

NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL MEETING

Wednesday, 29 January, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

Blakenall Village, Thames Road, WS3 1LZ

Present

Councillor Oliver (Chairman)
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick
Councillor S. Fitzpatrick
Councillor K. Phillips

Officers

Jo Lowndes- Partnership Manager
Vanessa Croft- Area Support Officer
Jane Hayman - Lead Commissioner Urgent Care – Clinical
Commissioning Group
Inspector David Payne – West Midlands Police
Matthew Underhill - Committee Governance & Business Manager

34/13

Apologies

Apologies for the duration of the meeting were received from Councillors Wesley, Young, Jeavons, Jukes, Lane, Phillips and Thomas and Michael Greenfield.

35/13

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

36/13

Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be considered in private session.

37/13

Local Neighbourhood Policing Plan – this item was considered prior to the formal commencement of the meeting as there was not a quorum at this stage.

Inspector Payne explained that the report was an update on the production of the 2014/ 2015 Local Policing Plan. It was further explained that the current 2013/14 Local Policing Plan contains a number of community concerns which include reducing crime, tackling youth anti

social behaviour, tackling drug dealing and drugs misuse and tackling the anti social use of vehicles. It was also explained that a considerable amount of work had already been undertaken to engage the public in order to understand current community concerns, including using the “Feeling the Difference” survey. The key concerns that have consistently emerged from this work were: speeding; teenagers hanging around and burglaries. It was further explained that the community concerns expressed were reflected within the current 2013/14 Walsall Local Policing Plan. This was with the exception of burglary which is measured as part of the Police Crime Commissioner’s WMP main policing plan. It was also explained that the LPU Commander proposes to maintain the current four community concerns in the 2014/15 plan, with the addition of a specific commitment to address burglary. Inspector Payne agreed to provide further guidance to Members regarding how the Police meet the objectives of the Local Policing Plan.

38/13 **Minutes of the previous meeting – the meeting was quorate from this point.**

The meeting considered the minutes of the meeting that took place on 18 December 2013.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2013, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

39/13 **Area Manager Update**

In relation to the Safer Walsall strategic priority the Partnership Manager explained that the six month Dispersal Order, covering Stephenson Square to Reedswood Park, had been effectively implemented by the Police. The Police have reported that there have been 20 dispersals in total. In response to a Panel query Inspector Payne explained that members of the public had reported that life in the community had

improved following the introduction of the Dispersal Order. The Order had identified a small cohort of youngsters who were causing trouble. As a result a detached youth worker had been working with the young people.

The Partnership Manager explained that the IYPSS Detached Team are facilitating a football tournament at Lister Road Fun Park which is proving successful in engaging young people.

In relation to Mossley Big Local it was explained that a successful Participatory Budgeting session took place on 20 November 2013. Mossley has recently been informed that the initial costs for the consultation of £20k has been approved.

It was explained that a clean-up day was held in early December around Mary Street/ Hospital Street/ Lewis Street. A follow up site meeting was held on 15 January, including officers from whg and Clean and Green to look at additional works with a small amount of fly-tipping removed and foliage trimmed back to reduce ASB. It was also explained that Ryecroft Hub continues to develop supported by a range of partners, while Beechdale CH have recruited two Community Champions.

The Community Safety Plan Statistics Comparison of 2011/12 and 2012/13 for the North Walsall Area Partnership was highlighted to the Panel. Guidance was also provided in relation to the Deployment of Domehawk Cameras. It was explained that a number of cameras were currently being repaired prior to pre-deployment.

In relation to the Children and Young it was explained that IYPSS had undertaken a comprehensive summer activity programme for young people in the North of Walsall. This activity was supported by whg and the Area Partnerships. The analysis by Walsall Intelligence Network indicates that the activities had a positive impact on supporting young people in to diversionary activities. Partners continue to support activities including the “Me, Myself and I” programme at Profitt Street Youth Centre, which will provide opportunities for young people to look at identities within ethnic

communities. Elsewhere a football project is being facilitated by Streams Housing for two weeks at Alumwell School and is available to young people resident within the North Walsall Area Partnership.

In relation to supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people in to work it was explained that work on the Horizon has been awarded a Big Lottery grant of nearly £500,000 to continue delivering services within the area. This includes providing residents with information regarding job opportunities and training. It was also explained that Bloxwich Sparkle in to Christmas was held on 30 December in Bloxwich Park. Well over 500 people attended throughout the day and a range of activities were available.

In relation to Health and Well-Being it was explained that a range of activities promoting healthy lifestyles have been deployed across venues in North Walsall. It was also explained that Bloxwich Community Partnership recently announced an award of nearly £360,000 from Big Lottery Reaching Communities. This will support a five year project working with the over 50s at the Stan Ball Centre. It was also explained that the Black Country Foodbank scheme has identified a need in the Blakenall area. Discussions are underway to identify a possible venue and whg and New Horizons are supporting this project.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

40/13

Update on grass verge parking

Officers explained that further work was taken place based on the selected scheme.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

Urgent Care needs – listening exercise

The Lead Commissioner Urgent Care explained that a listening exercise was being undertaken in relation to the review of urgent care access arrangements. The objective of the review was to implement an integrated urgent care system and pathway. It was explained that the listening exercise sought to gather a range of views to assist in the process.

It was further explained that urgent care in Walsall includes GP Practices, GP out-of-hours service, Walsall Walk-in Health Centre, the Emergency and Urgent Care Centre, A&E and the Ambulance Service (999). However, it was explained that local people are often not aware of the full range of services available in the borough. It was emphasised that no decisions had been made and it was not a cost cutting exercise. The process was about the re-design of the urgent care pathway with input from all stakeholders. A Panel Member highlighted the experience of some local residents who she was aware were often unable to get a GP appointment and as a consequence visited the walk-in centre. Members highlighted the importance of local residents being made aware that the emergency and urgent care centre operates as a walk-in service at Manor Hospital.

The Chair identified a lack of consistency between GPs practices, particularly in relation to extended hours. He also spoke of the danger to even the strongest self-advocate becoming stranded in the system. He also highlighted personal experience of having to wait almost thirteen hours to be admitted at Manor Hospital. He noted that thirteen hours was the maximum waiting time for admission. The Panel also highlighted the importance of the promotion in GP practices of the range of urgent care services. Members also highlighted the issue for those with long term conditions who might end of being routed inappropriately through the urgent care pathway which wastes time for the system and the individual. The Lead Commissioner Urgent Care also agreed to provide Members with a list of GPs with extended hours and female GPs. She also

acknowledged that there was high demand being experienced across all services.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

42/13

Funding Report

Officers explained that the report included three funding proposals. The first related to Harrison Skills Centre. They are looking to buy equipment as part of efforts to open up access to a facility that can be utilised by local people to set up a business in a supported environment. It was also explained that a number of local people had gained many new skills.

The Panel approved the application

Officers explained that the second application was made on behalf of Mend it Lunch Club and Sewing. The Panel heard that the sewing classes were proving very popular. Funding was sought for the purchase of equipment to support the training of volunteers. Officers confirmed that there was no duplication of funding.

The Panel approved the application

The third application was made on behalf of Ridaz Paradise towards the cost of a PA system as part of efforts to engage and support work undertaken with young people. This was a new operation being set up in Meadow Street. Ryan Taylor, a successful BMX biker, is keen to establish the project as a place for young people within a disadvantaged community as a place to meet and engage in positive activities. The proposal is to build a number of BMX ramps and Ryan and his family are seeking assistance from IYPSS. The Chair explained that he was interested in this project but that it was ambitious. He was keen to know more details regarding the other sources of funding and the business plan, with any proposal for further action to be considered at a future meeting.

The meeting terminated at 7.20 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: