

## **WALSALL SOUTH AREA PANEL**

**Tuesday, 1 April, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Conference Room, Council House, Walsall**

### **Present**

Councillor K. Hussain (Chair)  
Councillor E.B. Russell (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor I. Azam  
Councillor A. Ditta  
Councillor R.A. Martin  
Councillor H.S. Sarohi  
Councillor V. Whyte

### **Officers in attendance**

Rose Collinson - Interim Executive Director (Children's Services)  
Superintendent Joe Clews - West Midlands Police  
Henriette Harnisch - Vice-Principal, Walsall College  
Denise Perry - Area Manager  
Craig Goodall - Committee Business and Governance Manager

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### **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Arif, Z. Ali, M. Nazir and B. McCracken.

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### **Declarations of Interest**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type of interest</u>	<u>Item</u>
Councillor Azam	Non-pecuniary	Item 6 - Funding Report
Councillor Ditta	Non-pecuniary	Item 6 - Funding Report
Councillor Ditta	Non-pecuniary	Item 6 - Funding Report

Councillor Martin	Non-pecuniary	Item 6 - Funding Report
Councillor Russell	Non-pecuniary	Item 6 - Funding Report
Councillor Whyte	Non-pecuniary	Item 6 - Funding Report

51/14      **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

It was noted that there were no items to be considered in private session during the meeting.

52/14      **Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting which took place on 4 February, 2014, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

53/14      **Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board**

The Panel considered a presentation from Members of the Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board to understand its purpose and priorities.

The Interim Executive Director, Children's Services, highlighted the priorities for the Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board to the Panel. These were:-

- Giving children the best start in life;

- Maintaining healthy weight;
- Protecting children from sexual exploitation;
- Increasing opportunities for young people's learning;
- Planning more effectively for children and young adults with disabilities;
- Using the views, contributions and achievements of children and young people to improve services;
- Improving communication across professional boundaries;
- Mitigating the impact of poverty.

She continued to explain the positive relationships between partners and highlighted the role played by the Local Children's Safeguarding Board. It was noted that it was very important for partners to work closely together as it was not possible for any single professional to have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances.

Superintendent Clews reported that there had been significant improvements in partnership working and information sharing in recent years. This was creating a holistic approach that was having results for the benefit of local young people.

The meeting discussed safeguarding and Members questioned appropriate methods that could be used to report concerns. The Panel were informed of several methods in which they could report concerns with children's safety. Members could consider referring matters to the Police either through Crime Stoppers or more serious concerns should go through 999. If it was preferred to report issues anonymously then it was suggested that Childline could be utilised.

Following a question of how sexual exploitation of young people could be prevented, it was explained that the best way to tackle this would be to ensure that all young people were aware of how to stay safe. The Interim Executive Director explained that from talking to children and young

people, a good way of getting these messages across was by using drama in schools. The Vice-Principal of Walsall College explained that schools and colleges undertook a lot of awareness work with staff so that they were able to identify vulnerable students. Superintendent Clews reported that quite often, exploited young people didn't want to talk to the Police, therefore, the partners were critical in bringing out information and encouraging young people to report incidents and identify vulnerabilities.

A member of the public suggested that schools should build good relationships with local Community Associations to encourage healthier lifestyles and exercise. To encourage this to happen, he suggested that the Council consider tying in conditions for use of the Community Association Centres.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

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### **Funding Report**

The Panel considered the latest funding applications for the Walsall South area.

#### *Chuckery Festival 2014*

The Area Manager introduced the funding application and explained its purpose and how it met the Area Plan priorities.

Councillors Azam, Martin and Russell, having earlier declared non-pecuniary interests in this particular matter, briefly spoke to make representations and provide further information about the purpose of the project as permitted under the Member Code of Conduct. Once they had

completed their representations, all three Members left the room and did not take part in any discussion or voting on this funding application.

A number of remaining Members spoke in favour of the application.

It was **moved** by Councillor Hussain and **seconded** by Councillor Whyte:-

That the Chuckery Festival 2014 be awarded £3,500.

The Motion having been put to the vote was declared **carried**.

Councillors Azam, Martin and Russell re-joined the meeting on completion of the vote.

#### *Dome Hawk Deployment and Repair*

The Area Manager introduced the application and explained that the money would be used to deploy or repair the areas Dome Hawk cameras during the course of the ensuing year. She reported that any money that was unspent would be re-invested.

It was **moved** by Councillor Hussain and **seconded** by Councillor Azam:-

That £1,000 be awarded towards Dome Hawk deployment and repair.

The Motion having been put to the vote was declared **carried**.

#### *Promotion of local activity and advice*

The Area Manager explained that this money would be used to produce newsletters and supporting information for partnership priorities and initiatives in the Walsall South area.

The Chair spoke in support of the application and suggested that a recycling leaflet was produced for the Pleck Ward.

It was **moved** by Councillor Hussain and **seconded** by Councillor Ditta:-

That £2,500 be awarded for the promotion of local activity and advice.

The Motion having been put to the vote was declared **carried**.

#### *Palfrey Park outdoor gym*

The Area Manager introduced the application and highlighted the value of the funding requested and the level of match funding the applicants were seeking to attract.

Councillor Ditta, having earlier declared a non-disclosable pecuniary interest, made representations in favour of the application as permitted under the Member Code of Conduct. Following making representations, Councillor Ditta left the room and did not take part in any discussion on this funding application.

A number of Members spoke in support of the application. One Member enquired how the equipment would be protected from anti-social behaviour? The Area Manager explained that the Clean and Green service would maintain and look after the equipment for the benefit of the wider community.

It was **moved** by Councillor Sarohi and **seconded** by Councillor Russell:-

That £5,000 be awarded towards the Palfrey Park outdoor gym.

The Motion having been put to the vote was declared **carried**.

### *Creating Independence Reducing the Risk of Social Isolation*

Having earlier declared a non-pecuniary interest, Councillor Ditta remained outside of the meeting room during discussion and voting on this matter.

During the course of the item, Councillor Whyte also declared a non-pecuniary interest and left the room for the duration of the discussion and voting.

The Area Manager introduced the project and highlighted the activity it was committing to undertake.

Members on the Panel supported it and encouraged the integration of Polish families into the local community.

It was **moved** by Councillor Russell and **seconded** by Councillor Sarohi:-

That £2,500 be awarded to the Creating Independence  
Reducing the Risk of Social Isolation Project.

The Motion having been put to the vote was declared **carried**.

Councillor Ditta and Councillor Whyte re-joined the meeting.

### *My Future*

The Area Manager introduced the project and explained that it was young people applying for the cash which would be match funded by venue provision and staff.

It was **moved** by Councillor Hussain and **seconded** by Councillor Sarohi:-

That £425 be awarded to the My Future Project.

The Motion having been put to the vote was declared **carried**.

#### *Football Fitness*

Having earlier declared a non-pecuniary interest, Councillor Ditta briefly spoke to make representations to the Panel explaining the purpose of the project and its value as permitted under the Member Code of Conduct. Upon completion of his representations, Councillor Ditta and Councillor Whyte both left the room for the duration of the discussion and voting.

The Area Manager introduced the project and explained its purpose and value.

A member of the public suggested that further projects be considered for people who did not like football. The Area Manager noted the suggestion and reported that she would be happy to consider further funding applications for different activities in the future.

It was **moved** by Councillor Hussain and **seconded** by Councillor Sarohi:-

That £1,467 be awarded to the Football Fitness Fans Project.

The Motion having been put to the vote was declared **carried**.

Councillor Ditta and Councillor Whyte rejoined the meeting.

#### *Healthy Eating on a Budget*

The Area Manager introduced the project and explained that two 10 week courses would be delivered for the money being requested.



It was **moved** by Councillor Hussain and **seconded** by Councillor Russell:-

That £1,400 be awarded to the Healthy Eating on a Budget Project.

The Motion having been put to the vote was declared **carried**.

### **Resolved**

That:-

- (1) £3,500 be awarded to the Chuckery Festival 2014;
- (2) £1,000 be awarded towards Dome Hawk deployment and repair;
- (3) £2,500 be awarded for the promotion of local activity and advice;
- (4) £5,000 be awarded towards the Palfrey Park outdoor gym;
- (5) £2,500 be awarded to the Creating Independence Reducing the Risk of Social Isolation Project;
- (6) £425 be awarded to the My Future Project;
- (7) £1,467 be awarded to the Football Fitness Fans Project;
- and;
- (8) £1,400 be awarded to the Healthy Eating on a Budget Project.

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### **Ongoing updates on actions for the Walsall South Area Panel**

The Panel considered the ongoing updates on actions for the Walsall South Area Plan.

The Area Manager introduced her report and highlighted amendments had been made to the Area Plan priorities. The previous priorities had now been reduced into four which subsumed the previous priorities into four higher level ones.

A Member of the Panel reported problems with car parking around Park Hall School.

A Member reported back on the Homeless Outreach Project in partnership with the Glebe Centre. He explained that it was a well attended event and had been very successful in contributing to helping disadvantaged local people. Councillor Ditta highlighted that there was a Police and Crime Board meeting approaching and asked Members present to report to him any issues that they would like him to raise on their behalf.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

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### **Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be agreed at Annual Council, subject to a special meeting being called.

**Termination of meeting**

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....