

## **WILLENHALL AND SHORT HEATH AREA PANEL**

### **Area Manager's Report**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the Willenhall & Short Heath Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area.
- 1.2 Willenhall & Short Heath Area Partnership has a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community.
- 1.3 The Corporate Priorities 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.
- 1.4 Partners involved includes: Community Protection, Youth Support Services, Commissioned Youth Services, West Midlands Police, residents, Councillors, Walsall Housing Group (WHG), West Midlands Probation Service, Public Health, Caldmoreaccord Housing Association, One-Walsall, West Midlands Fire Service, Community Development & Clean and Green.

## **2. Pursue inclusive economic growth:**

### **2.1 From: Matthew Allmark Employment and Skills Officer- Regeneration and Development, Economy and Environment Directorate Willenhall – People Overview**

The purpose of the report is to illustrate the activity undertaken in Willenhall in line with the Willenhall Economic Development Plan, demonstrating the impact on local residents and businesses.

#### **Headlines**

- Walsall Works continues to engage with residents of all ages in the three ward areas and project area.
- 348 outcomes secured since 2012 through Walsall Works for residents in the three ward areas.
- IMPACT (ESF funded programme) is imbedded and currently operating in the Willenhall area and advisors are receiving referrals, and are actively supporting residents into employment, education or training.
- Since August 2016, 65 Willenhall resident referrals with 8 moved to positive outcomes (of which 38 referrals Willenhall referrals with 6 going into outcome were directly gained through the Employment & Skills Team).
- Increase of 25% of Willenhall residents being engaged, when compared to the previous financial year.
- Resident referrals have increased particularly in the 25-49 age group by 14%. (Current year's figures are based on a further 3 months until the end of this financial year, figures are set to rise.)

### **2.2 Background – The Walsall Works programme launched in 2012 was initially targeted at supporting young people aged 16-24 years old into a range of positive outcomes but due to an increasing demand from older residents, the programme now provides an employment and skills service to all residents of working age (16-64 years old). It achieves this by ensuring local residents**

have the right skills to match the local business environment and labour market demands. During 2016, the team also secured additional resource to provide intensive support to clients aged 16-29 years old through the ESF funded Black Country Impact programme.

- 2.3 **Registrations** – Walsall Works has now registered the following number of Walsall residents of which the following reside in the three wards in Willenhall. All local residents wish to access support with their employability and to achieve their career aspirations, the majority will be clients aged 16-29 years olds. Of these 598 reside in the Willenhall wards, a subset of clients now also registered to the new IMPACT programme (65 residents).

	<b>Borough Total</b>	<b>Short Heath</b>	<b>Willenhall N</b>	<b>Willenhall S</b>	<b>Area Total</b>
Walsall Works Registrations	6379	152	186	260	598

- 2.4 **Performance** - To date the Walsall Works has achieved key outcomes being made up of apprenticeships, traineeships which have been financially subsidised by the Walsall Works programme. In addition, other positive outcomes have been generated through regular contact and partnership working with a wide number of employers, public and private partner organisations and training providers.

Walsall Works key remit is to support residents from across all wards in the borough and to date the programme has achieved significant outcomes for residents, as set out below. The table sets out the outcomes achieved for clients residing in the wards of Short Heath, Willenhall North and South.

<b>Key Outcome (April 2012 to date)</b>	<b>Short Heath</b>	<b>Willenhall</b>	<b>Willenhall S</b>	<b>Willenhall Area</b>
Walsall Works Apprenticeship	27	28	40	95
Walsall Works Pre-apprenticeships	14	18	17	49
Other Outcomes				
Jobs	23	18	38	79
Work Experience	0	1	1	2
Self Employed	0	0	0	0
Study Part Time	4	1	1	6
Study Full Time	5	8	11	24
Black Country IMPACT Referrals	14	21	30	65
Non–Walsall Works Apprenticeships	10	7	7	24
Non–Walsall Traineeships	0	3	1	4
<b>Total Positive Outcomes</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>348</b>

## 2.5 Action Plan Progress

### ***ESF funding opportunities via three programmes: Youth Employment Initiative, Building Better Opportunities and Skills Funding Agency –***

Delivery on the ESF funded programmes are imbedded and are currently operating in the Willenhall area.

Programmes are receiving referrals, and are actively supporting individuals into employment, education or training. The activity assigned to the ESF funded programmes has enabled further partnership engagement to take place with Willenhall, to include: Willenhall Job Centre, Willenhall Library, Willenhall CHART, Nova Training, Skills training UK, WACC and Steps to Work. Information sharing and encouraging local residents to up-take these opportunities, has led to cross referrals taking place between partners.

Advertising and marketing of these provisions is also evident in community settings and partner organisations in Willenhall, in addition to a social media presence.

- 2.6 Black Country Impact (Youth Employment Initiative) is delivering and co-located in Willenhall Job Centre one day each week, working alongside advisors to engage with claimants aged 16-29. They principally advise on employment, education and training by way of providing employment opportunities, recruitment fairs, traineeships and apprenticeships. The programme across all directorates has received 65 referrals with 8 moved to outcome.

Building Better Opportunities (BBO) programme has now officially launched and there are four key strands:

1. Bridges offers support for over 25's,
2. financial and digital inclusion,
3. Community Approach, and
4. Family Matters.

There are a number of community based delivery partners and the programme is being delivered from and situated within Willenhall CHART where they are supporting local residents with decreasing poverty and social exclusion. Delivering a community based innovative and creative soft- skills development, related to activities and employment support to the 25+ age group. The programme has been able to engage with 25 partner organisations who work to support local residents since starting operation in summer 2016.

The BBO Financial and Digital Inclusion lead delivery partner is Walsall Housing Group (WHG). WHG have been based at Beech Wood House to support individuals. They are starting to imbed IT Skills for residents and volunteers up to Level 2 and work continues for community outreach to identify residents in the area who require basic skills in particular ICT.

Walsall Adult and Community College are also based at Willenhall CHART one day each week supporting in the delivery of ICT skills up to Level 2. We will liaise with lead partners to establish the success of these programmes in engaging with Willenhall residents over the coming months.

- 2.7 Skills Funding Agency (SFA) has assigned delivery partners delivering a number of programmes; namely Response to Redundancy, Workforce Development, Skills for the Unemployed, IAG for NEETs and Community Grants. Calderdale College will deliver Skills for the Unemployed and Response to Redundancy and Walsall Council will co-ordinate Community Grants; Skills Training UK have a contract to deliver Skills Support for the Unemployed and IAG for NEETs. It is too early to identify any positive outcomes for these programmes but discussions will be taking place to ensure that Walsall residents benefit from provision.
- 2.8 Black Country ESF Community Grants Programme, Walsall Council are the local grant co-ordinating body for the £1 million Black Country ESF Community Grants Programme (funded by ESF and co-financed by the SFA) and are inviting applications from community organisations from across the Black Country. There has been a publicity event held in Walsall, emails have gone out to all ward councillors, including those from Willenhall.

The Employment and Skills team will engage with the Community Grants manager and work to see if applications from groups could be made in particular from Willenhall to access money for employment support.

- 2.9 **Walsall Works (Residents)** - has remained consistently focused on supporting activity in Willenhall, encouraging residents to attend jobs fairs and recruitment events. Using various methods of communication to promote suitable employment opportunities, education and training to residents as well as marketing the above programmes. A range of platforms are utilised including social media, email, face to face and telephone/ text message. Residents have been supported and encouraged to access local information to remain or become economically activity.

Figures generated through the Walsall Works' data base illustrate an increase of 23% of Willenhall residents being engaged, when compared to the previous financial year. Resident referrals have increased particularly in the 25-49 age group by 14%. Current year's figures are based on a further 3 months until the end of this financial year, figures are set to rise. (Figures based on 110 residents engaged from April 2015-March 2016 and 136 residents engaged from April 2016-Jan 2017)

The number of Willenhall residents gaining employment, education or training in the current financial year, compared with the previous financial year, has remained stable. To date set out below is a comparison of performance to date (10.02.2017).

<b>Key Outcome In Willenhall wards</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17 (to date)</b>
Walsall Works Apprenticeship	9	12
Walsall Works Pre-apprenticeships	1	1
Jobs	19	16
Work Experience	1	0
Self Employed	0	0
Study Part Time	2	2
Study Full Time	3	5
Black Country IMPACT Referrals	0	65
Non-Walsall Works Apprenticeships	3	3
Non-Walsall Traineeships	1	0
<b>Total Positive Outcomes</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>104</b>

You will note the inception of the BC Impact Programme this has lead to an additional 65 young residents registered and work continues to move clients into outcome.

In the current financial year, a total of 15 residents have taken up apprenticeships opportunities, 16 residents have entered into employment with a further 7 going on to Study.

- 2.10 **Walsall Works (Employers)** - we continue to work to support employers, developers and major contractors to make available employment and to date 700 employers are registered as committed to creating apprenticeships or jobs.

Registered Employers	Boroughwide	Short Heath	Willenhall	Willenhall S	Willenhall Area
Employers	558	13	4	48	65

We have planned a number of successful job fair events during 2016 and 2017 which aim to attract employers promote their vacancies. To date employers include Homeserve, Midcounties Coop, Fortel, NHS, Blakemores, Deeset, Armed Forces and our next event in March will attract 70 employers promoting jobs.

The weekly jobs bulletin has been replaced by a live website which informs of opportunities that are available in the borough. We use the internet widely including the use of social media via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to communicate opportunities and promote provision. In addition, we manage a text message service that sends information to residents as we are informed that this method is their preferred communication medium.

- 2.11 **Development of more community based Employment Support within the defined area** – As already identified above, the new ESF programmes have identified increased access for residents to the area to employment support. These venues include Willenhall Jobcentreplus, Willenhall Library, Willenhall CHART, Walsall Housing Group community rooms and other facilities utilised by partners such as Nova Training, Skills training UK, WACC and Steps to Work.



2.12 ***Developing basic ICT skills for residents up to Level 2*** – It was intended by the BBO programme would ensure that residents have access to increased ICT training. This will be further assessed in the coming quarter to identify improvements in access to ICT services to local people.

2.13 ***Better engagement with schools to improve performance*** –

We continue to work closely with the Council's Targeted Youth Service who still provide some assistance and advice to those currently still at school on making decisions on how to continue to participate in learning as a result of the 'raising participation' agenda.

We have participated in the following sessions in schools:

<b>Willenhall School</b>	<b>Presentation / Event</b>
Thomas Moore College	Careers Day Yr 11
Willenhall E-Act	Careers Event
Pool Hayes School	Careers Evening

Walsall EBP worked closely with Walsall Council, NHS, WHG, University of Wolverhampton and Walsall College to deliver the Young Career Choices Day. We operated in 5 Schools including Willenhall E-ACT, in which advisors from the Employment and Skills team attended to provide support and knowledge of the growth business sectors in the Black Country region. Willenhall E-ACT are also looking to partner in the new Careers Enterprise Company programme led by BC Consortium. This session was later facilitated for CIAG practitioners so that all schools could benefit from the data and information presented.

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

#### **3.1 The Spring Clean Events for Willenhall & Short Heath occurred on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March.**

There were two activity events. 10.00am-3.30pm & 1.00pm -3.30pm

<b>Day</b>	<b>Streets covered</b>	<b>Supported by</b>
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Sharesacre Street - (over the bridge)	Ramblers Association  Public Rights of Way  Clean & Green
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Hawthorne Road/Johnson Road	Ramblers Association (dependent on time from Sharesacre Street)  Councillors  Clean & Green

A number of organisations volunteered for the event and the feedback from participants and residents was very positive.

Clean & Green were able to attend the sessions. Large items were removed from the sites, including dumped bins, old bicycles, prams and garden waste.

#### **3.2 Crime and anti-social behaviour continues to be discussed at the Confidential Tasking Meetings in Willenhall chaired by the Area Manager. Various partner agencies are involved in the discussions and actions undertaken to support those affected by the issues.**

#### **3.3 Through the work of the police team, supported by local intelligence, they have been able to tackle crime in various locations.**

If you see anyone or anything suspicious in your local community please call officers on 101. Always dial 999 if a crime is in progress.

Likewise if you have information on people or properties linked to the handling of stolen property please call officers or contact the independent charity Crimestoppers in confidence on 0800 555 111.

Crime prevention literature/flyers are available; please contact WS Partnerships [ws\\_partnerships@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ws_partnerships@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk),

- 3.4 WM Police are undertaking a Community Day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017. It will be a borough wide project, with the police, local community groups and Area Partnerships working in local areas to engage the public on issues relating to crime and safety.

Local venues are being organised by the police.

The police will be available, with the aim to 'sign up' the public to the free 'WMNow' Information System. Individuals/Groups can sign up via the [www.wmnow.co.uk](http://www.wmnow.co.uk) on-line registration.

- 3.5 The Neighbourhood Police Teams are holding regular community sessions with the public.

The venue is Willenhall Police Station:-

Dates:

- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July
- Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August

All meetings start at 7.00pm

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

- 4.1 Frank F Harrison, the Commissioned Youth Service for Willenhall & Short has been engaging a number of young people and delivered services across the area.

- 4.2 Bob Spencer, PREVENT Co-ordinator for the borough put on a borough wide workshop on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017 to engage schools and key partners in the PREVENT agenda.

There were representatives of various agencies, police, WMBC, Counter Terrorism Unit and schools.

The Neighbourhood Police Teams have been able to link closely with schools on a number of areas, including PREVENT.

There are regular (fortnightly- dependent on resources) sessions, where the police visits schools and discuss and engage with students and staff on key messages and issues that the school feels are relevant.

This is because at a recent Home Office meeting Ofsted announced a change to its school inspection process.

Next year they intend to focus on the schools 'PREVENT Risk Assessments' and in particular how well they know their area and importantly, who have they liaised with in order to find out relevant information.

PREVENT remains important to Ofsted and therefore schools.

The event was successful, with a number of actions arising from specific table discussions, especially on how young people are supported and engaged in positive activities, as well as early identification linked to PREVENT.

- 4.3 Follow up workshops are being delivered with Willenhall E-ACT regarding PREVENT.

Tapestry, a performance theatre company are delivering borough wide workshops.

They will be at the Academy on Monday 20<sup>th</sup>, & Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>. They will be undertaking performance activities with students at the Academy on different themes linked to tackling extremist/inappropriate behaviour.

## **5.0 Safe, resilient and prospering communities:**

- 5.1 On Thursday 23 March One Walsall are hosting an event for the Borough's voluntary and community organisations.

The aim is to meet a range of national and local organisations with funding on offer in Walsall.

The event is free to voluntary and community groups based or working within Walsall.

There is an opportunity to attend up to two workshops delivered by some of the biggest voluntary sector funders, gain information on their funding programmes and insights, hints and tips on what makes a good application.

Network opportunities also available to meet funders hosting stalls and discuss your organisation or project ideas with them directly.

Funders attending include; Big Lottery Fund, Lloyds Bank Foundation, BBC Children in Need, Heritage Lottery Fund, Locality, Sported, Creative Black Country, Black Country IMPACT, Walsall Council and WHG with more to be added over the forthcoming weeks.

Participants can also get to hear more about the support One Walsall has on offer to local organisations.

The event will take place over two identical sessions, one in the afternoon and one in the early evening.

Places are limited and we are expecting a high demand so we would advise you book early to avoid disappointment.

[Afternoon Session](#) (1:00pm -4:30pm). Please note only tea coffee and biscuits will be served on this session.

[Evening Session](#) (5.00pm – 7:30pm). A buffet tea will be provided at the start of this event

**For further information contact: One Walsall, Jerome Chambers, 16-16a Bridge Street Walsall, WS1 1HP [info@onewalsall.org](mailto:info@onewalsall.org) 01922 619840**

Further events can be found at <http://www.whatsonwalsall.co.uk/>

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