

Willenhall and Short Heath Partnership Area Manager Report (updated 17th June 2013)

Ongoing Updates on the Actions for Willenhall and Short Heath Area Plan

25 June, 2013

1. Purpose of the report

This report seeks to inform the elected members of the Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within Willenhall and Short Heath. The information in the report was correct at the time of writing, 17th June 2013.

2. Work Stream priority – Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

Responsible Members –

Partners Involved – ASB unit, IYPSS, WM Police, Walsall Area Partnership, Walsall Housing Group, Accord/Caldmore Housing, IYPSS, WM Fire, Victim Support, Adult Social Care, Fibbersley Park and Lighthouse Children's Centre, AFST.

- 2.1 CCTV for area – AP Area Domehawk camera currently deployed at New Invention Square and AP apache camera due to be deployed to Gipsy Lane.
- 2.2 Anti social behaviour reports continue to reduce across the area while other issues such as burglaries and theft from vehicles have been identified and so discussed by partners collectively in order to put suitable actions in place.
- 2.3 Cougar Security continue to work with WM Police to patrol Willenhall businesses thanks to an excellent initiative nominated for a national award for Willenhall Police and Willenhall Traders Association.
- 2.4 Local hotspot areas are being targeted by partners such as the Noose Estate to ensure issues are addressed and community reassurance is increased. A community event is also planned for this area at the end of August to improve resident engagement and ensure ongoing communication between residents and agencies.
- 2.5 WM Police have initiated an excellent Junior PCSO youth project in local primary schools in Short Heath working with children to carry out litter picking, traffic enforcement and property marking. A number of young people from schools across the area were also taken to Willenhall Police Station as part of a community day. An ASB roadshow will be visiting both Pool Hayes and Willenhall EACT Academy before the summer holidays including Police, WHG, Fire, ASBU and IYPSS to talk to all young people about the consequences of ASB and also to promote the summer programme of activities available in the area.
- 2.6 Tackling drugs and alcohol misuse which has been highlighted by several partners and local communities has seen the creation of a Willenhall based community service provided by Substance Matters. The drop in service has seen a regular uptake of service users and is now looking to officially launch the service from Wilkes Street at Hope House.

- 2.7 As part of reducing environmental crime and raising awareness a local litter pick and reassurance event took place in Rosehill in May seeing partners including WHG, Police, ASBU, Walsall Council, Willenhall McDonalds, Fibbersley Park Children's Centre and IYPSS as well as young people and local residents attend to clear up the area. WHG provided skips and WHG were present to speak to residents about any concerns including about housing and finances. The next event will be in New Invention on 1st August.

3. Work Stream priority – Increasing positive activities for young people

Responsible Members –

Partners Involved – IYPSS, Pool Hayes CA, Willenhall CHART, Willenhall E ACT, New Invention Methodist Church, Street Games, WM Police, WM Fire, WHG, Green Spaces, ASBU

- 3.1 Targeted youth work continues to align with wider partnership activity in particular to reduce ASB and improve health outcomes. Detached workers have established a good project on Short Heath park following previously reported issues from Green Spaces colleagues. Other target areas also include New Invention area where the Detached team is working. Consultation has been underway with local young people to determine what services they would want to use in the forthcoming 'Impact' project to be created in the area.
- 3.2 IYPSS are also developing good links with local faith organisations to better utilise youth workers in local churches and create better links and support for those working with young people. New Invention Methodist Church has partnered with IYPSS to work together to develop the youth services that are operating from there so that the area has more resources and expertise in youth work.
- 3.3 A community safety day is being organised on 1st August in New Invention coordinated by IYPSS where a new outdoor project for young people will be launched.
- 3.4 Pool Hayes Youth Club have had an additional resource in taking on a part time youth coordinator which allows them to work with local partners and young people to further develop the services from the site.
- 3.5 Willenhall EACT Academy have created a junior youth gym on site for young people to use the facilities to keep fit and have fun.
- 3.6 Publicity for summer activities has endeavoured to also include and promote activities taking place in a range of additional venues such as churches, dance and sport groups to enhance and publicise the range of activities on offer across the area during the holidays.
- 3.7 Willenhall Memorial Park have launched their outdoor gym area for all the local community to use including young people. So far the site has been very popular and the park is now busy finalising plans for the updated skate park to be delivered following a very successful consultation with a focus group of young people.

4. Work Stream priority – Healthy lifestyles

Responsible Members –

Partners involved – NHS Walsall, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmore Housing, Walsall Partnership, Social Care & Inclusion, IYPSS, Greenspaces, Sports and Leisure, Children's Centres and schools, Willenhall CHART, faith groups, IYPSS, Pool Hayes CA

- 4.1 It has been agreed for the AP to focus on local areas that have the poorest health outcomes and research the commonalities. This will be a piece of work ongoing to compliment that of the priorities identified in the recent health data produced which highlights a number of issues that are concentrated in specific areas.
- 4.2 Work is underway to bring partners together in New Invention and Short Heath to discuss teenage pregnancy. Brook Birmingham, Fibbersley Park Children’s Centre and Willenhall EACT Academy also supported by the Teenage Pregnancy team and IYPSS are working together to discuss joint working to ensure support if offered to young people and that expertise is shared and developed locally to develop better preventative support, a local Chlamydia screening service and point of locally confidential support to young people. Brook have offered to facilitate a training course and workshop for leading local partner agencies where Teenage Pregnancy is a priority in order to have a level understanding of the issues and agree an action plan to develop in the area
- 4.3 IYPSS staff have been fully trained and now have a range of resources available in youth clubs and for detached work to distribute condoms and free literature to young people.
- 4.4 As mentioned previously health outcomes for older adults is another important priority for the AP and promoting what is currently available more effectively as well as identifying gaps is underway to ensure local services are meeting the needs of the area.

5.0 Work Stream priority – Supporting older people and vulnerable adults

Responsible Members –

Partners Involved – Walsall Council Adult Social Care, Sport and Leisure, Community Development, NHS, Willenhall CHART, Pool Hayes, Caldmore Accord Housing, Pool Hayes CA, Willenhall Salvation Army, WM Police

- 5.1 Partners have been undertaking consultation in New Invention and Short Heath with older adults to discuss health and well being with a particular focus on physical activities. The feedback will help to inform a local directory of what’s available in the area as well as shaping a new free activity to be developed for older adults to encourage more update of healthy lifestyles.
- 5.2 The AP continues to ensure communication with local faith and community groups that provide support to older people and vulnerable adults in order to assist with promotion and development of their services. Willenhall CHART continues to provide an excellent number of services from activities to lunch clubs as well as the areas Dementia Cafe.
- 5.3 More security items have been funded by the AP to be distributed to the local elderly and vulnerable such as personal attack alarms, window and shed alarms as well as other similar items. Local reassurance visits have meant items go to those who need them.

6. Work Stream priority – Reducing unemployment

Responsible Members –

Partners Involved – Willenhall JCP, Steps to Work, Darlaston Jet, Walsall Council Welfare Rights, Economic Regeneration, Jobmatched Recruitment, Walsall College, Caldmore Accord, WHG, Children’s Centres, Libraries, Willenhall CHART, Beacon Primary School, Holy Trinity Online Centre.

- 6.1 There has been a lot of local activity taking place to ensure local services are promoted to those who need them most as well as the development of more locally accessible services including job clubs and one to one support for people seeking work or advice about welfare reform
- 6.2 Willenhall Job Centre as well as others including Darlaston Jet, Children's Centres, social landlords, Walsall Council and many more have been working together to ensure all services are promoted and a new booklet is being produced to also include information about additional priorities which have been agreed to encourage more local people to access credit unions, food banks and also local training and workshops to better manage finances in times of hardship.
- 6.3 New job clubs have been set up at Willenhall CHART and Holy Trinity Online Centre in Short Heath is hoping to host sessions as well as IT support. Both libraries continue to offer help to job seekers. Walsall College is now working with Beacon Primary School to offer a local package of tailored training for local people around improving their employability.
- 6.4 Encouraging volunteering has been a key theme in Willenhall with there now being several people volunteering to support job clubs and other services in the area. Time4Real are now working to develop their hub in Willenhall to offer a time brokering service for local people into a range of opportunities. Walsall College also have volunteers supporting New Invention Methodist Church's Snack and Chat on a monthly basis.

7.0 Work Stream priority – Developing a strong voluntary sector

Responsible Members –

Partners Involved – Pool Hayes CA, Walsall VA, Walsall Council Community Development, local community organisations

- 7.1 Willenhall and Short Heath has been chosen as the area to pilot a piece of work to look at how the local voluntary sector is supported. Pool Hayes CA have been leading on this supported by the AP and Walsall Voluntary Action to bring together local community groups to discuss what requirements they have in order to put together a suitable vision and plan to achieve this. Two get togethers have been held offering local groups the opportunity to discuss and share their view on how they see better infrastructure support in Willenhall.
- 7.2 A networking event has been arranged at the end of June for community groups across the area to attend to continue these important discussions as well as also meet support services available to them and also contribute towards prioritising what the local sector needs and how it should be best supported.

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