

WILLENHALL AND SHORT HEATH AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

Tuesday, 21 January 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, Pool Hayes Community Association, 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 Anti-social behaviour incidents continue to decrease across the Area Partnership. Seasonal issues continue to be monitored and specific targeting will be undertaken.

- 2.2 A Community Safety newsletter was produced in December, which has been circulated to a number of public access points, eg, libraries, community centres. The newsletter includes details of the Willenhall Neighbourhood Police Teams and advice and contact numbers of who to contact to report issues.
- 2.3 The Police information 'A' Board has been deployed around the area, raising awareness of 'darker nights', including keeping property and individual's safe and taking appropriate measures to minimise any personal risk. The 'A' Board is currently deployed at New Invention Square.
- 2.4 A successful series of awareness raising sessions were held with local groups, particularly for those where membership is for over 50's. These sessions included information on rogue traders / door step crime and how to recognise this, from being asked to pay for unnecessary work, or being over-charged. This will be followed up with awareness raising with local banks and building societies to recognise if a customer is withdrawing an unusual amount of money. Further sessions will be arranged with local groups, to continue to spread the message. The sessions were supported by the Police, Trading Standards, Reassurance Team, Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and Community Development.
- 2.5 Substance Matters has successfully been awarded grant funding from Big Lottery and Walsall Housing Group, to continue its operation.
- 2.6 The monthly surgery continues at the Willenhall Sikh Gurdwara.
- 2.7 A partnership reassurance tour was undertaken on the Noose estate, to enable residents to raise concerns directly with officers from Walsall Housing Group and the Police.
- 2.8 It is anticipated that a second round of the anti-social behaviour roadshows will be undertaken in Summer 2014, targeting more schools and talking to young people about consequences of anti-social behaviour and for them to raise any issues.
- 2.9 A community notice board has been purchased, funded through the Area Partnership, and will be installed at New Invention Square in the next couple of weeks. This will enable partners and community organisations to display information, which will be kept up-to-date by the Police Community Safety Officers.
- 2.10 An event was held at the beginning of December, inviting local voluntary and community sector organisations to hear about funding available, approved by the Area Partnership (totalling £10,000), under the initiative of Participatory Budgeting. A number of groups attended and were provided with data and 'hot spot' information of cohorts of residents across the Area Partnership. This was provided to enable evidence of need to be identified and highlight any gaps in services provided. The closing date for applications to be received was 17 January and 8 applications have

been received. A second event will be organised for the projects to present to each other their ideas and for projects to be 'voted' on to be supported for funding.

2.11 Community Safety Plan Statistics Comparison of 2011 / 12 and 2012 / 13 for Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership:

Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership				
Crime / Incident Type	2011/12	2012/13	Change	Change %
Total Recorded Crime				
Serious Acquisitive Crime				
Anti-Social Behaviour (Police Reported)				
Youth Related Anti-Social Behaviour (Police Reported)				
Domestic Burglary				
Burglary, Other Building				
Criminal Damage				
Vehicle Crime				
Violence Against the Person				
Robbery				
Deliberate Primary Fires (West Midlands Fire Service Data)				
Deliberate Secondary Fires (West Midlands Fire Service Data)				
Drug Offences				
Domestic Violence				
Hate Crime				

2.12 Deployment of Domehawk Cameras:

2.12.1 Both cameras for this Area Partnership require repairs, which have been requested.

The location and allocation of the cameras is discussed at the monthly Confidential Partnership Tasking and Co-Ordination Meeting. A number of requests have been forwarded for consideration regarding potential locations for cameras.

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

3.1 Following an evaluation of the IYPSS Summer Programme, Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership saw a reduction in youth-related anti-social behaviour. Further activities will be offered during half-term and term-time holidays, offering a range of options for young people to participate.

3.2 The Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health project continues to operate from the Lighthouse Children's Centre on a weekly basis. A review of this project has been arranged for 23 January to assess how successful the project has been, whether the

project has been accessed by local young people (under 25's) and how the project can be sustained.

3.3 A directory of services available for young people has been produced and distributed.

3.4 Willenhall Impact – no update available.

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

4.1 The 'Getting Willenhall in to Work' information leaflet should be finalised by the end of the month, ready for distribution. This includes contact details of job clubs, welfare rights / benefits support, CV writing support, access to IT to research / apply for jobs.

4.2 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. These are supported by Jobcentre Plus and Darlaston JET. A meeting of the Steering Group will be held to ensure provision is available across the Area Partnership. These are proving to be successful in supporting job seekers.

4.3 Time4Real continues to operate from Willenall CHART and a number of volunteers have come forward. The project itself has recently celebrated its success at its centre at Caldmore Village Hub.

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

5.1 With support from public health, Area Partnerships are developing a community assets-based approach to delivering local services.

5.2 Teenage Pregnancy – updated at 3.2 above.

5.3 A training session was held to support local people to become 'Walk On' volunteers. Allens Rough Residents Association took part in this training, which will enable guided walks to take place around Rough Wood, with trained leaders with health and safety and first aid skills.

5.4 The Green Pathways project will be delivered over the next few weeks. This will include consultation with residents on proposals for improving green spaces and installation of any equipment. It is anticipated this consultation will take place week commencing 4 February. The Green Pathways project will link together a number of walks around Rough Wood, through Short Heath, New Invention, Pool Hayes Estate, using existing pathways and towpaths. The project will also link in to Fibbersley Park and the improvements that are being undertaken in this green space.

- 5.5 The Directory of Services available for older people is in the process of being finalised. This will include timetables of activities and organisation contact details. The directory will be distributed at public access sites and will be available on line.
- 5.6 There are ongoing discussions with the Black Country Foodbank regarding establishing a facility in Willenhall. This would link in to the Time4Real volunteering scheme.
- 5.7 Healthwatch – no update for this meeting.

6 Other Items of Interest

- 6.1 Fruit Head Dolls – Counterfeit goods were found at Bescot Market, with the dolls being identified as containing poisonous toxins. A regional awareness raising campaign has recently been undertaken and was featured on regional media.

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