



Walsall Area Partnerships

North Walsall Area Partnership - Area Manager's Report

– updated for 8th November 2013

Ongoing updates on the Actions for North Walsall Area Plan

Purpose of the report

This report seeks to inform the elected members for North Walsall Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area.

North Walsall has a number of workstreams, each with different Key Priorities that has been identified through work with partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network, health teams and the local community.

The Strategic Priorities are:

- a. Safer Walsall: Creating Safe, sustainable and inclusive communities.*
 - b. Children & Young People: Improving Safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people.*
 - c. Business and Jobs: Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people to work.*
 - d. Health & Well-being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people.*
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1. Workgroup Meetings

- a. Safer Walsall: Creating Safe, sustainable and inclusive communities.*

Chair: Nick Woods, Neighbourhood Manager Beechdale Community Housing, – Partners involved – ASB Unit, IYPSS, WM Police, Beechdale residents, ward councillors, Walsall Area Partnership, Reedswood Park retailers, Stephenson Square retailers, Walsall Housing Group, Accord/Caldmore Housing.

- 1.1 The 6 month Dispersal Order, covering Stephenson Square to Reedswood Park, has been effectively implemented by the police. The Beechdale residents are being kept informed of actions, through the police neighbourhood teams. The police local teams are involved with Beechdale Community Housing (BCH) and have been able to respond directly to their requests/queries/concerns.
- 1.2 The Beechdale ASB Meeting occurred on Thursday 24th October, chaired by Nick Woods from Beechdale CH.
- 1.3 Walsall Police reported back on the Dispersal Order. There have been 20 dispersals in total. 7 in June, 1 in July, 9 in August, 3 September, 0 in October.
- 1.4 Other measures have also been undertaken in the local area, with IYPSS, Area Partnerships, WMP, supported by the local community.
- 1.5 The police are working closely with the community & Reedswood Park retailers on tackling ASB around the park.
- 1.6 IYPSS, Frank F Harrison and Area Partnerships are engaging with young people from the Mirus Academy on the issues affecting them.
- 1.7 The police have seen a steady decrease in the police logs in the local area and the issues around the play park have been reduced.
- 1.8 An ASB Sub Group has been formed, comprising of local councillors, IYPSS, Area Partnerships, Mirus Academy, Frank F Harrison & WPM, to provide further support to the local community, especially when the 6 month dispersal order ceases. The group is meeting on 22nd November 2013.



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Extract from Community Safety Plan

Community Safety Plan comparing 2011/12 and 2012/13 - Financial Year for North Walsall.

North Walsall (Bloxwich, Blakenall, Birchills and Leamore)

North Walsall				
Crime/Incident Type	2011/12	2012/13	Change	% Change
Total Recorded Crime	4324	3403	-921	-21.3
Serious Acquisitive Crime	873	680	-193	-22.1
Anti Social Behaviour (Police Reported)	2383	1835	-548	-23.0
Youth Related ASB (Police Reported)	1022	766	-256	-25.0
Domestic Burglary	394	260	-134	-34.0
Burglary Other Building	440	250	-190	-43.2
Criminal Damage	916	710	-206	-22.5
Vehicle Crime	424	367	-57	-13.4
Violence Against the Person	802	635	-167	-20.8
Robbery	60	58	-2	-3.3
Deliberate Primary Fires (WMFS Data)	93	55	-38	-40.9
Deliberate Secondary Fires (WMFS data)	382	232	-150	-39.3
Drug Offences	132	111	-21	-15.9
Domestic Violence	330	291	-39	-11.8
Hate Crime	133	56	-77	-57.9

- Dispersal Orders obtained as part of a multi agency approach to tackle anti-social behaviour and provide reassurance to residents in the Harden and Beechdale Estate areas.
- The use of Proceeds of Crime Funding to employ three youth workers who will specifically target the Blakenall area.
- Fun Park opened in Lister Road providing a purpose built facility for use by young people where they can safely play ball games and engage in other positive activities. This is very much a local resource and has been well received by the local residents who have taken ownership of the site. It also supports the Dispersal Order obtained on the Beechdale Estate providing a suitable location at which those dispersed can gather.
- Develop and implement a partnership wide action plan to deal with rogue metal dealers and collectors and in doing so protect our communities from the nuisance this activity can cause.



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Deployment of domehawk cameras

This is the current deployment of the domehawk cameras.

The location and allocation is discussed at the monthly multi-agency Confidential Tasking & Co-ordination Meeting.

Ref No.	Installed at	Purpose	Objective	Installation date	Due out
ND1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3rd September 2013- Fault identified. camera to be checked as no images are being recorded Camera Retrieved 26.09.13 awaiting collection for assessment
ND2	Webster Road,	To reduce ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement actions	16/08/2013	Working
ND5	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	Stolen 10/08/13
ND7	N/a	N/a	N/a	n/a	fault identified 19/06/13, no image & no control of camera, retrieved 28/06, collected 03/07, repair quote issued 12/08 repair authorised
ND8	Lister Close	To reduce ASB and offer reassurance. To support identification, linked to the dispersal order.	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement actions	28/05/2013	28/11/2013

Cameras have been retrieved for repair. A number of requests have been forwarded for consideration regarding having cameras located in North Walsall. These requests will be considered alongside other requests & hot spot data.



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2. Positive Activities Work Group

b. Children & Young People: Improving Safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people.

Chair Imran Suddle – Senior Youth Worker- North Walsall

- 2.1 Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS) Summer Activities Programme was successfully delivered across the area.
- 2.2 The projects have been evaluated and learning has been used to see what worked well in the local area and what requires further development.
- 2.3 Supported by WHG & Area Partnerships, IYPSS were able to undertake a comprehensive summer activity programme for young people in North Walsall.
- 2.4 The analysis from Walsall Intelligence Network reflects that the IYPSS, WHG, community engagement activities had an impact on supporting young people into diversionary activities.
- 2.5 IYPSS, WHG and Area Partnerships are keen to continue engaging with the young people, so that they become leaders within their communities and across Walsall.

3.0 Economic Workgroup

c. Business and Jobs: Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people to work.

- 3.1 The Economic Work group has not met over the summer. However a lot of activity is occurring around the economic regeneration of North Walsall. Area Partnerships are working to support Walsall Adult & Community College, Mirus, Walsall College, Regeneration Team, Work on the Horizons, WHG, Prospects and other work related organisations to enable the community to identify job related skills organisations.
- 3.2 Mossley Big Local. A Participatory Budget Session is planned for 20th November 2013 (10am-4pm) St Thomas Church Hall, , Cresswell Crescent, Mossley. This meeting is part of the £1m Big Local consultation process.

Participatory Budget seeks to involve local people in making decisions about how money is spent in their communities. This principle also lies at the heart of the Big Local programme. *"PB directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending priorities for a defined budget. This means engaging residents and community groups, representative of all parts of the community, to discuss spending priorities, make spending proposals and vote on them"*

The session has been organised via Chris Allen & Network Consortium and it will be facilitated by Alan Budge of PB Partners.



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4.0 Health Workgroup

d. Health & Well-being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people.

- 4.1 The Chair for the work group is on maternity leave. With the support of Public Health, Area Partnerships has been able to continue a range of local activities that commenced over the summer.
- 4.2 Area Partnerships, working with the Physical Activity Manager for The Lifestyles Team, the Senior Health and Physical Activity Officer, Forest Arts Centre, Blakenall Community Centre, Beechdale Community Housing, Ryecroft Hub and Green Lane Baptist Church have been able to secure further health resources for the residents in North Walsall.

The Lifestyles Team are going to deploy their classes/resources across the area, working from different buildings. The deployment is based on the health priorities in the local area (i.e. weight management programmes targeted to specific areas of the borough).

As a result Forest Arts Centre, Ryecroft Hub, Blakenall Community Centre and Green Lane Baptist Church and Beechdale Community Housing will provide health related physical activity sessions to the local community.

The sessions are free at the point of access, with the longer term expectation being that participants will go onto regular exercise/healthy lifestyles and promote the session to others in their community/network.

- 4.3 Matt Bennett, Chief Executive, Healthwatch Walsall met with the Area Partnership team and discussed the role of Healthwatch. Healthwatch are keen to engage with different groups, to build their networks, alongside hearing of any relevant activities that they could attend to promote Healthwatch Walsall.

Healthwatch (a consortium) is made up of MyNHS Walsall, Walsall LINK, Age UK Walsall, Walsall CAB and Walsall Housing Group.

Healthwatch Walsall aims to support the Council priority of having a majority of the Healthwatch Walsall (HWW) Board elected by a membership organisation. They also seek to establish a HWW membership scheme which is open to all residents of the Borough and to those legally entitled to use Walsall health and care services. Further information can be found at www.healthwatchwalsall.co.uk

- 4.4 Working with Public Health, Area partnerships have developed an 'asset based approach' to targeting areas of needs in the borough. The 'asset based approach' is around individual needs and identification as to residents health needs.

Services and support are then sourced and put into the area to provide support. Beechdale Evolve (weight management programme) is an example of an asset based approach, as it is embryonic and develops from the community asking to address their health needs. The Evolve Project is being led by BCH and the Sports and Leisure Team, supported by Lifestyles team and Area Partnerships.

- 4.5 Over October half-term a static health display has been placed at the Forest Arts Centre. This is to further promote health activities in North Walsall. The expectation is that this will be staffed, for a few hours per



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week, when there are relevant activities occurring on the site. This will then be expanded to include health checks and understanding of what residents view as their health priorities.

- 4.6 Area Partnerships, working with Trading Standards have begun a series of campaigns, to lead up to Christmas linked to healthier lifestyles. The commencement of this was the Validate UK ID checks organised for over 80 pupils at Mirus Academy.
- 4.7 On 22nd October Trading Standards and Area Partnerships arranged for 6th Form pupils to become part of the Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS). PASS is the UK's national guarantee scheme for proof-of-age cards. The scheme was launched to bring in a common standard, an easily recognisable identity and a robust accreditation process to help protect retailers of age-related sales, and their employees from the myriad of fake cards used throughout the country.

It is endorsed by Chief Constable Jon Stoddart, Licensing Lead, Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) who comments that:

“The Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) has ACPO’s full support as a vital tool in helping to reduce underage drinking and the associated harms to individuals and society. PASS gives young people a convenient means of proving their age and offers retailers a reliable means of ensuring that they are exercising due diligence at the point of sale. ACPO advises against the practice of carrying valuable ID such as passports for alcohol related purchases; if lost or stolen such documents can be of use to criminals as well as causing inconvenience and expense to those who have to replace them.”

- 4.8 The PASS Scheme will assist local retailers and the joint phase of the operation is to work with local store owners and encourage them to ask for the Validate ID. Area Partnerships is working with the Bloxwich & Brownhills District Regeneration Officer, Bloxwich Town Centre retailers, housing associations, Trading Standards and partners organisations to promote the Validate Card and to get posters/information into local shops. For more information see www.validateuk.co.uk

5 Work Stream priority – Creating cleaner and tidier neighbourhoods

Chair Michael Greenfield

- 5.1 Environmental Clear up day (skip day), organised by WHG occurred on 16th October at Glastonbury Crescent. The Street Champions from across the borough were invited to participate in the clear up. The event was filmed, as part of information for the Mayor's Award. 5 skips were filled with rubbish, contaminated bins emptied and part of the local playing field cleared. The police also participated in the event and engaged with residents on local issues.

5.2 Whateley Road Playing Fields. Statement from Walsall Council and Walsall Police

"The council with the support of the police and other agencies, as part of its long standing partnership work, has been seeking to address a number of issues at Whateley Road playing fields.

These issues include the illegal occupation of public land that was depriving the local community of its use and numerous other activities against the public interest including flytipping and the keeping of goats and other



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livestock.

Considerable effort has been made to engage with the individual concerned and to get them to take steps to resolve the issue. Unfortunately despite the council's best efforts this has not happened.

The council, supported by the police, yesterday (Thursday 17 October) started action to return the land back to public use and these objectives were achieved. One of the key issues was the safe removal of livestock and discussions took place with the relevant household to try and achieve this.

In the late morning, during this operation, two untamed horses went onto a public highway. It appears that they were released deliberately.

This created a real and significant threat to public safety and required the horses to be humanely put down on the advice of an animal husbandry company who were on site to support the welfare of all the livestock.

As part of the operation eight horses and a donkey were rescued and taken to a horse sanctuary. Work will now continue to finish clearing the land and open it up fully to the community."

6.0 Open Partner Meeting

Chair Michael Greenfield

Meetings occur monthly (not August) and it is an opportunity for partners to participate in shaping the strategy and actions relating to North Walsall. It is also a forum for information sharing.

- 6.1 The Challenge Network are a national organisation that currently supports young people to volunteer into their community. Area Partnerships have been supporting this organisation.

Over the summer over 155 young people from all areas of Walsall participated in a programme designed to bring together young people from different backgrounds and communities.

The Challenge Network provides an intense four part programme for 16 and 17 year olds delivered as part of the Government's National Citizen Service (NCS). The four week programme is comprised of physical and team challenges and social action projects. It mixed young people from across Walsall together to encourage teamwork and mixes young people from different areas and backgrounds together.

During the first week young people spent five days learning how to work together as a team. They spent the second week at university learning how to live independently, mix together, cook and manage budgets. They also had themed practical challenges which included media, sports, drama, enterprise and photography.

The third part of the challenge was classroom based and involved lessons on social action where they had the opportunity to design their own campaigns. This resulted in a 'Dragon's Den' style event where they had to convince the den that their idea would make a difference to local communities.

After these intense weeks of activity they had four weekends to put their plans into action and raised over £11,000 for charity. This included one big project at Goscote Greenacres to raise funding for the group and finish off the path alongside the fishing area to allow access for disabled people.

The young people came together once again at a special event to celebrate their achievements at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on 12 October.



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The event was supported by schools and promoted across Walsall by North Walsall Area Partnership who attended the event. The event featured speeches from two of the young people involved in the events, Holly and Greg.

All the young people received their certificates and a follow up event is planned for late November.

- 6.2 Working with Nigel Imber, Project Officer in Social Care, a food bank for North Walsall is being piloted. It is operating from the Co-op on the Turnberry Estate. This is where goods, such as pasta, tinned goods, cereals, etc. are donated by the public. The goods are then collected by the Black Country Food Bank and re-distributed to those in need, based on an assessment criteria. The Co-op is not a distribution centre, it is purely a donation site.

The Black Country Food Bank has identified that Blakenall is in need for such a service, to help support lower income families. The support is also to help residents in Walsall who are experiencing difficulties but the support they will receive is not just about receiving food, but support towards their economic and social well-being.

The Black Country Food Bank have requested Area Partnerships' assistance in sourcing an appropriate venue and building a volunteer framework, to assist with the distribution of food goods to the local community in Blakenall.

Area Partnership will be liaising with WHG Heath Team on the local development.

- 6.3 Children's University is a programme that will actively encourage children to 'gain credits' for extra-curricula activities. The programme is targeted at ages 5-19. If a young person participates in a youth club, swimming session, scouts at any of the 'Learning Destination' accredited by Children's University, they will have the opportunity to record the time spent in their Learning Log. After volunteering for up to 30 hours they will be able to 'Graduate' & receive a Bronze Award Certificate. They can participate in any validated learning activity and gain up to 1,000 learning hours.

Various learning centres across Walsall have been identified. The identification will enable Walsall young people to participate in learning activities, in a planned and co-ordinated way.

Area Partnerships is co-ordinating work linked to Children's University and a sub-group has been formed to take the activity forward.

For more information www.childrensuniversity.co.uk

8.0 Other information:

- 8.1. West Midlands Fire Service are undertaking fireworks safety campaigns across Walsall. Area Partnerships is working with Trading Standards, Bloxwich Town Centres CIC, Regeneration Team, community groups and various partners to ensure that only licensed premises sell approved fireworks.

West Midlands Fire Service have an approved list of retailers and if 'pop-up shops' originate in the local area this is flagged to Trading Standards and the Fire Service for follow up.

This has been effective over the last few weeks, with shops receiving visits from Trading Standards and the Fire Service.

- 8.2. Leading up to Bonfire Night, Area Partnerships has been encouraging organisations, schools and community groups to use the organised borough wide events, as opposed to building their own bonfires. Residents are



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identifying where bonfires are being built on council land and notifying the relevant services for these to be removed.

8.3. Ryecroft Hub continues to be supported by Area Partnerships. They are expanding on their business plan to further support local activity. A community newsletter is to be produced and published in the coming few weeks.

8.4. Goscote Regeneration Meeting was held on 14th October. The meeting is chaired by a representative from WHG. Representatives from a community group was present and thanked the local councillors for their support in purchasing resources to support their various Lea initiatives.

8.5. Mary Street/Croft Street. The trees have been cut back on both sides. Community Payback (Probation Service) has been contacted and have visited the site. They are going to incorporate the work of the 'void space', (between the houses that has been gated), into their work plan. We are waiting for the confirmation date for commencement of the shrub cutting.

Please note, this is a very brief indication as to the actions that have occurred/being planned in North Walsall.
Report Author, Michael Greenfield, North Walsall Area Manager