

# **WILLENHALL AND SHORT HEATH AREA PANEL**

## **Area Manager's Report**

**Monday, 03 November 2014**

### **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: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit, Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS), 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, Fibbersley Park Children's Centre, Lighthouse Children's Centre, Area Family Support Team, Trading Standards, Community Development, Substance Matters, Willenhall CHART, Willenhall E-Act, New Invention Methodist Church, 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 Seasonal issues of Anti-social behaviour continue to be monitored and specific targeting will be undertaken. Led by the community safety partnership, an intensive one day course has been attended by partners working across the area to

understand the new ASB powers and tools and the community trigger, as set out in the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014.

- 2.2 One of the two area partnership CCTV cameras has now been repaired following the allocation of funding to repair and deploy CCTV facilities for this area. This facility has been deployed to The Square, New Invention in the first instance.
- 2.3 Due to the imminent darker nights and Halloween and Bonfire night festivities upon us it is anticipated that there will be an increase in perceived ASB across the area, safety information is being distributed in key locations across the partnership and work with the Youth Support Service (formerly IYPSS) continues to engage young people in the area
- 2.4 Planning permission was granted and installation of the flag pole outside of Willenhall library took place during week commencing 13, October 2014.
- 2.5 The recent tasking report showed a decrease in the majority of offence types year to date compared to the same period last year and also shows that levels of ASB across Area 6 have been below average during the latest analysis period
- 2.6 There is activity planned to take place around the Wakes Ground and linked alley ways, addressing the appearance of the area through tackling issues of litter and dense coverage of bushes within which numerous items are discarded and concealed. Town centre management, Community payback, local stakeholders, and the area partnership will work together to litter pick, cut back foliage and improve the appearance of the area.
- 2.7 Monthly confidential tasking and coordination meetings continue, making good progress across partner organisations to progress with actions towards addressing issues arising across the partnership in respect of Crime, ASB, Environmental issues including noise nuisance, flytipping.

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

- 3.1 CCTV has been installed at the Shepwell School, benefitting Walsall's most vulnerable young people, the community, staff and visitors to the centre.
- 3.2 The Allens Centre, Caretakers House continues to operate as a community facility, a launch event took place on 28, May 2014, followed by a family event in August 2014 promoting the opportunities available from September in this location. These include youth provision, family support, employment support, educational opportunities.
- 3.3 The recent open day at Willenhall Fire Station was incredibly popular and attracted a high volume of visitors throughout the day, there were numerous opportunities for children to engage with officers, interact with fire fighting equipment, visit the fire safety experience, and witness simulated situations.

3.4 West Midlands Fire Service, following on from the recent open day is improving the fire experience centre at Willenhall fire station, increasing the capacity to deliver training and safety advice to local school children and the community.

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

4.1 A number of job clubs are being held across the Area Partnership, including at Willenhall CHART, Willenhall and New Invention Libraries, Holy Trinity Methodist Church.

4.2 Time4Real continues to operate from Willenhall CHART and a number of volunteers have come forward.

4.3 Ongoing activity around planning enforcement and building control continues in Willenhall, focusing on hotspots within the town centre.

4.4 Willenhall Town centre management team are planning to run a fun day to bring together residents, businesses and community organisations. A stage will be based in the main Market Place giving local entertainment acts, dance troops, choirs, and bands a way to promote themselves and give them valuable performing experience.

4.5 Willenhall Town Centre team are looking to install up to date LED technology equipment to be used to illuminate trees throughout Willenhall Town Centre. The activity aims to improve the night time economy throughout the winter period and provide a festive feel to the town over the Christmas period.

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

5.1 The teenage pregnancy team offer support and prevention advice through a teen and toddler programme, two new programmes are due to commence shortly, running one at the Lighthouse Centre and the other at Pool Hayes School.

5.2 The foodbank project is currently nearing completion at the with finishing touches being made prior to the opening at Bridging the gap, the community of Willenhall can benefit from this resource locally with the next nearest provision being in Walsall Town Centre.

5.3 Physical improvements are being made at Holy Trinity Church Hall, this local facility is used by multiple groups for many different reasons, there is provision for all ages, with scope for further activities where identified, providing a community venue improving the well being and independence of local communities in the area.

- 5.4 Libraries continue to offer a service to people who register for home delivery, making library services accessible for those residents who are unable to travel to the facility.
- 5.5 A variety of healthy lifestyle courses continue throughout the partnership, providing for example active steps programmes for people at risk of a fall, low impact walking sessions in open spaces led by trained volunteers for all abilities. A full programme of all local activity is delivered through sport and leisure development services in conjunction with the voluntary and community sector.

Laura Terry, Interim Area Manager  
(01922) 653705 / 07507 861914  
[terryl@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:terryl@walsall.gov.uk)

Aaron Holmes, Support Officer  
(01922) 653707 / 07985 702398  
[holmesa@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:holmesa@walsall.gov.uk)