

Report to Bentley and Darlaston North and Darlaston South Area Panel
Area Plan Summary Document Approval
25 June, 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 Bentley and Darlaston North and Darlaston south 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 Bentley and Darlaston North and Darlaston south 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 Darlaston, Bentley and Moxley 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 Borough a great place to live, learn, work and invest”

There are six area partnerships across Walsall including the area of Darlaston and Bentley supporting residents in Darlaston North and Bentley and Darlaston South.

Darlaston and Bentley 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 for Walsall Borough 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 01922 653714 or email areapartnerships@walsall.gov.uk Twitter [@areapartnership](https://twitter.com/areapartnership) or visit www.walsallpartnership.org.uk



Walsall Area Partnerships

Partnerships in action

Local partners, organisations and the local community have been working together across Darlaston, Bentley and Moxley to improve your local area. Listed below are just a few of the activities, achievements and improvements identified as a result of our work across the Darlaston and Bentley Area Partnership.

Partnership Wide

- Partners including Walsall Council, West Midlands Police and local community organisations have formed a steering group to deliver co-ordinated activities for young people across Darlaston, Bentley and Moxley
- Local community groups, partners and community members came together to discuss local health priorities at an event in November 2012. This and other local events are helping to shape Walsall's approach to tackling health inequalities, as well as how resources will be allocated.
- 'Operation Staysafe' was delivered by partners in October 2012 which saw West Midlands Police, Walsall Council and other partners come together to support local vulnerable young people with advice and guidance when encountered across the area

Bentley

- The Olympic torch visited Bentley in June 2012 and drew huge crowds
- Environmental clean-up days have been undertaken across the Linear Walkway to help reduce the impact of flytipping and litter within the area
- Crime Prevention and Community Safety initiatives have been delivered to help reduce the problems of bogus callers and doorstep crime
- Outdoor pursuits, residential trips, dance and performing arts sessions are just some of the projects that have been delivered to young people
- The development of Bentley 'Community Hub' in Queen Elizabeth Avenue has seen local volunteers deliver activities for people and also offered employment outreach surgeries from partners including Darlaston JET and Jobcentre Plus. Welfare Benefit advice is also available
- Bentley Leisure Pavilion has been transferred to a local community organisation, Old Hall Peoples Partnership, who have provided the local community with a programme of local activities from the venue
- A 'Health Fayre' was delivered by Bentley Medical Centre that provided the local community with the opportunity to receive advice around healthy lifestyles



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- Partners including Walsall Council, whg and Old Hall Peoples Partnership are developing a community garden initiative at a former garage site in Alexander Road

Darlaston

- 'Open Mic' sessions have been delivered for local young people to engage and perform in front of their peers
- Darlaston Town Centre Partnership continue to promote the town and Darlaston in Bloom continues to achieve national recognition for improvements to the local environment around the town
- Anti-social behaviour across the area has been reduced through partnership work with West Midlands Police, Walsall Council and local housing providers
- A new Neighbourhood Watch group has been established in Darlaston North to help local people support partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Victoria Road Community Garden Group have developed their site at the Victoria Road Allotment site
- A Primary Schools football tournament was delivered by West Midlands Police for local young people
- Kings Hill Park and George Rose Park have benefitted from infrastructure improvements including increased security, pathways, play equipment and a better pavilion
- Grace Academy School has delivered a number of activities aimed at local young people and their families and have worked with local partners to develop physical activity opportunities
- Darlaston Town Hall has seen the introduction of a new boxing club and a programme of daily activities aimed at reducing social exclusion and increasing physical activity
- A local community group have introduced a new 'youth club' aimed at providing local young people with more positive activities
- A new community group have been formed to support the development of a new community garden in Herberts Park Road
- Rough Hay Summer Day attracted over 300 local residents and saw many people access services aimed at improving lifestyles and physical activities



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Moxley

- The development of Moxley 'Community Hub' has seen local partners including Moorcroft Wood School, Moxley Medical Centre, Moxley Peoples Centre, Wildlife Trust and Darlaston Sure Start work closely to deliver services to local people in a more co-ordinated way
- A local community notice board has been installed to keep local residents informed of events, activities and opportunities in their area
- Community Safety Newsletters have been distributed across the Moxley area to help reduce problems of crime and anti-social behaviour through increased local communication
- Improvements to Great Bridge Road Playing Fields and Queen Street Park have seen improved security
- Security fencing has been installed at Moxley Medical Centre to reduce problems of anti-social behaviour
- Support to local schools has seen the development of a 'forest schools' initiative at Moorcroft Wood in partnership with the Wildlife Trust



Walsall Area Partnerships

Partnership working in Darlaston and Bentley

Darlaston and Bentley 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 partnership evolves 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;

Create Safe, Sustainable and Inclusive Communities

- Introduce 'no cold calling zones' into areas of the partnership that are vulnerable to doorstep crime and bogus calling
- Produce and distribute local community safety information that raises awareness, vigilance and reassurance within local areas
- Network local voluntary and community sector organisations to build capacity and opportunities within local communities
- Encourage Street Champions and other residents groups to host community tidy ups and make a difference to their communities
- Promote new and existing Neighbourhood Watch and local residents groups to support partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Walsall Housing Group development of Harrowby Road and Curtin Drive areas of Moxley

Improve Health and Well Being

- Improve the understanding and prevention of childhood obesity by sharing good practice, resources and implement actions across early years and into secondary schools
- Increase healthy lifestyles across the partnership area through easier access to local lifestyles programmes and physical activity opportunities
- Reduce levels of child obesity across the area through continued healthy eating programmes in local schools and promote free physical activities for local children and young people
- Support local community organisations to deliver activities and programmes at local venues that support healthy ageing and independent living
- Introduce local programmes and activities across local community areas to help reduce health inequalities



Walsall Area Partnerships

Improve Learning and Life Chances for Children and Young People

- Deliver a series of activities through local partnership networks that support early help for children, young people and families across the partnership area
- Increase opportunities within local schools to raise awareness around the dangers of internet misuse
- Develop local junior Neighbourhood Watch groups to support partners in tackling anti-social behaviour
- Introduce a local programme of activities that help develop talent and aspiration amongst local children and young people
- Support initiatives and actions that help reduce child poverty

Improving Job Prospects

- Support local business partnerships to deliver employer and schools networking events
- Ensure local young people are benefitting from apprenticeship schemes with local employers
- Deliver outreach opportunities around jobs, skills and training at local community venues across the partnership area
- Support local community and voluntary organisations to develop volunteer programmes
- Deliver road and infrastructure improvements to support the developing Black Country Enterprise Zone