

# **NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL**

## **Area Manager's Report**

**17 November 2015**

### **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 Safety Services (ASB Team), Youth Support Services, West Midlands Police, 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, Mirus Academy, Frank F Harrison Community Association, 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, 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 The police continue to do regular high visibility patrols in hot grid areas where a 15 minute patrol is done every three hours.
- 2.2 Police are conducting various operations to tackle vehicles driving in a dangerous manner and speeding around Old Birchills and Somerfield Road.
- 2.3 West Midlands Police are currently setting up a new IAG (Independent Advisory Group) for domestic abuse. IAG members will offer independent advice and guidance to West Midlands Police in relation to domestic abuse in order to better support victims and tackle offenders. The IAG will be a self-governing group, made up of people from within our communities, from across the region, who provide independent advice to the police with the aim of improving the quality of policing services in relation to domestic abuse. As such, we are seeking people who reflect the composition of our communities, and have a passion for making a difference in relation to domestic abuse. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015, 6pm-8:30pm at West Midlands Police Sports & Social Club Tally Ho, Pershore Road Birmingham B5 7RN (room to be confirmed). If you would like to become part of the WMP DA IAG please email Helen Gardner, confirming your attendance or intention to attend a future meeting [h.gardner@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:h.gardner@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)
- 2.4 A number of police surgeries, residents' meetings and neighbourhood watch meetings take place across North Walsall.

Meeting	Date	Time	Where
Police surgery	12 November	10.50-11.50	BCH office
Blakenall Residents Meeting	25 November	6.30-8.30	Ryecroft Hub
Police surgery	4 December	10.50-11.50	BCH office
Blakenall Residents Meeting	27 January	6.30-8.30	Ryecroft Hub

- 2.5 Frank F Harrison Community Association has been awarded more than £330000 from Big Lottery Fund to run the Bike Light programme over the next three years. The project is aimed at those involved in anti-social behaviour or who are at risk of getting involved in criminal activities. Referrals are made to the programme which runs as a ten week course to teach mechanics, safe riding and track repairs.

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	Foster Road	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken
ND2	Forest Lane – attempted theft – with WMP for analysis	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce criminal activity and anti-social behaviour	To identify offenders and enable appropriate action to be taken.
ND7	In for repair			
ND8	In for repair			

- 2.6 Partners within North Walsall and Pelsall/Rushall/Brownhills/Shelfield Area Partnerships are working together to address issues of off road bikes on Whateley Field. The first stage of implementation is due to start this month.
- 2.7 West Midlands Fire Service continue to visit vulnerable persons properties ensuring they remain safe in their home. A newly developed Safe and Well visit, which launched on 1 November, looks at safety, mental health and well being and helps signpost people to relevant support. If more support is needed then the specialist Vulnerable Persons Officer will do extra visits for as long as required.
- 2.8 Partners including whg, Environmental Health, Area Partnerships, ASB unit and Community Payback have done an extensive clear up of the coppice behind Smith and Thomas house on 5 November. Clean and Green thinned out all the shrubbery to make it less desirable for anti-social behaviour and more open to viewing from the local neighbourhood.
- 2.9 Our tall, yellow dog fouling signs have been moving around North Walsall and also being used in other wards. Currently signs are in place at Dartmouth Avenue, outside St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Field Road, at the junction with Victoria Avenue, Victoria Avenue, at the junction with Valley Road, Elmore Green Road, at the junction with Broad Lane, Roach Road, at the junction with Cresswell Crescent, Villiers Street, at the junction with Whitehall Road, Longacre Street, at the junction with Green Lane, Mill Lane, at the entrance to the nature reserve, Livingstone Road, by the canal bridge. There is a request for a sign to be moved to Fisher Road. Any further requests can be submitted through Area Partnerships or Environmental Health.

- 2.10 We are looking to do a partner and community grappling event to coincide with 'Clean for the Queen' on 4 March. This will involve using hooks to pull dumped items from the bottom of the canal around Birchills.
- 2.11 Brooke Smith Planning are developing a planning application on behalf of Bromford Developments Ltd for 14 self contained apartments for adults with learning disabilities at the old Bulls Head site on Bloxwich High Street.
- 2.12 Following the initial meeting at Beechdale Library on Saturday 10 October local people have been working on initiatives to increase the footfall in the library. During November there are three talks schedule.  
November 4<sup>th</sup> will see a talk on dementia. Sadat will give an overview of dementia and where to get help from.  
Barry will do an interactive talk on the Staffordshire Regiment on November 13 and how they won their Victoria Crosses. There will also be a host of war memorabilia to look through.  
On November 27 Bob is going to give a talk on the history of Beechdale. Will you remember Beechdale the same way?
- 2.13 As two of only 100 UK centres taking part in the initiative, Beechdale and Pheasey libraries have free WI-FI provided by BT and Barclays Digital Eagles.  
Specially trained members of Barclays' staff will be providing free technology advice to help local people build confidence and develop the skills they need to succeed in the digital world. The Barclays training will be launched on Saturdays in the autumn and is part of a larger computer learning programme already provided by the library service.

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

- 3.1 Youth Support Service, Frank F Harrison and Blakenall Community Centre are co-ordinating activities with the support of Community Safety and Area Partnership to ensure there is less duplication.
- 3.2 Partners in North Walsall have worked together during school holidays to minimize the probability of youth asb. The Move truck and Reach Up tower have been used to engage with families and young people and highlight provision in the area.  
Education and discussions have taken place to warn of the dangers of certain activities, e.g. throwing stones, playing on building sites, playing football in the street, etc. During October half term discussions have taken place around bonfire safety and firework safety. The Fire Service have joined with partners to get the message out to all regarding safety.

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

- 4.1 Goscote Community Action group continue to hold regular meetings to engage and keep local people informed of the new development. A consultation exercise has been done to decide what the 1.5 million from the Local Growth Fund is to be spent on within the Goscote Lane Corridor. The fund needs to be spent before the end of the financial year 2015/16.
- 4.2 Mossley Big Local have had their plan formally endorsed in principle. The partnership have enlisted whg as their programme support. The next meeting is scheduled for 5 November at 3pm at Sneyd CA.
- 4.3 Steps to Work started the outreach programme on 28 July and have been going out one day a week on Tuesdays. They have worked from Beechdale Housing Association, Blakenall Information Centre, Sandbank TMO, Pinfold Centre, Leamore TMO, Sure Start in Birchills and Edgar Stammers and KFC. So far 22 North Walsall residents have been engaged and received individually tailored information, advice and guidance. Help includes CV completion, application form completion, job search support, one to one job search, volunteering, courses, self-employment, legal issues (referred to CAB), and child care issues (referred to Family information services). Addition residents from outside North Walsall have also been engaged and supported. Steps to Work are looking to get a paediatric first aid course set up to run at the Children's Centre to encourage first stage learning.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 Walsall College are hosting a Social Enterprise Workshop on 18 November, 10.30-1pm. Anyone interested will need to register from the following link:  
<http://www.walsallcollege.ac.uk/events/details/impact-social-entrepreneurship-workshop>

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

- 5.1 Following the success of the Forget Me Not dementia booklet project done in the Aldridge and Beacon Area, Area Partnerships are working with Walsall Link Line on a project which will help those with dementia through music and dance. Walsall Link Line has piloted Steps In Time and now seeks funding to make this a regular date in the dementia calendar. A launch for Steps in Time took place on 21 October with members coming along for a dance and a sing a long with tea and cake thrown in.
- 5.2 Mossley Estate over 50's Club, organised by and for local residents meet every Thursday 10am-12.30pm at Mattesley Court.

- 5.3 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. Meeting are now held weekly on Tuesdays from 12-1 at St Thomas Church, Cresswell Crescent, Mossley. More details from Sara on 07586352810.
- 5.4 Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust are facilitation a new Health and Well Being Drop in which will be taking place at Mend It, Green Lane Baptist Church on th first Tuesday of each month, 9.30-12.30. Help and advice is available from Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, Pathways for Life, Larvic Pharmacy, Health Watch and Healthy Lifestyles Service.
- 5.5 Two extra raised beds have been installed at Goscote Greenacres by a group of volunteers from whg's business improvement and communications team.
- 5.6 From 1<sup>st</sup> October the walk in centre at Market Square became an urgent care centre, alongside the one at Manor Hospital. Both 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, 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.
- 5.7 From 16 November the Pyari Sangat Asian Women's Support Group run by Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust will run from Birchills' Children's Centre, Monday, 1 to 2.30pm.
- 5.8 Health Watch Walsall has its new website up and running where various reports, including the latest Hospital Discharge Report, are available for download. You can access them via this link  
<http://www.healthwatchwalsall.co.uk/resources-reports/reports/>

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