

North Area Local Area Partnership Third Sector Update Report

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

1.0. THIRD SECTOR WITHIN COMMUNITY PLANNING ACTIVITY UPDATES

1.1. Cumbernauld & North 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 Cumbernauld & North Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network Event took place on Friday 18 September 2015 at Cumbernauld New Town Hall, Bron Way, Cumbernauld from 9.30am -12.15pm.

The event was attended by 35 representatives of local third sector and community organisations and relevant partners.

Information Sessions included updates on:

PALS – The Work of Pals

NHS – Living it Up Website

Home Energy Scotland – Energy Saving Opportunities

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

Revival FM – Community Radio

CACE - 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. Strathcarron Hospice

Strathcarron Hospice have recently won a National Lottery Award for their Hospice @ Home service, supporting terminally ill patients who choose to stay at home in the local area during the late stages of their illness. Strathcarron Hospice received a cash prize and also appeared on a nationally televised programme on Monday 21st September.

2.2 Sanctuary Cumbernauld

Sanctuary Cumbernauld, the largest housing association operating within the North Area, have been continuing to support local organisations and community groups. Some of their latest work includes:

- On-going support of the newly constituted Millcroft Action Group. This recently included the delivery of a community clean-up event involving McDonalds, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Sanctuary Cumbernauld, and North Lanarkshire Council as well as local volunteers and the Community Council. There were over 50 volunteers who took part in the event on the day.
- Development of a community consultation in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council Community Learning and Development and Cumbernauld Living Landscape. The aim of this consultation is to gauge opinions on where Sanctuary Cumbernauld should be focusing future community investment to ensure it reflects the needs and aspirations of the local community.
- Development of employability opportunities around the on-going large-scale new housing developments. This is being done in partnership with Action for Children and North Lanarkshire Council youth services.
- Working with the NHS and DJ Sports Coaching with a view to Sanctuary Cumbernauld supporting the delivery of free coaching activities and personal development activities for the community in Carbrain.
- Supporting the House of Bread Food Bank to apply to Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund (FISCAF) for funding to support foodbank and soup kitchen development.
- Development of an employability awareness event, to be delivered in late 2015, to allow potential support organisations to promote services to the community and to allow the long-term unemployed to gain a better understanding of available support services.
- Continuing support of the Cumbernauld Community Memorial Peace Garden project, commemorating the centenary of the First World War.

2.3 Beautiful Scotland

This year's Beautiful Scotland awards saw three entrants from North Lanarkshire, with two from the North Area. Beautiful Cumbernauld was an entrant in the Small City category, and Condorrat Tenants and Residents Association featured in the Urban Community category. Both groups received a Silver Award at a ceremony on Thursday 10th September at Perth Concert Hall.

2.4 Auchengeich Memorial Service

On Sunday 20th September a service was held at the Auchengeich Memorial in Moodiesburn to commemorate the 47 miners who lost their lives in the disaster in 1959. Dedications were read by Nicky Wilson, President of the National Union of Miners; Elaine Smith MSP, Deputy Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament; Captain John Parry, Salvation Army; and Provost Jim Robertson. Choirs from Glenmanor and St Michael's Primary Schools performed two songs, and the event was very well attended by the local community.

2.5 Cinnamon Faith Action Audit

A recent audit by the Cinnamon Faith charity, specifically looked at social impact and the economic value of the work carried out by faith groups operating in Cumbernauld and Kilsyth. The audit counted 92 projects, with 9,093 beneficiaries in 2014, providing employment for 16 paid members of staff, with a total economic value of £703,304, and with 556 volunteers working 62,601 volunteer hours per year. The audit found that the main needs being met by these projects were supporting families, reducing social isolation, giving young people and young adults better opportunities and choices, helping people to live healthier lives, and giving children a good start in life; with almost 25% of projects working in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council.

2.6 CACE Older People Active Lives

- CACE had a very busy last quarter as the organisation celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a traditional T-dance in the New Town Hall for service users. Entertainment was provided by That Swing Sensation Band and the Kennedy Cupcake dancers.
- CACE have also secured an industrial unit to host their new Men's Shed project, which will have an official opening in November.
- The Older People Active Lives (OPAL) project has gone from strength to strength, with creative workshops, healthy cooking, shopping trips, Saturday outings, T-dances, dinner clubs, and a very successful digital inclusion programme. CACE befriending now supports over 50 people in the community that are lonely and isolated and volunteers are trained to increase confidence and to encourage older people to access services and groups in their community. Regular volunteer recruitment drives have been successful in attracting new high quality volunteers and there are 72 volunteers currently supporting the organisation.
- CACE are in the process of setting up their third Sporting Memories Group, targeting the Northern Corridor. This is for men who have a dementia diagnosis or who are experiencing memory problems to reminisce about their memories of sports and physical activity.

2.7 Supporting Those in Need

A number of activities are taking place locally to support the continuing refugee crisis, with many communities organising collections of much needed items to be distributed to refugee camps in Europe. Volunteers in Cumbernauld have recently formed a partnership with Glasgow the Caring City who are transporting donations to Red Cross refugee support centres in Hungary and Macedonia. Within our communities local people are relying on foodbanks to support themselves and their families, and Kilsyth Community Foodbank has recently opened a new shop in Kilsyth, generating income to support the work of the Foodbank. The next Third Sector report will include more detailed information about the work being carried out within the North Area by the North Lanarkshire Foodbank Forum and the North Lanarkshire Poverty Group to support those in need.

3.0 THIRD SECTOR UPDATE

3.1 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 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 (Children's Locality Partnership Group) meetings.

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

3.2 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 the 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

3.3 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.

3.4 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.

3.5 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

3.6 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.

4.0 Third Sector Preparing for Contribution to Key Scottish Government Agenda

4.1 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