



Darlaston & Bentley Area Partnership Area Manager Report – updated 22nd January 2014

Ongoing Updates on the Actions for Darlaston & Bentley Area Partnership

1. Purpose of the report

This report seeks to inform Area Panel members from the Darlaston & Bentley Area Panel of some of the work carried out within the two wards of Darlaston South and Darlaston North & Bentley in line with our local Area Delivery Plan.

2. Area Plan Development

The Area Plan for the local Area Partnership has been developed in line with strategic priorities as set out for the Borough through the 'Walsall Plan' and the strategic plans identified by each of the thematic strategic boards. Local intelligence has been adopted to ensure a local delivery plan is adopted that meets the needs, challenges and aspirations of local communities across the partnership area.

3. Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people into work

Partners involved – Economic Regeneration, Darlaston JET, Welfare Rights Team, Walsall College, Walsall Housing Group, District Centre Management, Caldmore/Accord Housing, Moxley Hub Project Management Group

- 3.1** The Area Partnership supported colleagues from Economic Regeneration and Old Hall Peoples Partnership to deliver a community network lunch at the end of November. The event brought together partners including Darlaston JET, Walsall Works, Welfare Rights, Nova Training and Walsall WorkWise to provide local community members with the opportunity to access job searches and advice around job training, welfare benefits and job opportunities.
- 3.2** Moxley Community Hub project continues to deliver opportunities for the local community to access advice, guidance and support into work. Job clubs and training programmes delivered by Darlaston JET at Moxley Peoples Centre has seen over 40 local people gain job related qualifications as well as new jobs and apprenticeships being accessed.





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3.3 The 'Walsall Plan' was launched in December outlining the key strategic priorities for the Council and its partners over the next three years; *Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people into work; Improving health including well being and independence for older people; Creating Safe, Sustainable and Inclusive Communities – reducing levels of crime and providing the right environment for people to live in.* Over the coming months, the Area Partnership will continue to ensure local partnership activity is focussed towards each of these priorities. At the launch, specific emphasis was placed upon the need to stimulate the local economy and create more jobs for local people as this will directly impact upon better outcomes for local communities in Walsall.

4. Improving health including well being and independence for older people

Partners involved – Public Health, Sports and Leisure, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Healthy Lifestyles Team, Physical Activities Team, Walsall Housing Group, Adult Social Care, Reassurance Team, IYPSS, Caldmore/Accord Housing

4.1 As part of local partner activity supporting Walsall CCG's commissioned community assets based work across Rough Hay, a strategic steering group has been developed and met for the first time before Christmas. The next stages will see the implementation of a connecting workshop and partnership steering group that will be delivered in February.

4.2 Work will be undertaken shortly to install the first 'outdoor gym' within the partnership area. Friends of Darlaston South Parks have worked alongside the Council's Clean and Green team and the gym will be installed in Kings Hill Park and will see improved opportunities for local people to access equipment that will enhance physical activity, partners including IYPSS and Walsall Healthcare Trust Physical Activities Team will support some organised activities at the park.

4.3 The Area Partnership have continued to support the delivery of local activities across the area with funding to Walsall Healthcare Trust Physical Activities Team and Sports and Leisure to ensure that local people have access to healthy lifestyle activities. This has included support to Aqua-Natal Sessions at Darlaston Swimming Pool, Aero-Mix classes at Darlaston Town Hall and funding to help deliver Walsall Get Active website and Darlaston Sports and Leisure Hub.

5. Creating Safe and Sustainable Communities

Partners Involved – Community Safety Team, IYPSS, WM Police, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmore/Accord Housing, Heantun Housing, Clean and Green Services, Reassurance Team,





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Adult Social Care, Victim Support, Environmental Health, Local Community Organisations and Groups

- 5.1** Darlaston Events Committee and Darlaston Town Centre Partnership delivered their annual Christmas Events in Darlaston Town Centre. Both events were held over the weekend of the 13th and 14th of December and a large number of local families accessed fun activities.
- 5.2** Following a number of local partner discussions and community consultation exercises, colleagues within Clean and Green have now removed redundant play equipment and temporary fencing from the former play area in Whitton Street, Darlaston. The area has been turned from an unsightly area that was blighted by littering and anti-social behaviour into a natural green open space that can be accessed by the local community for their own use and enjoyment.
- 5.3** Consultation meetings are due to take place with residents of the Victoria Mews estate in Darlaston to discuss proposals for green space improvements, play area improvements and community safety initiatives. Area Partnerships, Community Safety, Clean and Green and local Elected Members will meet with residents in January.

6. Improving Safeguarding and Learning and Life Chances for Children and Young People

Partners involved – Darlaston Schools Cluster, Grace Academy, Area Family Support Team, Bentley West Children's Centre, Darlaston Sure Start, Walsall Housing Group, WM Police, IYPSS, Moxley Hub Project Management Group

- 6.1** Children's Services are co-ordinating a monthly meeting with other statutory partners including, West Midlands Police, Registered Providers, Adult Social Care, West Midlands Probation Services and Community Safety to support the Strengthening Families Agenda. The aim is to introduce 6 monthly meetings across each Area Partnership discussing and co-ordinating support for families within each area. In preparation for this two areas are being initially piloted, Willenhall and Darlaston. Partners came together for the first time in December to share intelligence and develop support outcomes for local families.
- 6.2** Alongside colleagues from Community Safety, Children's Services and Walsall Housing Group, West Midlands Police co-ordinated a further 'Operation Staysafe' exercise in December. Operation Staysafe brings local partners together over one evening to provide advice and





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support to any young people that may be encountered by officers through local patrols. Young people are signposted to relevant services where appropriate and further operations are planned over the course of the next few months.

- 6.3** As part of a series of consultation exercises taking place this month and in to February, Old Hall Peoples Partnership and Intergrated Young Peoples Support Services will be speaking to young people across Darlaston. The aim is to deliver increased opportunities for young people in the area that promote positive behaviour. The first sessions will see youth workers from OHPP deliver their 'No Strings Attached' programme at Darlaston Sure Start on 21st and 28th January.

Report Author

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