

North Walsall Area Partnership - Area Manager's Report

Ongoing updates on the Actions for North Walsall Area Plan

– updated for 3rd July 2013

1. 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 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.*

2. Workgroup Meetings

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

Chair: Nick Woods, Neighbourhood Manager Beechdale Community Housing Association, ASB Meeting held May 2013 – 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.

- 2.1 Lister Close Fun Park has been opened in April 2013 and is being used by the local community. There have been some incidences of anti-social behaviour, which local residents have complained about to Beechdale HA. Following discussions with residents, WM Police, Area Partnerships and the ASB Unit a dome hawk camera was added to assist local surveillance and reduce the ASB impact on local residents. The camera is situated at Lister Close and overlooks the area of concern.
- 2.2 Beechdale CHA have also implemented an opening and closing 'time' for the Fun Park. It is opened from 6.30am- 10.30pm the police will seek to move on any individuals who are using the park inappropriately or are causing a nuisance.
- 2.3 A Dispersal Order has been implemented covering Stephenson Square to Reedswood Park. It started on 1st July and will run for 6 months. It is a 24 hour enforcement notice and the police have the authority to move groups of individuals who are causing a concern. Feedback from Reedswood Park retailers have identified that it is welcomed, as there have been a number of concerns regarding theft, individuals congregating and the late nights/times that individuals are seen on the street around the Retail Park.
- 2.4 The police have identified that they will continue to undertake covert and overt surveillance in the local area, alongside working with partner agencies to ensure that appropriate actions are taken.
- 2.5 As part of the support regarding Positive Activities, linked to the dispersal order, local councillors, Beechdale CA and the police will be going into Mirus Academy on 5th July to discuss further a range

of support to the local community, alongside discussion on youth service activities and positive activities.

2.6 Stag Hill Dispersal Order has ended on 31st March 2013. There are still on-going issues in the area, linked to ASB and low level crime. A renewal of the order is not being sought. Hate Incidents and Hate Crimes are being reported and recorded. Police, community leaders and partners have identified areas of concerns and action planning is being co-ordinated through the partnership and the Community Tensions Officer, Nigel Rowe.

Other

- Area Partnerships continues to engage with the deployment of the Birchills Neighbourhood Watch Group/ Agenda 21 camera, which is for the Birchills area only this is currently, located Cairn Street. This is being led by the South Walsall Area Manager.
- Other meetings occur in the local area supported, co-ordinated and chaired by Area Partnerships.

2.7 Deployment of Dome hawk cameras

This is the current deployment of the dome hawk 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	Creswell crescent	To reduce ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement actions	07/12/12	On-going
ND2	Stephenson Square	To reduce ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement actions	15/05/12	On-going
ND5	Forest Lane, Coalpool	To tackle ASB and identify perpetrators of hate crime	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement actions	15/03/13	22/06/13
ND7	Field Close (to cover A1 Taxis who have been targeted re: hate crimes)	To reduce ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement actions	May 2013	Review within 3 months
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	May 2013	Review within 6 months

3. 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

3.1 IYPSS continues to provide detached youth work in North Walsall. IYSP have produced a Summer Activities Programme, which aims to engage with young people across the area. There are a range of activities occurring, from sports, arts, community trips, music and dance. The programme will be distributed to schools, libraries and through the Area Partnership.

3.2 The expectation is that the projects will be evaluated and learning used to see what worked well in the local area and what requires further development.

- 3.3 The summer programme also encompasses the work occurring at Frank F, Blakenall Community Centre and Proffitt Street.
- 3.4 The monthly Open Mic session occurs at Bloxwich Library on Friday nights. The aim is to enable young people to showcase their skills in performing arts.
- 3.5 Information on all programmes will be on www.whatsonwalsall.co.uk

4. Economic Workgroup

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

Chair Michael Greenfield

- 4.1 Area Partnerships are working to support WACC, 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.
- 4.2 As an example to support this we worked with Work on the Horizons to actively encourage local residents to engage in the Job Training bus that was at the opening of the Beechdale Fun Park in April. Area Partnerships has enabled Work on the Horizons to present to partner agencies on their work with the community.
- 4.3 Working with Nikki Rolls, Town Centre Manager, Area Partnerships, on behalf of the Economic Group are supporting the Party in the Park event scheduled for 29th June. This is to encourage local residents to sign up to job related skills training, but also to provide an opportunity for local residents to further understand what is available within their community. The support includes assistance from WACC, Walsall College, Prospects, Regeneration Team and Area Partnerships.

5. Health Workgroup

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

Chair Nina Chouhan-lall. Public Health Lead for North Walsall.

- 5.1 The priorities for North Walsall linked to Public Health have been identified. The priorities are linked to the health data and the Area Profiles that were published in early 2013.
- 5.2 One of the key areas is obesity in Year 6 children and the workgroup is implementing a range of interventions in the target areas. 'Food Dudes programme', is an incentives programme that encourages children to try different fruit and vegetables. Sure Start Centres will be targeted in September and supported in the delivery of the food programme. Area Partnerships will be looking to encourage schools to participate in the programme.
- 5.3 The target areas include Blakenall, Beechdale, and Bloxwich. Weight management programmes are being supported, using Lifestyles Team and Sports & Leisure to deliver the service.
- 5.4 An example is the introduction of EVOLVE, a weight management programme for adults run by the Sports & Leisure Team. The exercise is low impact and suitable for those with mobility or breathing problems. The programmes will run from Beechdale CHA.

- 5.5 Various campaigns are being developed with the Reassurance Team, including those linked to passive smoking (Smoke Free Homes), tackling bogus callers, Healthy Retailer Award, fly tipping, and other health related issues.

6 Work Stream priority – Creating cleaner and tidier neighbourhoods

Chair Michael Greenfield

- 6.1 Environmental Clear up Days (skip days) have occurred on Mary Street, Harden Close, Whateley Road and the Lea. We are targeting 24th June Dalkeith Road for a skip day.
- 6.2 Working with Mirus Academy we are supporting the clear -up/schools litter pick on Lister Close. this is scheduled for 25th June.
- 6.3 On 12th July we are working with Mirus Academy to enable them to clear the old caretaker's cottage on Leamore Lane. Various community and voluntary organisations are supporting this initiative. Further clean up-days are planned over the summer months.
- 6.4 The Lea. Area Partnership are involved with the Goscote Regeneration Group meetings, that is co-ordinate through WHG. The aim being to enable The Lea to be used by the local community, and to reduce ASB, fly-tipping and drug misuse. Working with Tarmac, WHG, WMBC colleagues, and local residents there is a plan to instigate a clear up of the pathways (WMBC's) and green land (WHG's) in early July. The expectation is that diggers, skips and other equipment will be on site alongside litter pickers, so that the land is cleared of large items. Funding for equipment will be provided by WHG and Tarmac, supported by the Partnership.
- 6.5 Whateley Road Playing Fields. Area Partnerships has been working with WHG, police, councillors, and the local community to enable the playing field to be reinstated to suitable use. Part of the land is accessible and has been cleared by WMBC of fly-tipping and measures have been put into place to reduce future fly-tipping. Currently the land has been partly fenced off and the area has been used by a local resident for chickens, horses and goats. A shipping container was also on site. With the support of WHG and the police some enforcement action has been taken and WMBC Legal Team is currently involved to pursue further action against the local resident.

7. Open Partner Meeting

Chair Michael Greenfield

Meetings occur monthly 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.

- 7.1 The Challenge Network are a national organisation that current supports young people to volunteer into their community. Area Partnerships, WHG, Fire Service, Walsall College and a other partners have committed staff time and buildings to support young people volunteering in North Walsall. There is a programme of activities that the Challenge Network are developing and North Walsall is leading on this for the borough. Programmes include professional visits to different organisations, Dragon Den type activities and identification of local projects to enable the young people to participate in community programmes. They have already participated in Goscote Greenacres, as an example.
- 7.2 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. Graduation consists of a ceremony where they will be wearing a cap and gown alongside receiving a Certificate of their Achievement. North Walsall are leading on this, with School Improvement Services and the Gifted and Talented Advisor. WHG, Walsall College and a few partners are implementing a plan for roll-out to schools and other services for September 2013. www.childrensuniversity.co.uk

- 7.3 The Area Partnership Newsletter- Summer 2013, is being distributed to partners, libraries and local community organisations.

8. Scrap Metal Workgroup

Chair Michael Greenfield

Aim: ***Reduce the negative impact of rogue scrap metal trading including metal thefts and associated anti-social behaviour***

The Action plan includes:-

- A. Implement partnership-led enforcement activity against rogue metal dealers and collectors
 - i. Develop evidence to apply for a Local Act of Parliament to create a local licensing scheme for itinerant scrap metal collectors
 - ii. Establish and chair a regional group of local authorities and relevant partners to share information and best practise on enforcement issues
 - iii. Establish a communication campaign to promote the enforcement activities undertaken in Walsall
 - iv. Deliver targeted enforcement activities at red-rated metal traders from Operation Tornado
 - v. Deliver regular Operation Steel, mini-Operation Steel and Operation Zinc enforcement events
 - vi. Produce a revised enforcement duties list following the introduction of new legislation
 - vii. Co-ordinate the sharing of data about rogue dealers and collectors
- B. Support a responsible scrap metal trade
 - i. Establish definition and process for registration of 'itinerant' metal collectors
 - ii. Establish requirements and feasibility of establishing a local register of legal and exempted itinerant collectors
 - iii. If feasible, develop pilot scheme for itinerant collectors on a voluntary basis
 - iv. Evaluate pilot scheme and develop proposals for Borough-wide scheme
 - v. Deliver regular meeting sessions incorporating Business Watch for approved traders including legislation updates and business support
 - vi. Produce and promote case studies of legitimate scrap metal traders with support of trade bodies
 - vii. Investigate feasibility of benefits for traders and benefits operating legitimately
- C. Improve support for residents and businesses affected by illegal scrap metal trading
 - i. Establish an agreed baseline of acceptable and unacceptable metal trading behaviour
 - ii. Enable residents and businesses to gather evidence correctly for breaches of acceptable behaviour
 - iii. Monitor environmental issues when unacceptable behaviour suspected
 - iv. Investigate anti-social behaviour complaints promptly
 - v. Develop a social landlord letting plan to monitor and enforce trading in rented properties
 - vi. Develop guidelines and best practice for operating businesses from home
 - vii. Ensure void properties are secured to reduce metal theft from empty properties
 - viii. Remove fly tipping to avoid the development of hot spots
 - ix. Monitor residential properties for property blight caused by metal trading

- x. Investigate anti-social behaviour complaints promptly

WMBC are developing processes to support the Scrap Metal Dealers Act

2013. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/10/enacted> That is being implemented by 1st October 2013.

9. Other information:

- 9.1. Ryecroft Hub. Ryecroft Neighbourhood Resource Centre has successfully taken on the responsibility for developing services, with and for the local community. The overall aim will be to develop services in the local community for local residents whilst sustaining income to make the centre self-sufficient. Area Partnerships is supporting the initiative and have promoted the Hub at various events.
- 9.2. Big Local Mossley. The Big Local is the £1m that will be made available to residents in Mossley. The funding is dependent on completion and acceptance of an Action Plan. Different themed meetings are occurring on a monthly basis in the local area. The meeting is supported by IYPSS and is co-ordinated by the Big Local Rep (Compass).
- 9.3. Chepstow Residents Association. Area Partnerships participated in a walkabout with local residents, councillors and Street Pride. Various actions were agreed for follow-up, including working with WHG to enable local residents to clear their garden of rubbish and to cut their grass. Area Partnerships were working with the police to establish a Neighbourhood Watch Group for Chepstow. The first planning meeting with residents is scheduled for the end of June.
- 9.4. Mary Street/Croft Street. Consultation with the community in April on their issues alongside the clearing up of the 'Garden Space' that is situated between the resident's houses. This also enabled Area Partnerships to pick up on a number of issues, including the playing of cricket amongst parked cars. The young people were reluctant to use the park, as they did not view it as being in their area. IYPSS have begun working with the young people and are planning a tournament, in the park, to encourage them to use it. There is some discussion with Croft Academy and the police regarding opening up the site for use, but nothing has been confirmed, to date.
- 9.5. Blakenall Village Centre & New Horizons organisation. Area Partnerships and the Strategic Grants Officer are meeting with New Horizons in June to enable them to be further informed of the local area plans for North Walsall. It will also be an opportunity to work with New Horizons on differently initiatives that are currently underway in the area. This will include the possible development of services operating from YPiC, as part of an enterprise model.
- 9.6. Beechdale Residents have commented that a consultation was undertaken by BH Energy Gap, who are a developer specialising in resource recovery and low carbon energy production, was undertaken. Some residents have not had an opportunity to engage in the consultation process. I have provided information regarding the consultation to Beechdale CHA, and they will disseminate the information to the residents. Area Partnerships has also offered residents the opportunity to meet directly with the potential developers, in the local community.
- 9.7. Reeves Road Railway crossing was discussed at a Beechdale community meeting as there were some concerns from residents that they were not fully aware of the proposals. Area Partnerships has forwarded information onto Beechdale CHA for dissemination to the residents.

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, ☎ 01922 65 4684, ✉ greenfieldm@walsall.gov.uk