

DARLASTON AND BENTLEY AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

12th November 2015

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.2 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.

1.3 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.

2.0 The strategic priorities are:

2.1 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.

3.0 Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities

3.1 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.

3.2 Issues around Whitton Street continue to remain in hand thanks to ongoing partnership working in the area with Darlaston Youth Centre. A project has been launched to engage young women at the centre offering a range of health and well being activities on a weekly basis until the end of the year. Black Country in Motion will be supporting the project from January onwards to deliver fitness sessions for women.

3.3 Following ongoing work with Assa Abloy / Yale Police a joint publicity campaign around darker nights will take place from November onwards with Yale providing literature for residents across the area. A community safety day is to be arranged in 2016 for local residents and community groups to access the on site shop at Yale and purchase items at cost price and also get security advice and information. Yale are also looking to provide a number of items free to vulnerable people across both Willenhall and Darlaston.

3.4 An information / training session took place on Friday 6th November at 9.30am – 12pm for partner agencies to find out about the various referral pathways for supporting vulnerable people in Walsall. There were presentations from Mental Health Services, Adult Social Care, Domestic Abuse Forum, Vulnerability Forum, Early Help (including Troubled Families) / Children's Services and WM Fire Service. Over 60 people attended the session from a range of agencies, community groups and local councillors.

3.5 ASB issues across the area discussed since the last meeting include Bull Lane which has seen ongoing fly tipping at various locations. A multi agency meeting took place to discuss issues and possible actions which could be considered to assist services with preventing fly tipping and arson in this location. The problematic site has been sold and is due to be redeveloped which will include the blocked access points into the site which will be managed by the new site owner. Additional surveillance will be installed to assist with investigations and the local Police team are undertaking evening patrols when on duty.

3.6 Police continue to provide regular patrols across the area in reported asb hotspot locations and an AP domehawk camera remains in Latches Close to assist agencies with ongoing investigations. Joint patrols are in place between Police and Youth Support Services Detached Team around the Dangerfield Lane area.

3.7 Community Cohesion consultation is underway in Darlaston by Luftar Rahman (Community Safety, Walsall Council) which aims to research local perceptions of residents living in the area. Luftar is also supporting the development of a local service directory by visiting community groups across the area to identify what services are being delivered. See attached handout. This consultation exercise has a number of key objectives: -

- Identify and evidence issues and grievances that divide alienate and isolate different communities
- Highlight challenges and key priorities to be tackled in promoting greater cohesion between the different areas and Walsall's diverse communities
- Focus on building resilience across the voluntary, faith and public sectors to anticipate and deal with tensions and conflict between communities
- Identify best practice in Walsall and from elsewhere, and propose how these could be mainstreamed where appropriate.

3.8 It is believed that the results of this consultation exercise would enable public, voluntary and community sector staff to become more culturally competent and confident in engaging with minority communities. We also need to identify societal faultlines whether they are caused by divisions in ethnicity/faith or inequalities based on wealth and access to services, the degree of social capital and individual has or attachments people have to certain areas.

4.0 Children and Young People: Improving safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people

4.1 Strategic Partners include; Integrated Youth 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.

4.2 Tahra Hussain is now the lead for Children's Centres across the Borough including Darlaston Sure Start. See attached briefing paper for more information about changes now in place. Although there are now less designated Children's Centres in Walsall, services are still provided across the borough at a range of community venues and schools and targeted family support offers outreach to all families with younger children who have additional needs. CS are seeking to brand the new model at 'Walsall Surestart Children's Centres', with more emphasis on services than buildings and with new structures in place we are standardising how we work across the borough and will be working with Health Visitors and Homestart in particular to develop pathways to ensure the right professional offers the right support at the right time to families. Central Government have announced that the national statutory framework and associated Ofsted arrangements for Children's Centres are to be the subject of consultation over the coming months and CS will update on findings and any impact on local delivery arrangements in the new year.

4.3 A new programme of locality working around Early Help is being coordinated by Children's Services specifically for Darlaston. The priorities will be to Increase Parent/family/community engagement, raise aspirations for both children and adults in Darlaston, tackle issues associated with people living in poverty in the area and create a skilled local work force and ensure an effective multi agency approach to the early help offer. Isabel Vanderheeren is leading on this programme in Children's Services. Richard Upton is leading on the community engagement workstream for this programme and also contributing to the local service mapping taking place.

4.4 Free activities are were provided at Darlaston Community Garden on 28th and 29th October for families in partnership with Darlaston Sure Start.

5.0 Business and Jobs: Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people in to work

5.1 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

5.2 A steering group meeting took place on 18th September at Walsall Federation of Tenants and Residents with agencies including WHG, City Deal, Walsall Council libraries, Welfare Rights Team, Work on the Horizon, Darlaston Sure Start and Old Hall People's Partnership. It was agreed that communication and publicising what support is available to local people should be a priority for agencies moving forward with an agreement to print a local guide for people seeking work, training or who are suffering hardship. It was also discussed that supporting people who may need support with financial management and debt should be another priority for the group moving forward.

5.3 City Deal funded programmes are continuing to be delivered in Darlaston South to assist local job seekers and is making a positive difference in working with local unemployed residents in social housing.

6.0 Health and Well-Being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people

6.1 Strategic partners include; Walsall Council Public Health, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group, Walsall Council 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.

6.2 From 1st October 2015, the walk-in-centre at Market Square, Walsall Town centre becomes an Urgent Care Centre. This means that patients have a choice of Urgent Care Centre to visit - the new one in the Town Centre, or the existing one at Manor Hospital. Both Urgent Care Centres provide health advice and treatment for illness or injuries which are not life-threatening, but are too urgent to wait for a routine appointment with your GP Practice, such as wounds, burns and bites, sprains, sports injuries, fevers, infections and rashes, and sickness and vomiting. No appointment is necessary and patients can access the service 8am to 8pm every day of the year.

6.3 Healthwatch Walsall has its new website up and running where various reports, including the latest Hospital Discharge Report are available for download. They can be accessed via this link <http://www.healthwatchwalsall.co.uk/resources-reports/reports/>

6.4 A new Food Bank has been launched from Darlaston Sure Start and is seeking donations. Anyone in need can access the centre and request help.

6.5 Angela Aitken from Public Health is the Senior Programme Development and Commissioning Manager seeking contacts to work with across Darlaston to discuss working together to reduce isolation with older people and vulnerable adults. Angela has been invited to the next partner meeting to discuss her role in more detail and how links can be made in the area.

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