

## DARLASTON AND BENTLEY AREA PANEL

### Area Manager's Report

November 2016

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.2 This report is designed to inform Elected Members for the Darlaston and Bentley Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area.

1.3 Darlaston South and Darlaston North and Bentley has a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community.

#### 2.0 The strategic priorities are:

##### **2.1 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.**

#### **3.0 Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities**

3.1 Strategic partners include; West Midlands Police, Walsall Council Community Safety Team, Integrated Young Peoples Support Services, Clean and Green Services, Reassurance Team, Social Care and Inclusion, Area Family Support Team, Environmental Health, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmore/Accord Housing, Heantun Housing, Sanctuary Housing, Victim Support.

3.2 A new steering group has been set up by the Area Manager with key participants from Rough Hay Residents Association with the first meeting, which took place on 26<sup>th</sup> October. The purpose of the group is to assist the development of a local estate plan which highlights the key issues affecting local residents but also provides capacity building support to the group in order to identify solutions at the local level while working together with relevant partner agencies. A draft plan has been developed and will be shared with the wider group at the main meeting in November. Following on from this a steering group meeting has been planned for January 2017 inviting more residents to attend to take part in a follow up workshop with partner agencies. It is hoped that joint solutions and better communication and reporting of issues will be positive outcomes from establishing a steering group. Residents involved so far have had a positive input and have taken ownership of the draft plan to help them to achieve their longer term vision for the estate while recognising the importance of establishing better links with support agencies.

3.3 A estate tour is planned for the Bentley area once the new Sergeant has started in Darlaston. The date is to be confirmed but will be early December with all ward councillors invited. Other agencies including WHG, Clean and Green, Youth Services, Police, Fire Service and local residents.

3.4 The new Neighbourhood Sergeant for Darlaston is expected to start on 28<sup>th</sup> November and is Sgt Lee Nicholls. He will be invited to future Area Panel meetings and also involved in local area partnership activity.

3.5 Youth Work Toolbox (the Council commissioned service to provide detached youth work) is working with young people twice a week on George Rose and Kings Hill Parks. The provision is being well attended by young people and the service is linking with local agencies via the confidential tasking meeting contacts and the Area Manager.

3.6 Caldmore Accord Housing and Walsall Council Youth Service are working with Police and Community Protection colleagues to deal with issues around Pattern Drive, Darlaston. Detached workers carried out initial consultation with young people and parents during half term and are continuing to work with Police and Caldmore Accord housing officers to address on-going reported issues in the area.

3.7 Grace Academy continue to work closely with the Area Partnership and delivering community based projects. More litter picks and environmental work are being planned in the new year with colleagues from Clean and Green working with the school to develop an educational programme with young people to champion key messages for the area.

3.8 Fly tipping and litter continue to be an issue across the area with a number of locations seeing a large amount of litter and fly tipping incidents – Anson Road has seen a particularly high level of fly tipping on the Severn Trent access road and around the woodland area near to County Bridge Primary School. Initial work has taken place to remove hazardous waste on the access road by Clean and Green and Community payback will be attending alongside council teams to carry out ongoing litterpicks around the area off road. The area is a priority area for agencies involved to try to prevent further incidents and so an ongoing programme.

3.9 WM Fire Service have nominated Darlaston Area Partnership for an award recognising excellence in local partnership working in relation to the summer programme of activities delivered on George Rose Park. Willenhall Fire Service, the Area Manager, Darlaston Sure Start and Sport and Leisure will be attending an awards evening on 25<sup>th</sup> November at Edgbaston Cricket Ground. WM Fire Service have provided the following information for the Area Panel –

**Response incidents**

Emergency incidents attended since January 2016 – 245 incidents

Emergency incidents attended September - October 2016 – 40 incidents, which included

2 accidental fires in the home.

- 1 careless disposal of smoking materials in a living room

- 1 a lighter on a window sill

6 arson rubbish fires

- 2 in George Rose Park

Crews continue to educate school children, local clubs and have a targeted approach to drive down these incidents.

2 Arson car fires

8 False alarms, either due to equipment or good intent

7 road traffic collisions

6 special service calls

- 2 incidents with young children stuck, a head in gate and a hand in bike

Supporting Ambulance to a man with burns decommissioning a Methanol Tank, man was taken by Air Ambulance.

## **Prevention work**

With Schools resuming following the summer break crews have been busy visiting schools and delivering the SPARKS package. This is specifically designed for Key Stage One children in Primary Schools, where children learn about the effects of fire, hazards in the home and making a 999 call.

A number of visits have been made to local children's groups to talk about Road Safety, involving car seat checking for the correct fitting as well as tyre depth checks.

Our Firefighters have been actively delivering Safe and Well checks in local area targeting the most vulnerable people in the community ensuring that they have working smoke alarms and aiding them to be safer, stronger and healthier.

Willenhall station continues to promote the Community Membership for the local community.

This is an opportunity for people to hear about the diverse work that the local crews from Willenhall Station undertake through Prevention work and attending operational incidents.

A newsletter is sent to members every 3 months showcasing this work.

Members are also informed and invited to events that are held in the local community.

If you would like to sign up to become a Community Member please complete the form on [www.wmfs.net](http://www.wmfs.net) or e mail [willenhall.cm@wmfs.net](mailto:willenhall.cm@wmfs.net).

## **Upcoming events**

BRAKE Road Safety week 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November

Crew from Willenhall station will be undertaking work within the local community promoting Road Safety and the importance of reducing speed when driving.

Crews will also be promoting the importance of ensuring that there is sufficient tyre depth on vehicles going into the winter period.

4.0 An Interfaith event took place at Grace Academy on 5<sup>th</sup> November which is the second event hosted by Darlaston Interfaith Forum. The event featured a number of local partners including Darlaston Rotary, Healthwatch, Sure Start and Rowley Robins Nursery. To coincide with Interfaith Week an interfaith meal has also been arranged on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at All Saints Church, Darlaston.

4.1 Event at Darlaston Sports and Social Club to provide information to older people and vulnerable adults took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. WHG, Walsall Police and Community Safety teams providing safety advice and items to local people from across the area delivered it. There has been a request from other similar groups to also receive similar information in future.

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

4.1 Strategic Partners include; Integrated Youth Support Services, Bentley West Children's Centre, Darlaston Sure Start, Area Family Support Team, Grace Academy, Darlaston Schools Cluster, Walsall Housing Group, West Midlands Police, Moxley Community Hub Project Management Group, Old Hall People's Partnership.

4.2 Rowley Robins Launch event took place in October to publicise the new nursery and free places available for 2 year olds. The event was well attended and allowed the organisation to promote the provision with the intention of enrolling more local families to the centre.

4.3 Kic FM delivered a successful programme of activities also during the holidays for young people from Rough Hay Community Centre during half term. They carried out a piece of consultation with young people about Rough Hay which has been fed back to the Area Manager and will help to shape the work being done with the Residents Association.

4.4 Talent Match are working with the Area Partnership to reach more young people suitable to access employment and training support from the programme which is specifically targeting the Darlaston area. Significant investment into the programme allows young people to access mentors, advice, guidance, apprenticeships, volunteering opportunities and employment. Contact details for the Programme Manager – Mike Sailsman [msailsman@bctalentmatch.com](mailto:msailsman@bctalentmatch.com) 01902 328973

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

5.1 Strategic partners include; Walsall Council Economic Regeneration, Welfare Rights, District Centre Management, Walsall College, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmore/Accord Housing, Moxley People's Centre

5.2 A steering group of local support services met on 3rd October which included City Deal, Talent Match and Steps to Work to discuss ways of working together in Darlaston in order to maximise partnership working opportunities. The group were keen to continue meeting up on a regular basis, mapping of provision took place so that partners had a better understanding of who is providing what locally, it was also agreed that key target groups and establishing better referral processes locally are key target areas for the group moving forward. The group were keen to work with Rough Hay Residents Association to explore joint work with the estate being a target area for all.

5.3 Steps to Work are continuing to offer a one stop shop of support to people in Darlaston from the Darlaston Jet building on King Street. The service has been part of a borough wide funding allocation so that more support and advice can be provided to all job seekers in the area.

5.4 WACC are continuing to deliver a range of training and support to people from Moorcroft Wood Centre targeting the Darlaston South ward. Uptake of support is good and they are regularly attending local partnership meetings and activities in order to publicise support available.

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

6.1 Strategic partners include; Walsall Council Public Health, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group, Walsall Council Sports Development, Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust, Integrated Young People's Support Services, Walsall Housing Group, Social Care and Inclusion, Darlaston Sure Start.

6.2 The Area Manager is working with Walsall Community Transport and Adult Social Care to explore joint ways of working to address access issues for vulnerable and older people across Darlaston. Community Transport is keen to explore ways they can provide accessible transport to local community activities by working together with local groups and Neighbourhood Community Officers. A survey is being compiled in order to identify the needs of both older people and community groups in Darlaston in order to shape a service relevant. The survey will start in January for a month to explore opportunities.

6.3 A mapping of services to assist the Healthy Resilient Communities working group is ongoing across Darlaston with a draft directory updated and produced. Local groups have contributed to the updated version and this will be added to the Walsall Community Living Directory as well as being produced locally. Contact has been made by the Area Manager with the Darlaston and Wednesday Magazine Editor who has expressed an interest in working together to help publicise local community activities and events. It is hoped that a Darlaston Area Partnership section will be included in the magazine as a way of providing ongoing free information, at no cost and with free delivery across the area.

6.4 Moxley Memory Club continues to build up its activities and membership with a core group now attending activities on a regular basis as well as carers.

6.5 Mindful Gifts is now delivering a programme of activities for people who have dementia and their carers. The shop continues to thrive in the town centre and are part of discussions with Community Transport in order to help them attract more service users from care homes.

## 7.0 Other activities

7.1 WM Fire Service organised a large scale training exercise at Grace Academy in October. The mock event took place with the whole school being taken over for a chemical based training exercise. Darlaston Air Cadets took part as volunteers as did staff and pupils from the school.

7.2 Darlaston Breakfast is continuing to be well attended and well received by partner agencies, community groups and councillors who attend. Old Church Primary School hosted the October meeting and Church on the Corner have hosted the November get together. The next meeting will take place in January 2017.

Nicola Holmes  
Area Manager  
07539 222875  
[nicola.holmes@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.holmes@walsall.gov.uk)

