

WALSALL SOUTH AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

Updated Friday 5th December 2014

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the Walsall South Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area. The information in this report was correct at the time of writing, Friday 5th December 2014.
- 1.2 Walsall Council strategic priorities are:
- 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
- 1.3 Walsall South Area Partnership has a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with Ward Councillors, partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community:
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Creating cleaner and tidier neighbourhoods
 - Healthy Lifestyles
 - Remove the impact of sex workers and drug dealers
 - Improving educational achievement
 - Improving job prospects and employability
 - Improving roads maintenance and traffic flow
- 1.4 Walsall South Ward Councillors: Cllr Anson, Cllr Arif, Cllr Ditta, Cllr Hussain, Cllr Nazir, Cllr Nawaz, Cllr McCracken, Cllr Martin, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sarohi, Cllr Singh Sohal, Cllr Whyte
- 1.5 Walsall South Partners: Community Safety, Walsall Youth Support Services, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Probation Service, Walsall Intelligence Network, Environmental Health, Reassurance Team, Walsall South Area Partnership, Public Health, NHS Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Walsall Town Centre Management Team, Engineering and Transport, Clean & Green Services,

Caldmoreaccord Housing Association, Walsall Housing Group (whg), Watmos Community Homes, Walsall Voluntary Action, West Midlands Fire Service, Social Care and Inclusion, Birchills Children's Centre, Chuckery & Paddock Children's Centre, Sure Start Palfrey Children's Centre, Sure Start Alumwell Pleck Children's Centre, Area Family Support Team, Trading Standards, Community Development, Park Hall Community Association, Palfrey Community Association, Joseph Leckie Community Association, Caldmore Traders Association, Caldmore Village Festival Group, Chuckery Festival Group, Caldmore Community Garden, Bath Street Centre – Befriending Service, Walsall Black Sisters Collective, Aaiana Community Hub, Time4Real project, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Clean & Green Services, Sports & Leisure Services, Jobcentre Plus, Citizen Advice Bureau, Welfare Rights, Walsall College, Libraries, Walsall South Neighbourhood Watch Groups, Walsall South Friends of the Parks Groups, Walsall Community Chaplaincy Service, First Base, Addaction, Lantern House, Hi's N Lows, The Glebe Centre, Victim Support, Walsall South Schools, Walsall Adult Community College (WACC).

2. Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities

- 2.1 Apache CCTV for Walsall South - Area Manager working with Surveillance Unit we currently have access to two cameras that are deployed in the area. Camera 1 Arboretum Park by the Skate Park entrance due to ASB concerns and Camera 2 Camden Street, Palfrey due to ASB concerns raised by residents. We are also borrowing a camera from Darlaston Area Partnership for Darlaston Road / Dora Street, Pleck due to ASB concerns raised by residents. We also help with the deployment of the Birchills NHW / Agenda 21 camera, which is for the Birchills area only, current location Cairns Street / Raleigh Street due to ASB concerns raised by residents.
- 2.2 Police Community Hub, Caldmore Village – the official opening of the Hub took place on Friday 24th October at Caldmoreaccord, Caldmore Green. The Hub was opened by Chief Superintendent Dave Sturman, Cllr Nazir Deputy Police Crime Commissioner, Lakhbir Jaspal Deputy Chief Executive Caldmoreaccord, Cllr Nawaz, Cllr Russell and Ali Mahmood Chair Caldmore Traders Association. The Police will now have a permanent base for the Caldmore & Palfrey Neighbourhood team at this location.
- 2.3 Pocket Places, Chuckery / Town Centre – held two events the first Thursday 30th October at Bridge Street / Ablewell Street. Residents and businesses raised their concerns with the appearance of this area of Walsall. Through the Pocket Places project two local artists were commissioned to help the community develop a temporary piece of art to bring creativity and colour to the street scene. Saturday 8th November saw the Design on the Move workshop take place. A tour of the current identified Chuckery Pocket Places from Karmin's Pharmacy finishes at Bridge Street where Hot Chocolate was provide.' Design suggestions were suggested on route and during the walk about.

- 2.4 Parking concerns Palfrey – due to concerns raised by residents and businesses WM Police, Engineering & Transport and Walsall South Area Partnership are looking at possible solutions especially to relieve problems in Milton Street. An initial meeting took place 31st October with an action plan now being developed.
- 2.5 Caldmore and Palfrey action day - West Midlands Police are leading on an initiative to tackle prominent issues and provide reassurance to residents of Caldmore and Palfrey with the support of partner agencies. An initial meeting took place on 27th November 2014 with a view to arranging a 'day of action' mid December.
- 2.6 New Street Lighting - Paddock, Pleck and Palfrey - Around 550 old-style sodium lanterns in the St Matthews, Pleck and Palfrey areas will be replaced with energy efficient LED lights. It is the latest phase of the council's 'Invest to Save' scheme.
- 2.7 Diwali events - whg hosted a Diwali event on Thursday 23rd October which included; Diwali Story, Bollywood Dance workshops and a fashion show. It was well attended by staff and invited guests. Walsall Art Gallery hosted Diwali 14 – A Gujarat Special on Saturday 1st November various acts showcased their talents including Jamal Mistry, Sonia Sabri and Bollywood performances. The event ran from 12:00 – 4:00pm.
- 2.8 Caldmore & Palfrey Tidy event – Aisha Mosque and Caldmore Tidy group organised a Community Clean-up event Saturday 1st November with support from Clean & Green services. There was a good turn out with 15 volunteers taking part in the clean-up.
- 2.9 Bonfire Night event - Caldmore Village Community Garden hosted a Bonfire event on Sunday 9th November including food, mulled apple juice and David Calcutt's poetry inspired by the garden. This event was well attended with over 300 people turning up including pupils from Caldmore Primary School.
- 2.10 Walsall Arboretum – the Grange Parking area is to be improved with a £170,000 investment to upgrade this well used parking area.
- 2.11 Walsall South Carol events – Walsall Arboretum on Saturday 20th December @ 1:00pm followed by Caldmore Village Community Garden @ 5:00pm.

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

- 3.1 Walsall South's Youth Support Services team - continues to provide Detached youth work. The Half Term school holiday programme was delivered across Walsall South and was well attended.
- 3.2 Child Poverty across Walsall South – “end child poverty” (October 2014) have published new figures on child poverty across parliamentary, local authority and ward areas www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/why-end-child-poverty/poverty-in-your-area. The parliamentary area of Walsall South has the 5th highest rate of child poverty in the West Midlands and the Palfrey Ward being the highest rate across the borough. This data has been highlighted through the Partnership Tasking and Coordination Group (PTCG) a Child Poverty Sub Group has been established chaired by Darrell Harman with the first took place Monday 27th October with a discussion on the potential actions that could be taken to reduce Child Poverty, skills and training of our young people was identified as a key way forward. Educational Business Partnership was a key area for focus to drive connections with our schools both Primary and Senior schools.
- 3.3 Sure Start Palfrey and Paddock & Chuckery Children's Centre – both centres have a full packed programme including free antenatal parent education programme, free parenting programme, free sporting activities, Family Fun Day. Baby Spaces, Baby Clinic with stay and play / breast feeding support, Paediatric First Aid training for dads, wonderful world of stories, knit and natter. For more information please contact Palfrey 01922 642382 and Paddock & Chuckery 01922 644005
- 3.4 Sure Start Birchills and Alumwell/Pleck – both centres have a full packed programme including Play & Stay with the Music Man, Well Baby Clinic, Health Trainer sessions, Stop Smoking service, Sewing classes, antenatal classes, Messy Monkey's, tots & toddlers, understanding your child parent education programme. For more information please contact Birchills 01922 646574 and Alumwell/Pleck 01922 637794
- 3.5 Junior Neighbourhood Watch – this excellent course will be running at Butts Primary school starting from Tuesday 4th November. The course will be run by WM Police with support from Clean & Green Services. It is hoped that the next course after that will be run at Caldmore Village Primary school.
- 3.6 Acorns Children's Hospice – a Santa run will take place in Walsall Arboretum on Sunday 7th December to help raise money for Acorns Children's Hospice.

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

- 4.1 Walsall College's new £11m Business and Sports Hub – building work was well underway when Cllr Nazir Portfolio Holder for Regeneration attended a site visit on Monday 27th October also in attendance were Deb Rajania, Walsall College's Director of Operations & Resources, Kevin Miners Interserve Project Manager and Walsall South Area Manager. Approximately 10 Students / Apprentices from Walsall College will be given an opportunity to work alongside Interserve during the construction process of the Hub. The building will provide a sports hall, dance & fitness studios, injury clinic, sports training, a business centre for new start-up businesses and a restaurant.
- 4.2 Clothing for young people to attend job interviews – The Rock Church, Lichfield Street provides a drop in service and clothes bank for young people leaving care. The Catch22 Social Action Project helps young people leaving care to improve their circumstances and to access work. For more information or to donate contact Harriet on 07872 420366 or email harriet.guhirwa@catch-22.org.uk

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

- 5.1 'Pyari Sangat' Asian Women's Mental Health Support Group, Alumwell – this group meets every Monday 1:00 – 2:30pm at Alumwell Children's Centre <http://www.dwmh.nhs.uk/understanding-mental-health/asian-womens-support-group/>
- 5.2 Dementia support, Walsall Manor Hospital – students from Walsall College visited the hospital as part of the 'Kissing it Better' campaign run by the Hospital. The students talked and listened to elderly patients with dementia to help improve memories and well-being for the patients.

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