

# **NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL**

## **Area Manager's Report**

**2 February 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 conducting high visibility patrols around Cope Street and the surrounding area to reduce incidents relating to teenagers congregating and general nuisance. The team are looking to identify young people and youths causing issues. Once identified the neighbourhood team will work with a range of partners to address the offending behaviour. This includes warning letters and/or Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. This type of intervention is proven to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- 2.3 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 will be deployed to capture evidence. A Public Space Protection Order is being implemented in the area to address anti social behaviour.
- 2.4 The Blakenall Neighbourhood Team have increased high visibility patrols around Walker Road and there have been several patrols in the communal areas due to reports of youths throwing stones at passing vehicles. Police are working closely with the company that manages the flats to ban youths from private property. The police are working closely with the Blakenall Youth Team who are conducting outreach work and looking at long-term diversionary activities. They will also look to address any long-term drug issues. Residents have also received a letter from Blakenall Neighbourhood Team explaining how they can report incidents.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.

- 2.7 The Bloxwich Neighbourhood Team conducted high visibility patrols on Bloxwich High Street and surrounding streets over Christmas to combat seasonal crime and provide reassurance to the public.
- 2.8 The Beechdale Neighbourhood Team seized an off road bike on 19 January from Beechdale Park. The rider will be prosecuted for Driving a Motor Vehicle with no insurance and not a valid licence.
- 2.9 A number of police surgeries, residents' meetings and neighbourhood watch meetings take place across North Walsall.

Meeting	Date	Time	Where
Leamore Community Meeting	12 January	7-8	Colebatches Social Club
Blakenall Residents Meeting	27 January	6.30-8.30	Ryecroft Hub
Blakenall Residents Meeting	30 March	6.30-8.30	Ryecroft Hub
Blakenall Residents Meeting	25 May	6.30-8.30	Ryecroft Hub

- 2.10 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	To be repaired due to camera not panning – awaiting quote	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken
ND2	Forest Lane – attempted theft – with WMP for analysis	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce criminal activity and anti-social behaviour	To identify offenders and 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.

- 2.11 Partners within North Walsall and Pelsall/Rushall/Brownhills/Shelfield Area Partnerships are working together to address issues of off road bikes on Whateley Field. A swing barrier has now been installed at Cartbridge Lane.
- 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 tall, yellow dog fouling signs have been moving around North Walsall and also being used in other wards. Currently signs have stayed in previous locations which are in place at Dartmouth Avenue, outside St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Field Road, at the junction with Victoria Avenue, Victoria Avenue, at the junction with Valley Road, Elmore Green Road, at the junction with Broad Lane, Roach Road, at the junction with Cresswell Crescent, Villiers Street, at the junction with Whitehall Road, Longacre Street, at the junction with Green Lane, Mill Lane, at the entrance to the nature reserve, Livingstone Road, by the canal bridge. Any further requests can be submitted through Area Partnerships or Environmental Health. Please be aware that some requests cannot be done due to the differences in lamp post circumferences (some are too fat or too thin!)
- 2.14 Our 'Clean for the Queen' event has now changed. We plan to finish the work started during the summer at Beechdale Park with a community litter pick on 4 March from 10-2. I hope that the brook will have also been cleared by this time. Please highlight this event with all so we can get as many volunteers as possible engaged. We hope to still have the grapping event in Birchills but this is now proposed for Saturday 5 March but has yet to be confirmed.
- 2.15 Brooke Smith Planning are developing a planning application on behalf of Bromford Developments Ltd for 14 self contained apartments for adults with learning disabilities at the old Bulls Head site on Bloxwich High Street.
- 2.16 Walsall Council planning officers have recommended the scheme to transform the former bakery site in Raleigh Street to a housing estate for approval when its planning committee considers proposals.
- 2.17 The latest meeting for the Beechdale Library 'Friends Of' group (yet to be established) took place on 8 January at 2.30pm. A programme of events is to be planned for the February half term to include a talk from Kevin Pitt on safety, a coffee morning, a couple of history talks and an arts and crafts session. Anyone able to help or offer a taster session in anything appropriate please contact Ness on 01922 653714.

### **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 have worked together during school holidays to minimize the probability of youth asb. The Move truck and Reach Up tower have been used to engage with families and young people and highlight provision in the area. Education and discussions have taken place to warn of the dangers of certain activities, e.g. throwing stones, playing on building sites, playing football in the street, etc. During October half term discussions have taken place around bonfire safety and firework safety. The Fire Service have joined with partners to get the message out to all regarding safety. During the course of the project nearly 900 young people were engaged with. Local providers have reported an increase in numbers attending their activities. The consultation regarding what would make them feel safer highlighted three main priorities for young people which were more visible park rangers in parks, more police presence and more CCTV.
- 3.3 Partners are working with key community people in Birchills to create a youth facility using Birchills Sure Start Centre. A consultation event has been held and the first youth club evening taken place. We aim to build on this so all cultures within Birchills become more integrated and in turn take more ownership of their environment.

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

- 4.1 Steps to Work started the outreach programme on 28 July and finished on 31 December. They have worked from Beechdale Housing Association, Blakenall Information Centre, Sandbank TMO, Pinfold Centre, Leamore TMO, Sure Start in Birchills and Blakenall and Edgar Stammers and KFC. The project has overachieved in relation to the set profiles and has engaged 39 individuals with 36 having action plans developed. 12 had individually tailored CVs compiled for them and 7 were able to gain an accredited qualification as a result of the support offered to them. Other assistance offered included one to one job search support, job matching by project staff, tailored information advice and guidance, benefit advice and referrals to specialised organisation and vocation course.
- 4.2 whg are offering a number of courses for young people who are NEET aged between 16 – 23yrs.

#### **Prep Construction**

Whg have a Prep construction course for 16 – 18yrs starting on the **19.01.16**, this will cover:

- Introduction to Construction
- Employability Skills
- Manual Handling
- Taster sessions in construction
- Leading onto a Traineeship

### **Customer Service**

Whg also have a Customer Service course for 16 – 18yrs starting on the 21.01.16, this will cover:

- Employability Skills
- Interview Skills
- CV Writing
- Understanding others
- My Work Search

### **Traineeships**

whg skills centre is also offering 16 – 23yrs old a chance to engage in a Level 1 – Construction Skills qualification Traineeship, they will also receive:

CSCS Card & Level 1 in Health & Safety

Functional Skills Maths & English

Free Lunch and Travel

Whg are looking to start the course on the **01.02.16**.

All of the above courses are to be delivered from whg Skill's Centre, Hollemeadow Avenue, Leamore, Walsall, WS3 1JD. If you have any young people who are interested or need any further information please let Aaron Lawrence know or you can pass on his details, [aaron.lawrence@whgrp.co.uk](mailto:aaron.lawrence@whgrp.co.uk) 01922 426971.

- 4.3 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.

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

- 5.1 The physical activity timetable is now available. All classes are delivered by experienced Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's Physical Activity Team. All sessions are FREE if you live or work in Walsall or have a Walsall GP. Please note that you are required to bring proof to a session when you register that you are either a Walsall resident or work in Walsall.

Friday	10.30-11.30	Aerobics (women only)	Green Lane Baptist Church
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Tuesday	12-1	Beginners circuits	Blakenall Community Centre
Wednesday	10-11	Pilates	Bloxwich Library

### **Make it Count**

The Walsall Get Active Database is now available with information on local clubs and activities. Have a look or register at [www.walsall.gov.uk/getactive](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/getactive) If you have any comments or feedback for the Physical Activity Team that could improve their service to you please let them know. Contact Ashley Smith, Physical Activity Advisor; Physical Activity Team; Tel: 01922 444044

- 5.2 Make It Count is a 10 week programme for children aged 4-7 years old and their families to increase physical activity levels and knowledge of healthy eating. If you are interested, or know of any families that may be interested please phone the Lifestyle Link for more information or to register your interest in the Saturday morning sessions 01922 44 40 44.
- 5.3 Mossley Estate over 50's Club, organised by and for local residents meet every Thursday 10am-12.00pm at Mattesley Court.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust are facilitation a new Health and Well Being Drop in which will be taking place at Mend It, Green Lane Baptist Church on the first Tuesday of each month, 9.30-12.30. Help and advice is available from Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, Pathways for Life, Larvic Pharmacy, Health Watch and Healthy Lifestyles Service.
- 5.6 From 1<sup>st</sup> October the walk in centre at Market Square became an urgent care centre, alongside the one at Manor Hospital. Both centres provide health advice and treatment for illness or injuries which are not life threatening, but are too urgent to wait for a routine appointment with your GP, such as wounds, burns and bites, sprains, sports injuries, fevers, infections and rashes, and sickness and vomiting. No appointment is necessary and patients can access the service 8am to 8pm every day of the year.
- 5.7 From 16 November the Pyari Sangat Asian Women's Support Group run by Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust will run from Birchills' Children's Centre, Monday, 1 to 2.30pm.
- 5.8 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.

- 5.9 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.

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