

# North Area Local Area Partnership Third Sector Update Report

AGENDA ITEM No. 9

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**From:** Adam Smith (Third Sector Representative)  
**To:** North Area Local Area Partnership Members  
**Date:** Activity to March 2016 included in report

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## 1.0. THIRD SECTOR WITHIN COMMUNITY PLANNING ACTIVITY UPDATES

### 1.1. Cumbernauld and North Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network Update ⇨

At the time of reporting, final preparations were being made by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (on behalf of North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group) for delivery of a Cumbernauld and North Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network Event on Friday 18 March 2016 at Cumbernauld New Town Hall. It was anticipated that the Event would be well attended by members of the local third sector and incorporate several short information sessions from third sector organisations and partners delivering services in the North area.

Feedback from the previous Cumbernauld and North Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network Event of Friday 18 September 2015 indicated that the Network continues to provide a valuable information sharing and networking opportunity for the local third sector, with positive feedback received from the third sector organisations and volunteers in attendance. A full report of the Network Event of Friday 18 March 2016 will be produced and made available in the coming weeks.

### 1.2. Third Sector Community Planning Improvement Programme Update ⇨

Implementation of North Lanarkshire Partnership's Third Sector Community Planning Improvement Plan 2015-18 continues to progress positively. Important areas of activity currently being advanced include supporting the third sector's contribution to Health and Social Care Integration, development of a Volunteering Pledge for North Lanarkshire Partnership, assessing the third sector's approach to developing a database of services and asset register, and strengthening the portfolio of Third Sector Thematic Networks in North Lanarkshire.

North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group intends to monitor Improvement Plan progress through establishment of a new Improvement Sub-Group. Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire records its thanks to members of North Area Local Area Partnership for their ongoing support in relation to Improvement Plan implementation, with further updates available to members by contacting Craig Russell at Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on 01236 748011 or via e-mail at [craig.russell@vanl.co.uk](mailto:craig.russell@vanl.co.uk).

### 1.3. North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Conference 2016 ⇨

North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group will host its annual North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Conference on Friday 3 June 2016 at the new Newmains Community Trust Centre near Wishaw. The modern, multi-purpose Centre, which opened in 2015 following significant third sector leadership and development, provides an excellent showcase of what can be achieved by the third sector in locality areas with the relevant endeavour and support.

The Conference intends to offer a valuable opportunity for members of the third sector in six locality areas of North Lanarkshire, including the North area, to come together to discuss key issues, celebrate success and explore the future in relation to the local third sector. Invitations and further information about the Conference will be circulated in the coming weeks, with details on agenda items and bookings obtainable by contacting Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on 01236 748011 or e-mailing [info@vanl.co.uk](mailto:info@vanl.co.uk). A comprehensive Evaluation Report will be made available to Local Area Partnership members following the Conference.

#### **1.4. Cumbernauld and North Area Third Sector Locality Profile and Asset Overview ☺**

A compact 2016 Third Sector Locality Profile and Asset Overview for the Cumbernauld and North area is currently being prepared by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, and will contain key information relating to the composition of the local third sector in terms of organisations, physical assets, human assets, resource assets and strategic direction.

It is anticipated that this summary document will be completed in Spring 2016 and circulated with the Third Sector Update Report to the August 2016 North Area Local Area Partnership meeting.

### **2.0. LOCAL THIRD SECTOR ACTIVITY UPDATE**

#### **2.1. Cumbernauld Living Landscape Activity Update ☺**

The Cumbernauld Green Routes Feasibility Project is looking to transform the centre of Cumbernauld and its links to surrounding communities by creating green routes which are accessible, safe and enjoyable. The feasibility project is investigating the quality of the existing routes and how they could be improved for people and wildlife. The research for the feasibility study is now complete and the first draft of the proposal was presented to the project group on the Wednesday 9 March 2016. The Cumbernauld Living Landscape partnership is currently investigating funding options for the delivery of the project.

The Natural Connections project is working with local schools and communities to improve three important wildlife sites in the Cumbernauld Living Landscape area. Over the next two years, young people will work to improve the areas for people and wildlife. Two community action plans have been written for St Maurice's Pond and Ravenswood Local Nature Reserve, students from St Maurice's High School and Greenfaulds High School have been taking part in bi-weekly practical sessions, a weekend volunteer group has been established, and artwork for the sites is being developed with local primary and secondary schools.

#### **2.2. Alzheimer Scotland Local Activity Update ☺**

Alzheimer Scotland hosts a monthly Dementia Café within The Carrick Stone in Cumbernauld Town Centre on the last Wednesday of each month from 10:30am to 12noon. This café offers an informal environment for people living with a diagnosis of dementia and their families to meet with other people living with dementia and also the local Dementia Advisor who will be able to inform and advise on dementia and the support available within the local community.

The organisation has recently worked with the North Lanarkshire Council Social Work Re-Enablement Team to hold Dementia Friends Sessions with their staff, with 26 members of the team agreeing to be Dementia Friends. Dementia Friends is a social action movement and aims to help raise awareness of dementia. The programme consists of an hour's information session, which is very interactive and allows attendees to share stories and experiences of working or living with dementia. The staff really embraced these sessions and were awarded with a certificate and a Dementia Friends Scotland badge.

Alzheimer Scotland has also been working with Boots staff in Kilsyth regarding the Dementia Friendly Communities (DFC) programme. The DFC programme aims to supply communities with information that can support people and families living with dementia in their local area. This is carried out by using the Dementia Friendly Communities toolkit, available to all businesses, groups, or organisations to become recognised as Dementia Friendly. A large number of additional local employers have indicated they would be interested in taking part in the DFC Programme, including TSB Bank, Police Scotland, William Hill, Ladbrokes, R. A. Cant & Son, McLachlan Opticians, Bank of Scotland, and local pharmacies.

#### **2.3. Open Secret Local Activity Update ☺**

Open Secret operates a support service for survivors of childhood abuse and trauma. The organisation currently provides an early years service in the North Lanarkshire area but also

supports some adult clients who are referred via NHS Lanarkshire. At present, these adults have to travel to Falkirk to attend support sessions and Open Secret is actively seeking opportunities to develop the service within the North Area to help fill this gap in provision and to improve accessibility to the service through provision of a suitable space for delivery of counselling sessions.

Open Secret also delivers regular training and awareness sessions to local Social Care students, represents survivors at Parliamentary level through their involvement in the cross-party group for adult survivors of abuse, and delivers local training to the ambulance service to raise their awareness of issues for survivors when attending relevant emergency callouts.

#### **2.4. PoppyScotland Local Activity Update ↻**

PoppyScotland is currently promoting volunteering vacancies for Area Organisers in several areas of North Lanarkshire, including Cumbernauld, Chryston and Moodiesburn. An Area Organiser fulfils a critically important role, ensuring that poppies are available for sale in their local area during the remembrance campaign. With assistance from PoppyScotland, an Area Organiser will gather together a team of Volunteer Collectors and together they will distribute poppies to outlets and schools. Depending on the size of an area, they may also organise street, supermarket, event or house to house collections. The money raised by Area Organisers through selling poppies goes directly to making a real difference to the lives of veterans and their dependents in need in Scotland.

Anyone interested in applying to be an Area Organiser can contact PoppyScotland's Volunteer Development Manager Isla Campbell Lupton on 0141 338 6585 or by e-mailing [I.CampbellLupton@poppyscotland.org.uk](mailto:I.CampbellLupton@poppyscotland.org.uk). Referrals can also be made through contacting Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on 01236 748011 or e-mailing [info@vanl.co.uk](mailto:info@vanl.co.uk).

#### **2.5. Sanctuary Cumbernauld Activity Update ↻**

On Thursday 28 January 2016, Sanctuary Cumbernauld housing association delivered an employment fair event in Fleming House which promoted a range of opportunities to Cumbernauld residents. These opportunities included skilled labouring jobs, unskilled labour, pre-employment pathways (e.g. training), curriculum support activities, and apprenticeships. The fair was well attended and proved to be a worthwhile and successful event.

Sanctuary Cumbernauld has also undertaken the following activities in recent months:

- provided support to Cumbernauld YMCA-YWCA learning centre to repaint the facility through the community benefit programme of Cruden Building and Renewals
- worked with North Lanarkshire Council's local Community Learning and Development team to explore opportunities and potential activities within Cumbernauld
- entered discussions with Greggs regarding the potential provision of a breakfast club (dependent on available budget)
- continued to support the Millcroft Action Group specifically in engaging with NHS Lanarkshire and Cumbernauld YMCA-YWCA with a view to local service delivery developments later in the year,
- linked with Cumbernauld Living Landscape's 'Wild Ways to Wellbeing' programme to support delivery of mental-health focused activity
- designed a new community grants scheme which will be open for applications shortly.

#### **2.6. PALS (Play And Learning Support) Activity Update ↻**

PALS (Play And Learning Support) is a registered charity based in Cumbernauld and provides support and activities for children and young people with additional support needs (ASN) aged 3-18. Following its first year of operation, the organisation has 70 ASN children and over 50 siblings within its membership.

PALS delivers ten weekly activities over fifty weeks of the year with additional activities during

school holidays, and the organisation aims within the next year to secure permanent premises to operate from. Current activities include various therapy sessions, micro-fitness, swimming lessons, horse riding, and gymnastics, as well as regular day trips.

### **2.7. CACE Older People Active Lives Activity Update ⇌**

CACE Older People Active Lives continues to develop and deliver a range of services, and currently offers digital inclusion, arts and crafts, outings, evening dinner clubs, befriending, community transport opportunities for local groups, and much more. All of these activities are aimed at reconnecting socially isolated older people with their communities. CACE now also coordinates a Men's Shed project which offers retired men the opportunity to meet up and get involved in DIY, woodwork, and gardening activities. Tea dances and dinner clubs are also organised by CACE. These are held monthly and are located on a rotational basis between Dullatur, Kilsyth, and Crowwood Golf Clubs.

The organisation also delivers Men's Sports Reminiscence Groups, enabling older men with memory problems or a dementia diagnosis to meet once a week and use sport as a reminiscence trigger. These sessions include visits to other groups and day trips to locations including the Riverside Museum, Science Centre, and football grounds. These groups are incredibly popular and operate to full capacity at present but CACE hopes to open two new groups shortly.

### **2.8. Rotary Club of Cumbernauld Activity Update ⇌**

The Rotary Club of Cumbernauld recently presented a cheque for £600 to Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Forth Valley Link. This organisation works to support young people who continue to be affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster to come to Scotland for a cultural exchange visit. These visits to Scotland have the effect of extending the children's average life expectancy by exposing them to a cleaner environmental atmosphere and through supported attendance and treatment at local opticians and dentists.

### **2.9. Kilsyth Community Food Bank Activity Update ⇌**

Kilsyth Community Food Bank has been named as the 2016 charity partner of the Antonine Trail Races. The Food Bank will receive any profit from race events and there will also be a food collection taking place on race days.

### **2.10. Strathcarron Hospice Activity Update ⇌**

Strathcarron Hospice's acclaimed 'Seven Songs for a Long Life' movie, previously reported to the North Area Local Area Partnership, has recently been screened at the prestigious South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas. The screening was attended by some of the Hospice staff and production team, who were also able to use the opportunity to secure an American distributor for the movie.

'Seven Songs for a Long Life' has brought worldwide attention to Strathcarron Hospice and is generating valuable income for the facility to support its delivery of palliative care services and expert end of life care for the people of Forth Valley, Cumbernauld and Kilsyth.

### **2.11. Third Sector and Partnership Activity Within St Maurice's High School ⇌**

This year, St Maurice's High School celebrates its 40th anniversary. This coincides with the same milestone of The Prince's Trust, who will present a plaque to the school in recognition of their work on a joint project to improve St Maurice's Pond. This is just one example of a wide range of community activities supported by the school, with others including participation in the Mentors for Prevention of Violence scheme, planning and delivery of an annual ball which raises in excess of £10,000 every year for the Teenage Cancer Trust, and ongoing fundraising and biannual trips to work with less fortunate communities in Malawi.

St Maurice's High School has also worked closely with LAP partner agencies through activities

such as attending Police Scotland volunteer training, participating in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's Firereach programme to learn about the work of firefighters and the importance of fire safety as well as the dangers presented by hoax calls, and attending NHS Lanarkshire information sessions about careers in medicine.

## **2.12. North Area Organisations Encouraged to Nominate for Queen's Award ⇨**

Third sector organisations from the Cumbernauld and North area are being encouraged to submit nominations for The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest UK award available to volunteer groups. The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the equivalent of the MBE for organisations and is awarded to several UK groups each year who provide a social, economic or environmental service to the local community. The prestigious Award was introduced in 2002 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Queen's coronation, and winners are announced annually by Buckingham Palace on 2 June.

Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire Mushtaq Ahmad OBE is currently seeking nominations from Cumbernauld and North area based organisations for consideration for the 2016 roll of honour. Any group of two or more people undertaking volunteering and that has been active for at least three years can be nominated for the Award. The majority of the group must be volunteers, and to be nominated groups should provide a service that meets the needs of people living in the local community, be supported and recognised by the community and the people who benefit from it, and be run locally.

A local assessment panel considers all nominations made and decides which ones to send to the National Awards Committee. This Committee then makes its recommendations to the Cabinet Office, which sends a final list of Award winners to the Queen for approval. Award winners receive a certificate signed by the Queen and a domed crystal glass. Representatives from Award achieving organisations may also be invited to attend a royal garden party. Further information about the Award and details of the nomination process can be obtained by visiting <https://qavs.direct.gov.uk>.

## **2.13. Volunteering Legacy of Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games: Two Years On ⇨**

In April 2014, the third sector in North Lanarkshire was actively preparing for facilitation of what proved to be a hugely successful volunteering contribution to the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. Notably, this contribution involved a strong proportion of volunteers from the Cumbernauld and North area delivering important roles as North Lanarkshire Council volunteers and official Glasgow 2014 'Clydesider' volunteers.

Indeed, it was the enthusiasm and spirit of the volunteers that helped define the friendly image of the Games and the success of events such as the Queen's Baton Relay (the route of which passed through the streets of Cumbernauld), the Triathlon at Strathclyde Country Park and the Cycling Time Trial which raced through villages in the Northern Corridor. Local volunteers undertook vital tasks in areas such as stewarding and spectator support, location and volunteer coordination, family activity support, first aid and transportation.

Two years on, North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group has been keen to explore if the Games has left a real volunteering legacy in the local area or if the passion for volunteering was as short-lived as the Games themselves.

A number of factors have suggested that the Games have resulted in a positive and lasting impact on local volunteering. Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, for example, supported a record high number of individuals registering to volunteer during 2014-15 (2540), which represented a 19% increase from the number of new volunteers supported during 2013-14. The timing of many of these new volunteer registrations was interesting too, with a particularly high number of volunteering enquiries from the Cumbernauld and North area in the six months following the Games.

Furthermore, the interest in one-off and sports volunteering opportunities in the local area has been higher than ever since the Games. As a result, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire has been able to establish an informal 'bank' of event volunteers who can be called on to assist with short-term volunteering activities in the Cumbernauld and North area such as gala days, sporting competitions, charity fundraising events, tasks to assist the community and third sector organisations, sponsored walks and runs, environmental activities and much more.

With volunteers also scheduled to be involved in supporting the British Transplant Games in North Lanarkshire in 2017 and the European Sports Championships in Glasgow in 2018, the potential remains strong for high-profile sporting events to impact positively on local volunteering over the coming years.

#### **2.14. Scottish Spina Bifida Association Benefits from Cumbernauld 10K ↻**

Cumbernauld-based organisation Scottish Spina Bifida Association, the only specialist charity in Scotland providing tailored support and services for those affected by spina bifida and hydrocephalus, benefited greatly from a highly successful Cumbernauld 10K by receiving £1 each from over 800 race entry fees as the event's chosen charity partner in 2015.

The Cumbernauld 10K, which starts and finishes at Broadwood stadium, has become a popular annual fixture amongst both club athletes and fun runners. North Lanarkshire Leisure Ltd volunteers assisted the event on Sunday 20 September 2015 with race marshalling, preparation of refreshments and prizes, and directing runners and spectators. Children's 1K and 3K runs, a Victory Mile Walk, and various additional activities and entertainment also formed part of an action-packed day.

#### **2.15. Local Third Sector to Benefit from New Third Sector Interface Website ↻**

Volunteers and third sector organisations from the Cumbernauld and North area will have the opportunity to benefit from increased and improved information sharing as Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire gives its Third Sector Interface website a complete makeover.

A new and interactive website is to be launched at [www.voluntaryactionnorthlanarkshire.org](http://www.voluntaryactionnorthlanarkshire.org) in Spring 2016, containing refreshed and user-friendly features and information sections designed to assist the local third sector. This will include an area specifically devoted to the third sector's connectivity to Community Planning.

#### **2.16. Drop-In Cafe Extends Opening Times to Include Friday's ↻**

The successful 'Drop-In Cafe', which is based in Cornerstone House Centre in Cumbernauld, is now open on a Friday from 11.30am-2.30pm as well as its established Monday and Thursday sessions from 10.30am-3.00pm.

The Drop-In Cafe is a place where local people can visit to find out what's going on in the Cumbernauld and North area whilst enjoying a tea, coffee and snack. A range of interesting and unique weekly activities are hosted in the Cafe, including health information, showcasing from local organisations, arts and crafts, and market place stalls. For further information, contact the Drop-In Cafe on 01236 610440.