

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Communities Committee

Does this report require to be approved?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Ref LR/HL

Date

29/04/24

Brighter Futures – Volunteer NL Update and Progress April 2024

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Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the Volunteer NL project, established in May 2023 with the support of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and outlines future planned actions as a key theme under the Brighter Futures programme of work.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Communities Committee

1. Acknowledge the work of the Volunteer NL Programme under the remit of Brighter Futures and the work undertaken to date to support the development of volunteering pathways in North Lanarkshire.
2. Otherwise, note the contents of the report.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

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| Priority | Enhance participation, capacity, and empowerment across our communities |
| Ambition statement | (19) Improve engagement with communities and develop their capacity to help themselves |
| Programme of Work | Brighter Futures |

1. Background

- 1.1 1.1 The Volunteer NL programme was established in May 2023 with support from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and aims to provide support to help expand volunteering opportunities across North Lanarkshire. Led by Active & Creative Communities, the project seeks to engage volunteers to operate across a range of roles within North Lanarkshire Council, and offer wider support to volunteers operating in community groups and sporting clubs across North Lanarkshire.
- 1.2 Under the remit of Brighter Futures, the programme supports the council's wider ambitions around improving educational attainment, employment opportunities, entrepreneurship and volunteering.

2. Report

- 2.1 Volunteer NL was originally established with the aim of supporting the following broad objectives:
- Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and access to amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.
 - Building resilient, healthy and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built and natural environment innovative approaches to crime prevention.
- 2.2 Volunteering helps to break down social barriers and offer people an opportunity to socialise with people from different social and cultural backgrounds. For some, volunteering is a steppingstone in career development, for others simply an opportunity to give something back to their community. The council already engages a range of volunteers to support and enhance service delivery. Our work with local groups and clubs highlights the need to support the critical work of volunteers as the lifeblood of local groups. This project will support the role of volunteers in the council and with local groups and clubs, building a clear pathway for young people developing key skills and supporting the work of groups operating in our communities.
- 2.3 Under the direction of Brighter Futures, initial key deliverables with the project have achieved the following:

| | Action Taken |
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| Establish volunteer baseline, covering current activity, training received, and availability for broader opportunities. | We have worked with Services across the council to ensure a clear picture of existing volunteers and the opportunities available to them. |
| Map community partnerships who offer volunteering opportunities and the current offer (baseline). | We work closely with VANL as the council's Third Sector Interface (TSI) to work on overall support to the voluntary sector and in supporting and coordinating activity that enhances the involvement and capacity of the community and voluntary sector in the Plan for North Lanarkshire (TPFNL). |

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| | Information on the project and Challenge Fund opportunities were recently shared with all Community Boards. |
| Implement and maintain a system capable of capturing volunteers, skills, training and opportunities available. This will include a front-end website (one stop shop) for volunteering in North Lanarkshire. | We have recently launched a new volunteer management system (Rosterfy). The system will hold a range of information on volunteer opportunities, training available and provide a means to support development and recognise contribution. For example, after 90 days/50 hours of volunteering, volunteers will be supported to gain qualifications which will help with career development eg. sports coaching badges. |

- 2.4 A key achievement in the first year of the programme was the launch of the Volunteer NL Challenge Fund. The Challenge Fund is a key aspect of UKSPF funding. Approved by Communities Committee on 21 August 2023, North Lanarkshire's UKSPF investment plan includes the opportunity for a number of interventions to be delivered by community groups through a challenge fund process. The Volunteer NL Challenge Fund has a total budget of £90,000 and will operate over 2023/34 and 24/25. With an overall aim of supporting the development of volunteer pathways, applicants were asked to outline the expected impact on the community, with a particular reference on how the proposed project will strengthen social fabric and lead to demonstrable community benefits. Although not specifically used as an assessment criteria, the strongest applications were able to reinforce the council's commitment to the Plan for North Lanarkshire. The Challenge Fund opened in October 2023 and closed in early January 2024. Presentations were provided to all Community Boards to encourage as broad a range of applicants as possible, with grants of between £500-£3000 expected.
- 2.5 A total of 26 applications were received, with funding granted to 23 – detailed in Appendix One. A scoring panel of council officers, including Community Partnership and UKSPF Project team was convened, with support from VANL, to consider applications. The three applicants not supported were signposted to other funding options available to them.
- 2.6 Under Brighter Futures, key priorities for the second year of Volunteer NL will be:

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| Accreditation | Working with Education, Children & Families and VANL, a key focus will be recognising the efforts of young volunteers through the Saltire Award. The Saltire Award celebrates, recognises and rewards the commitment, contribution and achievements of young volunteers aged 12-25 in Scotland. These awards are delivered locally by TSI's. All Volunteer NL opportunities (now also advertised by Volunteer Scotland) will show the number of hours that each opportunity will count towards the Saltire Award. |
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| Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) | ESV are programmes where an organisation's employees take paid time off during work hours to volunteer. ESV provides employees with the opportunity to support community organisations and charities by contributing their time and skills. Since the launch of Volunteer NL and the associated publicity, a number of local organisations have approached to express an interest in giving back to the local community. Supporting local projects of this nature will continue to be a priority in the coming year. |
| Qualifications/Training | We are currently working with with Active Schools and New College Lanarkshire to explore opportunities which will focus on the upskilling of students for coaching roles. Through ongoing work with partners, we will explore options for volunteers to learn/upskill as they participate. |

3. Measures of success

- 3.1 A sustainable and responsive approach to supporting volunteering and voluntary organisations in North Lanarkshire, which supports the strengthening of our social fabric, fosters a sense of local pride and belonging, and access to support for community-led projects.

4. Supporting documentation

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – Challenge Fund Application 2023/24



Lyall Rennie
Chief Officer (Community Operations)

5. Impacts

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| 5.1 | <p>Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| 5.2 | <p>Financial impact Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? The project is subject to strict monitoring under UKSPF guidelines and with the support of Financial Solutions.</p> |
| 5.3 | <p>HR policy impact Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> |
| 5.4 | <p>Legal impact Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> |
| 5.5 | <p>Data protection impact Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| 5.6 | <p>Technology / Digital impact Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |

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| <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>5.7 Environmental / Carbon impact</p> <p>Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> |
| <p>5.8 Communications impact</p> <p>Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> |
| <p>5.9 Risk impact</p> <p>Is there a risk impact?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?</p> |
| <p>5.10 Armed Forces Covenant Duty</p> <p>Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.</p> |
| <p>5.11 Children's rights and wellbeing impact</p> <p>Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).</p> <p>If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> |

Appendix One – Challenge Fund Application 2023/24

| Organisation | Amount Awarded |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Airdrie Citizens Advice Bureau | £3000 |
| Airdrie Community School Uniform Bank | £3000 |
| Coatbridge Citizens Advice Bureau | £1500 |
| Cornerstone House Centre | £3000 |
| Disability Access Panel | £1000 |
| Homestart | £3000 |
| Jackson Youth Club | £1950 |
| Kanokwai Judo | £2800 |
| Lanarkshire Deaf Club | £1500 |
| Lanarkshire Rape Crisis | £1917 |
| Law & District AAC | £1305 |
| MADEFORU in ML2 | £3000 |
| More than Fibro | £1085 |
| Motherwell FC | £2140 |
| Newmains Community Trust | £2800 |
| Parkinsons Self Help Group | £525 |
| Pet Pantry | £1000 |
| Shotts Bon Accord | £3000 |
| Spotlight Shotts | £1800 |
| The Holding Space | £1000 |
| Who Cares Scotland | £1700 |
| Wishaw YMCA | £2452 |
| You Are My Sunshine | £1225 |

Applications Not Supported – Redirected to Other Opportunities as Appropriate

- 1st Shotts Girls Brigade
- Crossfit Airdrie
- The Gooddeed