

**WILLENHALL NORTH/WILLENHALL SOUTH/SHORT HEATH AREA
PANEL MEETING**

Winehala Court, 50A Sandbeds Road, Short Heath, WV12 4GA

27 September, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

Members in attendance

Councillor C Creaney (Chairman)
Councillor S. Coughlan (Vice Chairman)
Councillor D. Barker
Councillor S Cooper
Councillor D Coughlan
Councillor A Hicken
Councillor D Hazel
Councillor E Hazel
Councillor I. Shires

Others in attendance

Michael Greenfield	Area Manager
Craig Goodall	Democratic Services Officer

123/16 **Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

124/16 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors S. Coughlan and C. Creaney declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 128/16 'Funding Applications' as the Willenhall Fishing Stewards for the Community/The Boaters Fishing Club funding application would be delivered in Willenhall Memorial Park of which they were members of the Friends Group.

125/16 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be taken in private session.

126/16 **Minutes**

Resolved:

That the minutes the meeting which took place on the 28 June 2016, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

127/16 **Area Managers Report**

The Area Manager presented his report to Members.

Prior to the report being presented a Member suggested that the Area Partnership strategic priorities should be refreshed to reflect the Council new Corporate Plan.

The meeting discussed crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the area. Problems with ASB being caused by young people in New Invention Square were discussed in detail. The Area Manager noted that a number of acceptable behaviour contracts and curfews had been put in place so it was anticipated that the problems would be drastically reduced moving forward. Members welcomed this and noted the need for a wider approach from partners to help resolve the issues with problem individuals and family moving forward.

Members noted the report stated that recorded crime in Short Heath and Willenhall North area had increased by 32.3% in the period June - August 2016. Members expressed surprise at this increase and asked the Area Manager to double check this was correct.

Members feedback their own experiences of recent incidents in the area, namely:

- Increased car cruising in high powered sports cars in the Pools Lane area;
- 40 shop break ins;
- An attack on mini bus.

The Area Manager reported on some recent successful partnership working with WHG with dealing with a troubled family. Problems with families in social housing were discussed. Despite the challenges of dealing with troubled families the Panel noted that more support was available when troubled families lived in social housing rather than the private rented sector.

Members discussed the forthcoming changes to Police services. Concern was expressed that the changes could mean further empty properties in the local area. The Panel requested a report on void properties in the Willenhall and Short Heath area at a future meeting. In particular Members wanted to understand what activity was taking place to bring them back into use.

The Area Manager highlighted work being undertaken by the Fire Service and activity targeted at children and young people. He noted that teenage pregnancy was reducing and an upcoming teens and toddlers event. Members requested that work take place to make the Youth Service Hopper vehicle operational.

The Walsall Active Citizen Fund was highlighted to Members who requested further information on the funding stream. Feedback was also requested on the recent 'love your neighbour' event.

With regard to health a project to prevent social isolation for over 50's was being developed in partnership with Willenhall CHART. A Member reported

that he was surprised to be told that only students from Telford College could train at Walsall Manor Hospital.

Resolved:

That:

- 1) The Area Partnership strategic priorities be refreshed to reflect the new Corporate Plan;
- 2) The Area Manager confirm the recorded crime statistics for Short Heath and Willenhall North;
- 3) A report be presented to a future meeting detailing void properties in Willenhall and Short Heath and activity asking place to bring them back into use;
- 4) The Area Manager address the delays preventing the use of the Youth Service Hopper vehicle;
- 5) The Area Manager send Members further information on the Walsall Active Citizen Fund;
- 6) Feedback be provided to Members on the 'love your neighbour' event';
- 7) 'Talent match' attend a future meeting of the Area Panel.

128/16 **Funding Applications**

The panel went through funding applications that had been received.

Resolved:

That:

- 1) Holy Trinity IT Centre, Coltham Road, be awarded £428.95;
- 2) Willenhall Fishing Stewards for the Community/The Boaters Fishing Club be awarded £1132.

Resolved

Date of next meeting

It was noted the date of the next meeting was 10 November 2016

Being no other business the meeting terminated at 7.03 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: