

North Area Local Area Partnership Third Sector Update Report

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From: Adam Smith (Third Sector Representative)
To: North Area Local Area Partnership Members
Date: Activity to June 2015 included in report

AGENDA ITEM No. 9

1.0. THIRD SECTOR WITHIN COMMUNITY PLANNING ACTIVITY UPDATES

1.1. Cumbernauld and North 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 Cumbernauld and North Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network Event is scheduled to take place on Friday 18 September 2015 at Cumbernauld New Town Hall, from 9.30am-12.30pm. 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 Cumbernauld and North 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. Cumbernauld based organisations Friends of CACE and Scottish Spina Bifida Association were two of the organisations who were 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.

CACE Older People Active Lives has been installed as the locality lead organisation for coordinating and supporting third sector activity relating to Health and Social Care Integration in the North area. The organisation, which represents North area 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 Cumbernauld and North area based third sector organisations, including CACE Older People Actives Lives and The Alpha Project, 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 North Area ⇨

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire has produced an updated 2015 summary profile (A3 map) of the third sector in the North area. The profile outlines Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire research indicating that 390 third sector organisations listed premises in the North 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 North area.

The summary profile highlights that from January 2014 to December 2014, 281 new volunteers from the North area were successfully matched with local volunteering opportunities through support provided by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire. During the same period, 155 volunteering opportunities located in the North 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 Kilsyth Victoria Cottage Hospital) 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. Cumbernauld Community Benefits from Employer Supported Volunteering ⇨

Teams of employee volunteers from Virgin Media have made a significant difference to local organisations and citizens in the Cumbernauld area by undertaking several major volunteering tasks over the last few months.

Tasks completed have included painting the premises of a number of women's refuge centres in Cumbernauld, house and garden DIY work for Cumbernauld clients of North Lanarkshire Women's Aid, painting and tidying the garden of a cottage within the grounds of Watch Us Grow at Palacerigg Country Park, and various team challenges to support the Craighalbert Centre and North Lanarkshire Care and Repair.

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.

2.5. Local Third Sector Organisations Activity Updates ⇨

As always, third sector organisations continue to positively contribute towards Community Planning in the North area. Here's some key updates on current local organisational activity:

CACE Older People Active Lives

CACE Older People Active Lives is a Cumbernauld-based organisation which provides a range of services for older people and their carers in the local area. The organisation supports 250+ service users weekly and has a team of 14 staff members and 86 volunteers. The following support services and activities are operational:

Day support service

This service is attended by 67 of the area's most frail and vulnerable older people each week, often referred by the Locality Planning Group.

Befriending

CACE Older People Active Lives provides befriending services for 62 people weekly, including 45 who receive one-to-one visits from a volunteer, 15 who are supported by attending activity groups and two who receive telephone befriending support.

OPALS (Older People, Active Lives)

The following groups currently operate on a weekly basis through the OPALS service:

- On a Monday, 'Savvy Seniors' meets from 1.30pm-4.30pm, with 14 people meeting up to chat, use PCs, receive support using tablets and mobile phones, work on a novel, and all sorts of other activities to help them feel less lonely
- On a Wednesday from 5pm-8pm, approximately 10-12 people in the 'Supper Club' meet and go out for dinner
- A Drama Group takes place on a Thursday from 10am-12noon, with eight people working on a drama performance (and have written a song to celebrate CACE@25)
- An eight-week Art Group meets on a Thursday from 1.30pm-3.30pm, with 10 people attending to learn tricks and tips to improve their artistic skills (the Group is working on a large painting to celebrate CACE@25)
- A Digital Inclusion Group meets on Friday's from 1.30pm-3.30pm, with older people attending for six weeks to learn the basics of tablets, kindles, mobile phones, and how to use them to link with others (a more structured Group than that 'Savvy Seniors').

Men's Shed

The Men's Shed meets on a Monday and Tuesday from 10am-12noon, with 30 men attending to socialise, play pool, fix bikes, restore pieces of furniture, etc. The Men's Shed will be moving to a proper unit in the near future.

Sporting Memories

A group of 20 men with a dementia diagnosis meet up on Tuesday and Wednesday's from 1.30pm-3.30pm and use sport as a memory prompt to help with reminiscence.

Community Transport

CACE Older People Active Lives has four minibuses which are available to hire through a Community Transport Scheme. The organisation is a member of the North Lanarkshire wide Community Transport Consortium, and currently has six member groups who regularly use the Scheme to take older people for shopping, days out, theatre visits, etc. Approximately 30 older people use the service each week.

Volunteer Recruitment Drive

The organisation is always keen to recruit new volunteers, and the Volunteer Coordinator is about to start another major recruitment drive. In particular, Volunteer Befrienders are currently required, with Volunteer Community Transport Driver and Passenger Assistants also being sought.

Training

CACE Older People Active Lives offers a selection of training courses for both staff and volunteers, including First Aid (the latest round has just been completed with another delivery scheduled for later in the year), Food Safety, General Induction and Health and Safety for new volunteers. The latest provision of the six-week accredited Dementia Awareness Training is about to commence for volunteers, with new staff about to start a six-month accredited course. Further information about the training can be accessed by contacting Ann Jones at CACE Older People Active Lives on 01236 451393.

Alzheimer Scotland

Alzheimer Scotland provides an opportunity for people living with dementia and their carers

to meet others touched by dementia in a relaxed, friendly environment in the Carrickstone (Wetherspoons) on the last Wednesday of each month from 10.30am-12noon.

Abronhill Girl Guides and Sacred Heart Church are two of the local organisations to be 'Dementia Friends'.

Sanctuary Cumbernauld

Sanctuary Cumbernauld is a housing association based in Cumbernauld. It currently owns and manages housing stock in the six areas of the town of Cumbernauld, renting around 1730 homes. Here's some key updates relating to Sanctuary Cumbernauld activity:

Millcroft Residents

Two meetings of Millcroft residents were recently facilitated, and activity is underway to increase the interest from Millcroft residents. A community clean-up is being planned and the third sector is keen to involve Carbrain and Hillcrest Community Council and the Cumbernauld Environmental Society in this activity. Discussions are ongoing regarding North Lanarkshire Council supporting a bulk uplift day.

Police Scotland and NHS Lanarkshire's Improvement Senior are coming to meet the Millcroft Residents Group to discuss local issues and assist as required. Police Scotland are especially keen to form stronger links with the community in Millcroft. Rosalyn Griffiths of North Lanarkshire Council Regeneration Services is scheduled to meet the Group in July 2015.

Carbrain Primary School

There are two red blaze pitches near Carbrain Primary School, with one being regenerated by North Lanarkshire Council and the other being developed into a new facility. NHS Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire Council Regeneration Services have spoken to local parents and pupils regarding this, with a number of options being considered. Community Investment is keen to support this through the MORE Fund.

Community Learning and Development Services Available to Tenants

North Lanarkshire Council Community Learning and Development provides a range of accessible training programmes for residents in the North area. Adult Literacy and Numeracy provision is a high priority and it is hoped that information about available courses (including computing courses and cooking course) can be shared with new tenants.

A list of key information is being prepared to provide to new tenants, with follow up to take place at a later date to gauge if tenants are interested in participating in any training or services available. This approach is being piloted with new tenants initially with a view to building strong relations with North Lanarkshire Council Community Learning and Development.

Consultation

Through partnership with Cumbernauld Living Landscape, the third sector is planning to engage Sanctuary Cumbernauld tenants in a consultation about the Cumbernauld area to inform future projects. Housing Officers are asked to support this activity by identifying residents that would be willing to take part in a short survey, and the third sector will follow through on this activity by engaging residents thereafter. Ideally, 50+ residents will be engaged during the consultation process in August-September 2015.

Grand Ideas and Moneybox Funding Schemes

Several third sector organisations are in the process of seeking support from Sanctuary Housing's Grand Ideas and Moneybox Fund, including House of Bread, Drop-In Café, Cumbernauld YMCA-YWCA, and Cumbernauld Environmental Society (application for tree-planting days at the Peace Garden).

Beautiful Scotland

Beautiful Scotland is an annual competition which supports community groups across Scotland to improve and enhance their local environment. Only three groups have entered this year's competition, two of which are from the North Area (Cumbernauld Environmental Society (entering on behalf of Cumbernauld town) and Condorrat Tenants and Residents Association).

Cumbernauld was successful in winning the Best Small City trophy two years ago and this win generated positive media coverage locally and nationally, as well as promoting community spirit and civic pride.

Strathcarron Hospice

Strathcarron Hospice, which provides palliative care services to those from Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and further afield, received a royal visit on Thursday 2 July 2015 when Princess Anne, The Princess Royal, visited the Hospice's Denny site to meet with staff, residents, volunteers and fundraisers.

Meanwhile, the Hospice's *@ Home* service is also a finalist in this year's National Lottery Awards. The service is competing with six other projects from throughout the UK for Best Health Project. Winners will be invited to appear on national television and take home a £2,000 cash prize for their project.