

Third Sector Update Report

From: Colin MacFarlane (Third Sector Representative)
To: Bellshill Local Area Partnership Members
Date: Activity to September 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, facilitated its latest round of 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 took place on Thursday 10 September 2015 at the Bellshill Cultural Centre, John Street, Bellshill, from 1.00pm - 3.45pm.

The event was attended by 31 representatives of local third sector and community organisations and relevant partners.

Information Sessions included updates on:

VANL – PQASSO (Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations)

Home Energy Scotland – Energy Saving Opportunities

Police Scotland – Wrap Programme, 3rd Party Reporting & Youth Volunteering

Bellshill & Mossend – Early Years Collaborative

Routes to Work – Action Lone Parents

Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre - Health & Social Care Integration Update

VANL – Voluntary Sector Updates

The Voluntary Sector Locality Networks continue 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 Networks on an ongoing basis is extremely valuable.

At the time of writing, a full report of the Event is being prepared and will be made available on VANL's website at: www.voluntaryactionnorthlanarkshire.org.uk.

For further 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 Voluntary Sector Children and Families Network

The Voluntary Sector Children and Families Network operates as a sub-group of the Voluntary Sector Partnership Group. The group meets quarterly, with the next scheduled meeting taking place in November.

At the most recent meeting held in August on 18 representatives from voluntary and community organisations providing services to children and families across North Lanarkshire, were provided with an overview of the Children and Young Peoples (Scotland) Act with a focus on implications for the Third Sector.

The Network is currently seeking nominations for representatives from members of the Children and Families Network to represent the Network at their local CLPG meetings

Further information available from Sharon Bissett (VANL) Tel: 01236 748011 / sharon.bissett@vanl.co.uk

2.2 NL Voluntary Sector Dementia Network

The North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Dementia Network is now established and the first meeting took place in June 2015. 48 organisations were represented and expressed an interest in ongoing membership of Network

Existing connectivity was recognised and used as a foundation for development of the Network.

The next meeting of the Network will take place in November 2015

Further details available from Craig Russell (VANL) Tel: 01236 748011 / craig.russell@vanl.co.uk

2.3 Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill explored new ways for communities to take ownership and do things for themselves

The Bill is now an Act of Parliament, having received Royal Assent in July 2015

The Act includes sections on participation requests to improve public services, asset transfer requests to allow communities to take ownership of land and buildings

and proposals for increased community involvement in Community Planning

Guidance documents are expected later this year to provide further information on

how the new legislation will be implemented and the Sector is keen to learn what will be required to participate and benefit from the new opportunities that the Act creates.

2.4 CSV Make A Difference Day / International Volunteers Day

This year, Make a Difference Day will take place on 24th October 2015

This day of activity provides people across the country with the opportunity to get involved in their local community (individually or in groups)

Anything goes – the more fun, the better!

International Volunteers Day: 5th Dec 2015

Designated by the UN in 1985 as an international observance day to celebrate the power and potential of volunteering. This day of celebration provides an opportunity for volunteers, and volunteer organisations, to raise awareness of volunteering.

2.5 VANL Training Programme (Aug – Dec 2015)

VANL August – December 2015 training programme is now available

In the majority of cases, training is free of charge to VANL members (VANL is offering organisations free membership during 2015 / 2016)

Topics include Effective Minute Taking, Committee Skills, various IT courses and Introduction to Volunteer Management.

More details are available by contacting VANL's Central Office on 01236 748011 / info@vanl.co.uk

2.6 North Lanarkshire to Host British Transplant Games in August 2017

The British Transplant Games will take place in North Lanarkshire over 4 days in August 2017

More than 750 competitors - all of whom have received lifesaving transplants – will take part in about 17 sports

Athletics will be staged at Wishaw Sports Centre and swimming at the Sir Matt Busby Sports Complex in Bellshill

The Games are being organised on behalf of the charity Transplant Sport and sponsored by not-for-profit health insurer Westfield Health and are expected to attract 1,500 spectators.

3.0 Third Sector Preparing for Contribution to Key Scottish Government Agenda

3.1 North Lanarkshire Third Sector Employability Network – Scotland's Future Employability Support Services Consultation

The next Network meeting will be a facilitated session on 2nd October 2015 at VANL Community Hub – Wishaw, to allow a joint response from the Network on the Scottish Government's discussion paper "Scotland's Future Employability Support Service".

The Network will collate a response based on the views and opinions of the members to the questions the Scottish Government wishes to consult on and submit this by the 9 October 2015 deadline.

Further details available from Michelle Thomson (VANL) Tel: 01236 748011/
michelle.thomson@vanl.co.uk