

DARLASTON AND BENTLEY AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

January 2017

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.2 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.

1.3 Darlaston South and Darlaston North and Bentley have a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community.

2.0 The strategic priorities are:

2.1 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.

3.0 Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities

3.1 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.

3.2 Following a closed partnership meeting in December a number of concerns were raised by partner agencies regarding George Rose Park in relation to anti social behaviour. A follow up meeting took place on 15th December with agencies including WM Fire, Police, Clean and Green, Community Protection to discuss. A detached youth service is being provided on the park three evenings a week during term time so it was agreed that support is to be provided and better links made with Youth work Toolbox and the young people attending so that Police and colleagues are able to work together to ensure young people enjoy the provision and any anti social behaviour is dealt with. A follow up meeting is due to be arranged.

3.3 An estate tour around the Bentley area took place in Early December with local councillors, Clean and Green and Community Protection colleagues. It was agreed that more discussions are needed with the local community on a regular basis to encourage reporting and ongoing dialogue with residents about local issues. A meeting has been arranged with WHG on 12th January to discuss a resident engagement plan for the Bentley area. During the walk about a number of issues were raised about individual properties and locations which colleagues were able to investigate following the event. Green space off Poplar Avenue was highlighted as a concern with a number of fly tipping hotspots including two arson hit piles. Clean and Green and WHG removed the fly tipping following the event.

3.4 Issues on Anson Road (fly tipping) have been moved by Clean and Green and a plan is in place to trim back the area in front of the play area in order to reduce the risk of further incidents.

3.5 Both Inspector Sophie Worthington and Sgt Lee Nicholls are now in post in Darlaston. Since their arrival they have been keen to meet partner agencies and local councillors and also look at joint initiatives in the local community such as a speed watch project. They are keen to ensure Police are present when possible at

future panel meetings in order to ensure local councillors are updated on a regular basis and that communication is ongoing.

3.6 Caldmore Accord Housing and Walsall Council Youth Service are working with Police and Community Protection colleagues to deal with issues around Pattern Drive, Darlaston. Following consultation carried out with young people and residents it was requested by a number of young people for a football pitch to be installed on the field / green space area on Richards Street. If there is sufficient funds remaining it is hoped that an application can be submitted in March to the Area Panel for the purchase of goalposts to be installed.

3.7 WM Fire Service held an event at Walsall Fire Station in December to launch their consultation period at a coffee morning inviting community members and partner agencies to have their say on future direction of the brigade. The consultation can be completed online at www.wmfs.net/consultation2016/

4.0 Children and Young People: Improving safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people

4.1 Strategic Partners include; Integrated Youth 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.

4.2 Detached work is continuing from George Rose and Kings Hill Park in the new academic term and is being delivered by Youth worth Toolbox. Colleagues in Clean and Green are working with YT to allow access to park buildings on both parks so that they have access to the facilities.

4.3 Kic FM are hosting Comic Relief for Red Nose Day in January at their Low Hill project in Wolverhampton and are hoping to take young people from Rough Hay who have been attending sessions at the Community Centre over recent programmes. It is expected that a number of Ambassadors from Comic Relief are attending the event to film for this year's fundraising campaign. Kic FM is hoping young people and families from Rough Hay will attend the event once the date has been confirmed.

5.0 Business and Jobs: Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people in to work

5.1 Strategic partners include; Walsall Council Economic Regeneration, Welfare Rights, District Centre Management, Walsall College, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmore/Accord Housing, Moxley People's Centre

5.2 A second steering group meeting is taking place in January of key agencies including Steps to Work, Talent Match, Sure Start, City Deal and WACC to ensure communication and referrals are ongoing across Darlaston.

5.3 Steps to Work are continuing to offer a one stop shop of support to people in Darlaston from the Darlaston Jet building on King Street. The service has been part of a borough wide funding allocation so that more support and advice can be provided to all job seekers in the area.

5.4 WACC is continuing to deliver a range of training and support to people from Moorcroft Wood Centre targeting the Darlaston South ward. Uptake of support is good and they are regularly attending local partnership meetings and activities in order to publicise support available.

6.0 Health and Well-Being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people

6.1 Strategic partners include; Walsall Council Public Health, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group, Walsall Council Sports Development, Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust, Integrated Young People's Support Services, Walsall Housing Group, Social Care and Inclusion, Darlaston Sure Start.

6.2 Healthwatch Walsall is looking to do a programme of events across the borough with one of the first being in Darlaston. By analysing local health issues the AP and HW are hoping to deliver a health and well being themed community event attracting people of all ages. Key services will attend to provide information, carry out health checks and provide information to people relevant to local problems such as smoking, health checks, diabetes, drugs and alcohol, obesity, mental health, physical activity. Partner agencies will be invited and involved so that they are also able to promote their services such as Sure Start, local nurseries, community associations and local clubs and so on.

6.3 A Community Learning Directory has been produced by Adult Social Care colleagues in order to inform residents and partner agencies of the wide range of services in Walsall available to their service users. Cross partner working is being coordinated via the Resilient Communities working group from Public Health. It is hoped that information collated from other service areas included WVA and Area Partnerships will further enhance the content of the directory in order to include more community based provision being delivered locally.

6.4 The next planned Darlaston Breakfast meetings are arranged for Wednesday 11th January at Darlaston All Active followed by Wednesday 8th February at Shepwell School. Both are an 8.15am start.

Nicola Holmes
Area Manager
07539 222875
nicola.holmes@walsall.gov.uk