

# **WALSALL SOUTH AREA PANEL**

## **Area Manager's Report**

**Updated Friday 21st March 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 21st March 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 Ali, Cllr Anson, Cllr Arif, Cllr Azam, Cllr Ditta, Cllr Hussain, Cllr Nazir, Cllr McCracken, Cllr Martin, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sarohi, Cllr Whyte
- 1.5 Walsall South Partners: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit, Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS), West Midlands Police, Walsall Housing Group (whg), 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 Management Team, Engineering and Transport, Caldmoreaccord Housing Association, Watmos

Community Homes, Walsall Voluntary Action, West Midlands Fire Service, Social Care and Inclusion, 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, 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, Steps to Work, 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 can be deployed in the area. Camera 1 Vicarage Place / Caldmore Road due to Fly Tipping incidents and Camera 2 Camden Street, Palfrey 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, this camera is currently away for repair due to development of a fault.
- 2.2 Following a review of Inspector roles - across Walsall's Local Policing Unit, Inspector Beth Bridges will be taking over from Inspector Dave Payne as police lead for the Central Sector, Walsall South and North Walsall. Inspector Bridges will take up duties from April.
- 2.3 Cannabis Farms in Caldmore and Highgate – an illegal immigrant who looked after cannabis plants with a potential street value of £150,000 has been jailed for 20 months. The cannabis plants were located in three sites in Handsworth, Caldmore and Highgate and Police were able to connect the illegal immigrant to all three locations closing down a large scale operation.
- 2.4 St Matthew's Church Hill Improvement Group – this group continues to meet quarterly with the last meeting being held Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. St Matthew's Church continues to celebrate it's 800 years by holding events. They are currently running a fun raising drive to secure funds for the vandalised church roof, so far they have managed to raise £60,000 towards the £125,000 costs.
- 2.5 Broadway West Playing Field, Bescot – the site is being run by the Broadway West Playing Field Steering Group Chaired by Rizwan Ahmed, the group consists of community volunteers and ward councillors with support from Clean

& Green and Walsall South Area Partnership. The first activity session took place Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March which was opened by The Mayor Cllr Nazir with a welcome introduction from the leader of Walsall Council Cllr Mike Bird. The Andalus Archers offered an Archery taster session for all ages with over 300 people taking part. There were free sessions available for men, women and children which were well supervised by over 20 Andalus Archer volunteers. Along with the sessions there was also food stalls available including fresh bread and hot snacks which made the event a great family day out.

- 2.6 Caldmore and Palfrey Festival – this year's festival will take place in Palfrey Park Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May. The Walsall Mela will also take place in Palfrey Park Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August. There will also be a 'Taste of Caldmore' event in Walsall Town Centre Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May details on all of this to follow shortly. If you want to help and volunteer for either event please get in touch with volunteer co-ordinator Steve Breeze on 07970856148 or e-mail him [stevebreeze@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stevebreeze@hotmail.co.uk)
- 2.7 Caldmore and Palfrey Festival - are proud to present Strolling Stories, an exciting project funded by the Arts Council and Caldmoreaccord. Building on the success of the annual carnival, the project will develop a piece of processional theatre to be performed along the carnival route on Monday 26th May. Writer David Calcutt will weave together stories and songs from the diverse local communities. It will be brought to life by Caldmore and Palfrey residents working alongside Director Alice Castillo and members of The Cart Before the Horse Theatre Company. There will be lots of opportunities to get involved. During February, members of the team were out and about chatting to people and gathering stories. The aim is to include stories from many diverse communities. For more information please contact Sam Hale 07944 28799 [samhalestrollingstories@gmail.com](mailto:samhalestrollingstories@gmail.com)
- 2.8 Chuckery Festival – this year's festival will take place over two weeks starting event Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June with a Bandstand event at the Arboretum and at Chuckery TMO site Saturday 7th June full details to follow.
- 2.9 Arboretum – work on the final phase of the Arboretum improvements programme have started with the building works on the much awaited Visitor Centre. The Centre will be housed on the existing Green Centre site. The work on the Bandstand, Boathouse, Lido and Leckie Sons of Rest building have now all be completed.
- 2.10 Broadway North and Birmingham Road – as part the Local Safety Scheme programme 2013/2014, the road works project to improve the road layout at the junction of Broadway north and Birmingham Road has now been completed. The improvement includes; pedestrian crossing facilities, three lane approach and clear lane guidance road markings. Drivers have been asked to take extra care when approaching the new layout while they get used to the changes.

- 2.11 St Michael's Street Car Park, Caldmore – residents and businesses raised their concerns to councillors, Caldmore Traders Association and Walsall South Area Partnership about overgrown roots & branches, damaged concrete access path, blocked drains and pigeon feeding making the Caldmore Road side of the car park both a health & safety risk and an unsightly area. Walsall Council departments including Highways, Clean & Green and Environmental Health together with Councillors, Caldmore Traders Association and Walsall South Area partnership have worked on this project, which has now been completed. With the creation of two additional parking spaces, disabled access from the car park onto the footpath leading to the shops and clearing and improvements to the drains to reduce the risk of flooding.
- 2.12 Grass Verge update Primley Avenue, Alumwell - planning permission is not required due to the current land ownership and scale of the site. Finances have been requested for inclusion in carry forward plans in order for work to commence in 2014-15, it is anticipated this will take place around June 2014. More details to follow. Delays have occurred due to the location of the services within the grass verge, there is a specific lead time for companies to relocate services following a request from the council, this has been progressed and will be completed prior to WMBC developing the verge parking site.
- 2.13 Street Champions Event 10<sup>th</sup> March – this event took place at the Council House with an introduction from The Mayor. Over 30 Street Champions from across Walsall attending with quite a few from Walsall South. Emergency Planning staff discussed how the role of Street Champions can be utilised to help in Emergency situations such as floods and fires where residents needed to be relocated. The Champions from Walsall South raised a number of issues of concern which are now being followed-up with relevant departments these included algae on the St Matthew's Church Hill steps, dangerous dogs in Palfrey Park and the processes for reporting them. The youngest Street Champion Tobias who is 7 years old and lives in Chuckery closed the event thanking everyone for attending.
- 2.14 As-Suffa Institute Homeless Outreach Project in partnership with the Glebe Centre, Caldmore launched on 20<sup>th</sup> March – there was a good turnout with over 25 people accessing the hot meal session with support from Cllr Azam, YMCA and Walsall South Area Partnership. The Hot Meals program will run every Thursday at the Glebe Centre, Caldmore @ 7:30pm. To enable this service to continue donations would be gratefully received <http://Justgiving.com/homelesswalsall> or donate by text by texting ASHW51 £? to 70070. As-Suffa is a charity who are working in partnership with the Glebe to serve those in our community who may need some assistance.

- 2.15 Community Open Day at the Arboretum on 21st June - the aim is for all the causes, charities and institutions that strive to better the lives of the people of Walsall to be able to promote themselves and their services in a light hearted and community friendly event. It's totally free to take part but groups would need to provide their own tables or stalls. For more information please contact Martin Bateman Community Life Champion Tel: (01922) 704120 Ext: 222 Email: [Community\\_stmatthewswalsall@asda.co.uk](mailto:Community_stmatthewswalsall@asda.co.uk)
- 2.16 Aaina Community Hub, Caldmore - is delivering a number of health related initiatives for women to tackle heart disease, obesity and diabetes independently and in partnership with the NHS, whg and Dhesi Ladies. They are providing specialised job search support for black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) women to address economic in-activity in the South of the Borough. A number of applications are being submitted to continue this provision beyond July 2014. They are also providing capacity building support and space in the Hub and Oasis Community Garden to local women's groups and community groups to encourage community cohesion and contribute to sustainable and inclusive communities.

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

- 3.1 Walsall South's Integrated Young Peoples Support Services (IYPSS) team continues to provide Detached youth work which have been taking place four times a week across our area and the last Saturday of each month, where the team support the free styling event at Myplace, Delves. The Easter school holiday programme has been developed and will run from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April including young women only dance event, discussion group on future aspirations, CV and job interview techniques and ongoing consultation to understand what Walsall South's young peoples priorities are for our area.
- 3.2 Walsall South Young Peoples activities directory – Georgie Abbott Walsall South's IYPSS Senior Youth Worker is working closely with partners who provide youth provision in our area to develop an activities directory. This will enable us to establish a clear picture of our current provision to help pull resources to enable a full coverage of our area for the benefit of Walsall South young people.
- 3.3 School Parking – action is being taken to stop parents who are inconsiderately blocking up roads around our schools. Delves Infants school has been highlighted as a particular spot with Botany Road and Bell Lane becoming impassable. Walsall Council will be looking at this issue across our area and working closely with our schools to identify solutions.

- 3.4 Apprentices, Pleck – during the next year Walsall Construction Training Centre is planning to take on 45 new apprentices to learn skills such as bricklaying, plastering, painting and decorating. The courses last for 12 months with an assessment and practical test at the end of the course. They currently have 15 young people aged between 16 to 19 years old and they work closely with local businesses to offer a rounded programme. For more information about the scheme please contact 01922 644440.
- 3.5 Trainee Health Posts – young people have been given an opportunity by NHS Walsall Clinical Commissioning group to apply for a twelve month training scheme if they are 16 to 24 year olds. The scheme will offer work experience with a professional qualification at the end of the programme.
- 3.6 Alumwell Nursery – two nurseries in Alumwell, Alumwellies and Alumwell Nursery have rated ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted. Alumwell Nursery is council run and takes children from three upwards this is their second time for receiving ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted. Alumwellies is a fee paying nursery that also looks after children before and after school they have improved from ‘good’ at their last review. Ofsted said that the staff at both nurseries have an excellent understanding of the children in their care especially with how to help their learning & development.
- 3.7 Aaina Community Hub, Caldmore - Iqra Supplementary School & Youth Provision is continuing to be delivered. Weekend activities to raise achievement and attainment levels at key stage 1 and 2. Easter activities will be available for children aged 5 to 14 years focusing on team games, community garden and arts and crafts.

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

- 4.1 Time4Real - continues to operate from The Village Hub in Caldmore. Community volunteer members have clocked up over 1,000 hours of skills swapping. The scheme facilitates local volunteers to exchange skills such as dog walking, gardening and DIY free of charge. Every hour that a volunteer gives they then get another hour from another member of the project. The scheme brings people together, helps improve their skill base to enhance job prospects and also helps tackle social isolation by providing a free service to housebound residents who might not be able to afford such services.
- 4.2 Bescot Retail Park – held an information event week to inform visitors about the proposed £1.5 million investment plan and the creation of 60 new jobs. The planning application will be considered by Walsall Council’s planning committee on 13<sup>th</sup> March. If approved recruitment will start shortly afterwards.

- 4.3 Walsall Adult and Community College (WACC) – Whitehall Centre, Caldmore is holding an open evening Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 5:00 – 8:00pm. During the evening the Outstanding Tutors and Award Winning Guidance Team will be on hand to chat about the courses and demonstrate what WACC has to offer. This is a great opportunity to meet the WACC team and explore options before enrolling.
- 4.4 Creative Media and Performing Arts pre-apprenticeship course – the Multi-Media Arts & Sports Project (Map) who are based in Ablewell Street are working with WACC to provide 16 places for young people 16 to 24 years old to attend a Level 1 course which includes functional skills, six weeks work experience and work preparation skills. For more information please contact Jane Clarke 01922 643270 [www.the-map.org.uk](http://www.the-map.org.uk)

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

- 5.1 Diabetes Awareness Week 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June – as part of Walsall South's Healthy Lifestyle group partners, councillors and Diabetes UK have come together to lead on a piece of work for our area. Walsall South Area Partnership has the highest prevalence of diabetes in Walsall especially in Walsall Central, Pleck, Palfrey and Alumwell. As a result diabetes was chosen as a health priority for partnership focus. The group have been working together to identify a campaign that can run in the area along with a follow-up evaluation with a view to rolling the approach borough wide if successful. Identified targeted residents from the above neighbourhoods will be sent information packs to help them check for their risk of Diabetes. Frontline officers from across the partnership will receive training to help support residents who receive these packs. The campaign will be monitored through Diabetes UK to identify those accessing Diabetes UK risk tools following receipt of the campaign packs. The group will summarise the outcome from the project to provide an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board by September 2014.
- 5.2 St Gabriel's Day Centre, Delves - has been awarded £4,000 in grants from three trusts; Douglas Turner Trust £3,000 and £500 each from The Grimmit Trust & the Alfred Haines Trust. The money will be used to replace/upgrade equipment such as tables and chairs as part of a centre facelift. The day centre provides a service to approx 70 residents per week from Delves, Yew Tree, Alumwell, Palfrey, Caldmore, Park Hall, Chuckery and Orchard Hills.

- 5.3 Healthwatch Event, Caldmore Village Hub – took place early March to hear local people’s views on health and social care. There was a good turn out with over 30 people attending to express their views on services such as dentists, pharmacies, doctors, Social Care and hospitals. Healthwatch Walsall (a consortium of whg, My NHS Walsall, Walsall LiNKs, Age UK Walsall and Walsall CAB) they are keen to engage with local groups to develop an effective local network that can provide increased opportunities for local people to comment on health services within the borough.
- 5.4 National No Smoking Day, 12<sup>th</sup> March – as part of this Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust’s smoking cessation and physical activity team held an event in Walsall Arboretum. They offered smoking cessation advice and attendees were offered to start a ‘quit attempt’ programme. As part of this week the team also held a pop-up shop in the Saddlers Centre in Walsall Town Centre. Walsall Council’s Occupational Health team provided support and advice for council staff in the Civic Centre. Isabel Gillis, Director of Public Health, said: “No Smoking Day is a great opportunity for us to encourage and support smokers in Walsall to quit alongside thousands of other people across the UK. We know that quitting isn’t easy but we want to reassure smokers that support is available to them and that they can win the battle against cigarettes.”
- 5.5 Beswick House has moved to Wilbraham Court – which is located on Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust Manor Hospital site. The service will help single homeless men 20 years old and over with mental health, drug and alcohol related issues. The project will offer intensive 24/7 support to enable the individuals to move on to semi-independent accommodation. Moving forward the project would like to be in a position to provide accommodation for a small number of women. For more information please contact Brian Pugh 01922 648259 or email [wilbrahamcourt@supportinghomeless.org](mailto:wilbrahamcourt@supportinghomeless.org)
- 5.6 The League of Friends - at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust Manor Hospital have raised enough money to purchase a Fibroscan machine worth £89,950 to help patients with Liver Disease. The machine offers a non-invasive process to enable measurement of stiffness and fat deposits in the liver. The group has raised the funds through its two shops that they run in the hospital and from generous donations.
- 5.7 ‘In Your Shoes’ Patients, their families and carers - are invited to share experiences of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust. What is good, what is not so good and what could they focus on to make the biggest difference for their patients. During the session a Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust staff member will act as host and will be there to listen to and learn about how they can improve the services. If you have used the services within the last 12 months please take part:



- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 6.00pm – 8.30pm, MLCC, Manor Hospital
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 6.00pm – 8.30pm, MLCC, Manor Hospital
- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April – 6.00pm – 8.30pm, MLCC, Manor Hospital

A light buffet/refreshments will be available at each session. Places at these events are limited, therefore if you would like to attend please register your interest no later than **2<sup>nd</sup> April** by calling 01922 721172 ext 7179 or 6464 or emailing [inyourshoes@walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk](mailto:inyourshoes@walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk)

5.8 Rethink Mental Illness - offer an enablement service to help build independence, health and wellbeing to become an active participant in the community. They can help if you are 18 to 65 yrs of age, live in Walsall and/or have a GP based in Walsall. Sessions in our area:

- Monday Palfrey Gym 12:30 – 14:00, Brine Baths 12:00 – 13:30
- Wednesday Town Hall Restaurant 11:00 – 12:30, Small Street Centre 13:15 – 14:30
- Coffee & Cope St Matthew's Wetherspoons 12:00 – 13:30, Small Street Centre 13:15 – 14:30

For more information please contact 01922 707862 or [enablement@rethink.org](mailto:enablement@rethink.org)

5.9 The Area Partnership - has also contributed to the development of Public Health's '5 Ways to Well-Being' strategy through the formulation of a local promotional campaign across each of the six Area Partnerships. Each area will have a 'directory' of local organisations and services that contribute to improved health and well-being opportunities.

### Report Author

Denise Perry

Walsall South Area Manager

☎ 01922 653713 ✉ [perrydenise@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:perrydenise@walsall.gov.uk)