



Community & Voluntary Sector Locality Network Events Report



*"The Local Voluntary Sector Working Together
To Share Information and Make a Difference"*



1.

Community & Voluntary Sector Locality Network Events from Friday 29 November to Tuesday 17 December 2019

Date	Area	Venue	No of Participants
29/11/19	Airdrie	One Wellwynd	17
03/12/19	Cumbernauld & North	New Muirfield Centre	18
04/12/19	Bellshill	Holy Family Parish Church	17
06/12/19	Motherwell	Elim Christian Centre	15
10/12/19	Wishaw & Shotts	Community Hub	18
17/12/19	Coatbridge	Coatbridge Community Centre	18

There were 6 Community & Voluntary Sector Locality Network events which took place in November and December 2019. The events were attended by delegates consisting mainly of volunteers, members of community and voluntary sector organisations, and other key partners.

2.

Welcome and Introduction to the Event

Various Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire staff welcomed attendees to the events and thanked everyone for taking the time to come along to participate in their Locality Network to support local voluntary action. Attendees were each provided with an information pack relating to the event and encouraged to utilise and browse the information table.

These events are an opportunity for volunteers, community and voluntary sector organisations and key partners to share useful information, network and establish new contacts.

3.

VANL Community and Voluntary Sector Updates

Updates were provided by a VANL colleague on the following developments of relevance to volunteers and community and voluntary sector organisations.

National Developments

3.1 Report on First Year of Fair Start Scotland

This report outlines the first year of delivery of Fair Start Scotland, the first fully devolved employability support service in Scotland. It details how the service has been making a difference to employers and participants. Although the unemployment rate for Scotland had reached a record low early 2019 there are still many people living with health and financial issues. Fair Start Scotland participants will receive support tailored to their own individual circumstances. The report can be found using the details below.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fair-start-scotland-evaluation-report-2-overview-year-1-november-2019/>

Local News

3.2 Plan for North Lanarkshire

This document is the “community plan” for North Lanarkshire which was published in March 2019. It provides a high level strategy to improve quality of life in North Lanarkshire with a focus on five themes of live, learn, work, invest and visit.

VANL is working with the community and voluntary sector and our statutory partners to ensure better understanding of how our sector contributes to achievement of the ambitions of the plan. This includes discussion and collaboration through our Voluntary Sector Partnership Group, our community and voluntary sector N-wide thematic networks and Community Forums.

A copy of the plan is available on the North Lanarkshire Council website or by using the details below.

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=22960&p=0>

3.3 Community Matters Events

Community Matters (Locality Partnerships) is the strategic arm of local community planning in North Lanarkshire and consists of several partners including the Community and Voluntary Sector. The events take place quarterly and provide an opportunity for anyone to get involved and have a say. The most recent events were in October 2019 with a focus on tackling poverty. Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire will share details of future events when available.

3.4 Launch of Getting It Right for Every Person (GIRFEP): A Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy for Lanarkshire (2019-2024)

This five year mental health and wellbeing strategy for Lanarkshire was formally launched in October 2019.

The strategy is a shared vision and plan which aims to transform mental health and wellbeing in Lanarkshire over the next five years and beyond. The Strategy was developed collaboratively by NHS Lanarkshire, Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership, community and voluntary sector organisations. This shared endeavour. The strategy is available using the details below.

<https://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/strategies/mental-health-wellbeing-2019-24/>

VANL will be convening a new Mental Health and Wellbeing thematic network to support the NL community and voluntary sector develop its role and contribution to delivery of this strategy.

3.5 North Lanarkshire Syrian Resettlement Programme

Since its inception in September 2015 North Lanarkshire has welcomed over 150 Syrian Refugees through the Syrian Resettlement Programme, assisted by a support worker hosted by VANL. More information is available from Chaimae Baqqari chaimae.baqqari@VANL.CO.UK

Networks

3.6 Community & Voluntary Sector Network Meeting Dates

The January and February meeting dates were provided for five North Lanarkshire thematic networks including:-

Home Visiting & Befriending Network, Third Sector Employability Network, Children, Young People and Families Network, Climate Emergency Network and Third Sector Community Justice Partnership. Anyone interested in any of these Networks should contact Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire for more information at info@vanl.co.uk

Currently information about these meetings is shared by email with members by email. From May 2020 information will be available through a new NL website for the community and voluntary sector and VANL.

Upcoming Events

3.7 Volunteers Week

Volunteers Week as always takes place between 1 and 7 June. This is a chance to celebrate volunteers and thank them for the fantastic contribution they make. Anyone wishing to obtain more information including ideas for activities should visit the Volunteer's Week website.

<https://volunteersweek.org/>

3.8 Festival of Volunteering 1 June 2020

VANL and VASLan are jointly organising a first festival of volunteering during volunteer week 2020. We hope that we will secure sufficient funding to hold the event in Strathclyde Park – “V in the Park”. The festival will celebrate and promote volunteering

4.

2019 Consultation on the Needs & Priorities for North Lanarkshire Community & Voluntary Sector

Maddy Halliday, CEO of VANL provided a presentation at each locality event on the outcomes of the above consultation, which VANL facilitated through discussion at six CVS locality network events in March 2019 and an online survey during April. Over 220 people participated in this consultation overall and key findings from the consultation included the need for improved funding and resources for the sector; continuing access to guidance and training; effective participation, voice and influence over public sector strategies, plans and services; improved communication within the sector and between the sector and statutory partners; improved recognition and appreciation of the contribution of the sector.

Maddy Halliday advised that these consultations have informed the development of the draft NL Community and Voluntary Sector Strategy and linked VANL Strategic Plan for 2020-23. Drafts of these strategies had been shared with participants before each locality event, inviting further comment. Both strategies will be finalised and published early 2020 and will be available on the VANL website.

5. Information Sessions

A number of organisations provided short presentations / key information at the locality events about the services they offer connected to the local community and voluntary sector and wider communities. Some presentations were given at all 6 events, others at several events and some area-specific. The following organisations provided an update at the events:

- 5.1 Rural Development Trust - Ruth McElhinney & Kirsten Robb
- 5.2 Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire – Heather McIntosh
- 5.3 Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire – Maddy Halliday
- 5.4 North Lanarkshire Council Financial Inclusion Team – Jim McPake & Lynn Daniels
- 5.5 Homestart Glasgow North & North Lanarkshire – Lynne Morris & Ashley Granger
- 5.6 Cumbernauld YMCA – Iain Johnstone
- 5.7 Tool Library Cumbernauld – Teri Smith
- 5.8 YMCA Bellshill & Mossend – Ann-Marie Treacy
- 5.9 Wishaw & district Talking Newspapers – Douglas Silvester
- 5.10 Forgewood Housing Cooperative – Richard Bolton
- 5.11 FAMS – Ann Marie Coccozza
- 5.12 Garrion People Housing Cooperative – Richard Bolton
- 5.13 Bazooka Arts – Bryony Murray, Kirsty Robson & Zoe Brook
- 5.14 Coatbridge Citizens Advice Bureau – Marian Tobin

Presentations have been added to the Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire website.

6.

Health & Social Care Integration Update – Community Solutions Programme

Representatives from the six health and social care localities in NL provided an update on health and social care developments and the linked Community Solutions Programme on behalf of their Community Solutions Consortium. Anyone wishing to find out more should contact their Locality Development Lead as noted below:

Consortium Area	Locality Development Lead	Phone Number	Email
Bellshill	Irene Gibson	01698 842215	info@oncbellhsill.org
Motherwell	Marc Howard	01698 404055	marc@carerstogether.org
Wishaw & Shotts	Christine McNally	01501 825800	christinegbtshotts@btconnect.com
Cumbernauld & North	Norma Burns	01236 451393	norma@careatcace.com
Coatbridge	Claire Delahay	01236 878090 / 01236 874520	claire@glenboigh.com
Airdrie	Frances McKay	01698 404055	frances@carerstogether.org

7.

Closing Remarks and Delegate Networking

Presenting organisations and participants were thanked for their contributions. It was noted that all the presentations from the event would be available on the Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire website following the last event.

There was an opportunity for attendees to further network after the event.

February 2020