

# 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 December 2015 included in report

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### 1.0. THIRD SECTOR WITHIN COMMUNITY PLANNING ACTIVITY UPDATES

#### 1.1 Third Sector Voluntary Sector Locality Networks

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, on behalf of North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group, will facilitate the next round of Voluntary Sector Locality Network Events for third sector organisations, volunteers and relevant partners of the third sector during February – March 2016.

**The Cumbernauld & North Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network Event** will take place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at Cumbernauld New Town Hall, Bron Way, Cumbernauld from 9.30am -12.30pm.

The Voluntary Sector Locality Networks provide the opportunity for information sharing, communication and networking between Community Planning Partners and other service providers and 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.

For further information contact Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on 01236 748011 or e-mail [info@vanl.co.uk](mailto:info@vanl.co.uk).

#### 1.2 Voluntary Sector Consultation Events - NLC Draft Savings Proposals

VANL facilitated two events providing representatives from local voluntary and community organisations the opportunity to listen to a briefing on and consider NLC's budget savings options. Participants were provided with details on how they can access further information on the different savings options being proposed and the various ways they can take an part in the consultation and record their views and comments on the proposed options.

The first event was held at Cumbernauld Town Hall on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015, where June Murray – Executive Director Corporate Services provided an overview of the proposed savings options and answered a range of questions and concerns raised by those present.

The second event was held at Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre, Bellshill on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 where Steven Penman – Director Corporate Communications provided an overview of the proposed savings options and answered a range of questions and concerns raised by those present.

## **2.0 THEMATIC UPDATES FROM NORTH LANARKSHIRE THIRD SECTOR**

### **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 meeting scheduled for 10 December 2015.

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 Integration of Health and Social Care**

The local third's sector's 'Transition Programme' from Reshaping Care for Older People Change Plan to Health and Social Care Integration delivery is advancing well, with a 'Taking Stock' and forward planning event held on 5 November 2015.

At this development Workshop all partners involved in the delivery of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector support programme within the Integration of Health & Social Care came together to identify priorities, outcomes and future direction for the Community Capacity Building & Carer Support work programme.

In excess of 30 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector organisations along with officers from North Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire scoped out a development Plan with an associated programme of actions which will position the local sector to continue to deliver substantial outcomes for local people within the Integration of Health & Social Care agenda.

As 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Lead, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire – alongside North Lanarkshire Carers Together and Voice of Experience Forum – with coordinate and provide central support to localities and thematic leads in order to ensure a qualitative aspect to the monitoring and reporting of activity.

The programme of work identified for the term of the Integrated Care Fund will build on the excellent contribution made by the local 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector within the Reshaping Care for Older People programme in recent years which saw around 247 organisations resourced to provide support to around 45,000 older people and their carers.

## **3.0 LOCAL THIRD SECTOR ACTIVITY UPDATE**

### **3.1 CACE Older People Active Lives**

The CACE OPAL project activities continue to be popular and are fully booked, offering digital inclusion, crafts, coffee clubs, tea dances and dinner clubs, outings and shopping trips, with over 100 people accessing activities through this project weekly.

The CACE befriending project has received a boost with 6 new students, offering a 12 week placement for people needing help to reconnect with their community. This has allowed almost 70 people weekly to receive one to one support through befriending.

A new CACE men's shed had its official opening on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November, offering new and improved social and networking opportunities to older men from 10am to 12pm each morning.

### **3.2 Sanctuary Cumbernauld Housing Association**

In partnership with Cruden, Action for Children, North Lanarkshire Youth Services, and North Lanarkshire Economic Development Sanctuary Cumbernauld is delivering a job fair in Cumbernauld at the end of January. The purpose of this is to highlight the upcoming employability opportunities that Cruden are offering as part of their contract for the Allanfauld Road development. This includes opportunities for apprenticeships, work placements, Small-Medium Enterprise opportunities, and recruitment of skilled positions for Cruden's workforce on site.

Sanctuary Cumbernauld have also funded DJ Sports Coaching to continue their free provision of coaching and sport opportunities in Carbrain. The project aims to encourage children and young people to positively participate in healthy activity. They will deliver 2 weekly sessions on a Friday evening for 40 weeks, aimed at 11-15 year olds, also training local volunteers to embed the coaching skills in the local community.

### **3.3 Closure of HMRC Cumbernauld**

In November, HM Revenue & Customs announced proposals to close almost all of their offices throughout the UK. This includes the office in Cumbernauld which employs over 1,500 staff, and is expected to close in 2019/2020. The Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union are campaigning to retain HMRC jobs in the Cumbernauld area, recognising that the closure of the Cumbernauld office will not only affect the staff who work there at present but also the local community and businesses operating within Cumbernauld Town Centre. A public meeting was held at Cumbernauld New Town Hall on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November with guest speakers including Stuart McDonald MP and representatives of the PCS union, with further events likely to take place in the near future.

### **3.4 Food Poverty and Insecurity**

Due to the rise in North Lanarkshire residents seeking assistance in relation to food poverty issues, North Lanarkshire Council together with partners from NHS Lanarkshire, Third Sector advice services, Third Sector Voluntary organisations, food banks and other food initiatives have sought to produce a common strategy for tackling food poverty. The Food Poverty Working Group has been established and is focused on the support of the six key strategic areas. The Food bank Forum for North Lanarkshire was formed in collaboration with the above partners and has met throughout 2015, with participation from third sector organisations from the North Area.

### **3.5 The Tesco Store/Trussell Trust National Food Collection**

This biannual event took place in early December 2015. Since the Neighbourhood Food Collection started in the summer of 2012, Tesco UK customers have generously donated over 27 million meals to help people in crisis. In Addition to the food supplied by customers, Tesco gives a 30 % financial top up. Food is distributed to local food banks, also generating a positive community spirit and increased engagement. At time of writing, two to three tons of food were expected to have been collected at the Tesco Cumbernauld Extra store during this latest collection, with local volunteers sorting and delivering the collected items to food banks within the North Area.

### **3.6 Refugees in Europe**

Cumbernauld Supporting Refugees and Kilsyth Supporting Refugees have recently organised a number of collection events to gather clothing and footwear for refugees. These collections have taken place in Cumbernauld and Kilsyth within the last few months and have received a welcome response from the local community. These donations have been taken to Serbia and distributed to refugees by Glasgow the Caring City.

### **3.7 Roma Families Multi - Agency Meeting**

This group was first established about eight years ago to increase co-operation and the sharing of knowledge across key support agencies and faith based community groups, aiming to deliver improved outcomes with regards to handling issues within Roma Families in Cumbernauld. The group has recently been re-established with positive outcomes reported at the last meeting in October 2015. These included early identification of at risk pregnancies and earlier monitoring, increased uptake of primary school placements and improved attendance, the first intake into secondary schooling from primary school, and much improved English language ability.

### **3.8 Sanctuary Cumbernauld Housing Association**

Cruden Building and Renewals and Ogilvie Homes, working on Sanctuary Cumbernauld's housing modernisation project, have assisted the Scottish Wildlife Trust by making improvements to their Northside Woods nature reserve in Cumbernauld by providing two new gates, a new fence, and footpath upgrades. These improvements are expected to help reduce anti-social behaviour, and to improve access into the woodland by completing a missing footpath link.

### **3.9 Cumbernauld Living Landscape**

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December, Cumbernauld Living Landscape held a design charette as part of their Cumbernauld Green Routes feasibility project. The project is aiming to improve and promote three walking routes throughout Cumbernauld, transforming links between the centre of Cumbernauld and surrounding communities by creating green routes which are accessible, safe and enjoyable.

Cumbernauld Living Landscape has recently launched the Natural Connections project, supported by grant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project will see over 70 young people working over the next two years to improve three important wildlife sites in Cumbernauld for people and wildlife, providing opportunity and skills to improve their environment, their confidence, and their employability skills.

### **3.10 Kilsyth Community Market Garden**

In November, the Scottish Government announced the 21 recipients of the £1.7million Town Centre Communities Capital Fund. One of the successful recipients was Kilsyth Community Market Garden who were awarded £139,500. This funding will be used for regeneration projects in Kilsyth Main Street.

### **3.11 VANL Training Programme (January – March 2016)**

VANL January – June 2016 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](mailto:info@vanl.co.uk)

### **3.12 Supporting Those in Need**

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire is represented at a locally convened senior officer Steering Group that will support the resettlement of refugees from Syria within our North Lanarkshire communities. VANL's role involves identifying, co-ordinating and connecting community based organisations to the work of the wider partnership in welcoming and settling incoming groups of people.

This work will be predicated on the reported success of the previous Gateway Protection Programme (2007) which facilitated the resettlement of around 80 Congolese refugees within the Motherwell community.

### **3.13 Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV)**

Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) is all forms of volunteering that is carried out by employees supported by their employer. Many companies across the UK assist their employees who volunteer, or provide schemes which encourage them to volunteer. This may be formal, or informally agreed with line managers, and can form part of a larger Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy.

Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) can be given in various forms. Employers benefit from improved reputation with existing and potential employees, customers, partners and stakeholders through their employees' volunteering. ESV is a real

Virgin Media staff have been helping voluntary organisations throughout North Lanarkshire to improve their premises and gardens. So far this year they have completed 28 tasks including a garden tidy at St James's Court, Coatbridge and painting the offices of Watch Us Grow in Cumbernauld. Staff are encouraged by Virgin Media to take a 'day off' from their normal duties and help in their community. Voluntary organisations have been delighted to receive this assistance and staff enjoy their busman's holiday doing things they enjoy.

For more information about the ESV Project contact Jean Thomson on 01698 358866 or email [jean.thomson@vanl.co.uk](mailto:jean.thomson@vanl.co.uk).