

# NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL

## North Walsall Partner Report

28 March 2017

1. Purpose of the Report
  - 1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the North Walsall Area Partnership of some of the work carried out by individual partners and multi-agency work within the local area.
  - 1.2 The Corporate Plan priorities 2017-2020 are:
    - **Pursue inclusive economic growth:** Walsall people will have appropriate skills and access to jobs so economic benefits are felt in each of our communities
    - **Make a positive difference to the lives of Walsall people:** Increasing independence and improving healthy lifestyles so all can positively contribute to their communities
    - **Children are safe from harm, happy and learning well with self-belief, aspiration and support to be their best:** Walsall children are provided with the best start in life so they can fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to their communities
    - **Safe, resilient and prospering communities:** Walsall is a clean, safe and healthy place, with the right housing to meet need, accessible to all and with a strong sense of belonging and cohesion
  - 1.3 There are monthly Confidential Tasking & Co-ordination (Partner) Meetings that occur in North Walsall. The meetings provide the opportunity for partner agencies to come together and share ideas, information and co-ordinate strategy based on the Corporate Plan.

The partners include: Community Protection, Youth Support Services, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service, residents, Ward Councillors, Reedswood Park Retailers, Stephenson Square Retailers, Walsall Housing Group (WHG), Caldmoreaccord Housing, Walsall Association of Tenant Management Organisations, West Midlands Probation Service, Walsall Intelligence Network, Environmental Health, Beechdale Community Housing, Bloxwich Academy, Frank F Harrison Community Association, Bloxwich Community Partnership, St Aiden's Care Team, Walsall Adult Community College (WACC), Walsall College, Economic Regeneration Team, Work on the Horizons, Public Health, Lifestyles Team, Forest Arts Centre, Blakenall Community Centre (BCC), Ryecroft Hub, Walsall Link Line, Green Lane Baptist Church & Community Payback.

- 1.4 A facebook page has now been set up to promote all community activity happening in North Walsall called Let's do it in North Walsall.

## **2. Safe, resilient and prospering communities**

- 2.1 On 1 June the Walsall's first Public Space Protection Order will come into force on the Beechdale Estate and will be in effect for three years. The order has the following conditions:
1. It is prohibited in a public place for any person to engage in activity which has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, including but not limited to any activity capable of causing nuisance or annoyance, verbal abuse, damage to property including graffiti or vandalism, littering, drug or alcohol related activity capable of causing nuisance or annoyance, violence or threats of violence.
  2. It is prohibited in a public place for any person to cause nuisance, annoyance, alarm or distress involving any vehicle including but not limited to cars, motorbikes, mini motos, push bikes, scooters and skateboards.
  3. It is prohibited in a public place for any person to cause nuisance or annoyance by playing any ball game including but not limited to those played in the street or car parks. Persons who breach the order could be liable for a considerable fine. To date there have only been minor breaches and some warning letters have been issued.
- 2.2 North Walsall police are working closely with Community Protection, Youth Offending Services and local commissioned providers to manage young people on Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. The coordinated approach has seen a reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour. This scheme is still working well. We are using locally commissioned services as a signpost service to engage young people in a social environment.
- 2.3 A task and finish group has been set up to address concerns raised in and around Birchills. The next meeting is scheduled for 29 March at 2.30pm at Birchills Sure Start.
- 2.4 We are experiencing off road bikes at Whateley Fields at the moment which is causing distress to local residents. A residents meeting was held on 23 February to share information and encourage residents to report incidents. A follow up meeting is scheduled for 27 April at 7pm at Ryecroft Community Hub.
- 2.5 Extract from WMnow highlighting the vehicle crime in the Bloxwich area.

'There has been a recent increase in vehicle crime in the Bloxwich area most vehicle crime is preventable. It can take as little as 10 seconds for a thief to steal something from your car. The best way to protect your belongings is to lock your car whenever you leave it. Other things you can do include:

- \* Removing everything from the car; don't even leave a jacket where it can be seen.
- \* Closing the sunroof along with the windows when you leave.

- \* Not storing things in the boot; take them with you.
- \* Storing car ownership information in your home, not your car.
- \* Taking removable stereos and sat nav equipment with you
- \* In addition, using secure (theft resistant) number plates can make your plates less attractive to thieves

If you witness anything or have any information about vehicle crime or any other incidents please call our non emergency number 101. Alternatively you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org).

Visit our website for crime prevention advice [www.west-midlands.police.uk](http://www.west-midlands.police.uk)

- 2.6 The Waterskeep development is on schedule to be completed by September 2017. There are a number of issues being highlighted through the Community Action Group meeting relating to inconsiderate parking, speeding vehicles and dust. Anyone with an interest in the Goscote developments are welcome to come along. The meetings start at 5.30pm and take place at St Aidans, Harden Road Centre, Harden Road, WS3 1RQ. The meeting dates are 19 April, 17 May, 14 June, 19 July, 13 September, 18 October and 15 December.
- 2.7 A number of police surgeries, residents' meetings and neighbourhood watch meetings take place across North Walsall.

Meeting	Date	Time	Where
Agenda 21 (Birchills/Leamore residents)	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of the month	7.30pm	Bentley Moor Social Club
Leamore Community Group	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month	7-8pm	Colebatches Social Club
Mossley Residents meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month	7.00pm	Mattesley Court
Blakenall Neighbourhood Watch	6 February	7.00pm	Blakenall Village Centre

- 2.8 Cameras are deployed in different locations across North Walsall to tackle fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and to assist with the detection of criminal activities. Covert cameras are also utilised. The distributions of cameras are decided at the monthly Confidential Partnership Tasking & Coordination Meeting.

Reference	Installed at	Installing Agency	Purpose	Objective
ND1/ND2 combined to make one working camera	Lichfield Road/ Sneyd Lane	Neighbourhood Management	To deter incessant flytipping	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken

ND7	Faulty – returned to be repaired			
ND8 Not panning due to go in for repair	In for repair			
ASB3	Hawbush Road	Community Protection	To reduce criminal activity and anti-social behaviour	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken

2.9 The CCTV review was approved by Cabinet on 15 March 2017. Please see appendix 1 for the full report.

- 2.10 West Midlands Fire Service are keen to promote their community members. As a West Midlands Fire Service community member you can make a difference by:
- Receiving the quarterly newsletter which will let you know what's happening with the fire service and your communities.
  - Read the monthly updates on safety campaigns and share this information with family, friends and colleagues.
  - Get involved in the fire station open days.
  - Become a volunteer to work at one of their two interactive centres or out in the community.
  - Apply to become a part of the Young Firefighters Association/The Cadets if you are aged between 11-16.

For more information email [communitymembership@wmfs.net](mailto:communitymembership@wmfs.net) or call 0121 380 7322. There is further information on the website [www.wmfs.net](http://www.wmfs.net)

2.11 North Walsall Area Partnership agreed to joint fund a gating scheme to garages being constantly flytipped along Stephenson Square. It is with great pleasure that I can report that since their installation at Christmas there have been no more flytipping incidents at this location. Beechdale Community Housing are now looking at other sites where such a scheme would be beneficial.

2.12 Bailey's pool has experienced historic problems regarding flytipping. Our gating officer, Area Partnerships, Countryside Services and the police are looking at various options to reduce the impact of this activity. A domehawk camera has now been installed at this location.

2.13 West Midlands Police have a new way of communicating the latest news with you. Join for free at [www.wmnow.co.uk](http://www.wmnow.co.uk) to receive crime alerts, witness appeals and know

what's happening where you live or work. This will replace the old VC Relay system. For advice and information contact Kevin Pitt on 101 extension 8896326.

- 2.14 As part of their engagement with all the diverse communities of Walsall, Walsall Police hosts an independent advisory group known as the Walsall Strategic Community Reference Group (SCRG) which is independently chaired and made up of volunteer members of the community. The aims of the group are briefly as follows:
- To increase trust and confidence in policing amongst communities, particularly minority communities and vulnerable groups.
  - Consider, advise and monitor strategies, policies and practice within LPU's in order to ensure a fair and equitable delivery of policing services to all communities within the LPU.

The group also serves as the local Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel, the function of which is to scrutinise local officers' use of their stop and search powers. The police are seeking representatives from the geographical areas of Bloxwich/Birchills Leamore/Blakenall and Aldridge/Streetly/Pheasey Park Farm, as at the moment they do not have any representation on the group. Membership of the group would particularly suit active members of the community or those who are seeking to develop their skills and knowledge. If you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming a member, please ask them to get in touch with Kevin Pitt [k.pitt@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk]. The next meeting is taking place on 30 March, 6pm at Bloxwich Police Station. Meetings are usually bi-monthly and a light buffet is provided.

- 2.15 Walsall bins has its own website <http://walsallbins.co.uk/> There is lots of information on there regarding household waste, recycling, green waste, bulky items, tips, assisted collections, collection dates and hazardous waste. There is even information on the real nappy incentive scheme. Give it a try.
- 2.16 Mossley Big Local, Area Partnerships, whg, Clean and Green and Community Protection worked together on 10 March to host a successful skip and clear up day. Abbey School, Community Champions and several residents all took part to clean up the roads around Fountains and Glastonbury Crescent. Six skips were filled with rubbish and all neighbouring roads were swept. We hope to do a similar event at the other end of Mossley towards the summer.
- 2.17 Mossley Scouts and Beavers did their bit for the Spring Clean when they came out to litter pick in front of the Mossley shops on 16 March. Thanks to all the volunteers and scouts and beavers who did such an excellent job. You are well on your way to earning your Environmental badge!
- 2.18 The Noise Team in Community Protection, of Walsall Council, provide a service for the investigation of noise complaints. The officers are available during the day Monday to Friday from 9am until 5pm. You can speak to an officer to report an

incident by calling 01922 653060. The officers aim to respond to all reports of noise within three working days. If a noise is happening at the time of your call please advise the officer and every effort will be made to visit and witness the noise as it occurs. As well as the daytime service officers also provide a response to complaints of noise at night. The hours when an officer is available to respond to a complaint at night are:

- Friday – 9-12
- Saturday – 7-1
- Sunday – 8-12

When officers are not on duty you can still make a report of noise nuisance to the council by calling 01922 650000. This call will be logged and passed to the Community Protection Team at the next available opportunity.

2.19 Streetlink is funded by the Government to try and reduce the number of rough sleepers. A dedicated website, [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) enables the public to alert local authorities about rough sleepers in their area.

2.20 One Walsall are hosting a funding event on 23 March at Manor Farm over two sessions, 1-4.30pm and 4.30-7.30pm. Funders attending include; Big Lottery Fund, Lloyds Bank Foundation, BBC Children in Need, Heritage Lottery Fund, Locality, Sported, Creative Black Country, IMPACT, Walsall Council together with presentations on Asset Transfers and HR issues. Any community and voluntary sector group can get support, funding advice, networking opportunities and volunteering information from [onewalsall.org](http://onewalsall.org)

### **3 Children are safe from harm, happy and learning well with self-belief, aspiration and support to be their best**

3.1 North Walsall Area Partnership have developed a programme called Community Play using funds from the ASB project. West Midlands Police have committed both funds and time to the project which sees young people engaging in old style games at pop up locations. The programme is being backed by Frank F Harrison Community Association and Bloxwich Community Partnership. The police have linked with schools in the area to run an emblem competition for the project which will be used on the bright pink t-shirts for staff and helpers on the project. We are piloting this over the Easter holidays and if successful we will continue during other school holidays. The pop up play will run between 3pm and 5pm on the following days and locations.

Monday 10 April	Dudley Fields	Monday 17 April	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 11 April	Valley Road	Tuesday 18 April	Valley Road
Wednesday 12 April	Stephenson Square	Wednesday 19 April	Stephenson Square
Thursday 13 April	Bagnall Street	Thursday 20 April	Bagnall Street

Friday 14 April	Bank Holiday	Friday 21 April	
-----------------	--------------	-----------------	--

- 3.2 Blakenall Sure Start is running various parenting programmes across the area, Understanding Your Child from the health centre at Pinfold, Parenting Workshops at the centre, Mellow Parenting from Edgar Stammers and Understanding Me. All programmes aim to help parents with appropriate strategies that will benefit the family. New groups running from the centre are:  
Healthy Lifestyles – Friday afternoon  
Beacon parent group substance misuse – Wednesday, once a fortnight
- 3.3 There are regular Mossley Big Local meetings for you to get involved in, just come along so you can help influence there the million pounds will be spent. If you need further information please contact Aaron Lawrence, [Aaron.Lawrence@whgrp.co.uk](mailto:Aaron.Lawrence@whgrp.co.uk) or telephone 01922 426971.
- 3.4 Birchills and Bloxwich/Blakenall Locality Panels continue to meet on a monthly basis offering partners the opportunity to attend and discuss complex cases in need of a multi agency approach. A number of difficult cases have been discussed and supported by agencies including CAMHS, Safeguarding, Troubled Families, and Housing Associations.
- 3.5 We are working with West Midlands Fire Service to implement a new fire cadet programme aimed at young people aged 8-11. The programme will be called the Emergency Services Cadets and aims to instil positive behaviour learning, self discipline, respect, team work and consequences. The programme is on a referral basis and will run for six weeks, culminating in a thought provoking trip to Safe Side in Birmingham. The programme has now been running for three weeks and proving very successful.
- 3.6 Walsall Link Line has kindly provided an update of their project of teaching young people about dementia. Please see appendix 2.
- 3.7 Our local libraries are delivering lots of sessions for both children and adults.

The following events are taking place in Bloxwich Library:

[Fun Filled Friday](#) - 17 March 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
[Matinee- 'The Money Monster'](#) - 18 March 2017 - 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
[Toddler Time 0-2 year olds](#) - 21 March 2017 - 9:45 am - 11:00 am  
[Fun Filled Friday](#) - 24 March 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
[Children's film club - 'The BFG'](#) - 25 March 2017 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
[Toddler Time 0-2 year olds](#) - 28 March 2017 - 9:45 am - 11:00 am  
[Bloxwich Library Forum AGM](#) - 28 March 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm  
[Fun Filled Friday](#) - 31 March 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am

[Coffee, Cakes and Crafts](#) - 31 March 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
[Toddler Time 0-2 year olds](#) - 4 April 2017 - 9:45 am - 11:00 am  
[Adult Reading Group Meeting](#) - 5 April 2017 - 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm  
[Fun Filled Friday](#) - 7 April 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
[Children's Easter Crafts](#) - 11 April 2017 - 10:30 am - 11:30 am  
[50+ club](#) - 13 April 2017 - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
[50+ Group : Seasonal Movie](#) - 13 April 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
[Children's film show 'Angry Birds'](#) - 19 April 2017 - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
[Matinee](#) - 22 April 2017 - 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
[Toddler Time 0-2 year olds](#) - 25 April 2017 - 9:45 am - 11:00 am  
[Fun Filled Friday](#) - 28 April 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
[Coffee, Cakes and Crafts](#) - 28 April 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
[Children's film club - 'The Secret Life of Pets'](#) - 29 April 2017 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Further details can be found at <http://lovelibrarieswalsall.co.uk/locations/bloxwich-library/>

The following events are taking place in Beechdale Library:

[Stay and Play](#) - 22 March 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
[Knit and Natter](#) - 22 March 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
[Stay and Play](#) - 29 March 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
[Knit and Natter](#) - 29 March 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
[Stay and Play](#) - 5 April 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
[Knit and Natter](#) - 5 April 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
[Lego Club](#) - 8 April 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
[Easter crafts](#) - 12 April 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
[Stay and Play](#) - 26 April 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Further details can be found at <http://lovelibrarieswalsall.co.uk/locations/beechedale-library/>

The following events are taking place in Blakenall Library:

[Cradle Club](#) - 17 March 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
[Homework Club](#) - 17 March 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
[Knit and Natter](#) - 21 March 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
[Homework Club](#) - 22 March 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
[Cradle Club](#) - 24 March 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
[Homework Club](#) - 24 March 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
[Knit and Natter](#) - 28 March 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
[Homework Club](#) - 29 March 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
[Cradle Club](#) - 31 March 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
[Homework Club](#) - 31 March 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
[Knit and Natter](#) - 4 April 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm



[Homework Club](#) - 5 April 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
[Cradle Club](#) - 7 April 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
[Homework Club](#) - 7 April 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
[Knit and Natter](#) - 11 April 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
[Knit and Natter](#) - 18 April 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
[Homework Club](#) - 18 April 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
[The Very Hungry Caterpillar & friends craft activity](#) - 19 April 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
[Reading Group](#) - 19 April 2017 - 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm  
[Knit and Natter](#) - 25 April 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
[Homework Club](#) - 26 April 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
[Cradle Club](#) - 28 April 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Further details can be found at <http://lovelibrarieswalsall.co.uk/locations/blakenall-library/>

#### 4 Pursue inclusive economic growth

- 4.1 Job Centre Plus will be delivering their service from Blakenall and Birchills children's centres. This will include help in sourcing job offers, income support, information, advice and guidance relating to work.
- 4.2 Walsall Council is a delivery partner for the **Youth Employment Initiative (IMPACT)** programme being delivered across the Black country. IMPACT will provide a Black Country co-ordinated response that will truly engage NEETs/unemployed young people aged 16-29 and move them towards positive outcomes. The programme is targeted at supporting young residents who are unemployed, not in education and training and help them get closer to a positive outcomes such as mainstream education and training, employment, apprenticeships and traineeships. Marginalised 15 year olds identified as at risk of becoming NEET are also eligible. Those marginalised communities who are unemployed, inactive, at risk of social inclusion will be specifically targeted to overcome barriers to participation. The Black Country wide programme will be a multi agency approach that offers a personalised and joined up provision of local services to support young people. A varied menu of provision will be offered by local authorities and their approved delivery partners and it is expected that these will include statutory, voluntary and commercial providers, delivering alternative innovative options to mainstream delivery including short courses, specialist vocational provision, and creative activity to develop self confidence and personal skills. More information is available from Claire Wills in Walsall Council - [claire.wills@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:claire.wills@walsall.gov.uk)
- 4.3 We are working with Work on the Horizon to address a gap in provision for the over 30s. This will ensure clients are able to accept work without hitting barriers.

Work on the Horizon offer information:

- advice and guidance on careers and skills
- training to help with things like building confidence and motivation
- job search support including interview techniques
- internet access for job-search & training activities
- Job related training and work experience opportunities
- training to help you up-skill and develop new skills
- practical help with work related costs like childcare and transport
- and lots more

See more at: <http://www.onestopemploymentshop.co.uk> or ring 01922 496555

Vicky Welsh (Project Coordinator) provided the following update on the North Walsall funded project:

Big Lottery have provided funding to run a 3 year project ending 31/12/2019 enabling Work on the Horizon to deliver an outreach service **'Reaching Out'**. Aims are to engage with the unemployed people in the North Walsall Borough who have multiple barriers. To increase confidence and motivation levels, improve wellbeing, provide better chance in life and access training and development to improve life skills. The outreach is being run at various community locations with the four wards currently Bloxwich & Blakenall Libraries, Sure Starts - Blakenall & Birchills, Beechdale Housing Association, Leamore TMO and Pinfold Health Centre (new venues are constantly being sought to ensure full coverage of the local area).

Steps to Work are also leading on a Black Country wide project called Bridges, which is jointly funded by Big Lottery and European Social Fund.

BRIDGES can support anyone who is:

- 25 years and over
- Unemployed (cannot be in part time work or on 0 hours contract)
- Economically Inactive (including those not working who are claiming benefits)
- Has complex needs/multiple barriers which are impacting on being able to enter paid employment
- Requires support to fully and independently engage in existing services

The BRIDGES project can help you with any of the following, get in touch to find out more:

- Confidence and motivation
- One-to-one mentoring
- Information, advice and guidance
- CV and application form support
- Job search support
- Arts and crafts
- Volunteering opportunities

If you would like more information please call 01922 627555 or email [enquiries@stepstowork.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stepstowork.co.uk)

## **5 Make a positive difference to the lives of Walsall people**

- 5.1 North Walsall Area Partnership are again linking with Green Lane Baptist Church and Walsall Link Line to put on a health awareness session on 20 April between 2 and 4pm. There will be four workshops for families to cycle through:

- Taste something different
- Zorga – bullying awareness
- Exercise dice
- Positive mental health

Each session will last for 30 minutes and will help families learn together ways of keeping healthy, both mentally and physically. Places are limited and will need to be booked in advance through Green Lane Baptist Church.

- 5.2 Mossley Estate over 50's Club, organised by and for local residents meet every Thursday 10am-12.00pm at Mattesley Court. New members always welcome.
- 5.3 Blakenall Community Centre hosts a walking netball session on Wednesdays from 10-11 for adults aged 50+. More information from Danielle Purshouse on 07793 883191.
- 5.4 Frank F Harrison host a club for adults with learning disabilities call FANclub, taking place from 10.30-1 on Fridays. They run sessions with refreshments, arts and crafts, games, films, trips out, going out for a meal and other activities. It takes place at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre and you can get more details by ringing 01922 746967.
- 5.5 Area Partnerships are working with The Watermill on both a sensory room and a sensory garden. Match funding is being sought through Area Partnerships for the sensory room. External funding is being sourced for the sensory garden and will involve local partners such as Goscote Greenacres and Ryecroft Hub. If anyone else wants to get involved then please contact Ness on 653714.
- 5.6 St Thomas Church in Mossley have set up a mental health and wellbeing support group. If you suffer with stress, depression, anxiety or any other mental health conditions come along and meet other people with shared experiences in a safe and confidential environment. Meeting are held weekly on Tuesdays from 12-1 at St Thomas Church, Cresswell Crescent, MOssley. More details from Sara on 07586352810.
- 5.7 Walsall Talking Therapies Service – self-referral launch as sent by Sarah O'Leary

Sometimes we all need a helping hand when lives daily pressures get on top of us. If you are experiencing stress, anxiety, depression, panic or phobias, are aged 17 or over and registered with a Walsall GP, then Walsall Talking Therapies Service may be right for you.

Our team of highly experienced NHS professionals provide a range of psychological therapies to help people get back to enjoying the most from their life. Psychological Therapies offered include wellbeing workshops, computerised Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (cCBT), group or individual therapy, guided self-help and signposting to other support services.

Our new online self-referral option makes it easier for you to access support. Once a referral is received, the team will contact you within 72 hours to offer you an assessment; this will generally be a telephone appointment with one of our qualified practitioners.

For more information on the service and how it may be able to benefit you, please refer to our website <http://www.dwmh.nhs.uk/ttwalsall/>. Please note that Walsall Talking Therapies Service are not able to provide support for those already receiving treatment from another mental health service, or those who have a severe and enduring mental health problem.

- 5.8 All patients in Walsall will now be able to see a GP or Nurse Practitioner on a Saturday for minor illnesses. From Saturday 14 January 2017, GP and Nurse Practitioner appointments will be available from 8am to 2pm for all patients with a Walsall GP. You do not need to be a patient at one of the practices below, you just need to have a Walsall GP. Saturday appointments will be available until 10 June 2017 at the following surgeries:

Portland Medical Practice, Anchor Meadow, Aldridge, WS9 8AJ, Telephone: 01922 604460, Or

The Keys Family Practice, Field Street, Willenhall, WV13 2NY, Telephone: 01922 604847

Any patient with a Walsall GP can use this service, even if they are not based at one of these GP practices. These appointments are intended to be for acute illnesses to help ease pressure on Walsall Manor Hospital A&E department and the borough's Urgent Care Centres.

Vanessa Croft: Area Manager - (01922) 653714 [vanessa.croft@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:vanessa.croft@walsall.gov.uk)



## **Cabinet –15 March 2017**

### **Walsall Public Space CCTV**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick – Community, Leisure and Culture

**Related portfolio:** Councillor Diane Coughlan – Social Care

**Service:** CCTV

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** Yes

**Forward plan:** Yes

#### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The council has undertaken a full review of its CCTV capability and found that it is not fit for purpose. The technology is outdated, it is analogue not digital, and in a poor state of repair. Spares for the system are rapidly reducing in availability due to the equipment becoming obsolete.
- 1.2 The council began the review of its CCTV system in July 2015. This was followed by an options appraisal which was completed in March 2016. This options appraisal identified that Centro (now the West Midlands Combined Authority under its corporate branding of 'Transport for West Midlands') provided a good strategic fit for the council and a value-for-money solution.
- 1.3 Discussions have been ongoing with Transport for West Midlands and Cabinet are now being asked to make a decision on the future delivery of CCTV within the borough.
- 1.4 This is a key decision as to be significant in terms of its direct effects on communities in an area comprising two or more wards in the borough.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the establishment of an Agreement for the provision of Walsall's fixed and mobile CCTV service and retail radio with the West Midlands Combined Authority under its corporate branding of Transport for West Midlands, for a period of seven years, from 30 June 2017.

- 2.2 That the Agreement referred to in 2.1 will be in accordance with Public Contracts Regulation 2015, 12(7) which gives an exemption from open market competition.
- 2.3 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Change & Governance, in consultation with the portfolio-holder for Community, Leisure and Culture, to enter into an agreement as set out in recommendation 2.1 of this report and to subsequently authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts or other related documents for such services.

### **3. Report detail**

- 3.1 CCTV has a fundamental role to play in supporting the safety of communities and providing reassurance to residents and businesses during both daytime and night-time economies.
- 3.2 It is well documented that many councils are looking at the costs of maintaining provision. Indeed, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner highlighted this in a speech last year and mentioned the potential to maintain systems through working in partnership and adopting new approaches.
- 3.3 However, the commissioner also stated the need to maintain standards through ensuring surveillance is delivered in accordance with the Code of Practice and by those trained and qualified to do so.
- 3.4 Adopting new technology and ensuring systems are fit for purpose are also key, as authorities have been criticised for retaining broken and ineffective equipment. In the commissioner's consultation document for the forthcoming National Surveillance Camera Strategy for England and Wales, the Government states its full support of the overt use of surveillance cameras in public places, reiterating the need for it to be proportionate, effective and compliant.
- 3.5 It is essential that agencies are equipped to respond to new and emerging threats to our communities and that the tools available to them are reliable and effective.
- 3.6 CCTV supports agencies in tackling a number of these threats, such as business crime, town centre anti-social behaviour (ASB), threats to cohesion such as demonstrations and marches and counter-terrorism/extremism. It also acts as a deterrent against those who would commit crime and has been highlighted in public surveys as contributing to people feeling safe, particularly in places such as car parks and public spaces.
- 3.7 As agencies look at ways to respond to these threats, the ability to link with neighbouring areas in an effective and timely manner is also essential and has proved to be vital in piecing together intelligence in recent high-profile cases.

- 3.8 The council's CCTV service currently consists of around 90 fixed cameras and 26 mobile cameras that are monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from a control room based at the Streets Corner site. The scheme covers the whole of the borough and location of the cameras is based on historic crime or ASB hotspots.
- 3.9 A retail radio scheme is also operated alongside CCTV, which links together retail outlets, the CCTV control room and West Midlands Police.
- 3.10 This scope of this report does not include Urban Traffic Control (UTC), Clean and Green or local schemes.
- 3.11 Although a financial investment was made in 2009 to digitalise the recording system, there are parts of the system, particularly the fixed and mobile camera capacity, that have not benefitted from significant capital investment for some years.
- 3.12 The need to secure cost-effective sustainability of this service has been under discussion for almost two years, with a full independent technical review of the current system taking place, as well as exploration of possible options, which have included the retention of an 'in-house' only service or seeking an externally-based commissioned provider.
- 3.13 An effective CCTV system not only contributes to the prevention and detection of crime and disorder, but also supports the economic wellbeing of our town centres by providing reassurance to businesses, residents and visitors.
- 3.14 It should also be noted Walsall remains a Prevent priority area.
- 3.15 In September 2015 the council undertook an evaluation of its CCTV system. An external organisation was commissioned to undertake the evaluation. The report found that:
- 3.15.1 the system incorporates obsolete equipment resulting in higher repair costs and increased camera down time;
  - 3.15.2 staffing levels in its current form were insufficient;
  - 3.15.3 there were lighting issues alongside the cameras; and
  - 3.15.4 the positioning of the cameras was not evidenced-based and often in the wrong location.
- 3.16 In March 2016 the council completed an options appraisal. This options appraisal considered various options, primarily based on strategic relevance and cost. The options reviewed included the following:
- 3.16.1 Retain the existing service – With the level of deterioration of the technology this was not considered a viable option.



- 3.16.2 Do nothing, cease service – This would impact on the confidence of residents and have a negative impact on crime prevention.
- 3.16.3 Review the existing service – This would require increased investment in terms of capital and revenue at a time of financial pressure.
- 3.16.4 Reduce service provision – This would impact on the confidence of residents and have a negative impact on crime prevention.
- 3.16.5 Retain upgrade and enhance Streets Corner operation – This would require increased investment in terms of capital and revenue at a time of financial pressure.
- 3.16.6 Outsource – This would require increased investment in terms of capital and revenue at a time of financial pressure.
- 3.16.7 Partner with Centro (now the West Midlands Combined Authority under its corporate branding of 'Transport for West Midlands' – 'TfWM') – The appraisal found that this may improve the quality of the service at a reduced cost and supports a shared service model. **The Recommended Option.** Or
- 3.16.8 Partner with others – This would require increased investment in terms of capital and revenue at a time of financial pressure.
- 3.17 The TfWM option will provide a strategic fit for the council and the police enabling joined up CCTV coverage with TfWM services and currently Solihull and East Staffordshire councils. TfWM operate in excess of 1000 cameras, with over 40 already in Walsall. This integration is expected to increase.
- 3.18 The council has undertaken further work with TfWM to ensure the deliverability of CCTV at a reduced cost to the current cost of council provision.
- 3.19 The annual cost of the service including the costs to TfWM will be £327,707 compared with a budgeted in-house cost of £398,298. A part-year saving of £32,480 will be delivered in 2017/18 and a full-year saving of £70,591 from 2018/19.
- 3.20 TfWM currently have arrangements to monitor CCTV with Solihull and East Staffordshire councils. As TfWM is now the host company for the Combined Authority, there is an opportunity to create a strategic regional CCTV operation.
- 3.21 It is proposed that both fixed and mobile camera stock and monitoring and the retail radio operation would be transferred to TfWM. In addition, the contract proposed will enable inclusion of existing local CCTV sites including any use of Open Access technology within libraries.

- 3.22 Transfer of provision would not result in any reduction of current coverage. Indeed, the required technical upgrades would deliver a more effective and efficient service. Decisions on moving and replacement of cameras would be driven by evidence-based analysis provided by the police through TfWM.
- 3.23 Local viewing of cameras would be available to authorised personnel through the web, downloaded to fixed and mobile devices.
- 3.24 The development of a small viewing suite within the Civic Centre will provide a vital in-house resource which will support the council and its partners, particularly on town centre issues. In addition, funding has provisionally been secured from the Community Safety Partnership to fund a link to the Gold Command Suite at Tally Ho! should any transfer of provision take place. This is vital for coordinating partner responses to local threats
- 3.25 Any agreement with TfWM will have the ability to incorporate future developments such as CCTV associated with Open Access library systems.
- 3.26 We have consulted with the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) over the provision of CCTV. The PCC sees this as very much a local issue. We will, however, continue to work with them.

#### **4. Council priorities**

- 4.1 The provision of an effective, efficient and sustainable CCTV service supports the delivery of all of the priorities within the Walsall Plan:

- 4.1.1 Pursue inclusive economic growth.

Resilience against crime and disorder within town centre locations, reassurance for shoppers, businesses, visitors. Key to delivering car park security. Protecting communities at times of threat. Night-time economy. Informing allocation of resources to ensure they are placed where most needed. Supports business confidence.

- 4.1.2 Make a positive difference to the lives of Walsall people.

People feel more confident about coming into town centres – reassurance, access to town centre services, out and about, accessing leisure and fitness facilities.

- 4.1.3 Safe, resilient and prospering communities.

Critical to supporting safety of the borough and tackling threats to cohesion.

- 4.1.4 Make a positive difference to the lives of Walsall people.

Families visit town centres, leisure centres, libraries and feel safe.

## 5. Risk management

- 5.1 Failure to upgrade the CCTV system and its continued deterioration will lead to a failure to tackle crime in an efficient and effective way, thereby leading to a reduction in public and business confidence. This may lead to an increase in isolation of our vulnerable residents and impact upon the potential growth of the business community.

## 6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The following table details the financial saving available by transferring the service to TfWM:

REVENUE	2017/18 £	2018/19 £
Budget	398,298.00	398,298.00
Staffing	75,539.77	109,113.00
Maintenance of cameras and lines	28,500.00	28,500.00
Telephone (data uplink and calls)	84,894.00	84,894.00
Management costs	26,200.00	26,200.00
10 mobile camera units	40,000.00	40,000.00
<b>Total payable to Centro including mobile units</b>	<b>255,133.77</b>	<b>288,707.00</b>
Community safety operative G6	32,000.00	32,000.00
Link to Streets Corner	7,000.00	7,000.00
Retain existing staff for 16 weeks	71,684.00	-
<b>Total costs for CCTV service</b>	<b>365,817.77</b>	<b>327,707.00</b>
<b>Deficit/(Surplus)</b>	<b>(32,480.23)</b>	<b>(70,591.00)</b>

CAPITAL	2017/18 £	2018/19 £
Systems integration	64,278.00	
CCTV and retail radio transmission	85,250.00	
Walsall link at Civic Centre	10,000.00	
Video Wall Integration	25,000.00	
Install Link to Police	12,500.00	
<b>Total capital costs including link to Police</b>	<b>197,028.00</b>	
Budget available for CCTV	250,000.00	100,000.00
<b>Remaining budget for upgrade of CCTV equipment</b>	<b>52,972.00</b>	<b>100,000.00</b>

- 6.2 The remaining capital will be used to provide new cameras, with about one third of the camera positions due to be in place in the first year.

## **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1 The ceasing of an in-house CCTV service and the provision of services by an outside organisation will have implications for council staff (currently six), who are protected by the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 (TUPE). Appropriate consultation would need to take place with such staff and their representatives.
- 7.2 Responsibilities under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) will not change, with the council remaining the RIPA authority, and the existing framework will remain in place. Any agreement with TfWM will need to record the council's remaining responsibilities for RIPA.
- 7.3 Appropriate data-sharing arrangements need to be in place prior to the commencement of any arrangement.
- 7.4 The future arrangements, if Cabinet approves the relationship, will be through an agreement for which Legal Services will need to be instructed, to advise about the most appropriate form of agreement and a realistic timetable to consider the arrangement, negotiate terms and put an agreement in place.

## **8. Procurement implications/social value**

- 8.1 The Public Contracts Regulations 2015, Regulation 12, contain provision for contracts between public sector organisations. In particular, situations of inter-authority cooperation, where a horizontal arrangement exists between contracting authorities to provide the public services, an exemption from Public Contract Regulations 2015 may exist.
- 8.2 It is proposed to enter into the Agreement referred to in this report, in accordance with Public Contracts Regulation 2015, 12(7), subject to the following conditions fulfilled:
- a) the contract establishes or implements a co-operation between the participating contracting authorities with the aim of ensuring that public services they have to perform are provided with a view to achieving objectives they have in common;
  - b) the implementation of that co-operation is governed solely by considerations relating to the public interest; and
  - c) the participating contracting authorities perform on the open market less than 20% of the activities concerned by the co-operation.

## **9. Property implications**

- 9.1 The current CCTV service is delivered from Streets Corner. The removal of this service has no significant impact on the use of the facility. The proposed small facility at the Civic Centre will be accommodated within the existing area occupied by the Community Safety team.

## **10. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 10.1 Cameras will be located at sites of need based on evidence from police and the council. The location of cameras will improve the confidence of local communities and therefore their wellbeing. This improvement in confidence is particularly important in areas of high deprivation, therefore the replacement of cameras will initially focus on areas of high deprivation.

## **11. Staffing implications**

- 11.1 Transfers of any council staff (six) to TfWM will be covered by the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 (TUPE).
- 11.2 The success of any transfer of this nature depends on appropriate consultation with staff. Meetings have taken place with staff during the process and further meetings will take place with staff and their representatives going forward.

## **12. Equality implications**

- 12.1 There are no equality implications. However an equality impact assessment has been completed.

### 13. Consultation

13.1 Consultation has taken place with the following internal services:

- Library Services - to ensure that any future service delivery arrangements could accommodate Open Access technology.
- Highways - to ensure alignment of strategic thinking with UTC.
- Money/Home/Job - to ensure that any future service delivery arrangements could accommodate more localised CCTV arrangements.
- Clean and Green - to ensure alignment with their compliance activities.
- Facilities Management - to ensure that any future service delivery arrangements could accommodate site security arrangements and temporarily managing the service whilst in transition.
- Community Safety - to discuss arrangements for managing any future contractual arrangements.

#### Author

Paul Gordon – Head of Business Change

☎ 07792 920257

✉ [paul.gordon@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:paul.gordon@walsall.gov.uk)

Signed:

Signed:

Paula Furnival  
Executive Director

Councillor J Fitzpatrick  
Portfolio-holder

10 March 2017

10 March 2017

Signed:



Julie Alderson  
Executive Director

10 March 2017

## Walsall Link Line

### Dementia Awareness and Wellbeing for Children

We will have exceeded the planned targets by the end of March and have many more groups planned for the future.

I would like to thank the panel for having faith in us and enabling us to continue this work. I look forward to sharing more results and stories with you in the near future.

#### Sessions so far

- Green Lane Baptist Church
- St. Chad's Church
- 10th Walsall Brownies
- J Gang

#### Future Sessions

- 10th Walsall Guides – March 2017
- FFH Youth Club – April 2017
- The Watermill – date to be arranged due to staff sickness
- Walsall Muslim Youth Group –
- Walsall Fire Cadets –

Output	Quoted output		So far
	Quantity	Date	10 March 2017
Young people attending workshops about dementia and wellbeing	100	By March 2017	89 young people reached
Youngsters trained as Dementia Friends	50	By March 2017	33 youngsters trained
Memory boxes being used by family members	100	By March 2017	89 memory boxes being used