



Community Network News

JUNE 2009

The 'New' Community Network

Dear Members,

It does seem a long time since we last wrote to inform you of the changes that have been happening in the Network. As you well know the Sunderland Partnership has restructured and along with this there has been a need for the Network to do the same.

The Sunderland Community Network (SCN) is changing – the way it is organised has changed and the staff will have new responsibilities. We will no longer try to be all things to all people. In future, staff will be supporting all delegates to the identified areas of Sunderland Partnership to ensure the Voluntary and Community Sector in the city can make a positive contribution through the SCN. We will be working with each Area Forum to draw delegates from their membership to represent the SCN on the new Area Committee in each area.

Members of the Network will receive regular information about the work of their delegates and will have the opportunity to contribute ideas and discuss issues. The delegates will meet regularly but will also have the chance to join in with web-based debates on specific topics. The Network will have a selection/election procedure to select delegates to attend the partnership on their behalf and express the views of the sector.

The delegates will meet as the Network Core Group with the aim of sharing information and identifying the issues that need to be drawn to the attention of the Partnership by the most appropriate route. The Chair for this group will be elected at the same time as the delegates for the Sunderland Partnership by the members of the Network Core Group. We will get information regarding this to you in the coming weeks.

The Network delegates will continue to communicate via email with the Network staff and on an individual basis without having to go through the staff team each time. The SCN Newsletter will be distributed both electronically and included as a supplement in the CVS monthly Newsletter. The SCN Website will continue to be updated and become more user friendly. We hope to make new areas for e-democracy so members can get involved and have a say on a vast array of consultations and surveys and participate in e-voting.

There are exciting times ahead as we get ready to play an even more active role in the Sunderland Partnership agenda.

Draft V3

As mentioned we will be undertaking selection/elections in the coming weeks and we will be seeking 2 delegates for each of the following partnerships:

Sunderland Partnership Board
Delivery and Improvement Board
Safer Sunderland Theme
Attractive & inclusive City Theme
Economic prosperity Theme
Health Theme
Learning Theme
Inclusive Communities Theme
Sunderland Compact
Sunderland East Forum
Sunderland North Area Forum
Sunderland West Area Forum
Sunderland Coalfield Area Forum
Sunderland Washington Area Forum

We have now completed our work on the Business Plan and await approval from the Local Authority. Hopefully, we are looking to get the go-ahead in the next week or two.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience whilst the work has been ongoing and look forward to getting together very soon.

Best wishes

Alan Patchett
Chair of the SCN Steering Group