

WILLENHALL AND SHORT HEATH AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

Thursday 10th November 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, 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

Update from Police Sergeant Harjinder Cheema 9125– Willenhall North and Short Heath Neighbourhood

The Neighbourhood Teams take a pro-active approach when tackling issues linked to crime and safety within the community.

Sgt. Cheema and his team have been successful in executing a drugs warrant on the 12th October at Sandland Road, New Invention.

This was an intelligence led operation as part of the team's on going work to tackle drugs related criminality in the area.

A large amount of Cannabis worth thousands of pounds was seized and a male arrested who was later charged with the offence and remanded for Court.

The illegal drugs, in total 449 plants were taken away by Police from the premises for destruction to ensure they will never make the streets and the hydroponics equipment was dismantled beyond use.

Local Neighbourhood Sergeant Cheema said:

“This is a great result for the team, who were assisted by our colleagues from the local Community Action Priority Team and also the force Cannabis Disposal Team.

The Neighbourhood team is keen to act upon intelligence provided by the community, and will pursue individuals and gangs operating throughout the neighbourhood in order to catch and convict those responsible. Residents are advised to inform the Police of any suspicious activity, which they suspect is linked to drugs so positive action can be taken to make your Neighbourhoods a safer place”.

- 2.4 A new Police Surgery has been launched at The Library, The Square, New Invention, which is taken by members of the NHT on a two weekly basis. This further assists visibility and being easily accessible to the public in a convenient location for any issues or concerns residents wish to raise.
- 2.5 The team recently apprehended a prolific shoplifter who was evading capture having had committed several offences in one of the shops on The Square, New Invention. The male was later charged and convicted at court and is currently serving a custodial sentence.
- 2.6 NHT has been conducting numerous home visits with WHG to identify troublesome tenants who have been causing issues to fellow residents and within the local area. Written warnings were issued, where required, and consequences of future conduct explained.
- 2.7 NHT will commence with their seasonal patrol strategy on the lead up to Christmas, which focuses on seasonal crime trends targeting potential shop thefts, burglary and vehicle locations and offenders.

In addition, when appropriate officers have been and will continue to work until early hours to pro-actively police and patrol areas targeting ASB, burglary and vehicle related offences.

New Invention

Over the weekend of 28th October it was identified that a number of youths had caused ASB at the Youth Shelter, situated at the Green opposite New Invention Square.

Issues occurred where household furniture, which may have been fly tipped onto the Lichfield Road from local accommodation, was brought onto the Green and then set alight. In addition a Poppy Memorial was broken by individuals at the site.

The Police have been notified and information is being sought as to the perpetrators of the ASB. The Youth Services will be undertaking intensive work in the area to address the ASB caused.

2.8 Policing - Willenhall South

Update from Police Sergeant 3544 – Willenhall South NHT Kelvin Rowlands

Willenhall South Neighbourhood currently still reflects the same geographical boundary mirroring Walsall Council, Willenhall South ward.

A statistical analysis review of total recorded crime for this beat currently shows an increase of 1.7% but although we are showing an increase, it is smaller than the last report to this group (Sept 16 report showed 3.9% increase based on period 1/9/15 and 31/8/16).

A strategic statistical comparison shows total recorded crime for Walsall Borough as a 2.3% increase and Wolverhampton our neighbour, showing an increase of 12.1% in total recorded crime.

Concerns have been expressed by a councillor relating to the increased number of Burglaries in Willenhall town centre.

Please refer to the last Area Panel report (Sept 16) and the positive and swift action taken by Police following the spike in commercial burglaries during the early summer period:

- 2 offenders were arrested and charged for 26 burglaries and are still serving custodial sentences.
- A statistical review of a period 1/1/2016 -27/10/16 compared with the same period in 2015, showed 91 offences compared with 98 offences during 2015.
- This is a 7% reduction and should be seen a positive for the town centre.

There is however an emerging trend of an increase in Burglary dwellings. The team are aware of this issue and are applying an appropriate patrol strategy and in conjunction with WMP Corporate Communications Department will be increasing public awareness of the 'darker night' crime prevention campaign.

- 2.9 Remaining with the Town Centre, there is a rumour circulating that there are gangs of shoplifters operating and targeting Willenhall town centre.

There is no evidence to substantiate this suggestion and WMP information would suggest a small number of local individuals who are targeting key stores and stealing goods to feed their drug habits.

In response to this the local NHT continue to adopt the force hot grid method of targeted patrol, ensuring a high visibility presence continues in the town centre. The store holders are encouraged to self-report offences using 'Facewatch' and due to the success of this rapid reporting system, officers from the NH team have been able to quickly identify offenders based on local knowledge and cause necessary arrests.

A review of the statistics shows between 01/01/2016 – 27/10/2016 127 Offences compared 164 during the same period in 2015, resulting in a 23% reduction in this offence type.

- 2.10 Always of concern, is Anti-Social behaviour (ASB), the local Neighbourhood Team take this theme seriously and are currently increasing patrols in the vicinity of Walsall Street and Bilston Street, to target the street drinkers congregating at the Lock Memorial.

WMP are aware of a female who has allegedly been stopping traffic in this location, although no reports have been made direct to Police.

With regard to her, she is a local alcoholic who is causing a number of issues within the town and has been arrested for unrelated matters on 28 October 2016. She is going to be subject to a further referral to the confidential Area partnership meeting for partnership interventions.

- 2.11 The team continue to work with partner agencies and have successfully secured an interim injunction against a resident at Gough Street in conjunction with social landlord WHG, to prevent ASB in that locality.

In relation to reports of Drug dealing within the beat the NHT are continuing to build up a richer picture of intelligence within the beat.

It would be inappropriate to disclose in a public document the areas and tactics being used.

However WMP are able to share with the group that WMP statistical data shows there have been between 01/01/2016 – 27/10/2016, 20 offenders detained for drug related possession offences within this beat compared with 15 offences during the same period last year.

For the future of policing, WMP2020, programme see the September 2016 Area Panel report and recent Councillor input sessions from Chief Supt Jo Clews, relating to the changes affecting this team.

WMP want to reaffirm Transitional state 1 (TS1) will launch on 28 November 16, as part of WMP2020 programme, and will see the merging of Willenhall North and South teams and will have an establishment of 1 Sergeant, 7 constables and 7 PCSO's, who will deliver the Neighbourhood Policing service for the whole of Willenhall unifying the service and under the leadership of Sergeant Harj. Cheema will provide one point of contact for Willenhall & Short Heath.

In the short term, this team's aims will continue to focus on the following:-

- A patrol strategy to focus on Willenhall town centre
- Increase patrols in the Memorial Park aimed at reducing ASB caused by off road motor cycles.
- enrich intelligence of drug dealing in the locality.

In addition the team will be providing the following to combat seasonal issues:-

- increased patrols to combat ASB relating to Halloween and bonfire night issues.
- Staff to attend and support Remembrance Parades at Willenhall and Portobello.
- Crime Prevention leading up to the festive Season.

On a further positive note, the WMP Estates Manager has confirmed the longevity of Willenhall Police Station as a base for this team. It has been extended further and has confirmed that he does not anticipate the vacation of this station before Spring 2017.

This will be Sgt Rowlands last submission to this group due to TS1, and will see his departure from Willenhall South NHT and transfer to a new role at Bloxwich Police Station,

Sgt Rowlands would like to extend his sincere thanks to councillors for the support during the last three years.

From Sgt Rowlands:

"May I wish you, the partners and public of Willenhall all good wishes for the future."

2.12 Willenhall Community Fire Station

Willenhall Fire Service Clarkes Lane continues to promote safety in schools, especially around the Dark Nights and Fire Works Safety.

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

3.1 Frank F Harrison, the Commissioned Youth Service for Willenhall & Short has been engaging a number of young people and delivered services across the area.

3.2 Willenhall E-ACT Leisure & Community has run 5 activity programmes since April 2016.

The programmes have been targeted at KS2 children and it has been successful in engaging with 138 children and their parents.

The projects and programmes are aimed to contribute to community cohesion, development and learning skills encouraging parents into further education and employment where required.

The aim of the programmes is to engage and encourage local children in years 4, 5 & 6 to participate in professionally delivered activities encompassing life skills, sports skills and community/social during the school holidays.

The programmes provide affordable alternative child care for parents in the school holidays in a safe and professional environment.

Past projects have included activities such as arts & crafts, team building exercises, professionally delivered specific sports, science experiments, food technology activities and many more.

The children have also been on various external trips to places such as the Black Country Museum, Jump nation, Dudley zoo and Birmingham Sea Life Centre.

Some of the feedback received from parents has been:

“Oscar is enjoying the activities at the Academy, he comes home and says he has learnt lots of things and met new friends. He will definitely be coming back to the next one” (Parent)

“Could you please arrange more of these activities, Amrit loves them and always looks forward to them!” (Parent)

“Corey loves the play schemes. With Corey suffering from Autism I was anxious at first about sending him but I can relax knowing he is having fun meeting new friends and being looked after” (Parent)

Willenhall E-ACT Academy are now looking to develop additional programmes and projects in 2017 to further engage with the local community due to the feedback from participants and linked to Walsall’s strategic plans.

3.3 The Chief Constable held a meeting with young people on 4th October 2016 – at Walsall Town Hall.

This event was supported by WMBC’s Targeted Youth Work (Youth Services Team).

The event was successful as a number of young people engaged in conversations

Through the successful event a number of young people attend the main Conference with the Chief Constable on 18th October 2016 at Tally Ho.

4th October 2016 – Initial meeting at Walsall Town Hall:

There were about 20 young people there with the majority aged between 16-18 year olds.

There were basic discussions on what makes a good police officer.

There were also discussions about how criminals should be treated and the kinds of punishment they should be given,

eg. after they’ve served their sentence,

- they should be integrated back into society and given support;
- not left on their own because this increases the risk of reoffending.

WMP were able to articulate to the young people that the police were doing this type of support/rehabilitation, and the young people welcomed the information.

The feedback from the young people and police was that it was a good opportunity to meet and share information/ideas.

18th October 2016 – Conference with Chief Constable at Tally Ho to develop action plan:

The majority of the young people attended this 2nd session. There were a couple who were unable to attend, however there were also other young people who did not attend the first event in the Town Hall.

There were approximately 200 young people from all over the West Midlands at this conference.

There was a similar discussion/activity as to what makes a good police officer.

There was an activity where young people had to pick a scenario involving a police officer and a potential crime taking place and act it out.

The Chief Constable also answered questions that were given to him by the young people and it was a great insight into his opinions and explanations of what the police is all about.

The police also brought in a German Shepherd puppy, which was a crowd favourite among the young people who surrounded her during the 10 minute break.

Overall, the feedback was the conference with the Chief Constable shows that the police are serious about 'fairness in policing' and young people's views on it.

It is hopeful that this will be part of the police strategy, to take the views into account, and implement them into their training and running of the WMP Service.

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

- 4.1 The 5th Annual Funding & Information Exhibition was held in Wolverhampton. The sessions was a free event with information advice and guidance for groups seeking funding. Various presentations were available, ranging from Wolves Aid, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Prince's Trust and the Heart of England Community Foundation.

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

- 5.1 Colleagues in Area Partnerships have organised a free Over 50s Showcase Event

Venue: Walsall Town Hall

Date: Wednesday, 16 November

Times: 2pm and 6pm for our FREE event

As the name suggests, the event is aimed at anyone living or working in the borough that is aged 50 and above. There will be 50 information stalls, activities and demonstrations, a raffle, light refreshments available to purchase and several special guests, including the Mayor of Walsall and Doreen, Queen of Tipton!

5.2 Changes to Sexual Health Service

The Hatherton Centre has closed.

The Service is are moving to the new WiSH (Walsall integrated Sexual Health) clinic, 36 Navigation Street, Walsall, WS2 9LT.

They plan to open to our patients from November 7th

In the interim all sexual health appointments will be at the Pleck Road Clinic (opposite the Manor at diabetes centre) 01922 633341

Web page: www.walsallsexualhealth.co.uk

There is a single dedicated telephone number for all patients who need to contact the team in relation to aspect of sexual health 01922 270 400

Other

Victoria Street - Clear up with Community Payback team on Friday 28th October. The area was cleared of fly tipped rubbish, including a settee, which was dumped in the nearby bushes.

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

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