

Bellshill Local Area Partnership

Third Sector Update Report

From: Colin MacFarlane (Third Sector Representative)
To: Bellshill Local Area Partnership Members
Date: Activity to December 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 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 Bellshill Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network Event will take place on Wednesday 30th March 2016 at the Salvation Army Hall, Gladstone St., Bellshill from 1.00pm – 4.00pm.

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.

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 24th 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 26th 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

2.3 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 3rd 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 3rd 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 3rd 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 3rd 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 National Trustees' Week 2nd – 8th November 2015

As part of the National Campaign which helps charities to thrive by supporting trustees in their role and encouraging diversity on Boards, the national conference to celebrate National Trustees' Week was launched at the Trustee Conference held in the John Wilson Town Hall, Airdrie on Monday 2nd November 2015. The campaign aims to Inspire people to become trustees, Inform people of the importance of trustees and their responsibilities and Support trustees.

3.2 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

3.3 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.

3.4 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 opportunity to get involved by providing solutions to community issues.

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.

3.5. St Andrew's Day Tea Dance

People from across North Lanarkshire were treated to a heady brew of song, dance and socialising at a recent afternoon out with a difference.

On 30th of November, a St Andrew's Day Tea dance event took place in Motherwell Civic Centre Concert Hall, where 360 people from all over the area attended. The day was organised by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire and funded by the Integrated Care Fund via money provided by the locality consortium in North Lanarkshire, who also sold a portion of the tickets and provided transport to ensure that everyone who wanted to could participate.

Throughout the event, volunteer support was provided by students from New College Lanarkshire who gave up their time to ensure everyone in the hall had a helping hand or dance partner if they needed it.

The Tea Dance was opened by Alex Neil MSP who remarked how important such events were for older people living in North Lanarkshire, as they reduce social isolation and loneliness amongst older people.

The music for the day was provided by That Swing Sensation, who accompanied the dancing and they played a variety of musical genres, including a Scottish and Christmas sing-a-long.

The Kennedy Cupcakes showcased some dances and then led the audience in some group dances. In addition, Fool On, a mental health support group, provided some entertainment during the afternoon tea, with a repertoire of comedy and song. Positive feedback was received from those attending, including one lady who commented, "I wish I could still dance but I loved watching everyone else and being part of the atmosphere of the day."

Kenny Moffat, Chief Executive of VANL, said: "The main benefit for older people is that these events are a great way to meet people, stay connected and reduce the risk of loneliness and isolation.

"The Tea Dance has taken that to the next level and showcased the talent and drive among North Lanarkshire's communities, younger and golden generations alike."

4.0 Third Sector Contribution to Key Scottish Government Agenda

4.1 Holyrood's Parliament Day Initiative.

Local people in Motherwell had the opportunity to have their voice heard as the Scottish Parliament came to the town for the day on Monday 9 November. During its visit, the Parliament was particularly keen to hear from young people, those who work with them and the communities they are part of.

Introduced by the Presiding Officer the Rt Hon Tricia Marwick MSP, Holyrood's Parliament Day Initiative takes the Parliament into communities around Scotland, encouraging local people to take an interest in and engage directly with the parliament and its work.

Representatives from local voluntary & community groups were invited to attend the GLO Centre (Muir Street, Motherwell), from 5.30pm, where the Presiding Officer hosted an informal Q&A session, allowing people to quiz MSPs about how their Parliament works for them.