

DARLASTON AND BENTLEY AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

24 March 2015

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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 *Car Cruising* has been outlawed in a High court Judgement. The three year injunction against street racing and driving in convoy covers the whole of the Black Country but the Black Country Route around Moxley has been identified as a hotspot. Signage is in place and an injunction is now in place to assist the Police to tackle this issue.
- 2.3 Partners are working together to tackle crime and anti social behaviour across the area highlighting theft from vehicles as an issue in Moxley where partners and community organisations are asked to help promote vigilance and awareness. The Police are undertaking community reassurance work.

2.4 West Midlands Fire Service are currently promoting their Community Volunteer Programme across the area and seeking local residents to become a volunteer. More information can be found on West Midlands Fire Service Website www.wmfs.net or by contacting Station Commander Mark Flanagan

2.4 A joint piece of work is underway between WHG, Police and Walsall Council Community Safety and Environmental Health to address how noise complaints are dealt with. This pilot will look at how reports are dealt with, how information is shared and ways of coordinating a joint approach to raise awareness of the consequences of nuisance noise and work together to reduce the number of incidents reported.

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 Darlaston All Active is hosting an Easter Event on 28th March from 1pm – 3pm organised by Darlaston Events Committee. Activities will include face painting, arts and crafts, baby bhangra and Easter eggs for children.

3.3 Darlaston Local Area Coordinators are now in post. Richard Upton and Maria Khan working under children's services and currently based at Darlaston Children's Centre. Their role will primarily be working with families over the next 12 months. They are currently undertaking mini pilots to identify where their role best sits within Early Help with referrals to their service from MAST.

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 Darlaston South will be receiving financial input from City Deal funding via Walsall organisations to contribute towards getting people into jobs and training. Caldmore Accord HA are also developing Community Connectors for the area to work with local residents to support them into accessing these services. There will be two Community Connectors for the ward hosted by Walsall Housing Group. The funding is for the benefit of social housing tenants and the older unemployed as a target group. Employability support, mentoring, financial advice and supporting people into placements will be available for residents living in Darlaston South.

- 4.3 Darlaston Town Centre Partnership is working in partnership with Bescot Promotions relaunch a market in King Street. Walsall Council has received a proposal to operate a commercial outdoor market three days a week. A decision will be made by Cabinet on 18th March.

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 C2 Connecting Communities met on Wednesday 11th March at Rough Hay Community Room. WHG Community Champions are working from the community centre offering a range of drop in activities and have plans to improve the outside space into a sensory garden. Caldmore Accord HA are also looking at providing Community Connectors in Rough Hay to compliment the work of WHG.

Feedback from the community has included the general appearance of the community room being uninviting and that there is interest from the community for a coffee morning. Both are being planned at the centre by C2 and WHG. Other suggestions being explored are a breakfast / lunch club.

A discussion took place between partners at the meeting about ensuring feedback from the community at events is responded to and more work is carried out to engage local people in meetings to ensure they are part of the process and project. While lots of residents have attended fun events in the area – the numbers attending the partnership meeting has been challenging. Other avenues are being explored such as using social media as a way of engaging residents and keeping them informed.

A community gardening event is planned on the morning of 29th March 2015 at Rough Hay Community Room.

6. Other information

- 6.1 As of 1st March 2015 Nicola Holmes is the Area Manager for Darlaston and Bentley moving over from Willenhall and Short Heath.
- 6.2 The following events are also planned over the next few months:
- Harry Jones Funfair at Great Bridge Road playing fields in May 2015
 - Pat Collins Funfair at George Rose Park in June 2015
 - Party in the Park at Victoria Park on 18 July 2015
- 6.3 A borough wide strategic partnership event was held on Friday 6th March at Forest Arts Centre bringing together agencies and elected members to discuss priorities for the future in Walsall. Local Area Profiles are due to be published towards the end of March allowing Area Partnerships to drive forward local partnership working using the up to date information on a thematic basis in line with the Walsall Plan.

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