfully matched with local volunteering opportunities through support provided by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire. During the same period, 86 volunteering opportunities located in the Bellshill 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 Bellshill Community Health Clinic) and North Lanarkshire Council (mainly through Active Schools North Lanarkshire, Community Learning and Development, and 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.

2.4. New Activity Supporting Children and Families Affected by Substance Misuse ↻

As part of the local third sector's contribution to Scottish Government's Early Years Collaborative agenda, an exciting new third sector locality programme has been launched in Bellshill to support children and families affected by substance misuse.

The programme aims to strengthen and develop services provided by local third sector organisations for children and families implicated by drug or alcohol addictions. Bellshill and Mossend YMCA, an organisation with vast experience of facilitating interventions in this field, is the lead agency for developing the programme in the Bellshill area.

As local Third Sector Interface, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire is strategically supporting and guiding the programme. The programme has been endorsed by North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Children and Families Network.

2.5. Bellshill Company Leading the Way in Employer Supported Volunteering ↻

Teams of employee volunteers from Virgin Media's customer contact centre in Bellshill have made a significant difference to local communities by completing 13 major volunteering tasks so far during 2015.

Tasks completed have included painting the premises of a number of women's refuge centres in Cumbernauld, a garden tidy at Ladywell Primary School in Motherwell, and enhancing a derelict ping area in Airdrie to enable local families to enjoy the countryside.

For many years, Virgin Media has championed an employer supported volunteering programme where staff are encouraged to take a day off work each year to participate in a volunteering activity to help their community.