

NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

17 November 2016

1. Purpose of the Report
 - 1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the North Walsall Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area.
 - 1.2 North Walsall has a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community.
 - 1.3 The 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
 - 1.4 There are monthly Non Confidential Tasking & Co-ordination (Partner) Meetings that occur in North Walsall. The meetings provide the opportunity for partner agencies to come together and share ideas, information and co-ordinate strategy based on the Walsall Plan.

The partners include: Community Protection, Youth Support Services, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service, residents, Ward Councillors, Reedswood Park Retailers, Stephenson Square Retailers, Walsall Housing Group (WHG), Caldmoreaccord Housing, Walsall Association of Tenant Management Organisations, West Midlands Probation Service, Walsall Intelligence Network, Environmental Health, Beechdale Community Housing, Bloxwich Academy, Frank F Harrison Community Association, Bloxwich Community Partnership, St Aiden's Care Team, North Walsall Area Partnership, Walsall Adult Community College (WACC), Walsall College, Economic Regeneration Team, Work on the Horizons, Public Health, Lifestyles Team, Forest Arts Centre, Blakenall Community Centre (BCC), Ryecroft Hub, Walsall Link Line, Green Lane Baptist Church & Community Payback.
 - 1.5 A facebook page has now been set up to promote all community activity happening in North Walsall called Let's do it in North Walsall.

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

- 2.1 On 1 June the Walsall's first Public Space Protection Order will come into force on the Beechdale Estate and will be in effect for three years. The order has the following conditions:
1. It is prohibited in a public place for any person to engage in activity which has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, including but not limited to any activity capable of causing nuisance or annoyance, verbal abuse, damage to property including graffiti or vandalism, littering, drug or alcohol related activity capable of causing nuisance or annoyance, violence or threats of violence.
 2. It is prohibited in a public place for any person to cause nuisance, annoyance, alarm or distress involving any vehicle including but not limited to cars, motorbikes, mini motos, push bikes, scooters and skateboards.
 3. It is prohibited in a public place for any person to cause nuisance or annoyance by playing any ball game including but not limited to those played in the street or car parks. Persons who breach the order could be liable for a considerable fine. To date there have only been minor breaches and some warning letters have been issued.
- 2.2 North Walsall police are working closely with Community Protection, Youth Offending Services and local commissioned providers to manage young people on Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. The coordinated approach has seen a reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour. This scheme is still working well. We are using locally commissioned services as a signpost service to engage young people in a social environment. We are hoping to link this project to a new initiative of younger fire cadets before March 2017.
- 2.3 The Bloxwich area has suffered a large amount of thefts from vehicles recently. The obvious targets are sat navs, bags, laptops, etc. Please be vigilant and don't leave valuables on sight.
- 2.4 Shop theft is a continued problem in the Bloxwich area with a number of stores reporting violence and threats against staff. Luckily most stores have CCTV which the police are investigating. If anyone is aware of people selling stolen goods please report to the police.
- 2.5 We have now put together a flyer which can be distributed to areas where anti-social behaviour has been an issue. It includes telephone numbers for local social landlords, main council department contacts, details of how to report noise nuisance and the local police contacts.
- 2.6 A task and finish group has been set up to address concerns raised in and around Birchills. These include anti-social behaviour along the canals, rubbish, drug dealing and speeding cars. The next meeting is scheduled for 23 November.

- 2.7 North Walsall partners are working with Pelsall Area Partnerships to address issues raised around off road bikes on the Donna Copper Memorial open space. Following the collation of quotes we are now in a position to implement the works. We are working with Canals and Rivers Trust to see if we can adjust the access route off Goscote Lane which should help deter access for off road bikes, but still await their decision.
- 2.8 The police have highlighted a number of problems on the new development around Turnstone/Shearwater, etc . A residents meeting was coordinated by the police where a number of concerns were addressed to the police, Walsall Council and whg. A follow up meeting will be scheduled for December with Keepmoat in attendance.
- 2.9 A number of police surgeries, residents' meetings and neighbourhood watch meetings take place across North Walsall.

Meeting	Date	Time	Where
Agenda 21 (Birchills/Leamore residents)	7 Nov 5 Dec	7.30pm 7.30pm	Bentley Moor Social Club
Leamore Community Group	13 Dec	7-8pm	Colebatches Social Club
Mossley Residents meeting	7 Dec	7.00pm	Mattesley Court

- 2.10 Cameras are deployed in different locations across North Walsall to tackle fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and to assist with the detection of criminal activities. Covert cameras are also utilised. The distributions of cameras are decided at the monthly Confidential Partnership Tasking & Coordination Meeting.

Reference	Installed at	Installing Agency	Purpose	Objective
ND1/ND2 Now combined to make one working camera	Hadley Road	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken
ND7	Leckie Road	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce criminal activity and anti-social behaviour	To identify offenders and enable appropriate action to be

				taken.
ND8 Not panning due to go in for repair	In for repair	Neighbourhood Management		
ASB3	Hawbush Road	Community Protection	To reduce criminal activity and anti-social behaviour	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken

2.11 West Midlands Fire Service, Area Partnerships and the police are working together on a speed watch initiative. The first one took place in Bloxwich Road during October where 22 vehicles were pulled over with either no tax, no insurance or no licence. The fire service will be discussing safety with motorists, especially in relation to child car seats. We endeavour to do this once a month in various locations across North Walsall. Two more dates will be set for December and will link with the fire safety road casualty data and the Christmas drink driving campaign.

2.12 West Midlands Fire Service are linking with Mirus Academy to do a road safety reduction initiative on 21 November. Various teams will showcase how the fire service deals with road traffic incidents through the medium of virtual reality goggles.

2.13 West Midlands Fire Service are keen to promote their community members. As a West Midlands Fire Service community member you can make a difference by:

- Receiving the quarterly newsletter which will let you know what's happening with the fire service and your communities.
- Read the monthly updates on safety campaigns and share this information with family, friends and colleagues.
- Get involved in the fire station open days.
- Become a volunteer to work at one of their two interactive centres or out in the community.
- Apply to become a part of the Young Firefighters Association/The Cadets if you are aged between 11-16.

For more information email communitymembership@wmfs.net or call 0121 380 7322. There is further information on the website www.wmfs.net

2.13 A new fund has become available for this area called The Active Citizens Fund. The funding is being made available by the **Office of the Police and Crime**

Commissioner and combines three previous streams of funding (Proceeds of Crime Act, Police Property Act and the Community Initiatives Fund) so that West Midlands Police will be better placed to engage with the public and encourage 'active citizenship'. This means that communities in the West Midlands will be actively involved in projects that will make a positive difference to themselves.

In Walsall the fund is being managed by a partnership between Walsall Local Policing Unit, Walsall Voluntary Action, Walsall Council and Walsall College. The **Walsall Active Citizens Partnership** have developed a process for Walsall which seeks to ensure individuals and organisations are able to access the funding and deliver outcomes which support Walsall's local priorities for community safety.

Walsall Active Citizens is about encouraging, empowering and supporting local residents and groups to deliver their own solutions to making their community safer. We want communities to identify what they see as the most important challenges to community safety and bring their own innovative solutions to tackling them. This could be anything which helps to build or sustain safer communities. Examples could include an innovative solution to improving community cohesion or building better links amongst local neighbours, promoting unity or reducing the chance of hate crime. Or, it could be about bringing people together to tackle a specific community safety issue such as reducing the risk of domestic violence.

The main aim is local residents identifying the community safety issues **which matter to them**, and develop their own solutions to address them.

Eligibility criteria for applications in Walsall are:

1. The project must be delivered in one of the three target areas and focused on making the community a safer place.
2. Those delivering the project must have a direct link to the area, either as a resident or someone who already works within the community.
3. The project must be new to the area. We won't fund activities that are already being delivered in that area.
4. The proposal cannot be from an existing group. We are seeking to support individuals with new ideas rather than existing organisations. Individuals will be supported through the process in a variety of ways, and this could include linking them with existing groups within the area via mentoring or capacity building relationships (see below).
5. The project budget should be spent by December 2017.

For more details please contact **Sgt Nick Morton, Walsall Local Policing Unit:**

n.morton@west.midlands.pnn.police.uk

Lesley Shorthouse, Walsall Voluntary Action: 01922 619840

lesleys@walsallva.org.uk

The application form and more information can be found at <http://www.walsallva.org.uk/>

- 2.14 Although not specific to North Walsall a new BME advice service is now running from the Afghan Community Centre at 17-19 Wednesbury Road. The centre provides free confidential advice, guidance and signposting on housing, welfare benefits, healthy eating and active living, non-specialist immigration advice, access to education, coping in a crisis situation, career choice, life skills, money management, access to health service and social care, and advocacy. Support is available through face to face Monday to Thursday 5pm-7pm or through the website, www.walsallbme.org

The community soup kitchen for homeless and those in need is open every Wednesday from 6-7pm from 16th November. They are currently looking for sponsors and volunteers. Please contact info@walsallbme.org

- 2.15 Sneyd Fishing pool has experienced some problems with off road bikes accessing the site. Our gating officer, Area Partnerships, Countryside Services and the fishing pool will be doing a site visit over the next couple of weeks to implement restrictive barriers to limit the access to the site and deter this behaviour.
- 2.16 We are now at capacity for stalls for the Older People's Showcase Event – Wednesday 16th November, 2pm-6pm, Walsall Town Hall. (We've managed to get one of the most famous current Black Country personalities to come along and open the event, **Doreen Tipton!**). Everyone is welcome to come along and find out about services available to older people locally.
- 2.17 Partners and local groups are invited to our next North Walsall networking event on 7 December at 10am at Forest Arts Centre. This is an opportunity to meet people working in and around the area, create working partnerships and understand more about what we have in the area. All welcome.

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

- 3.1 On 13 September OFSTED completed an inspection of Buzzy Bee's playgroup, located on the same site as Edgar Stammers Primary Academy. The report is available on the link below and came out with a GOOD.
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/CARE/EY476558>
- 3.2 Money from the Black Country Growth Deal will fund open space improvements along the Goscote Corridor, mainly on The Lea and Swannies Field. The work has now begun and it is hoped will be completed by January 2017.
- 3.3 Blakenall Sure Start are able to distribute food bank vouchers to families in need, both for Pelsall and Black Country food bank. All enquiries are assessed to ensure the right support and signposting is available to that person. To date the Sure Start have supplied 85 food bank vouchers.

- 3.4 Blakenall Sure Start is running various parenting programmes across the area, Understanding Your Child from the health centre at Pinfold, Parenting Workshops at the centre, Mellow Parenting from Edgar Stammers and Understanding Me. All programmes aim to help parents with appropriate strategies that will benefit the family. New groups running from the centre are:
Healthy Lifestyles – Friday afternoon
Beacon parent group substance misuse – Wednesday, once a fortnight
- 3.5 Blakenall Sure Start has linked with West Midlands Fire Service to do a few sessions around first aid having identified a local need for it. Another session is to be planned and will be open to all families open to Early Help.
- 3.6 Mossley Big Local have hosted a Big Local forum evening on 1 November to enable local people to come along and find out more about the Big Local, share their ideas for how the lottery money could be spent, ask questions, meet the local champions and get involved. There are regular Big Local meetings for you to get involved in, just come along. If you need further information please contact Aaron Lawrence, Aaron.Lawrence@whgrp.co.uk or telephone 01922 426971.
- 3.7 The Locality Panels have agreed to fund a partnership project between West Midlands Police, Walsall Youth Service and Community Protection to deliver a 10 day project called the Mischief Patrol to engage with young people and families during the Halloween and Bonfire period. By establishing a regular patrol that will operate for 10 evenings (Friday 28th October to Sunday 6th November), it will aim to work with vulnerable children, young people and families to reduce negative behaviours during this period. It will operate at the following times to meet demand identified from previous years:
- Friday 28/10 to Sunday 30/10 – 4pm to 10pm
Monday 31/10 to Thursday 3/11 – 6pm to 10pm
Friday 4/11 to Sunday 6/11 – 4pm to 10pm
- 3.8 Birchills and Bloxwich/Blakenall Locality Panels continue to meet on a monthly basis offering partners the opportunity to attend and discuss complex cases in need of a multi agency approach. A number of difficult cases have been discussed and supported by agencies including CAMHS, Safeguarding, Troubled Families, and Housing Associations.
- 3.9 Area Partnerships have made links with St Peter's and are now linking their youth providers with the commissioned provider for the area, Frank F Harrison, and the council's youth services to do some joint work in the locality of the church. St Peter's host a Stay and Play session on a Friday, 9.30-11 which is a term time session for children and their parents/carers, including breakfast, craft, games, music, songs, toys and lots of support and friendship. St Peter's also help those struggling with an

addiction of any kind, through Betel of Britain. This runs every Wednesday from 7.30-9.30pm. The evening begins with a time of worship and Bible teaching and from 8.25 there is a drip in with a bite to eat and some friendly faces and support.

4. Business and Jobs: Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people into work

- 4.1 Job Centre Plus will be delivering their service from Blakenall and Birchills children's centres. This will include help in sourcing job offers, income support, information, advice and guidance relating to work.
- 4.2 Walsall Council is a delivery partner for the **Youth Employment Initiative (IMPACT)** programme being delivered across the Black country. IMPACT will provide a Black Country co-ordinated response that will truly engage NEETs/unemployed young people aged 16-29 and move them towards positive outcomes. The programme is targeted at supporting young residents who are unemployed, not in education and training and help them get closer to a positive outcomes such as mainstream education and training, employment, apprenticeships and traineeships. Marginalised 15 year olds identified as at risk of becoming NEET are also eligible. Those marginalised communities who are unemployed, inactive, at risk of social inclusion will be specifically targeted to overcome barriers to participation. The Black Country wide programme will be a multi agency approach that offers a personalised and joined up provision of local services to support young people. A varied menu of provision will be offered by local authorities and their approved delivery partners and it is expected that these will include statutory, voluntary and commercial providers, delivering alternative innovative options to mainstream delivery including short courses, specialist vocational provision, and creative activity to develop self confidence and personal skills. More information is available from Claire Wills in Walsall Council - claire.wills@walsall.gov.uk
- 4.3 We are working with Work on the Horizon to address a gap in provision for the over 30s. This will ensure clients are able to accept work without hitting barriers.

Work on the Horizon offer information:

- advice and guidance on careers and skills
- training to help with things like building confidence and motivation
- job search support including interview techniques
- internet access for job-search & training activities
- Job related training and work experience opportunities
- training to help you up-skill and develop new skills
- practical help with work related costs like childcare and transport
- and lots more

See more at: <http://www.onestopemploymentshop.co.uk> or ring 01922 496555

Big Lottery have provided funding to run a 3 year project ending 31/12/2019 enabling Work on the Horizon to deliver an outreach service **'Reaching Out'**. Aims are to engage with the unemployed people in the North Walsall Borough who have multiple barriers. To increase confidence and motivation levels, improve wellbeing, provide better chance in life and access training and development to improve life skills. The outreach is being run at various community locations with the four wards currently Bloxwich & Blakenall Libraries, Sure Starts - Blakenall & Birchills, Beechdale Housing Association, Leamore TMO and Pinfold Health Centre (new venues are constantly being sought to ensure full coverage of the local area).

Steps to Work are also leading on a Black Country wide project called Bridges, which is jointly funded by Big Lottery and European Social Fund.

BRIDGES can support anyone who is:

- 25 years and over
- Unemployed (cannot be in part time work or on 0 hours contract)
- Economically Inactive (including those not working who are claiming benefits)
- Has complex needs/multiple barriers which are impacting on being able to enter paid employment
- Requires support to fully and independently engage in existing services

The BRIDGES project can help you with any of the following, get in touch to find out more:

- Confidence and motivation
- One-to-one mentoring
- Information, advice and guidance
- CV and application form support
- Job search support
- Arts and crafts
- Volunteering opportunities

If you would like more information please call 01922 627555 or email enquiries@stepstowork.co.uk

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

- 5.1 Volunteers are wanted to 'Man Up'. In a new project from Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust volunteers are needed who are looking to enhance their skills and develop experience supporting men through local support groups and activity programmes. You can apply online at www.dwmh.nhs.uk or can call Anita Chumber for more information on 07917559351.
- 5.2 Mossley Estate over 50's Club, organised by and for local residents meet every Thursday 10am-12.00pm at Mattesley Court.

- 5.3 Area Partnerships are working with The Watermill on both a sensory room and a sensory garden. Match funding is being sought through Area Partnerships for the sensory room. External funding is being sourced for the sensory garden and will involve local partners such as Goscote Greenacres and Ryecroft Hub. If anyone else wants to get involved then please contact Ness on 653714.
- 5.4 St Giles Hospice in Goscote has launched a 24 hours, 365 days advice service for those suffering or caring for someone with life limiting illnesses. It can help with:
- Accessing support and services
 - Emotional support
 - Symptom control
 - Financial advice
 - Nutritional support
 - Access to specialist equipment
 - Coping with bereavement
 - Information on support groups
- The number is 0300 330 9410 or you can email advice@stgileshospice.com
Calls are charged at a local rate.
- 5.5 St Thomas Church in Mossley have set up a mental health and wellbeing support group. If you suffer with stress, depression, anxiety or any other mental health condition come along and meet other people with shared experiences in a safe and confidential environment. Meetings are now held weekly on Tuesdays from 12-1 at St Thomas Church, Cresswell Crescent, Mossley. More details from Sara on 07586352810.
- 5.6 Sure Start Children's Centres have set up a Freedom Women's Support Programme to support those who have experienced domestic violence. All women are welcome to join and learn more about healthy and unhealthy relationships in a safe, non-judgemental environment. This is a 10 week rolling programme and women can join at any time during the programme. Please call 01922 646574 for more information.
- 5.7 Stan Ball now has a bereavement and social club taking place on Mondays from 2-3.30pm. Cost is £2 and all welcome.
- 5.8 Area Partnerships have funded Walsall Link Line with their Reaching Out project that will work with children to raise awareness of dementia. The project will link to uniformed activities, schools and youth clubs to do a series of workshops where children will be taught what to expect when a grandparent is diagnosed with dementia, how to maintain a relationship through the use of memory boxes and tools to alleviate fears that arise from some aspects of dementia. As part of this project Green Lane Baptist Church hosted a very successful session on 27 October (during half term) from 10-3. Approximately 25 adults and 20 children attended the session and learnt small facts about dementia whilst decorating their own memory boxes. It was a lively, well informed, interactive session, with all families wanting to do a

similar activity again in the future. Green Lane Baptist Church, Walsall Link Line and Area Partnerships are discussing next options.

Vanessa Croft: Area Manager - (01922) 653714 vanessa.croft@walsall.gov.uk