



Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

17th April, 2013

Report of

Councillor Clifford

Title

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Voluntary Action Coventry

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the work of Voluntary Action Coventry (VAC) over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council continues to appoint a representative to the VAC Board.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 VAC is a local infrastructure organisation that supports the voluntary and community sector in the city. Founded in 1957, it is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Membership of Voluntary Action Coventry is open to all voluntary and community groups in the City and membership of VAC is free.
- 3.2 VAC's mission statement is 'VAC is an advocate for voluntary and community groups, helping to develop effective and diverse communities in the City. Through the provision of support, training and information, we promote good practice and encourage social inclusion. We promote, facilitate and develop volunteering in Coventry and recognise the contribution of individuals and volunteers to communities.'
- 3.3 The strategic aims of VAC are:
- Engaging and enabling voluntary and community sector involvement in strategic decision making
 - Meeting the support needs of voluntary and community organisations in Coventry
 - Championing and demonstrating the contribution of volunteering to civil society
 - Enabling the voluntary and community sector to develop new approaches to service delivery
 - Providing relevant information to local voluntary and community organisations and other stakeholders
 - Maintaining a strong and sustainable organisation
- 3.4 VAC's core values are:
- To tackle inequality, discrimination and social exclusion.
 - To support diversity and promote cohesion within the City's communities.
 - To be a vibrant, dynamic, learning organisation that values the contribution of all its staff and members.

- To promote the real value and positive impact of volunteering.
- To be an independent, credible, high profile listening organisation that provides leadership and advocacy for the Voluntary and Community sector in the city

3.5 VAC like many other agencies has experienced a drop in income as a result of a number of national funding sources drying up.

3.6 VAC's activities in the past year include:

- Supporting individual groups with fund raising and governance
- Providing training on group development and start up
- Running the Volunteer Centre and matching volunteers with volunteering opportunities in the City
- Supporting a number of local events by helping to recruit volunteers e.g. Coventry Ambassadors
- Being instrumental in supporting the local voluntary organisations to work with the Council to explore new ways of working through a consortium approach
- Delivering Coventry Local Involvement Network (LINK) which gives local people and community groups a way to express their views and concerns about health and social care services in Coventry.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 With the changes in national policy and increasing public sector cuts, public services will be relying more on the third sector to deliver services. By attending the VAC Board meeting elected members can hear at first hand the support provided by VAC to the sector and any issues that the sector may face.

4.2 VAC Board includes representatives of local voluntary and community organisations elected by their membership. By attending the VAC Board meetings, City Council representatives benefit from discussion with third sector organisations on the VAC business plan and activities. It also provides an opportunity to network with third sector providers.

5 What Financial Contribution Does the Council Make to this Organisation

5.1 Voluntary Action Coventry was granted £190,250 in 2011/12 and this was reduced to £171,225 in 2012/13.

5.2 VAC also has a contract to deliver LINK activities to the value of £162,000.

6 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

6.1 Coventry City Council's representatives on Voluntary Action Coventry are Councillors Clifford and Sawdon. During the period January to December 2012 inclusive both Councillor Clifford and Sawdon attended three Management Board meetings. The July Board meeting was cancelled due to an office move.

6.2 There is no remuneration associated with this appointment.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

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None

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

Schedule of City Council Appointments to outside Bodies

Location: CH59