



Darlaston & Bentley Area Partnership Area Manager Report – updated 16th September 2013

Ongoing Updates on the Actions for Darlaston & Bentley Area Partnership

1. Purpose of the report

This report seeks to inform Area Panel members from the Darlaston & Bentley Area Panel of some of the work carried out within the two wards of Darlaston South and Darlaston North & Bentley in line with our local Area Plan.

2. Area Plan Development

The Area Plan for the local Area Partnership has been developed in line with strategic priorities as set out for the Borough through the 'Walsall Plan' and the strategic plans identified by each of the thematic strategic boards. Local intelligence has been adopted to ensure a local delivery plan is adopted that meets the needs, challenges and aspirations of local communities across the partnership area.

3. Children and Young People

Partners involved – Darlaston Schools Cluster, Grace Academy, Area Family Support Team, Bentley West Children's Centre, Darlaston Sure Start, Walsall Housing Group, WM Police, IYPSS, Moxley Hub Project Management Group

- 3.1** The Area Partnership are supporting Children's Services colleagues in the development of a 'Walsall Early Help Strategy', the strategy will be developed to provide a more robust approach to providing support to a young persons life and will provide the basis for partners to support tackling problems emerging for children, young people and their families.
- 3.2** A well supported and attended Summer Programme was jointly delivered by IYPSS and Old Hall Peoples Partnership that saw local young people access a range of activities including a fitness 'boot camp', mountain biking and an outdoor activity residential course.





Walsall Area Partnerships

- 3.3** A visit was made to West Midlands Fire Service's Safeside facility with students from two local primary schools. Safeside is a state of the art, scenario based experiential learning centre that provides an innovative, interactive and enjoyable experience to encourage visitors to think and act safely. The intention is to promote and support all local schools to access the facility.
- 3.4** Following on from the successful Darlaston Primary Schools cluster football tournament earlier in the year, a rounders tournament was organised for schools in Darlaston and Bentley, all schools participated and over 100 students enjoyed the event organised by West Midlands Police.
- 3.5** The Area Partnership will be working with local partners and third sector organisations to help reduce problems of nuisance and anti-social behaviour in the Whitton Street area of Darlaston, the work will not only focus on effective enforcement, it will also deliver suitable support and projects to local young people to deter them from criminal behaviour and provide positive activities

4. Business and Jobs

Partners involved – Economic Regeneration, Darlaston JET, Welfare Rights Team, Walsall College, Walsall Housing Group, District Centre Management, Caldmore/Accord Housing, Moxley Hub Project Management Group

- 4.1** Following the introduction of jobs and training surgeries at Moxley Peoples Centre as part of the Moxley Community Hub project, further training courses are now being delivered to local people by national training agencies
- 4.2** More surgeries are now being delivered at local community venues across Bentley, Darlaston and Moxley by colleagues in Welfare Rights to help local people affected by Welfare Reform change.
- 4.3** The community HUB in Bentley continues to develop opportunities for local people and more volunteers have been signed up to support local projects delivered by Old Hall Peoples Partnership at the venue in Queen Elizabeth Avenue.

5. Health and Well-Being

Partners involved – Public Health, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Healthy Lifestyles Team, Physical Activities Team, Darlaston Sure Start, Walsall Housing Group, Adult Social Care, Reassurance Team, IYPSS, Caldmore/Accord Housing





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- 5.1 As part of an Area Partnership driven approach to deliver support to local communities, working closely with partners from Public Health, Children's Services, Clinical Commissioning Group and Walsall Housing Group, a piece of work will be undertaken to identify, support and develop community assets within the Rough Hay area. This will focus on developing community capacity building strategies that help reduce health inequalities, improve job prospects, improve community safety and raise local aspirations.
- 5.2 The Area Partnership has supported colleagues in the NHS Physical Team to deliver free physical activity classes to local people at community venues in Moxley and Darlaston.
- 5.3 Area Partnerships are leading a steering group aimed at tackling the problem of on street sex workers, the work will focus on three key areas, reducing harm amongst workers, responding to and informing the local community on issues relating to sex workers and ensuring robust and effective justice processes are in place.

6. Safe and Sustainable Communities

Partners Involved – Community Safety Team, IYPSS, WM Police, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmore/Accord Housing, Heantun Housing, Clean and Green Services, Reassurance Team, Adult Social Care, Victim Support, Environmental Health

- 6.1 A 'No Cold Calling Zone' will be introduced in to the Bentley area subject to a positive response from the local community following a period of consultation. Partners led by West Midlands Police and Walsall Council Trading Standards will engage local residents in a period of consultation beginning in October. This could lead to Bentley becoming the Borough's first no cold calling zone before the end of the year.
- 6.2 A hugely successful community network lunch took place at Bentley Leisure Pavilion in June, the event organised in partnership with Old Hall Peoples Partnership attracted over sixty local community organisations, community representatives and partner organisations. The lunch was an opportunity to bring together local service providers closer to the local voluntary and community sector and Old Hall Peoples Partnership will be hosting a series of further lunches throughout the year to help support local organisations and communities.
- 6.3 Over 500 people enjoyed glorious weather and plenty of activities as Darlaston's annual Party in the Park was successfully delivered on a hot Saturday afternoon on July. Organised by Darlaston Events Committee and Darlaston Town Centre Partnership, the event was supported by Darlaston





Walsall Area Partnerships

Sure Start, Walsall Council's Sports Development Team, Darlaston Air Cadets, Darlaston Rotary Club and other local community organisations.

- 6.4** The Area Partnership is supporting the Council's Street Champions initiative by delivering a series of training events for new and existing Street Champions. The training events, in partnership with Walsall Adult Community College, have focussed on issues ranging from Environmental Crime to Community Safety.

Report Author

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