

# **NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL**

## **Area Manager's Report**

**7 April 2016**

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

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the North Walsall Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area.
- 1.2 North Walsall 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 strategic priorities are:
- Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities
  - Children and Young People: Improving safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people
  - Business and Jobs: Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people in to work
  - Health and Well-Being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people
- 1.4 There are monthly Non Confidential Tasking & Co-ordination (Partner) Meetings that occur in North Walsall. The meetings provide the opportunity for partner agencies to come together and share ideas, information and co-ordinate strategy based on the Walsall Plan.
- The partners include: Community Safety Services (ASB Team), Youth Support Services, West Midlands Police, residents, Ward Councillors, Reedswood Park Retailers, Stephenson Square Retailers, Walsall Housing Group (WHG), Caldmoreaccord Housing, Walsall Association of Tenant Management Organisations, West Midlands Probation Service, Walsall Intelligence Network, Environmental Health, Beechdale Community Housing, Mirus Academy, Frank F Harrison Community Association, St Aiden's Care Team, North Walsall Area Partnership, Walsall Adult Community College (WACC), Walsall College, Economic Regeneration Team, Work on the Horizons, Public Health, Lifestyles Team, Forest Arts Centre, Blakenall Community Centre (BCC), Ryecroft Hub, Green Lane Baptist Church & Community Payback.
- 1.5 A facebook page has now been set up to promote all community activity happening in North Walsall called Let's do it in North Walsall.

## **2. Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities**

- 2.1 The police continue to do regular high visibility patrols in hot grid areas where a 15 minute patrol is done every three hours.
- 2.2 The Birchills and Leamore Neighbourhood Team are increasing patrols in and around Stephenson Avenue following reports of young people being abusive towards residents and knocking and kicking front doors causing harassment, alarm and distress. A camera has been deployed to capture evidence. A Public Space Protection Order is being implemented in the area to address anti social behaviour.
- 2.3 The Blakenall Neighbourhood Team have increased high visibility patrols in Forest Avenue. A local authority dome hawk camera will also be installed to monitor incidents of anti-social behaviour and criminal offences. The team have administered some Acceptable Behaviour Contracts to local young people suspected of being involved. These contracts will include a voluntary curfew and work with local youth provision organisations.
- 2.4 The Blakenall Neighbourhood Team have increased patrols around Chapel Street due to reports of youths being rowdy and a general nuisance to local shopkeepers. There has been a Walsall owned dome hawk camera sited near to the shop to monitor and record incidents of anti-social behaviour. The majority of youths have now been identified via the shop CCTV and will be served with banning notices. The team are also working with Walsall Council to introduce a Public Space Protection Order.
- 2.5 Bloxwich Neighbourhood Team have increased their patrols and are working in conjunction with our partner agencies to identify offenders and reduce anti social behaviour. Members of the public are encouraged to contact us with any relevant information. Bloxwich Neighbourhood Team have increased high visibility patrols on the High Street due to an upsurge in thefts from local shops in the daytime. Members of the public and shop owners are encouraged to contact police with any information relating to identity of the offenders or any suspicious activity. Police Community Support Officers will be on hand to offer crime prevention advice, distribution of leaflets and security devices, e.g. purse bells.
- 2.6 There has been a recent increase in vehicle related offences late in the evening and overnight. Intelligence led patrols are being conducted and Bloxwich Neighbourhood Team have been distributing vehicle security leaflets to local residents, focusing mainly on the areas which have fallen victim to these type of offences.
- 2.7 A number of police surgeries, residents' meetings and neighbourhood watch meetings take place across North Walsall.

Meeting	Date	Time	Where
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Beat Surgery	11 May	11-12	Bloxwich Library
Blakenall Residents Meeting	25 May	6.30-8.30	Ryecroft Hub

- 2.8 Cameras are deployed in different locations across North Walsall to tackle fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and to assist with the detection of criminal activities. Covert cameras are also utilised. The distributions of cameras are decided at the monthly Confidential Partnership Tasking & Coordination Meeting.

Reference	Installed at	Installing Agency	Purpose	Objective
ND1/ND2 Now combined to make one working camera	Newhome Way	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken
ND7	Forest Avenue	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce criminal activity and anti-social behaviour	To identify offenders and enable appropriate action to be taken.
ND8	Chapel Street	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce criminal activity and anti-social behaviour	To identify offenders and enable appropriate action to be taken.

- 2.9 Partners within North Walsall and Pelsall/Rushall/Brownhills/Shelfield Area Partnerships have worked together to address issues of off road bikes on Whateley Field. A new barrier has been installed at Cartbridge Lane and the works should now be completed at Station Road.
- 2.10 Two P gates have been installed at Reedswood Park in an attempt to combat the off road bikes.
- 2.11 Works on the fencing and gates at Dartmouth Close and Wenlock Gardens should now be complete. It is hoped that these measures will reduce asb and flytipping at the location.
- 2.12 West Midlands Fire Service continue to visit vulnerable persons properties ensuring they remain safe in their home. A newly developed Safe and Well visit, which

launched on 1 November, looks at safety, mental health and well being and helps signpost people to relevant support. If more support is needed then the specialist Vulnerable Persons Officer will do extra visits for as long as required.

- 2.13 Our 'Clean for the Queen' event took place at Beechdale Park on 4 March. We had volunteers from all three ward councillors, whg, Environmental Health and Clean and Green. Clean and Green were able to cut back the shrubbery on the path to the school which has opened the site up and looks much better.
- 2.14 The latest meeting for the Beechdale Library 'Friends Of' group (yet to be established) took place on 4 March. A programme of events is to be planned for the Easter holidays including Easter Card and Craft Making on 19 March (11-12), Craft Activities and Treasure Hunt on 1 April (10.30-12) and Board Games drop in on 8 April (2.30-3.30). Anyone able to help or offer a taster session in anything appropriate please contact Ness on 01922 653714. Our next meeting is planned for 15 April at 2.30pm.
- 2.15 Aspire2Engage Project – working in partnership with Walsall Football Club Community Programme, we are developing a new project called Aspire2Engage. The idea of the project is to link in local community groups with the football club, who have a responsibility set down by the Football League Trust to help deliver activities that promote, engage and develop the local community in 4 strategic priority areas, which are 1) Participation 2) Education 3) Health 4) Inclusion. The Community Partnership team are working with us on this project, who are themselves a registered charity, and a separate entity to the commercial arm of the football club. From a speculative email back in December, to date we have held 2 events at the football club, engaging with over 50 people from the local community. The incentive we offer to local groups to engage with us is up to 30 free tickets for a Walsall FC home match, including press coverage and publicity on the day to raise awareness of the group and the work they do within the local community. There are 2 more events, on the 17<sup>th</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> April, allowing more groups the opportunity to engage. There is also a borough-wide showcase event at the football club on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> June. This showcase will promote 100 local community groups and organisations that offer activities, events and volunteer opportunities to the residents in the borough. It is hoped that by showcasing the good work that the community & voluntary sector offer, local businesses will commit to helping these groups through their corporate social responsibility policy, with a community grant scheme the ultimate end goal.
- 2.15 Bloxwich Library is now hosting a Junior Chess Club on Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm.
- 2.16 Sneyd Ca have a new website up and running promoting all the activities they have on offer - <http://www.sneydca.co.uk/>

Activities include indoor bowls, sewing, swimming, dog training, karate, railway club, sugarcraft, dancing, canoe club, yoga and relaxation, tae kwon do and lots more. Further information regarding booking rooms or the Astro turf from 01922 710133.

### **3. Children and Young People: Improving safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people**

- 3.1 Youth Support Service, Frank F Harrison and Blakenall Community Centre are co-ordinating activities with the support of Community Safety and Area Partnership to ensure there is less duplication.
- 3.2 Partners in North Walsall are putting together a programme of activities including using the Reach Up/Move Truck over the Easter holidays. We are working with Bushido martial arts to incorporate some taster sessions which focuses not only on the activity of martial arts but respect and success.
- 3.3 Partners continue to work with key community people in Birchills to sustain the youth facility currently using Birchills Sure Start Centre. Help with funding and support is being given through our youth services and cohesion teams. We hope to pull together all the groups in Birchills with relevant partners to look at larger grants to do collective cohesive work.
- 3.4 Birchills Sure Start are looking to start a new Neonatal Group which will add to their other sessions including Asian Women's Mental Health Group, Freedom Programme, Post-Natal Clinic, Well Baby Clinic, Music Man Stay and Play, Welfare Rights Drop in session, Stop Smoking Clinic, Breastfeeding Support Group, Cradle Club and Stepping Stones Parent's Group. They are also holding a Family Fun Day on Wednesday 30 March from 10-1. All welcome.
- 3.5 Blakenall Sure Start will be starting a teen and tots programme on 23 February which will run until 19 July. The programme is accredited and will give the young person an additional qualification and develop their own personal skills and knowledge. Bumps, Babes and Beyond, which started on 16 January at Beechdale's St Chad's church hall, is working well. A new Stay and Play group at Sneyd is in the planning stage at the moment. A new Stay and Play targeting the Slovak and Czech community has now started. The centre also hosts Job Centre sessions one a month, condom distribution (C-Card scheme), Breastfeeding sessions, Parenting Programmes, Stay and Play, Baby Clinics, to name but a few.
- 3.6 Area Partnerships are working with the fire service and the children's centres to run a car seat road safety scheme. We hope to increase awareness of the dangers of having a car seat that is unsuitable for the age of the child. We are also investigating whether we can start a car seat recycling scheme but this will depend on the legal implications.

- 3.7 HomeStart are looking for volunteers who can offer practical support, encouragement and reassurance for families with at least one child under five. Courses are run on various dates throughout the year and would involve attending training one day a week for six weeks. Please email [admin@homestartwalsall.org.uk](mailto:admin@homestartwalsall.org.uk) if you are interested.
- 3.8 Two 'Safer Route to School' schemes have been consulted on and are now due to go ahead. The schemes will be implemented outside of Sunshine Infant and Nursery School and Abbey Primary School.
- 3.9 Bloxwich and Blakenall cluster have had their first locality meeting. The aim of this is to explore how partners and schools can:
- Jointly understand the needs of the community
  - Develop the workforce to be able to effectively respond to the needs at the earliest opportunity
  - Join up resources to provide a more effective, cohesive package of support which in turn will reduce duplication and the need for high cost interventions
  - Develop community resources to ensure sustainable services.

The cluster is currently looking at the area's profile and key information to understand the needs of families living locally. The next meeting is scheduled for the middle of March.

#### **4. Business and Jobs: Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people into work**

- 4.1 Job Centre Plus will be delivering their service from Blakenall and Birchills children's centres. This will include help in sourcing job offers, income support, information, advice and guidance relating to work.
- 4.2 Keepmoat held a free DIY skills taster session on 11 March which encouraged people to try out plastering, tiling, painting and decorating. Help with CV writing and interviews was also on hand.
- 4.3 Work on the Horizon offer Information:
- advice and guidance on careers and skills
  - training to help with things like building confidence and motivation
  - job search support including interview techniques
  - internet access for job-search & training activities
  - Job related training and work experience opportunities
  - training to help you up-skill and develop new skills
  - practical help with work related costs like childcare and transport
  - and lots more

See more at: <http://www.onestopemploymentsshop.co.uk> or ring 01922 496555

- 4.4 Our local libraries are hosting a range of sessions including one to one computer sessions and homework zones.

Beechdale Library – homework zone 3.30-4.30 on Fridays calls 655890.

Beechdale Library – Running a whole range of computer sessions which are free but need to be booked:

One to one sessions available on 9 March, 22 April, 13 July (each session 45 minutes long) ring 01922 655890 to book.

Blakenall Library – One to one on 22 March, 25 May, 29 June book on 01922 714967.

Bloxwich Library – Taster 2 – Taster Session (comparison websites, social media, buying and selling online) 3 weeks x 2hrs 23 Feb, 1 and 8 March.

One to one sessions on 24 Feb, 18 March, 13 April, 18 May, 22 June.

Taster 1 - 3 weeks x 2hrs on 12, 19, 26 April

Taster 2 - 3 weeks x 2hrs on 7, 14 and 21 June

## **5. Health and Well-Being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people**

- 5.1 Mossley Estate over 50's Club, organised by and for local residents meet every Thursday 10am-12.00pm at Mattesley Court.

- 5.2 The Director of Public Health Annual report for 2014/15 was launched at the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016. This Annual Report sets out some recommendations and examples of how the Public Health team in Walsall Council have started to change and modernise services in the Borough over the last two years. The link below shows the whole report.

<https://cmispublic.walsall.gov.uk/CMIS/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=A%2ftDQdBykO%2fMxFCED%2fg6%2fL3i4ZyKv6K4%2frD0hqtqQeeOwA1VvgI5%2fA%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzqA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCT>

- 5.3 St Thomas Church in Mossley have set up a mental health and wellbeing support group. If you suffer with stress, depression, anxiety or any other mental health condition come along and meet other people with shared experiences in a safe and confidential environment. Meetings are now held weekly on Tuesdays from 12-1 at

St Thomas Church, Cresswell Crescent, Mossley. More details from Sara on 07586352810.

- 5.4 Sure Start Children's Centres have set up a Freedom Women's Support Programme to support those who have experienced domestic violence. All women are welcome to join and learn more about healthy and unhealthy relationships in a safe, non-judgemental environment. This is a 10 week rolling programme and women can join at any time during the programme. Please call 01922 646574 for more information.
- 5.5 Birchills Sure Start are establishing a Parent Forum once they have enough volunteers to attend. Other sessions taking place at the centre include Language Group, Messy Monkeys, Well Baby Clinic, Welfare Rights Drop in Session, Play and Saty with the Music Man, Post Natal Clinic, Care Leavers Group, Stop Smoking Clinic, Breastfeeding Support Group, Health Trainer and Stepping Stones. Some sessions have to be booked or are by referral. Please call 646574 for details.
- 5.6 Stan Ball now has a bereavement and social club taking place on Mondays from 2-3.30pm. Cost is £2 and all welcome.
- 5.7 One of our North Walsall GP surgeries has become one of the top 10 Black Country practices – Mossley and Dudley Fields Medical Practice. For full report please click on the link:  
<http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/health/what-best-gp-surgery-birmingham-10780913>

Vanessa Croft: Area Manager - (01922) 653714 [vanessa.croft@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:vanessa.croft@walsall.gov.uk)