

# NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL

## Area Manager's Report

31 January 2017

1. Purpose of the Report
  - 1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the North Walsall Area Partnership of some of the work carried out by individual partners and multi-agency work within the local area.
  - 1.2 North Walsall 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 There are monthly Non Confidential Tasking & Co-ordination (Partner) Meetings that occur in North Walsall. The meetings provide the opportunity for partner agencies to come together and share ideas, information and co-ordinate strategy based on the Walsall Plan.

The partners include: Community Protection, Youth Support Services, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service, residents, Ward Councillors, Reedswood Park Retailers, Stephenson Square Retailers, Walsall Housing Group (WHG), Caldmoreaccord Housing, Walsall Association of Tenant Management Organisations, West Midlands Probation Service, Walsall Intelligence Network, Environmental Health, Beechdale Community Housing, Bloxwich Academy, Frank F Harrison Community Association, Bloxwich Community Partnership, St Aiden's Care Team, North Walsall Area Partnership, Walsall Adult Community College (WACC), Walsall College, Economic Regeneration Team, Work on the Horizons, Public Health, Lifestyles Team, Forest Arts Centre, Blakenall Community Centre (BCC), Ryecroft Hub, Walsall Link Line, Green Lane Baptist Church & Community Payback.
  - 1.5 A facebook page has now been set up to promote all community activity happening in North Walsall called Let's do it in North Walsall.

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

- 2.1 On 1 June the Walsall's first Public Space Protection Order will come into force on the Beechdale Estate and will be in effect for three years. The order has the following conditions:
1. It is prohibited in a public place for any person to engage in activity which has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, including but not limited to any activity capable of causing nuisance or annoyance, verbal abuse, damage to property including graffiti or vandalism, littering, drug or alcohol related activity capable of causing nuisance or annoyance, violence or threats of violence.
  2. It is prohibited in a public place for any person to cause nuisance, annoyance, alarm or distress involving any vehicle including but not limited to cars, motorbikes, mini motos, push bikes, scooters and skateboards.
  3. It is prohibited in a public place for any person to cause nuisance or annoyance by playing any ball game including but not limited to those played in the street or car parks. Persons who breach the order could be liable for a considerable fine. To date there have only been minor breaches and some warning letters have been issued.
- 2.2 North Walsall police are working closely with Community Protection, Youth Offending Services and local commissioned providers to manage young people on Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. The coordinated approach has seen a reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour. This scheme is still working well. We are using locally commissioned services as a signpost service to engage young people in a social environment. We are hoping to link this project to a new initiative of younger fire cadets before March 2017.
- 2.3 A task and finish group has been set up to address concerns raised in and around Birchills. The next meeting is scheduled for 25 January.
- 2.4 The police had highlighted a number of problems on the new development around Turnstone/Shearwater, etc . A follow up residents meeting was coordinated by the police on 10 January to address ongoing concerns. Police reported that asb has fallen since the previous meeting with a number of young people invited to the station to be put on an Acceptable Behaviour Contract with curfews. A Neighbourhood Watch group will be started on the estate in February.
- 2.5 A number of police surgeries, residents' meetings and neighbourhood watch meetings take place across North Walsall.

Meeting	Date	Time	Where
Agenda 21 (Birchills/Leamore residents)	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of the month	7.30pm	Bentley Moor Social Club
Leamore	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of	7-8pm	Colebatches Social

Community Group	the month		Club
Mossley Residents meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month	7.00pm	Mattesley Court
Blakenall Neighbourhood Watch	6 February	7.00pm	Blakenall Village Centre

2.6 Cameras are deployed in different locations across North Walsall to tackle fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and to assist with the detection of criminal activities. Covert cameras are also utilised. The distributions of cameras are decided at the monthly Confidential Partnership Tasking & Coordination Meeting.

Reference	Installed at	Installing Agency	Purpose	Objective
ND1/ND2 Combined to make one working camera	Hadley Road	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken
ND7	Faulty – returned to be repaired			
ND8 Not panning due to go in for repair	In for repair			
ASB3	Hawbush Road	Community Protection	To reduce criminal activity and anti-social behaviour	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken

2.7 West Midlands Fire Service, Area Partnerships and the police are working together on a speed watch initiative. The first one took place in Bloxwich Road during October where 22 vehicles were pulled over with either no tax, no insurance or no licence. The fire service will be discussing safety with motorists, especially in relation to child car seats. A second operation took place in December with six cars seized.

2.8 West Midlands Fire Service are keen to promote their community members. As a West Midlands Fire Service community member you can make a difference by:

- Receiving the quarterly newsletter which will let you know what's happening with the fire service and your communities.
- Read the monthly updates on safety campaigns and share this information with family, friends and colleagues.
- Get involved in the fire station open days.
- Become a volunteer to work at one of their two interactive centres or out in the community.

- Apply to become a part of the Young Firefighters Association/The Cadets if you are aged between 11-16.

For more information email [communitymembership@wmfs.net](mailto:communitymembership@wmfs.net) or call 0121 380 7322. There is further information on the website [www.wmfs.net](http://www.wmfs.net)

2.9 A new fund has become available for this area called The Active Citizens Fund. The funding is being made available by the **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner** and combines three previous streams of funding (Proceeds of Crime Act, Police Property Act and the Community Initiatives Fund) so that West Midlands Police will be better placed to engage with the public and encourage 'active citizenship'. This means that communities in the West Midlands will be actively involved in projects that will make a positive difference to themselves.

In Walsall the fund is being managed by a partnership between Walsall Local Policing Unit, Walsall Voluntary Action, Walsall Council and Walsall College. The **Walsall Active Citizens Partnership** have developed a process for Walsall which seeks to ensure individuals and organisations are able to access the funding and deliver outcomes which support Walsall's local priorities for community safety.

Walsall Active Citizens is about encouraging, empowering and supporting local residents and groups to deliver their own solutions to making their community safer. We want communities to identify what they see as the most important challenges to community safety and bring their own innovative solutions to tackling them. This could be anything which helps to build or sustain safer communities. Examples could include an innovative solution to improving community cohesion or building better links amongst local neighbours, promoting unity or reducing the chance of hate crime. Or, it could be about bringing people together to tackle a specific community safety issue such as reducing the risk of domestic violence.

The main aim is local residents identifying the community safety issues **which matter to them**, and develop their own solutions to address them.

Eligibility criteria for applications in Walsall are:

- The project must be delivered in one of the three target areas and focused on making the community a safer place.
- Those delivering the project must have a direct link to the area, either as a resident or someone who already works within the community.
- The project must be new to the area. We won't fund activities that are already being delivered in that area.
- The proposal cannot be from an existing group. We are seeking to support individuals with new ideas rather than existing organisations. Individuals will be supported through the process in a variety of ways, and this could include linking them with existing groups within the area via mentoring or capacity building relationships (see below).

- The project budget should be spent by December 2017.

For more details please contact **Sgt Nick Morton, Walsall Local Policing Unit:**  
[n.morton@west.midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:n.morton@west.midlands.pnn.police.uk)

**Lesley Shorthouse, Walsall Voluntary Action: 01922 619840**  
[lesleys@walsallva.org.uk](mailto:lesleys@walsallva.org.uk)

The application form and more information can be found at <http://www.walsallva.org.uk/>

- 2.10 Bailey's pool has experienced historic problems regarding flytipping. Our gating officer, Area Partnerships, Countryside Services and the police are looking at various options to reduce the impact of this activity.
- 2.11 West Midlands Police have a new way of communicating the latest news with you. Join for free at [www.wmnow.co.uk](http://www.wmnow.co.uk) to receive crime alerts, witness appeals and know what's happening where you live or work. This will replace the old VC Relay system. For advice and information contact Kevin Pitt on 101 extension 8896326.
- 2.12 As part of their engagement with all the diverse communities of Walsall, Walsall Police hosts an independent advisory group known as the Walsall Strategic Community Reference Group (SCRG) which is independently chaired and made up of volunteer members of the community. The aims of the group are briefly as follows:
- To increase trust and confidence in policing amongst communities, particularly minority communities and vulnerable groups.
  - Consider, advise and monitor strategies, policies and practice within LPU's in order to ensure a fair and equitable delivery of policing services to all communities within the LPU.

The group also serves as the local Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel, the function of which is to scrutinise local officers' use of their stop and search powers. The police are seeking representatives from the geographical areas of Bloxwich/Birchills Leamore/Blakenall and Aldridge/Streetly/Pheasey Park Farm, as at the moment they do not have any representation on the group. Membership of the group would particularly suit active members of the community or those who are seeking to develop their skills and knowledge. If you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming a member, please ask them to get in touch with Kevin Pitt [k.pitt@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk]. The next meeting is taking place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 6pm at Bloxwich Police Station. Meetings are usually bi-monthly and a light buffet is provided.

- 2.13 Partners and local groups are invited to our next North Walsall networking event on Wednesday 8 March at 2pm at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre. This is an opportunity to meet people working in and around the area, create working partnerships and understand more about what we offer locally. We are starting to move around different facilities within North Walsall in an effort to showcase some of the fabulous work taking place. Frank F Harrison also runs the motorcross track and

this will be an opportunity to hear all about their work and see it for yourself. All welcome.

2.14 Walsall bins has its own website <http://walsallbins.co.uk/> There is lots of information on there regarding household waste, recycling, green waste, bulky items, tips, assisted collections, collection dates and hazardous waste. There is even information on the real nappy incentive scheme. Give it a try.

2.15 The Noise Team in Community Protection, of Walsall Council, provide a service for the investigation of noise complaints. The officers are available during the day Monday to Friday from 9am until 5pm. You can speak to an officer to report an incident by calling 01922 653060. The officers aim to respond to all reports of noise within three working days. If a noise is happening at the time of your call please advise the officer and every effort will be made to visit and witness the noise as it occurs. As well as the daytime service officers also provide a response to complaints of noise at night. The hours when an officer is available to respond to a complaint at night are:

- Friday – 9-12
- Saturday – 7-1
- Sunday – 8-12

When officers are not on duty you can still make a report of noise nuisance to the council by calling 01922 650000. This call will be logged and passed to the Community Protection Team at the next available opportunity.

2.16 Streetlink is funded by the Government to try and reduce the number of rough sleepers. A dedicated website, [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) enables the public to alert local authorities about rough sleepers in their area. The Glebe is open until the end of the month so beds are available there for homeless people – please redirect if possible.

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

3.1 Blakenall Sure Start is running various parenting programmes across the area, Understanding Your Child from the health centre at Pinfold, Parenting Workshops at the centre, Mellow Parenting from Edgar Stammers and Understanding Me. All programmes aim to help parents with appropriate strategies that will benefit the family. New groups running from the centre are:

Healthy Lifestyles – Friday afternoon

Beacon parent group substance misuse – Wednesday, once a fortnight

3.2 There are regular Mossley Big Local meetings for you to get involved in, just come along. If you need further information please contact Aaron Lawrence, [Aaron.Lawrence@whgrp.co.uk](mailto:Aaron.Lawrence@whgrp.co.uk) or telephone 01922 426971.

3.3 Birchills and Bloxwich/Blakenall Locality Panels continue to meet on a monthly basis offering partners the opportunity to attend and discuss complex cases in need of a multi agency approach. A number of difficult cases have been discussed and supported by agencies including CAMHS, Safeguarding, Troubled Families, and Housing Associations.

3.4 Carol Williams (Teenage Pregnancy Operational Lead) sent the following update.

In terms of ward data teenage parents aged 15-17 Blakenall is ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, Bloxwich East 2<sup>nd</sup>, Birchills/Leamore 3<sup>rd</sup> and Bloxwich West 9<sup>th</sup>. Historically this is the norm, however, all the areas have had a reduction from the previous two years, 2010-2012, apart from Blakenall that had a slight increase which equate to two pregnancies. We are doing a lot of targeted work in these areas. Carol is happy to attend a meeting should the panel require it.

3.5 We are working with West Midlands Fire Service to implement a new fire cadet programme aimed at young people aged 8-11. The programme will be called the Emergency Services Cadets and aims to instil positive behaviour learning, self discipline, respect, team work and consequences. The programme is on a referral basis and will run for six weeks, culminating in a thought provoking trip to Safe Side in Birmingham.

3.6 Our local libraries are delivering lots of sessions for both children and adults.

The following events are taking place in Bloxwich Library:

Adult Reading Group meeting - 1 February 2017 - 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Fun filled Friday - 3 February 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Toddler Time - 0-2 year olds - 7 February 2017 - 9:45 am - 11:00 am

Fun filled Friday - 10 February 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Toddler Time - 0-2 year olds - 14 February 2017 - 9:45 am - 11:00 am

Fun filled Friday - 17 February 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Matinee - 18 February 2017 - 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

February Family Fun Stories & Crafts - 21 February 2017 - 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Coffee, Cakes & Crafts - 24 February 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Children's film club - 'Finding Nemo' - 25 February 2017 - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Toddler Time - 0-2 year olds - 28 February 2017 - 9:45 am - 11:00 am

Further details can be found at <http://lovelibrarieswalsall.co.uk/locations/bloxwich-library/>

The following events are taking place in Beechdale Library:

Stay and Play - 1 February 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Knit & Natter - 1 February 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
Stay and Play - 8 February 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
Knit & Natter - 8 February 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
Lego Club - 11 February 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Stay and Play - 15 February 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
Knit & Natter - 15 February 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
Knit & Natter - 22 February 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Further details can be found at <http://lovelibrarieswalsall.co.uk/locations/beechedale-library/>

The following events are taking place in Blakenall Library:

Homework Club - 1 February 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Cradle Club - 3 February 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
Homework Club - 3 February 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Knit and Natter - 7 February 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
50+ Group - 8 February 2017 - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Homework Club - 8 February 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Cradle Club - 10 February 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
Homework Club - 10 February 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Knit and Natter - 14 February 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
Homework Club - 15 February 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Reading Group - 15 February 2017 - 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm  
Cradle Club - 17 February 2017 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
Homework Club - 17 February 2017 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Knit and Natter - 21 February 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
Knit and Natter - 28 February 2017 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Further details can be found at <http://lovelibrarieswalsall.co.uk/locations/blakenall-library/>

#### **4 Business and Jobs: Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people into work**

- 4.1 Job Centre Plus will be delivering their service from Blakenall and Birchills children's centres. This will include help in sourcing job offers, income support, information, advice and guidance relating to work.
- 4.2 WHG are hosting an apprenticeship launch event on 3 February 2017 at their skills centre on Hollemeadow Avenue between 10-2. There are opportunities within construction, sales and administration. Just pop along on the day.



4.3 Beechdale Community Housing are delivering three types of STEPS courses, Care & Support, Customer Service and Construction. Each course is over two weeks, three days per week and designed to provide you with basic skills to assist with getting into that relevant career. You need to be unemployed, living in Beechdale or the surrounding areas and actively looking for work. If you are interested please call Jemma on 0300 123 1745.

4.4 Hatherton Pre-School is putting on free workshops during February (dates to be confirmed):

- Let's Be Creative
- Play in the Park
- Fun with Paints
- Making Books
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Pre-Employment workshops
- Talking and Listening
- Childcare course

To be eligible to attend the workshops you need to be 15-65 with children under 5, unemployed and claiming &/or not receiving any form of benefit or payments. The workshops are funded by Building Better Opportunities and take place at Hatherton Pre-School, Bloxwich Lane, Walsall, WS2 7JT. For more information please contact Ivan Morgan on 01922 407668.

4.5 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 NEETs/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. More information is available from Claire Wills in Walsall Council - [claire.wills@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:claire.wills@walsall.gov.uk)

4.6 We are working with Work on the Horizon to address a gap in provision for the over 30s. This will ensure clients are able to accept work without hitting barriers.

Work on the Horizon offer information:

- advice and guidance on careers and skills
- training to help with things like building confidence and motivation
- job search support including interview techniques
- internet access for job-search & training activities
- Job related training and work experience opportunities
- training to help you up-skill and develop new skills
- practical help with work related costs like childcare and transport
- and lots more

See more at: <http://www.onestopemploymentsshop.co.uk> or ring 01922 496555

'The support provided by Walsall Area Partnership to assist with beneficiary costs, i.e. PPE, DBS checks, clothing, exam and training, has resulted in the following:

- Three people were assisted with monthly travel passes to start work which helped them in the transition period from benefits into employment and relieved financial stress. One person also received assistance with Safety boots to have the correct PPE to work on site.
- A Food Hygiene course and two First Aid courses in October and November 16 resulted in 23 people gaining qualifications.
- To date we have confirmed that due to these courses one lady has started work as a Care Assistant, a second was able to take up an offer of employment as a Chef on the proviso that he gained certificates in Food Hygiene and First Aid, a third has started as a Production Operative in a Bakery, a fourth as a Full-time Child Care Assistant and a fifth person is working as a Stock taker. The qualifications gained had a definite impact on them being offered employment.

To date the funding has supported 8 people into employment' as sent by Vicky Welsh (Project Coordinator).

Big Lottery have provided funding to run a 3 year project ending 31/12/2019 enabling Work on the Horizon to deliver an outreach service '**Reaching Out**'. Aims are to engage with the unemployed people in the North Walsall Borough who have multiple barriers. To increase confidence and motivation levels, improve wellbeing, provide better chance in life and access training and development to improve life skills. The outreach is being run at various community locations with the four wards currently Bloxwich & Blakenall Libraries, Sure Starts - Blakenall & Birchills, Beechdale Housing Association, Leamore TMO and Pinfold Health Centre (new venues are constantly being sought to ensure full coverage of the local area).

Steps to Work are also leading on a Black Country wide project called Bridges, which is jointly funded by Big Lottery and European Social Fund.

BRIDGES can support anyone who is:

- 25 years and over
- Unemployed (cannot be in part time work or on 0 hours contract)
- Economically Inactive (including those not working who are claiming benefits)
- Has complex needs/multiple barriers which are impacting on being able to enter paid employment
- Requires support to fully and independently engage in existing services

The BRIDGES project can help you with any of the following, get in touch to find out more:

- Confidence and motivation
- One-to-one mentoring
- Information, advice and guidance
- CV and application form support
- Job search support
- Arts and crafts
- Volunteering opportunities

If you would like more information please call 01922 627555 or email [enquiries@stepstowork.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stepstowork.co.uk)

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

- 5.1 Mossley Estate over 50's Club, organised by and for local residents meet every Thursday 10am-12.00pm at Mattesley Court. New members always welcome.
- 5.2 Blakenall Community Centre hosts a walking netball session on Wednesdays from 10-11 for adults aged 50+. More information from Danielle Purshouse on 07793 883191.
- 5.3 Frank F Harrison host a club for adults with learning disabilities call FANclub, taking place from 9.30-12 on Fridays. They run sessions with refreshments, arts and crafts, games, films, trips out, going out for a meal and other activities. It takes place at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre and you can get more details by ringing 01922 746967.
- 5.4 Area Partnerships are working with The Watermill on both a sensory room and a sensory garden. Match funding is being sought through Area Partnerships for the sensory room. External funding is being sourced for the sensory garden and will involve local partners such as Goscote Greenacres and Ryecroft Hub. If anyone else wants to get involved then please contact Ness on 653714.

- 5.5 St Thomas Church in Mossley have set up a mental health and wellbeing support group. If you suffer with stress, depression, anxiety or any other mental health conditions come along and meet other people with shared experiences in a safe and confidential environment. Meetings are held weekly on Tuesdays from 12-1 at St Thomas Church, Cresswell Crescent, Mossley. More details from Sara on 07586352810.
- 5.4 Sure Start Children's Centres have set up a Freedom Women's Support Programme to support those who have experienced domestic violence. All women are welcome to join and learn more about healthy and unhealthy relationships in a safe, non-judgemental environment. This is a 10 week rolling programme and women can join at any time during the programme. Please call 01922 646574 for more information.
- 5.6 Stan Ball now has a bereavement and social club taking place on Mondays from 2-3.30pm. Cost is £2 and all welcome.
- 5.7 Walsall Talking Therapies Service – self-referral launch as sent by Sarah O'Leary

Sometimes we all need a helping hand when life's daily pressures get on top of us. If you are experiencing stress, anxiety, depression, panic or phobias, are aged 17 or over and registered with a Walsall GP, then Walsall Talking Therapies Service may be right for you.

Our team of highly experienced NHS professionals provide a range of psychological therapies to help people get back to enjoying the most from their life. Psychological Therapies offered include wellbeing workshops, computerised Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (cCBT), group or individual therapy, guided self-help and signposting to other support services.

Our new online self-referral option makes it easier for you to access support. Once a referral is received, the team will contact you within 72 hours to offer you an assessment; this will generally be a telephone appointment with one of our qualified practitioners.

For more information on the service and how it may be able to benefit you, please refer to our website <http://www.dwmh.nhs.uk/ttwalsall/>. Please note that Walsall Talking Therapies Service are not able to provide support for those already receiving treatment from another mental health service, or those who have a severe and enduring mental health problem.

- 5.8 The Big Conversation – have your say on local health services.

Details from Denise Perry, Senior Commissioning Manager

Like much of the NHS, with an ever increasing demand for services we need to

consider local needs yet balance this with the money available to us.

The Walsall health and social care system faces unprecedented challenges. Walsall CCG is facing financial challenges, both this year and beyond and we have to find efficiency savings of £23 million this year at the same time as making sure essential services are protected for the future.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has rated some services at our main health provider, Walsall Health Care NHS Trust as 'inadequate', including maternity and emergency care services, and in need of rapid improvement. Alongside Walsall Council, having reduced its spending by £84m over the last four years, and needing to save a further £86m.

The CCG is working hard with partners to implement our finance recovery plan, however this is not without needing to make some changes in the way we commission services in the future so that we make the right decisions about the services we commission we recognise that we need to better involve local people, patients and our partners and this will be a key priority for us during 17/18.

To help us do this we will be launching the 'Big Conversation' on the 24th January 2017. We want to listen to patients and the people of Walsall and also share our ideas for future healthcare delivery.

The CCG Patient Advisory Group, which is made up of representatives from Healthwatch Walsall, Walsall Disability Forum, Carers centre, Walsall Council and members of the local community, will be working with us to help shape a series of listening events over the coming months.

<p><b>Shaping GP &amp; Community Services</b> 9th February 2017 at 3.00pm – 5.30pm Rushall Community Centre, Springfields, Rushall, WS4 1JT</p>	<p><b>Shaping Urgent Care &amp; Stroke Services</b> 9th March 2017 at 1.00pm – 4.30pm Moxley People's Centre 3 Queen St, Wednesbury WS10 8TA</p>
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- 5.9 All patients in Walsall will now be able to see a GP or Nurse Practitioner on a Saturday for minor illnesses. From Saturday 14 January 2017, GP and Nurse Practitioner appointments will be available from 8am to 2pm for all patients with a Walsall GP. You do not need to be a patient at one of the practices below, you just need to have a Walsall GP. Saturday appointments will be available until 10 June 2017 at the following surgeries:

Portland Medical Practice, Anchor Meadow, Aldridge, WS9 8AJ, Telephone: 01922 604460, Or

The Keys Family Practice, Field Street, Willenhall, WV13 2NY, Telephone: 01922 604847

Any patient with a Walsall GP can use this service, even if they are not based at one of these GP practices. These appointments are intended to be for acute illnesses to help ease pressure on Walsall Manor Hospital A&E department and the borough's Urgent Care Centres.

Vanessa Croft: Area Manager - (01922) 653714 [vanessa.croft@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:vanessa.croft@walsall.gov.uk)