

WILLENHALL AND SHORT HEATH AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

Tuesday 28th June 2016

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area.
- 1.2 Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership 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 Partners involved includes: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit, Youth Support Services, West Midlands Police, residents, Ward Councillors, Walsall Housing Group (WHG), West Midlands Probation Service, Walsall Intelligence Network, Environmental Health, Reassurance Team, Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership, Public Health, Caldmoreaccord Housing Association, Walsall Voluntary Action, West Midlands Fire Service, Social Care and Inclusion, Area Family Support Team, Trading Standards, Community Development, Substance Matters, Willenhall CHART, Willenhall E-Act, Clean and Green, Sports and Leisure, Jobcentre Plus, Steps to Work, Darlaston JET, Welfare Rights, Walsall College, Holy Trinity Online Centre, Libraries

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

2.1 Crime and anti-social behaviour continues to be discussed at the Confidential Tasking Meetings in Willenhall chaired by the Area Manager. Various partner agencies are involved in the discussions and actions undertaken to support those affected by the issues.

2.2 Through the work of the police team, supported by local intelligence, they have been able to tackle crime in various locations.

If you see anyone or anything suspicious in your local community please call officers on 101. Always dial 999 if a crime is in progress.

Likewise if you have information on people or properties linked to the handling of stolen property please call officers or contact the independent charity Crimestoppers in confidence on 0800 555 111.

Crime prevention literature/flyers are available; please contact WS Partnerships ws_partnerships@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk,

2.3 Policing – Willenhall North & Short Heath

The Neighbourhood Team are working pro-actively with shop owners around New Invention Square to try to implement additional solutions to anti-social behaviour.

Recorded Crimes for April and May 16 compared to April and May 15 and there has been a 16.3% increase in Total Recorded Crime for Short Heath and Willenhall North.

2.4 Policing - Willenhall South

A statistical analysis of Total Recorded Crime for this beat year to date suggest crime has increased by 6.7% compared with last year (statistic considered TRC based on 16/6/14 – 15/6/15 1907 offences, 16/6/15 – 15/6/16 2045 offences).

The team's establishment remains 1 Sergeant, 3 Constables and 3 PCSO's, and are still based at Willenhall Police Station.

This has been a busy period, resulting in a great deal of media interest in relation to the burglary spike within the Town Centre targeting commercial businesses overnight.

Sergeant Rowlands is able to confirm during the period from 28 April to 16 May 2016, there have been twenty seven offences reported to the Police. The

local Neighbourhood Policing Team, in conjunction with other police resources, have investigated this spike in crime.

As a result of the investigation, many hours of CCTV footage from both Walsall Council and private businesses have been seized and viewed, together with the collection of valuable forensic evidence has been recovered from scenes of the offences.

The Neighbourhood Team are pleased to report and as a direct result of this primary evidence gathering officers from the team identified the offenders.

Sgt Rowlands can confirm a 22 year old local male was arrested on the 16 May 2016, and has been charged with number of offences which include burglary, shop theft and possession of Class A drugs.

The 22 year old male appeared before Walsall Magistrates Court on 17 May 2016, and has been remanded into custody.

He has since pleaded guilty to 18 of these crimes and has received a 3 year 8 months custodial sentence.

In addition his accomplice was arrested on 19 May 2016 and was subsequently charged with 6 offences and subsequently remanded in custody to await his trial.

In addition to this positive news, there have been four further arrests for other commercial burglaries in the vicinity of Willenhall Town Centre.

During this period the Neighbourhood Team have been heavily involved in Operation Elm, the investigation of suspected sexual grooming of youths within Willenhall Town Centre, which was discovered following the detention of youths by the Neighbourhood Team, involved in accessing a disused premises in Willenhall.

This is an on-going police operation which has resulted in one male being arrested and bailed outside of the locality in order that further enquires can be undertaken.

Partnership working has been an essential tool against anti-social behaviour, with the Neighbourhood Team working closely with social landlord WHG in building a case and gaining a civil injunction against a couple living in Tyler Road who were responsible for terrorising neighbours.

Upon receipt of the injunction the Neighbourhood Team pugnaciously enforced the injunction resulting in two arrests of the offending householder.

As a direct result the offender has received a 2 year suspended sentence and a fine of £1500 at Walsall County Court.

In conjunction with Walsall Council, the team have secured 4 ABC contracts against youths involved in Anti-Social behaviour locally, holding them to account for their inappropriate behaviour.

With regard to Community Contact and Pop-up contact events, in addition to regular meetings attended by the team, the team held its annual Neighbourhood Watch Meeting at Willenhall Police Station, on Monday 25th April at 7pm, where local residents were given an opportunity to discuss local issues with both Police, Council officials and local councillors.

The aim was to enable residents who had concerns, to meet the police and begin to form a Neighbourhood Watch Group, supported by Kevin Pitt from the WMP Partnerships Team.

Residents and delegates from different communities attended, including those from Rosehill Gardens, Sikh Temple and local shop owners.

Various actions were agreed and followed up with different individuals and agencies.

Residents in Rosehill have formed a Neighbourhood Watch Group, supported by West Midlands Police.

The Neighbourhood Watch Group meets at the St Giles Community Room and work with the police, Area Partnership, whg and different services to make their neighbourhood a safer place to visit, live, work or play.

Various site visits have occurred with partners and a number of actions undertaken, including the clearing of needles (used/new), mattresses, cutting back of shrubs/trees, light emissions testing and general litter picks.

The police have provided additional patrols in the area, and whg's 'Out of Hours Team' regularly patrol the area.

In the spirit of supporting local events, the team were able to support the newly instigated Willenhall Transport Festival held in the Memorial Park on 12th June, with officers from the team despite being on rest day, attending the event, displaying two examples of current Police vehicles and reinforcing safety messaging with regard to vehicle security and vehicle crime prevention. Despite poor weather the event saw a great deal of community engagement.

The police team are also committed to attending both Barcroft and St Giles' schools summer fetes, as opportunities to break down barriers with the children but also to encourage crime prevention amongst the parents.

2.5 Willenhall Community Fire Station

Response

Emergency incidents attended since January 2016 – 123 incidents

Emergency incidents attended April – May 2016 – 30 incidents, which included

- 3 accidental fires in the home.
 - 2 related to cooking
 - 1 fire in a roof due to light being left on.
- 1 arson fire in home
 - Tenant starting a fire in a WHG property.
- 11 arson rubbish fires
 - 4 where in the area of Rough Wood (6 incidents this year)
 - Targeted approach with partners is being planned during summer
 - Other incidents involve areas of fly tipping.
- 6 road traffic collisions
- 3 special service calls

Prevention

The Firefighters have been actively involved in delivering safety messages in the local community.

These activities have included;

- Visits to local schools delivering our SPARKS education pack to Year 4 pupils
- Support local schools to enter into the Schools Safety quiz challenge. Resulting in 9 schools entering across station area. 3 successfully reached the Walsall area final on 14th June.
- Local nursery has visited the fire station, to support their project on 'people that help us'. Whilst on the fire station they have also visited the Fire Education Centre.
- Visited local pubs to promote summer drive campaign with delivery of posters, leaflets, beer mats and supporting landlords.
- Carried out Safe and Well visits in local area:
 - Safe and Well visit involves a 1 hour visit in the home. During the visit a number of safety areas discussed and the wellbeing of the occupier.

- These visits are designed to help the most vulnerable members of our community
- If you know of anyone who would benefit from one of our visits please get them to call our Freephone number 0800 389 5525 to arrange a visit at a convenient time to them.

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

- 3.1 The Commissioned Youth Service for Willenhall & Short Heath has been organised. The successful organisation is Frank F Harrison.

The contract commenced from 1st June 2016 with outcomes linked to various criteria including:

- Number of young people engaged
- Assisting in reducing ASB
- Diverse range of positive activities for the young people
- Working across agencies to support local initiatives

Frank F Harrison will cover 3 wards:

North Willenhall 4 Detached Sessions – per week

South Willenhall 4 Detached Sessions – per week

Short Heath 3 Detached Sessions – per week

The geographical 'hot spots' as identified by data, partners and communities will be the priority areas for deployment of the Frank F Harrison Youth Workers.

- 3.2 Willenhall Carnival occurred on 11th June 2016. The feedback from participants and visitors commented that it was the best one to date and they are hoping to improve even further next year.

- 3.3 Beacon Primary School
Area Partnership participated and supported the PTA & school to deliver a successful event at Beacon Primary School on Saturday 21st May 2016.

The event was linked to various community engagement activities, including those involving libraries, children centres and regeneration/job and employment opportunities.

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

4.1. Walsall Business Week

Walsall Business Week ran from 6-10 June. There were 15 free seminars, briefings and workshops covering finance, digital technology, export, apprenticeships and training, lean manufacturing, business growth, business start up support, and growing your supply chain.

Run out of various venues in Walsall, the Business Week provided a range of opportunities to help support and grow your business.

4.2 Aspire 2 Engage Community Showcase Event is a project that has been developed with 2 Area Managers.

Over the last few months they have been working closely with the Community Programme team from Walsall Football Club on the project for all the community to get involved in, called Aspire2Engage.

A community event at the football stadium is planned:

- **Name – Aspire 2 Engage Community Showcase Event**
- **Date – Monday, 27th June, 2016**
- **Time – 11am until 3pm (turn up at any time during this period)**
- **Venue – Stadium Suite & Bonser Suite, Banks's Stadium, Bescot Crescent, Walsall WS1 4SA**
- **Admission - £1 admission, includes a raffle ticket**

It is an 'Open' event and participants can:

- browse over 100 stalls, chat to the people who offer such a varied range of activities, network, and view opportunities that the community and voluntary sector does in the borough of Walsall.

For further information about the event, please contact either Marc Wilkes, Walsall FC – marc.wilkes@walsallfc.co.uk, John Morris, Walsall Council john.morris@walsall.gov.uk

4.3 Youth Employment Initiative (IMPACT)

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 NEET's / 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.

For further information email Shain Akhtar at shain.akhtar@walsall.gov.uk or Claire Wills at claire.wills@walsall.gov.uk

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

5.1 Coltham Road – Holy Trinity Church – have organised an Open Day.

Scheduled for 5th July, 10.00am- 2.00pm, the aim is to showcase the photographers work and the I.T. Centre to a wider audience.

The photography group meet on a weekly basis and it is open to anyone with an interest in photography.

Contact Jeff Hall. Jeff.colthamgallery@yahoo.co.uk

The Boaters Fishing Club - FISHING GROUP

- Are you interested in Fishing in Willenhall Memorial Park ?
 - Do you want to be involved in Fishing Activities at Willenhall Memorial Park?
 - Please come along to support and develop fishing activities and events at the Park.
 - Clean & Green Services aim to provide a safe welcoming environment for fishing activities, events and competitions.
 - Venue: Willenhall Pavilion, Willenhall Memorial Park
- Contact: Clean and Green Services - Creating a Better Environment
Together, Telephone 01922 653344 Email cleanandgreen@walsall.gov.uk

Willenhall Memorial Park- Bowling

- Are you interested in Bowling in Willenhall Memorial Park?

- *All welcome, each Wednesday @ 2pm*
- *(Including beginners and experienced players)*
- *Bowls provided - Cost £1 per bowler*
- *Afternoon refreshments available in The Pavilion after each session*
- *(Appropriate footwear and clothing should be worn)*
- **The Pavilion , Willenhall Memorial Park, Pinson Road, Willenhall**

Contact: Clean and Green Services - Creating a Better Environment
Together, Telephone 01922 653344 Email cleanandgreen@walsall.gov.uk

Summer Fun Days

Walsall Council's annual Summer Fun Days which are delivered in local parks across Walsall.

The event will run throughout the six week school summer break on the following dates and locations:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ○ 18th – 24th July | Reedswood Park Birchills |
| ○ 25th – 31st July | Kings Hill Park Darlaston |
| ○ 1st -7th August | Pelsall Common |
| ○ 8th – 14th August | Willenhall Memorial Park |
| ○ 15th – 21st August | Doe Bank, Pheasey |
| ○ 22nd – 28th August | King George 5th Playing Fields, Bloxwich |

The Fun Days are held each Thursday and are the highlight of the week, the Fun Days are well supported by the local community and are an opportunity to showcase and promote the work of your organisation.

From Monday to Sunday there will be various partners offering outdoor activities such as:

- Tai Chi at the Arboretum,
- Fun Family Games,
- Walking
- Football and
- Netball sessions for the over 50's
- Scavenger Hunts,
- bike maintenance and
- bike rides, local walks and outdoor gym sessions.

Contact Mr Narinder Singh Chumber Walsall Council Clean and Green on
01922 654372/ 07572 336 357

Willenhall Town Centre Partnerships

Brownhills and Willenhall Town Centre Partnerships are in the process of organising two there three day summer events during August 2016.

Activities currently included in these events are as follows

Activities covering all three days 10.00am-4.00pm

- Sand pit which fits 25 children at a time (10 minutes)
- Boating pool which fits 5 children per time (5 minutes)
- Giant inflatable fits 18 children per session (5 mins)
- Craft activities
- Charity stalls

Activities on Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm include

- Photo-booth – free keepsake photos for attendees
- Other Children's Fairground rides
- Animal farm
- Stage unit with local acts playing all day
- Charity stalls
- Economic support for the local businesses
- Opportunity for police, NHS, WHG and other local services to interact with the local residence
- Event Promotion to over 10,000 local residents per event

The dates for the events Willenhall 18, 19 and 20th Aug 10.00am till 4.00pm

Contact Diane Mansell :Regeneration Officer :Development & Delivery
Economy & Environment - Walsall Council

Email: diane.mansell@walsall.gov.uk Telephone: 01922 654326 Mobile:
07983972940

For Summer activities visit the Best of Walsall web page:

<https://www.thebestof.co.uk/newsletter/565ceb1365a8759e3c000162/web>

Further events can be found at <http://www.whatsonwalsall.co.uk/>

Michael Greenfield; Area Manager - Willenhall & Short Heath Email:
michael.greenfield@walsall.gov.uk