

# **NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL**

## **Area Manager's Report**

**Wednesday, 29 January 2014**

### **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 Partners involved: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit, Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS), 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, Reassurance Team, 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, Propsects, Public Health, Lifestyles Team, Forest Arts Centre, Blakenall Community Centre (BCC), Ryecroft Hub, Green Lane Baptist Church, Community Payback, Streams Housing

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

- 2.1 The six month Dispersal Order, covering Stephenson Square to Reedswood Park, has been effectively implemented by the Police. The residents of Beechdale are being kept informed of actions through the Police Neighbourhoods Team, which also involves Beechdale Community Housing (BCH), who have been able to respond directly to any requests/queries/concerns. The Police have reported that there have

been 20 dispersals in total. The Dispersal Order ends shortly and a sub-group (see 2.2) has been established to consider next steps.

- 2.2 The Beechdale Anti-Social Behaviour Sub-Group met on 24 October 2013, with a further meeting arranged for 30 January 2014 to identify how local partners can continue to work with young people to further reduce anti-social behaviour.
- 2.3 The Lister Road Fun Park, opened in autumn 2013, provides a purpose built facility, for use by residents in the area. It provides a place where young people can safely play ball games and engage in other positive activities. This local resource, funded and supported by BCH and Friendship Care and Housing, has been well received by the local residents, who have taken ownership of the site. This also supports the Dispersal Order.
- 2.4 IYPSS Detached Team are facilitating a football tournament at Lister Close Fun Park, which is proving successful in engaging young people and parents. This follows an IYPSS Anti-Social Behaviour Survey, asking young people what activities they would like to see in the locality.
- 2.5 The Police continue to work closely with the community and retailers on tackling anti-social behaviour around Reedswood Retail Park and Reedswood Park. The Police have seen a steady decrease in recorded logs in the local area and also around Reedswood Park.
- 2.6 Other measures to reduce anti-social behaviour have also been undertaken across the Area Partnership, supported by the local community.
- 2.7 Young people from the Mirus Academy are being engaged with by IYPSS and Frank F Harrison on issues affecting them and involving them in resolving these.
- 2.8 Proceeds of Crime funding has been used to employ three youth workers, who will specifically target the Blakenall area and has also been used effectively to combat issues in and around the Harden and Coalpool area. Activities continue with the support of St Aiden's Care Team and IYPSS.
- 2.9 The partnership-wide action plan to deal with rogue metal dealers and collectors is now integrated with the recently introduced national legislation. Environmental Health and Trading Standards are implementing this. 'Days of Action' have also been undertaken to target specific areas within the Area Partnership to check vehicles and legitimacy of those operating.
- 2.10 Mossley Big Local – A Participatory Budgeting session took place on 20 November 2013, from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., St Thomas' Church, Mossley. This was open to other Big Local areas across the Black Country. The event was successful. Mossley has recently been informed that the initial 'start up' costs for consultation has been approved.

- 2.11 A clean up day was held in early December around Mary Street/Hospital Street/Lewis Street, where Community Payback worked with Environmental Health and Clean and Green to clean up the alleyway and void space between properties. Shrubs and grass were strimmed back and three tonnes of bulky waste removed by skip. Gutters were cleared of leaves and debris and previously condemned wheelie bins were emptied. A site meeting was held on 15 January, including officers from WHG and Clean and Green to look at additional works – again, a small amount of fly-tipping was removed.
- 2.12 Ryecroft Hub continues to develop, supported by a range of partners. The business plan is being expanded. Activities have increased at the New Forest Road site to over 30 hours per week. A Christmas activity week was held, which was well attended.
- 2.13 Door Step Crime – Further funding has been awarded to increase this awareness raising campaigns relating to rogue traders, intimidation to pay for unnecessary works/over-charging for works and raising awareness at banks/building societies on withdrawals of large sums of cash that account holders would not necessarily do.
- 2.14 BCH have recruited two Community Champions, who are local residents and are currently undertaking training.
- 2.15 P Barriers have been installed at Ashley Road to help prevent motorbikes/mini motos accessing the green space and causing a nuisance to local residents.
- 2.16 Community Safety Plan Statistics Comparison of 2011/12 and 2012/13 for North Walsall Area Partnership:

North Walsall				
Crime/Incident Type	2011/12	2012/13	Change	Change %
Total Recorded Crime	4324	3403	-921	-21.3
Serious Acquisitive Crime	873	680	-193	-22.1
Anti-Social Behaviour (Police Reported)	2383	1835	-548	-23
Youth Related Anti-Social Behaviour (Police Reported)	1022	766	-256	-25
Domestic Burglary	394	260	-134	-34
Burglary, Other Building	440	250	-190	-43.2
Criminal Damage	916	710	-206	-22.5
Vehicle Crime	424	367	-57	-13.4
Violence Against the Person	802	635	-167	-20.8
Robbery	60	58	-2	-3.3
Deliberate Primary Fires (West Midlands Fire Service Data)	93	55	-38	-40.9
Deliberate Secondary Fires (West Midlands Fire Service Data)	382	232	-150	-39.3

Drug Offences	132	111	-21	-15.9
Domestic Violence	330	291	-39	-11.8
Hate Crime	133	56	-77	-57.9

## 2.17 Deployment of Domehawk Cameras:

2.17.1 This is the current deployment of the cameras. The location and allocation of the cameras is discussed at the monthly Confidential Partnership Tasking and Co-Ordination Meeting.

Ref No	Installed At	Purpose	Objective	Installation	Due Out
ND1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	03.09.13 – Fault identified. Camera to be checked as no images are being recorded.  Camera retrieved 26.09.13 awaiting collection for assessment
ND2	Webster Road	To reduce ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and subsequent enforcement actions	16.08.13	
ND5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Stolen 10.08.13
ND7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Fault identified 19.06.13. Repair completed. Awaiting re-deployment to Goscote Lodge Crescent due to repeated fly-tipping
ND8	Lister Close	To reduce ASB and offer reassurance.	To support Dispersal Order and gather evidence	28.05.13	29.11.13 – Reviewed and agreed to retain (see 2.1 and 2.2 above)

2.17.2 Cameras have been retrieved for repair. A number of requests have been forwarded for consideration regarding potential locations for cameras.

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

3.1 Projects have been evaluated and learning has been used to see what worked well in the local area and what requires further development.

- 3.2 Supported by WHG and the Area Partnerships, IYPSS were able to undertake a comprehensive summer activity programme for young people in the North Walsall Area Partnership. This resulted in a reduction in youth-related anti-social behaviour. Further programmes are planned over half-term and term-time holidays. The analysis by Walsall Intelligence Network indicates that the activities provided had a positive impact on supporting young people in to diversionary activities.
- 3.3 IYPSS, WHG and Area Partnerships continue to support programmes which enable young people to continue to be engaged and become leaders within their communities.
- 3.4 The “Me, Myself and I” programme, held at Profitt Street Youth Centre, will provide opportunities for young people to look at identities within ethnic communities. Additional programmes around community cohesion continue to be developed, with further activities planned for February half-term.
- 3.5 There is interest in developing youth services around Croft Street/Hospital Street, which will be discussed further.
- 3.6 As referred in 2.4 above, IYPSS detached youth team are facilitating a football training programme, held at Lister Close Fun Park. Attendance at this is increasing.
- 3.7 The ‘Validate’ project, at Mirus Academy, has been completed, where young people apply for a free identity card to prove their age to local retailers (who have signed up to the scheme). Roll out of this programme is being discussed.
- 3.8 A football project is being facilitated by Streams Housing, for two weeks at Alumwell School and is available to young people in this Area Partnership. IYPSS are supporting the project.

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

- 4.1 Activities continue around the economic regeneration within North Walsall, working with Walsall Adult Community College, Mirus Academy, Walsall College, Economic Regeneration Team, Work on the Horizons, WHG, Propsects and other work-related organisations, to enable the community to be supported in to work, training and skills.
- 4.2 Work on the Horizon has been awarded a Big Lottery grant of nearly £500,000 to continue to deliver services within the area, providing residents with information regarding job opportunities, training, apprenticeships, CV writing, on-line/web-based applications.
- 4.3 Walsall Works continue to provide funding to local businesses to support apprenticeship opportunities for local young people.

- 4.4 Bloxwich Sparkle in to Christmas was held on 30 December, in Bloxwich Park. This was very well attended, with well over 500 people visiting throughout the day. There were a range of activities available, including an 'ice rink', fairground rides, face painting, competitions, balloon modelling, clown and tombola stalls. Local traders were involved with this event and its promotion.

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

- 5.1 With the support of Public Health, the Area Partnership has been able to continue a range of local activities, including working with the Lifestyles Team, Forest Arts Centre, Blakenall Community Centre, BCH, Ryecroft Hub and Green Lane Baptist Church have been able to secure further health resources for local residents.
- 5.2 The Lifestyles Team will be deploying classes/resources across the Area Partnership. Deployment will be based on health priorities, e.g. weight management programmes. As a result, Forest Arts Centre, BCC, BCH, Ryecroft Hub and Green Lane Baptist Church will be able to provide health-related physical activity sessions. These are currently free at point of access, with the long-term expectation that participants will go on to regular exercise/healthy lifestyles and promote the sessions to others in the community/networks.
- 5.3 Healthwatch (a consortium of WHG, My NHS Walsall, Walsall LiNKs, Age UK Walsall and Walsall Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)) are keen to engage with different groups and build their network. They are looking for any events that they may be able to attend for promotional purposes. The Healthwatch membership scheme is open to all residents in the Borough.
- 5.4 The December Non-Confidential Partnership Tasking and Co-Ordination Meeting received a presentation regarding Making Every Contact Count (MECC). This included training on MECC and additional on-line training for '5 Ways to Well-Being'.
- 5.5 The 'Evolve' programme, facilitated by BCH, is going well. This is a weight management programme, utilising the equipment installed at Lister Close Fun Park.
- 5.6 The 'asset-based' approach continues to be progressed, facilitated by Public Health and Area Partnerships, targeting individual needs and identification of health needs. Services and support are then sourced. The 'Evolve' programme (at 5.5) is an example of an asset-based approach.
- 5.7 Over the last few weeks, a static health display was placed at Forest Arts Centre, to promote health activities in North Walsall. Blakenall Community Centre will be hosting the next health display to ensure that health information is available to residents across the Area Partnership. A review of the literature available is also being undertaken.

- 5.8 The Lifestyles Team are offering health checks to men aged 16+, which will provide advice, guidance, information and possible referrals to relevant services. This project is linked to Walsall College, who offer similar services to young people.
- 5.9 Bloxwich Community Partnership have recently announced an award of nearly £360,000 from Big Lottery Reaching Communities, to support a five year project working with older adults (over 50s) at the Stan Ball Centre. The project will look at individuals' needs and provide suitable activities to meet these, within a safe environment and ensure that those individuals have their say and are able to influence delivery and development.
- 5.10 The Black Country Foodbank scheme has identified a need in the Blakenall area. An initial meeting has been held to identify a possible venue for a Foodbank to operate from. Further discussions are taking place to ensure the venue is suitable, agree criteria for 'vouchers' to access a food parcel, distribution points for vouchers and identifying volunteers. Both WHG and New Horizons are supporting this project.

## **6. Other Items of Interest**

- 6.1 Fruit Head Dolls – Counterfeit goods were found at Bescot Market, with the dolls being identified as containing poisonous toxins. A regional awareness raising campaign has recently been undertaken and was featured on regional media.
- 6.2 Police and Reassurance Officers are supporting local taxi drivers, following a recent spate of vandalism/attacks on cabs in the area.
- 6.3 Following on from a successful dog obedience training/dog handling awareness training, funded through the Area Partnership, a second training session will be held, facilitated by Frank F Harrison Community Association. The project also raises awareness of issues with dog fouling and encourages responsible ownership.

Jo Lowndes, Partnership Manager  
(01922) 653703/07739 527034  
[lowndesj@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:lowndesj@walsall.gov.uk)

Vanessa Croft, Support Officer  
(01922) 653714/07960 713279  
[croftv@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:croftv@walsall.gov.uk)