

Report to North Walsall Area Panel
Area Plan Summary Document Approval -
3 July 2013

1. Context

- 1.1 On 8 April 2013, Walsall Council approved 'The Walsall Plan 2013 - 2016' - the Sustainable Community Strategy for the Borough. This sets out a three year vision for Walsall as a "great place to live, learn, work and invest". The Walsall Plan identifies four strategic priorities:
- Economic development, employment and improving employability
 - Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people
 - Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities
 - Improving learning and life chances for children and young people
- 1.2 Each Area Partnership has an Area Plan (also known as a Delivery Plan), setting out activity against identified workstreams / priorities. These are mapped against 'The Walsall Plan' priorities. The Area Plan / Delivery Plan is a detailed operational document which is regularly updated at Area Partner Meetings, which monitor delivery against the Area Plan priorities. Area Partner Meetings include representatives from Walsall Council, Police, Fire Service, Walsall Housing Group, voluntary and community sector organisations and health).
- 1.3 In order to inform the public of Area Partnership activity, a summarised Area Plan document for each Area Partnership has been drafted. The Area Plan for North Walsall Area Partnership is attached as Appendix 1. This has been drafted in consultation with Elected Members and partners.
- 1.4 The summarised Area Plan document for each area contains details of activity undertaken across the Area Partnership together with planned future activity.
- 1.5 The Area Plan for North Walsall Area Partnership is submitted to the Area Panel for their consideration, noting it highlights for Elected Members and the community, the range of activities undertaken within their locality, in accordance with the multi-agency arrangements put in place for Area Partnerships.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Area Plan Summary Document be approved.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 As mentioned at 1.2 above, the detailed operational Area Plan is regularly monitored and updated.

- 3.2 It is anticipated that the Area Plan Summary Documents will be updated, on an annual basis, to ensure residents are kept informed.
- 3.3 The Area Plan Summary Documents will be made available, by the end of July 2013, in print and on-line, in order to inform residents of the work of Area Partnerships.

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Walsall Area Partnerships

Welcome to the Area Community Plan for your local area

Developed for residents of North Walsall by your local Area Partnership team who are working together, to support the overall vision for Walsall as set out in “The Walsall Plan”, to make Walsall a great place to live, learn, work and invest”

There are six area partnerships across Walsall including the area of North Walsall supporting residents in Bloxwich East, Bloxwich West, Birchills-Leamore and Blakenall.

North Walsall Area Partnership includes local councillors, local communities, the voluntary sector and organisations such as Walsall Council, West Midlands Police, NHS Walsall, Walsall Housing Group, West Midlands Fire Service, Walsall College and many others.

Your Area Community Plan will support the vision by:

- Supporting businesses to thrive and 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
 - Improving Safeguarding, Learning and the Life Chances for Children and Young People.
- Recognising that a person’s early years crucially help to determine what kind of future they will have

If you would like to be informed about activities and projects in your area contact your Area Partnership Team on
Telephone 01922 653714
Email: areapartnerships@walsall.gov.uk
Twitter @areapartnership
or visit www.walsallpartnership.org.uk



Walsall Area Partnerships

Partnerships in action

Local Partners and organisations working within North Walsall (Bloxwich East, Bloxwich West, Birchills-Leamore and Blakenhall) have been working together to improve your local area. Here are just a few of the improvements identified as a result of their work and through North Walsall Area Partnership.

North Walsall

- The Olympic torch visited North Walsall in June and drew huge crowds
- Five a side football, Move Truck, Reach Up Tower, Children's University and Sports Inclusion programmes were just a few of the ways young people have had fun, received educational sessions and improved community cohesion
- Campaigning to support cashless scrap metal trading and a pilot Licensing Scheme have been developed to improve the impact of the scrap metal trade
- Environmental Action Days with local partners including WM Police, Walsall Housing Group and community groups have cleared many tonnes of waste from the area
- North Walsall summer activity programme provided young people with constructive and positive activities to enable them to be engaged over the holiday season
- Walsall Police Open Day engaged the local community in activities related to crime and community safety
- Dome Hawk security cameras are deployed across 'hot spots' in North Walsall, to assist with tackling anti-social behaviour, crime and to support community cohesion
- Life Education Centres worked with schools to provide drug and alcohol misuse prevention sessions with pupils
- 'Bright Future's Careers Days' in conjunction with Prospects Service for Walsall and Careers Fairs at Mossley Youth Centre and Proffitt Street Youth Centre, supported learning and employment opportunities in the area
- Youth Leaders Award Programme actively encouraged young people to volunteer in their community and to become a Youth Leader
- Work with Academies, including Mirus, to undertake taster sessions with local employers and the council as part of pupil education.
- Local partners including WHG, Beechdale Community Association, Walsall Council and community organisations worked together to minimise the impact of Welfare Reform and Benefit changes to local families from April 2013
- Community safety advice promoted to residents including the risk from 'Lone Sharks', 'Bogus Callers' and 'Rogue Traders'



Walsall Area Partnerships

Bloxwich East

- Community Safety and Safer Walsall initiatives to redeploy a dome hawk camera to identified 'hot spots' to minimise anti-social behaviour, crime and fear of crime
- 'Get Fit, Keep Fit' programmes have provided a diverse range of physical activity at affordable prices and operating from Blakenall Village Centre, Bloxwich Leisure Centre and other community venues
- Bostin Bloxwich Booklet informed local businesses about local services and activities to support the economic regeneration of the area
- Bloxwich Christmas Event provided a range of positive activities, including the 'Move Truck' and Reach Up' Tower to encourage visitors to Bloxwich Town Centre

Bloxwich West

- Mossley were allocated £1m funding allocation from 'Big Local'
- Award Winning Bloxwich in Bloom received a Town Centre Award
- Open Mic monthly music sessions delivered at Bloxwich Library showcasing Walsall's talented young people
- Working with the Regeneration team to further promote the potential closure of the railway line situated at Fryers Road
- Safer Walsall initiatives to provide preventative events and advice, including introducing community fencing schemes in the local area, to reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and fear of crime
- Ring and Ride Services to library users in Bloxwich Town Centre has been improved support to passengers with mobility restrictions

Birchills-Leamore

- Reedswood Park consultation on plans for the future development of the park
- Hate Incident Reporting Centre's developed with Walsall College and Beechdale Community Association
- 'The Birchills Primary School Big Paint Project' with Walsall College, Walsall Art Gallery, local community and school pupils improved their local environment
- Mary Street and Croft Street Environmental Days helped to clean up the area and develop ongoing plans with local community support
- Streetwatch (a national police and community partnership initiative) aims to empower communities to take ownership of public spaces through high visibility and civilian patrols. Members of the community trained as Streetwatch members
- Lister Close Fun Park was funded by Beechdale Community Association and others with community support and launched with a fun day



Walsall Area Partnerships

Blakenhall

- Ryecroft Community Hub project was launched to develop health, employment and educational opportunities, utilising local buildings for the benefit of the wider community
- 'Pen Pals' literacy project between Edgar Stammers Primary School and Birchills Primary School demonstrated how different communities across Walsall live together
- Local residents, Walsall Housing Group, community organisations, WM Police and Probation Services worked together to plan improvements to 'The Lea'
- Community-led Goscote Greenacres canal side community gardens is a partnership between Walsall Council's Adult Social Care, Walsall Adult and Community College, North Walsall Area Partnership and others to encourage volunteering and healthier activities
- Goscote Greenacres has held several events including its Big Dig Day to enable the community to participate in the future of this successful project in the heart of Goscote



Walsall Area Partnerships

Partnership working in North Walsall

North Walsall Area Plan has identified a number of local priorities following consultation with local residents and communities. This plan will continue to be developed as the area partnerships evolve and following ongoing consultation with our residents and community partnerships. Here are just a few of the planned improvements in your area.

Local partner agencies are working together to:

Reduce incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour

- Expand the use of CCTV
- Enhance youth provision at Proffitt Street Youth Centre, Blakenhall Community Centre, Beechdale Community Centre and with voluntary youth groups
- Target areas linked to anti-social behaviour and crime
- Implement Dispersal Orders in areas affected by high levels of anti-social behaviour

Creating cleaner, tidier neighbourhoods and regeneration

- Deliver Environmental (Skip) Days and follow up campaigns to improve local recycling
- Support Goscote Greenacres/Goscote to assist adults with disabilities and additional needs to participate in community activities
- Encourage Street Champions and other residents groups to host community tidy ups and make a difference to their communities
- Promote Reedswood Park Regeneration, support friends of the park groups, open spaces, youth provision in parks to enable the local community to enjoy the open space

Healthy lifestyles

- Increase the understanding and prevention of childhood obesity by sharing good practice, resources and implementation actions across early years and into secondary schools
- Work closely with Public Health and NHS to improve services delivered to children and adults who are overweight or obese
- Expand healthy lifestyle activities at community venues across North Walsall
- Launch awareness campaigns to promote healthier lifestyles and local health issues including diet, exercise, healthy weight, smoking cessation and volunteering
- Provide information programmes aimed at young people to promote healthier lifestyles and reduce the use of legal and illegal drugs, improve diet and reduce teenage pregnancies



Walsall Area Partnerships

Improving educational attainment

- Improve literacy and community involvement through projects with local schools
- Work with Sure Start Children Centres and other providers to develop parenting skills for parents to enable them to work with their children, from early years to adulthood
- Increase volunteering and community involvement amongst school aged pupils in North Walsall, using IYPSS, The Challenge Network and Children's University Models.
- Work with schools and their resources across North Walsall to raise the educational attainment within schools and the wider community
- Target support to 'Gifted and Talented pupils' and promote their successes
- Work together to support the introduction of the Carers Strategy across Walsall

Improving Job Prospects

- Improve opportunities for local residents by implementing a local plan
- Support the implementation of Worklessness projects to encourage residents into employment
- Continue to develop learning and educational opportunities through Walsall Adult and Community College, Walsall College, Wolverhampton University, employer forums, and accredited employment based organisations, to increase job related work in the local area