

# DARLASTON AND BENTLEY AREA PANEL

## Area Manager's Report

19<sup>th</sup> January 2014

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report is designed to inform Elected Members for the Darlaston and Bentley Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area.
- 1.2 Darlaston South and Darlaston North and Bentley 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.

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

- 2.1 Strategic partners include; West Midlands Police, Walsall Council Community Safety Team, Integrated Young Peoples Support Services, Clean and Green Services, Reassurance Team, Social Care and Inclusion, Area Family Support Team, Environmental Health, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmore/Accord Housing, Heantun Housing, Sanctuary Housing, Victim Support.
- 2.2 *Car Cruising* has been outlawed in a High court Judgement. The three year injunction against street racing and driving in convoy covers the whole of the Black Country but the Black Country Route around Moxley has been identified as a hotspot. Signage is expected to be completed by the beginning of February whereupon the injunction will come into force.
- 2.3 Partners have worked together to address ASB problems at ABC Park. WHG have installed a camera to monitor ASB and gather evidence of illegal motorbike and quad bike use on the park.

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

- 3.1 Strategic Partners include; Integrated Young People's Support Services, Bentley West Children's Centre, Darlaston Sure Start, Area Family Support Team, Grace Academy, Darlaston Schools Cluster, Walsall Housing Group, West Midlands Police, Moxley Community Hub Project Management Group, Old Hall People's Partnership.
- 3.2 Young people at Bentley Youth & Community Centre in Wilkes Avenue were asked to propose a new name for the Centre which would better reflect the broader range of services that are planned to be delivered there. The winning name was the *Bentley All Ages Activity Centre*. New signage and a new mural will improve frontage of the building.

### **4. Business and Jobs: Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people in to work**

- 4.1 Strategic partners include; Walsall Council Economic Regeneration, Welfare Rights, District Centre Management, Darlaston JET, Walsall College, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmore/Accord Housing, Moxley Community Hub Project Management Group.
- 4.2 The Black Country City Deal, known locally as *Working Together*, has launched its grant funding programme which seeks to improve the job prospects of social housing tenants in the Darlaston South ward. The deadline for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015.
- 4.3 A gift shop which specialises in goods for people with dementia has brought an empty shop into use in King Street Darlaston. The shop is the first of its kind in the country. Mindful Gifts is a Community Interest Company.

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

- 5.1 Strategic partners include; Walsall Council Public Health, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group, Sports Development, Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust, Integrated Young People's Support Services, Walsall Housing Group, Social Care and Inclusion, Darlaston Sure Start, Moxley Community Hub Project Management Group.
- 5.2 Connecting Communities (C2) is a Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group- led initiative to develop a community-focussed partnership to drive improvements for local people. A listening event in autumn 2014 identified three key priorities for residents:

- 1. Environmental (fly tipping, dog fouling, litter)

2. Anti social behaviour (lack of social activities for children and young people, motorbikes)
3. Public Service (parking by school and transport links)

An outcome of the event was that residents held a community litter pick in October supported by Clean and Green, but residents have expressed a view that many of their objectives are unattainable at this time. So early in 2015 the engaged residents will be visiting sites where the Connecting Communities model has been applied and demonstrated how effective and achievable asset-based working can be.

The C2 steering group continues to meet quarterly and the resident's partnership meeting takes place monthly. The partnership group has acknowledged that further 'listening events' are required to target a wider range of residents including young people to ensure that their views are placed at the heart of decision making where they live.

## **6. Other information**

- 6.1 Appointments are being processed for vacant Area Management roles. John Batchelor, the Interim Area Manager for the area, will leave the role at the end of January 2015.

John Batchelor  
Interim Area Partnership Manager  
(01922) 653710  
[batchelorjohn@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:batchelorjohn@walsall.gov.uk)