

WILLENHALL NORTH/WILLENHALL SOUTH/SHORT HEATH AREA PANEL MEETING

Willenhall Chart, 19 Gomer Street, Willenhall, WV13 2NS

Tuesday 28th June, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

Members in attendance

Councillor C Creaney (Chairman)
Councillor D. Barker
Councillor S Cooper
Councillor D Coughlan
Councillor A Hicken
Councillor D Hazel
Councillor E Hazel

Others in attendance

Michael Greenfield	Area Manager
Sgt Harj Cheema	West Midlands Police
Liam Perrens	Frank F Harrison Youth Support
Craig Goodall	Democratic Services Officer

115/16 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Coughlan and Councillor I Shires.

116/16 Declarations of Interest

Councillor D Coughlan declared a pecuniary interest as a board member of Willenhall CHART.

117/16 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be taken in private session.

118/16 Minutes

Councillor D Coughlan requested that item 108/16 Declarations of Interest be amended with the word *employed* replaced by the word *volunteer*.

Resolved:

That the minutes as amended of the meeting which took place on the 24th March 2016 a copy having previously been circulated be approved as a true and accurate record.

119/16 **Policing in Willenhall and Short Heath**

The panel discussed policing in Willenhall and Short Heath.

Sgt Harj Cheema attended the meeting and updated members regarding ongoing issues in the area. He explained that anti-social behaviour was reducing due to some excellent engagement work by the Police with local young people. He did note however that there appeared to be a younger cohort being noted in the area and he was discussing methods in which to prevent anti-social behaviour around local shops. This did include the use of a mosquito alarm.

The meeting then discussed the pros and cons of such a system noting that the Police and the Council did not endorse their use. The issue of simply moving one set of problem young people onto another area was also discussed. Members also discussed problems that had been taking place on the Lichfield Road but it was noted that anti-social behaviour had reduced. This had been achieved through a combination of warning young people, parental visits and use of acceptable behaviour contracts which were then vigorously enforced.

Sgt Cheema updated the meeting regarding Operation Elm which had seen the arrest of a person suspected targeting local young people.

Sgt Cheema also reported on the excellent work which WHG's Community Safety Team played in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

Members requested up to date contact information for the local beat team to be circulated to themselves and local shops and partners.

Resolved

That West Midlands Police update and circulate an updated contact list for the local beat team.

120/16 **New Services Willenhall and Short Heath – Areas of Employment**

The panel discussed new services in Willenhall and Short Heath.

Liam Perrens from Frank F Harrison explained that they were the new provider for Youth Services for all three wards in the Willenhall and Short Heath area. There are no local Youth Clubs. He explained the area had £40,000 budget increase compared to previous years and this is separated by ward with £24,000 spent in each. As there are no local youth clubs detached sessions would take place. The number of sessions taking place in each ward were based on the need and the numbers of young people. He provided a timetable of local sessions across the area

to members [annexed]. He added that the provider was still searching for a venue to deliver sessions from the Short Heath ward.

The meeting discussed that engagement and diversionary activities and how they could be successful in preventing anti-social behaviour. However members did have some concerns that the activities could be seen as a reward for bad behaviour.

A discussion on bullying in schools took place. Members were concerned that problems in schools could spill out onto the local streets. It was noted that schools tended to deal with these matters internally and didn't really involve external organisations. It was felt that in particular Academy's did not want the negative publicity. The Police did go into schools to do talks on bullying and other issues such as sexting.

The meeting discussed the sharing of information between partners. The Area Manager explained that the anti-social behaviour and problems with young people were discussed at the Area Tasking Meetings however he did note that social workers did not attend these meetings despite being invited. Members felt that social workers should be involved in the meetings and requested the Chairman to write to the portfolio holder and Executive Director to request that this takes place.

It was noted that Frank F Harrison was still searching for a venue to provide detached youth working in the Short Heath ward. A member of the panel offered a premises for use if the group felt that it would assist them.

Resolved

The Chair to write to the portfolio holder and Executive Director of Children's Services to request Social Worker representation at Area Panel Tasking Meetings.

121/16 Area Manager's Report

The Area Manager reported on ongoing activity in the local area.

He noted success with recent arrest following a spate of burglaries in the local area and he also reported on a successful Aspire to Engage event which had taken place at Bescot Stadium. Members provided positive feedback on the event and that they found it very interesting and there was a further event planned for October. A member of the committee complained that there were issues with drug dealing in certain streets in the local area.

Resolved

That the Area Manager investigate the details of drug dealing in the area and pass them onto West Midlands Police.

122/16 **Funding Applications**

The panel went through funding applications that had been received.

Willenhall E-Act Academy

The Area Manager presented the project to members, members noted that they had funded a similar project at this school in March and that the finance for the activity was still unclaimed. It was also noted that funding was for activities for the same age group and that the school took children from areas other than Willenhall and Short Heath. Members were minded to fund the project subject to the Area Manager being satisfied that the previous project had been completed and that different children were accessing the project. If this criteria could not be met and the school wished to go ahead with the application the panel requested that the school attend a special meeting to present their project and the reasons for the funding.

West Midlands Fire Service

The Area Manager presented the funding application and was felt that this was a valuable project and agreed to fund it.

Willenhall Chart Centre Social Breakfast Club

At this point Councillor Diane Coughlan declared a pecuniary interest and left the room for the duration of the discussion on this funding application.

The Area Manager presented the report.

Members queried in detail what the funding would be spent on. The Area Manager reported that a large portion of funding was to pay for premises costs. Members also questioned the demand for the service.

An employee from Willenhall CHART attended the meeting and explained in details the reasons for the costs. It was explained that premises costs included room hire, kitchen costs and heating and lighting fixed costs which would be lost as the rooms would be available to be used by external organisations. The breakfast clubs would begin at 10.30 and would be open to all age groups as the CHART was near Willenhall Town Centre it was well serviced by bus routes and local car parks were free. Members were also informed that there was a demand for this service it was something which was often requested by local people and it had also

been highlighted in a questionnaire of building users. A valuation would also take place during and after the project to establish its success.

Substance Matters

The Area Manager presented the fund application.

Members felt that this project provided good value for money for the types of services the organisation was providing. The wider impact of reducing crime and anti social behaviour was also noted.

Willenhall Town Centre Partnership

The Area Manager presented the funding application.

A member questioned whether this money did benefit the whole of the Willenhall and Short Heath Area and a further member fed back that a substantial sum of money was required to cover the events and the judging costs for the Britain in Bloom Judges. Another member explained that the Town Centre Partnership was well run and the activity was growing is a positive issue which helped shop keepers and attracted people to the town.

Resolved

1. £1500 be awarded to Willenhall E-Act Academy subject to:
 - a) The Area Manager being satisfied that the previous funded project by the area panel is complete and;
 - b) Reassurance that different children will be accessing the latest project.
2. £500 be awarded to West Midlands Fire Service.
3. £2000 be awarded to Willenhall CHART
4. £759.00 be awarded to the Willenhall Owls.
5. £1500 be awarded to Substance Matters.
6. £4000 be awarded to Willenhall Town Centre Partnership.
7. £2000 be awarded to the Area Partnership.

Date of next meeting

It was noted the date of the next meeting was 27th September 2016

Being no other business the meeting terminated at 8.13 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: