



# Walsall Area Partnerships

## **Walsall South Area Partnership Area Manager Report – updated 19th November 2013**

### **Ongoing Updates on the Actions for Walsall South Area Plan**

#### **1. Purpose of the report**

This report seeks to inform the elected members of the Walsall South Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within Walsall South. The information in the report was correct at the time of writing, 19th November 2013.

#### **2. Work Stream priority – Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour**

Responsible Members – Cllr Ali, Cllr Nazir & Cllr Sarohi

Partners Involved – ASB unit, IYPSS, WM Police, Town Centre Management Team, Walsall Area Partnership, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmoreaccord.

- 2.1 Apache CCTV for Walsall South - Area Manager working with Surveillance Unit we currently have access to two cameras that can be deployed in the area. Camera 1 Caldmore Green, Caldmore due to ASB concerns raised by Caldmore Traders Association and Camera 2 Camden Street, Palfrey due to ASB concerns raised by residents. We also help with the deployment of the Birchills NHW / Agenda 21 camera, which is for the Birchills area only, this camera is currently away for repair due to development of a fault.
- 2.2 IYPSS continues to provide detached youth work as and when needed. The Detached Team are out and about in our parks at the moment with the Winter Warmers programme to help reduce ASB. The Walsall South October Holiday's Activities programme took place following on from the successful summer activities programme the Women's only farming project was extended to another full day, exploring country life from muddy boots to looking at badger sets. The Sound Good Dance Good sessions were popular especially because they were led by young people. Christmas time can be difficult and challenging time for both young people and their families Walsall South's IYPSS provision will be open over the Christmas period offering support around managing relationships.



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### 3. Work Stream priority – Creating cleaner and tidier neighbourhoods

Responsible Members – Cllr Azam & Cllr Ditta (Vice Chair Caldmore Tidy group - Cllr Arif)

Partners Involved – Caldmore Village Festival (CVF) committee, Walsall Area Partnership, Caldmoreaccord, Clean and Green, Walsall Housing Group, Reassurance Team, WM Fire Service, Caldmore Traders Association.

- 3.1 Caldmore Traders Association has launched it's Time for Change Project within this project they plan to hold a Reclaim Your Pavement event to restore pride in Caldmore Village. The mini-makeover initiative will see village traders complete an organised clean-up of their premises while tending to the pavements outside. The event has been organised to re-invigorate the local community. All those taking part will then celebrate their efforts and achievement with a communal lunch on Caldmore Green. Reclaim Your Pavement was planned for October 28th however due to inclement weather had to be cancelled but will be rescheduled. If you would like to be part of this event, please contact [caldmoretraders@gmail.com](mailto:caldmoretraders@gmail.com) or on 07827 738349.
- 3.2 The Caldmore Tidy group held a tidy event Saturday 5th October from Aisha Mosque, Rutter Street approximately 30 volunteers turned up on the day including several young people from the Mosque youth group. Skips were kindly provided by whg and located at Newhall House Car Park, Bath Street and Aisha Mosque car park both were well used. The volunteers litter picked in both Palfrey and Caldmore.
- 3.3 The Sutton Road Allotments Association has been awarded planning permission to build a social and educational centre on their site. The group has more than 120 members who will be able to meet in the centre to both network and socialise. The group also plans to encourage students from local schools to visit to learn about growing vegetables.
- 3.4 Walsall Council supported by the Arboretum User Group are supporting the country park on the site of the former Grange Golf course in the Arboretum Extension. The plan is to attract more visitors to help boost wellbeing of residents of all ages. An overgrown hedgerow on the site will be rejuvenated after securing funding from the Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area. The first phase of woodland planting has been completed with more planting being carried out in November and during Summer 2014.



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## 4. Work Stream priority – Healthy lifestyles

Responsible Members – Cllr Arif, Cllr Russell & Cllr McCracken

Partners involved – Public Health, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmoreaccord, Walsall Partnership, Walsall College, Extended schools, Social Care & Inclusion, IYPSS, Clean and Green, Sports and Leisure Services

4.1 The main Healthy Lifestyles work stream group met Friday 4th October the purpose of the meeting was to receive an update from Walsall South Children Centres and IYPSS services with relation to young people's health, their current provision to support the health of Walsall South's young people's health and where they need support from partners. A discussion took place around the priorities from the Children and Young People's Strategic Delivery Plan, which are as follows:

- Support the most vulnerable families to provide the best start in life;
- Ensuring that children maintain a healthy weight;
- Reduce the impact of child poverty;
- Reducing the harm caused by sexual exploitation;
- Better communication between frontline staff in all agencies that support children and families;
- Greater diversity of choice for learning, training and employment for young people;
- Supporting the transition into adulthood for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities;
- Promoting pride in the achievements of the children and young people in Walsall.

The key areas for Walsall South focus from the Area Profile are as follows:

- Perinatal and infant mortality
- Low birth weight
- Uptake of immunisations
- Childhood obesity
- Unintentional and deliberate injuries in 0-5 year olds

The Children Centre's were keen to understand the immunisation data and how they could help improve uptake for our area. The group wanted to understand the health data for Walsall South and how they can develop pieces of work to support gaps. Sports and Leisure Services suggested



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they could work more closely with Children Centre's to support activity. The group appreciated the chance to share information and asked for a follow-up meeting sometime in the New Year.

- 4.3 A networking event was held at St Paul's The Crossing 10th October. Partners who work and deliver services in Walsall South were invited, along with the councillor leads for our Healthy Lifestyles work stream. Walsall South Area Partnership hosted the networking lunch to enable everyone working within the area to meet and talk as well as finding out about a few initiatives that are being launched and would be of use for front line staff. Partners were update on 3 initiatives:

- Making Every Contact Count (MECC)
- 5 Ways to Wellbeing
- Simple diabetes and risk score awareness

The event was attended by over 30 people from whg, West Midlands Fire Service, Aaina Community Hub, Time for Real project, Walsall Council, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Watmos, Caldmoreaccord, Community Health Champions and West Midlands Police.

- 4.4 Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust and Walsall Council continue to deliver free physical activity sessions for Walsall residents and people who work in Walsall. In Walsall South they take place at Walsall Central Hall, St Matthew's Church Hall, Aaina Community Hub and Wolverhampton University Gorway. For more information please contact Lifestyle Link [www.walsall.gov.uk/getactive](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/getactive) or telephone 01922 444044.
- 4.5 Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) held two Pop-up shop events in the Saddler Centre 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October over 600 people visited the shop to understand how the CCG plan to improve health services across Walsall. Over 300 people had free health checks in which their blood pressure, height, weight and body mass index were measured. Staff were also available to give advice on healthy eating and general health and wellbeing information.
- 4.6 Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust with support from CCG and Walsall Council held a 'Choose Well' event at the Manor Hospital 4<sup>th</sup> November. One of the major problems associated with winter is the considerable increase in the number of people presenting at our Emergency Department with what can sometimes be non-emergency conditions. This is why each year we encourage people to 'Choose Well' ensuring that they are using the correct healthcare facility for their needs. [www.lifestyle.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk/choose-well.aspx](http://www.lifestyle.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk/choose-well.aspx).



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## 5. Work Stream priority – Remove the impact of sex workers and drug dealers

Responsible Member – Cllr Arif

Partners Involved – WM Police, Caldmoreaccord, Pleck NHW, Hi's N Lows, SAFE Project, Community Safety Partnership, Walsall Housing Group, Probation Services, Lantern House, Manor House Project, Addaction, Dudley and Walsall Mental Healthcare Trust, Supported Housing and Walsall Community Chaplaincy Project .

### 5.1 Under this work stream there are now three strands of work:

- Reducing harm - to reduce the vulnerability of sex workers and community and to improve support and diversion for sex workers
- Community & living - to improve quality of life for community and local residents and to improve the reputation of Walsall.
- Effective justice - reduce on street prostitution

Some partners from the Reducing harm group went for a visit to Anawim in Birmingham. This is a Women's Centre that provides interventions for women with complex needs including prostitution and drug & alcohol abuse. The project provides a full family support service including crèche facilities. One of the positive aspects of the project is its cross partnership service provided at the project which enables the women to see a number of agencies who are supporting their complex needs in one place.

### 5.2 Residents from an estate in Pleck have raised their concerns both to Area Partnership and the ASB unit with regards to an increase in prostitution and drug taking in the area. These concern have been raised through Walsall South's Tasking process, West Midlands Police, Community Safety and Clean & Green Services are working in the area to help with a reduction in the activity for the benefits of the residents.

## 6. Work Stream priority – Improving educational achievement

Responsible Members – Cllr Ali & Cllr Hussain

Partners Involved – Children Services, Walsall South Schools, IYPSS

### 6.1 Alumwell Junior school have unveiled their new Forest School. The facility has been designed to enhance the pupil's outdoor education by giving them the opportunity to acquire an understanding of planting and coppicing.



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- 6.2 Walsall Adult and Community College carried out a survey with its students 98% rated the quality of teaching good or outstanding. Over 1,500 students were asked their opinion on the college's teaching, learning and assessment methods.

## 7. **Work Stream priority – Improving job prospects and employability**

Responsible Members – TBC

Partners Involved – Strategic Regeneration, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmoreaccord

- 7.1 The 'Help to Work' Scheme which is being introduced to tackle long term unemployment. Under the scheme Jobcentre Allowance claimants returning from the Work Programme to Jobcentre Plus, will go onto one of three intensive modules of support:

- The Advisory Mandatory Intervention Regime (MIR) which is currently operating in Jobcentre Plus
- To sign on in a Jobcentre every day for 3 months
- Referral to a community work placement scheme and with a six month community work placement for 30 hours a week, alongside provider led jobsearch.

If claimants remain on benefits after daily signing or community work placements, they will be transferred to MIR support. 'Help to Work' will begin in April 2014 and the Invitation to Tender for Community Work placements will be released shortly. 'Help to Work' will be mandatory. If claimants fail to participate in MIR, community work placements, or their daily signing regime, they will have their Jobseekers Allowance stopped for 4 weeks for a first failure, and 13 weeks for a second failure.

- 7.2 Through the Small Street Centre, Caldmore TQ Training are providing free courses for employability skills, from entry level to level 3. The initial assessments and inductions took place Tuesday 5th November for more information contact Small Street on 01922 700950. When credits are awarded they can be spent on items such as driving lessons, and with up to 21 credits available this could be potentially 21 driving lessons.
- 7.3 The Goldmine Centre, Lower Hall Lane will be launching their Social Enterprise Academy during November's Global Entrepreneurs Week. They will be hosting a series of workshops to help new entrepreneurs, including an introduction to self employment and social enterprise.



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- 7.4 The Enterprise Hub is set to open by the end of the year at the Waterfront in Walsall Town Centre. The Hub will provide a training centre and innovation space for up to 40 young entrepreneurs to develop their ideas for profit oriented businesses.
- 7.5 An information event took place 16<sup>th</sup> October at St John's Church Pleck to update residents on the Phoenix 10 (the former IMI Copper Works and adjacent land) project which is a key development site and by bringing the land into productive use can make a significant contribution to economic growth and job creation in Walsall. Walsall Council is working closely with the majority landowner, the Homes and Communities Agency, on a project to secure the clean up of the land enabling future development. The Council wanted to provide the local community with information so that there is a common understanding of why the project is being proposed, its current status and how it will move forward. Regeneration Services, ward councillors and Area Manager were there to discuss the project with the 100 attendees that visited the event.

### 8. **Work Stream priority – Improving roads maintenance and traffic flow**

Responsible Members – Cllr Martin & Cllr Anson

Partners Involved – Highways & Traffic Management, WM Police, Walsall South NHW groups

- 8.1 Consultation will be taking place between 25<sup>th</sup> November and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013 for residents to consider '20 is plenty' zones in the Brookhouse Estate, Paddock. The Government has suggested that consideration be given to 20 mph zones as evidence shows they can make roads safer and reduce collision rates. It also makes it easier for residents to cycle and walk in such zones. Subject to approval of this proposal a pilot would take place with the work happening between February and March 2014 when 20 mph signage would be introduced at gateways to the estate and road markings painted on road surfaces. The scheme would then be reviewed in six months time to assess the impact of the changes with a report taken to Cabinet for a decision on how to proceed.
- 8.2 Concerns have been raised by residents with regards to road safety at a junction at Lake Avenue / Greaves Avenue Paddock. There is an overgrown shrub affecting driver's vision at the junction and causing safety concerns, enforcement action is being taken to help resolve the issue.

**Provision of a Community Benefit** from Sanctuary in partnership with Galliford Try with support from Walsall South Area Partnership and Walsall Council's Regeneration Team near their new housing development in Midland Road. To facilitate this offer a community event was held in the Council House in June with the following groups in attendance Aaina Community Hub, Caldmore Community Garden, Caldmore Village Primary school, Caldmore Village Festival group, and St Matthew's Church Hill Improvement group. Also in attendance to offer their support were Cllr Arif and Anna Rogozinska





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Community Organiser. The evening went really well with Sanctuary and Galliford Try impressed with all the ideas coming forward from the groups for potential benefits for the area. A scoping visit took place in June to review the localities for the ideas, Sanctuary and Galliford Try then went away to provide costs for the suggestions. Sanctuary and Galliford Try were very impressed with the community cohesion taking place in the Caldmore area especially between the groups that they met as part of this project. At a follow-up site visit in October it was agreed to deliver on four projects, this decision was made due to the enthusiasm of the groups involved and their willingness to work with Sanctuary and Galliford Try to develop the community benefits to be provided.

The projects that will be supported are:

- Caldmore Village Festival's Stone Lifters Youth Training group they will be provided with a Training Area at the Bath Street Centre. This will enable young people to come together to learn the skills of Stone Lifting in a safe supervised environment. It is hoped that this training will enable the young people to compete in the Walsall Mela taking place later next year. Both the young people and the volunteer instructors will help Galliford Try in the building of this area.
- Aaina Community Hub will be provided with a buggy/bike shelter. This will enable the families who attend the Hub to park their buggies safely providing more space for activities in their outdoor area. The Community Garden which is next door to the Hub will also be able to be accessed by the families in the knowledge that their buggies are safe.
- The Caldmore Village Primary school who has 275 pupils from a wide range of ethnic groups will be provided with an open air class room situated in the Community Garden. This will both link the pupils with the garden and help with their educational development.
- The Caldmore Community Garden group will be supported with some ground work by provision of levelling of an area and laying of grass which the volunteers from the garden will help with.

This project has facilitated the bringing together of community volunteers, business organisations and the local authority in a joined up approach to enable positive community cohesion to take place, with long term benefits for Caldmore Village area.

**Caldmore Village Community Garden** held an Apple Day event on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October over 90 people attended. There was food tasting including smoked meats, this technique provided some different flavours to meats such as chicken and duck. There was also an Apple Pie competition which was judged by Gary Brookes whg, Mike Hew Caldmoreaccord, Darryll Pew Caldmore Village Festival, officers from WM Police and Walsall South Area Manager. The pies were all of a very high standard and it was very difficult to choose between them. Attendees were also shown an apple press in action and were able to see some of the wide variety of vegetables being grown in the garden.





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**Walsall Town Centre Canal Basin** as part of the Town Centre Christmas celebrations there will be a two day water show spectacular at Waterfront South. A competition for young people to decorate an origami paper boat was held at the Walsall Art Gallery during the half term holiday the winner will turn on the lights for the celebration. The water show will take place 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December 4:00pm and 7:00pm with the Switch-on taking place on the Saturday at 4:00pm. The event will also include an ice rink and Santa's grotto.

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