

DARLASTON AND BENTLEY AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

Monday, 15th September 2014

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks 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 Previous reports have highlighted the introduction of a No Cold Calling Zone within the Bentley area. Following a successful period of consultation the 'zone' was formally introduced on the 5th August, with the introduction of signage across the area and a launch event involving partners from Trading Standards, West Midlands Police and local elected members. Since the introduction of the No Cold Call Zone, officers have received no reports of bogus calling or door step crime across the Bentley area.
2. Following some intensive work carried about by West Midlands Police and partners from Walsall Council with the support of local elected members, the problems

concerning car cruising around the Moxley area has significantly reduced in recent weeks. A number of police operations have been undertaken in the area and Aldi have now secured their car park out of hours to ensure a main area for vehicle owners to congregate has been removed. Walsall Council continues to work in partnership with other Black Country Local Authorities and West Midlands Police to introduce an area wide injunction that will give police officers increased enforcement powers to respond at known hot spots.

- 2.4 Following an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour to Caldmore/Accord and Sanctuary Housing from residents at their new developments in Kings Hill, the organisations are working closely alongside the Neighbourhood Police Team, Community Safety Team, Integrated Young Peoples Support Services and Area Partnerships to deliver a number of interventions to reduce the problem. This has included detached youth workers engaging young people locally, community based fun days and work to introduce restricting access to local pathways to remove the impact of off road motor cycles.

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 Integrated Young Peoples Support Services and Old Hall Peoples Partnership delivered an extensive Summer Programme of activities for young people across the partnership area. Activities were well attended and contributed significantly to a reduction in reported anti-social behaviour during the school holiday period.
- 3.3 Young people from across the partnership area were recently invited to attend an awards event as part of the Dame Kelly Homes Trust 'Get on Track' Programme. Working in partnership with Caldmore/Accord Housing and the Black Country Be Active Partnership, the initiative supports local young people with sessions and activities delivered by national elite athletes designed to build confidence, skills and opportunities to gain employment. The sessions delivered at Old Hall People Partnerships Wilkes Avenue Youth Centre were well attended and have already seen young people gain employment and training opportunities.

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 Old Hall Peoples Partnership have launched an employment hub at their centre in Wing Close. 'Aiming High' is aimed at local people who are over 50 or have a disability and whose opportunities for employment may have been restricted. The initiative will provide support in accessing jobs and skills training to ensure appropriate pathways can be accessed. The scheme is already receiving the support of Steps to Work and Walsall Adult and Community College.
- 4.3 Young People in Darlaston South will soon start to receive the benefits of the national 'City Deal' initiative that is designed to support local young people into jobs, training and apprenticeships. Darlaston South is one of four Black Country Local Authority wards that will benefit from significant investment into infrastructure and support services that will create increased opportunities for young people.

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 A 'Listening Event' took place on the 30th August for the community in Rough Hay, the event was delivered as part of Walsall Clinical Commissioning Groups led 'Connecting Communities' initiative to develop and introduce a community focussed partnership that can drive improvements for local people. The event was followed up a week later by a feedback session that was well attended by local people and those that attended will now start to form the basis of a constituted partnership group to work alongside service providers to respond to issues of concern.
- 5.3 Moxley Community Hub partners have again worked in collaboration to deliver a successful physical activities programme for people in the area. Colleagues from Walsall Council's Sports Development Team have worked with Moxley Medical Centre to develop activities and the medical centre make direct referrals to the service that is delivered at the adjacent Methodist Church.

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