

## **Willenhall North/Willenhall South/Short Heath Area Panel**

**Thursday, 20 March, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Conference Room, Council House, Walsall**

### **Present:**

Councillor I. Shires (Chair)  
Councillor D. Barker (Vice Chair)  
Councillor S. Coughlan  
Councillor Creaney  
Councillor Ilmann-Walker  
Councillor Mrs D. Shires  
Councillor V. Woodruff

### **In Attendance**

Jo Lowndes	Partnership Manager
Neil Picken	Senior Committee Business and Governance Manager
Rose Collinson	Interim Executive Director (Children's Services)
Carolyn Stokes	Operations Director, Performance Through People

### **48/14 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Cook and D. Coughlan.

### **49/14 Declaration of Interest**

None.

### **50/14 Local Government Access to Information Act, 1985 (as amended)**

The Panel noted that there were no items on the agenda which required the exclusion of the Public.

### **51/14 Minutes**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March, 2014, a copy of which had been previously circulated.

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March, 2014, a copy having been previously circulated, be approved as true and accurate record subject to the amendment of the date of the Minutes to correctly state '4 March, 2014'.

## 52/14 Willenhall Specific Participatory Budgeting

The Partnership Manager advised that the Panel, at its meeting held on 4 March, 2014, had received presentations from Partners on potential projects. These projects had all been supported by the Panel to be put to public consultation for comments. The Partnership Manager advised that all applications were being recommended for approval as no adverse comments had been received following consultation.

A member sought clarity on the consultation approach to which it was explained that this had been conducted online. It was further explained that this had been a learning exercise and that, in future, the consultation process would be revisited to maximise participation.

The Chair advised that the process had been a learning curve and that further work was required to engage with the third sector. It was explained that each of the projects put forward matched the aims and objectives of the Community Plan.

A Member stated that they were happy with the projects, commenting that the process had provided a good learning process for community groups.

The Chair proposed that participatory budgeting could be utilised more fully in the 2014/15 financial year by allocating £10k to each of the 3 wards. The remaining £10k would be available for applications through the normal funding process. Awareness of the process would take place during the summer with an event in October to consider applications. Members of the Panel supported the Chairs suggestion to allocate £10k per ward for participatory budgeting.

### Resolved

1. That the following projects be approved:-

<b>Project</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
Pathways Upgrade, Fibbersley Local Nature Reserve	Friends of Fibbersley Local Nature Reserve	<b>£1000.00</b>
Willenhall Wild Nights	Clean & Green Services Walsall Council	<b>£736.00</b>
Sell Your Self to Achieve	Pool Hayes Community Association	<b>£911.00</b>
Get Up & Go	Pool Hayes Community Association	<b>£610.00</b>
Let Us Entertain You – Social Nights	Pool Hayes Community Association	<b>£983.00</b>
Strive To Achieve	Pool Hayes Community Association	<b>£1000.00</b>

Fun For All – Family Learning	Pool Hayes Community Association	<b>£784.00</b>
Back To Basics	Pool Hayes Community Association	<b>£1000.00</b>

2. That £30k (£10k per ward) be allocated from the 2014/15 budget for Participatory Budgeting with the remaining £10k used for usual funding applications in line with existing processes.

### 53/14 **Children and Young People Partnership Board**

The Panel welcomed Rose Collinson, Interim Executive Director (Children’s Services) and Carolyn Stokes, Operations Director (Performance Through People).

The Interim Executive Director (Children’s Services) gave a presentation on the 8 priorities of the Walsall Children and Young Peoples’ Plan 2013 to 2016:-

1. Supporting the most vulnerable families to provide the best start in life for children.
2. Ensuring that children maintain a healthy weight.
3. Reducing the harm caused by child sexual exploitation including children missing from school, care and home
4. Greater diversity of choice for learning, training and employment for young people
5. Supporting the transition into adulthood for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities by creating single ‘through life’ plans.
6. Promoting pride in the achievements of the children and young people of Walsall.
7. Better communication between frontline staff in all agencies that support children and families
8. Reducing the impact of child poverty

It was explained that by working together in Partnership a real difference could be made for the children and young people of Walsall.

A discussion ensued as to how the message was conveyed to school children if they are deemed obese, even if it was only by a slight margin. A member suggested that the wording used currently within the letter to a young person was not helpful and delivered the message in a negative way which could affect some young people.

The Interim Executive Director (Children’s Services) advised that schools encouraged pupils to be active and adopted a range of programmes, such as ‘food dudes’ to help pupils eat healthily. She agreed to feedback to the Board regarding the wording and potential impact of the letter to children and young people who are deemed obese.

Discussion ensued around child sexual exploitation and it was noted that often children didn’t realise that certain actions of others was ‘not okay’. People were now talking about their experiences and their advice was used to get the

message across to others. A Member asked what work was being undertaken with schools to make children and young people realise what exploitation is. Officers advised that work did take place both nationally and locally. Drama was found to be a very useful method of engaging young people.

A member asked why mental health was omitted from the 8 priorities. It was explained that the Board would undertake 'deep dives' into specific issues and were currently looking at the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services within Walsall.

A discussion took place regarding school meals and the impact of fast food takeaways on obesity and health of young people. It was explained that schools were trying to prevent children and young people leaving the school site during lunchtimes and a number of initiatives were in place to encourage young people to eat healthily. Sure Start Centres also helped improve parents' knowledge of how to access quick, healthy food.

In relation to community use within schools a Member expressed concern that community provision was being 'pushed out', where it was not financially viable. It was stated that it was important to retain community use within schools. In response, the Interim Executive Director (Children's Services) advised that National Policy was to provide schools with greater autonomy. There were a number of really positive projects and initiatives happening locally and at Ward level but more needed to be done to raise awareness. Whilst there was a lot available for children and parents it was less clear what community access was, especially within secondary schools. The Chair stated that the Area Panel could look at this in more depth at a future meeting.

Further debate took place around the 8 priorities of the Walsall Children and Young Peoples' Plan 2013 to 2016. The Interim Executive Director (Children's Services) agreed to circulate the plan and presentation to Members of the Area Panel. It was also suggested that the Area Panel may wish to consider ward profiles, which were available, which compared wards to both the Walsall and national average.

### **Resolved**

1. That the Children and Young People Plan and presentation be circulated to Members of the Area Panel;
2. That the report be noted.

### **54/14 Funding Report**

The Panel considered a report setting out project applications for determination by the Area Panel.

Members considered each application as detailed within appendix 1 and 2 of the report [annexed].

The Partnership Manager highlighted that the application for funding for the Willenhall Youth Programmes Easter Activities would be from the 2014/15 budget allocation.

## **Resolved**

1. That £2k for a new gate installation at New Invention Square be approved
2. That £680.00 for the Willenhall Youth Programmes Easter Activities be approved from the 2014 / 15 budget allocation, subject to Integrated Young People Support Services providing confirmation, which meets the Partnership Manager's approval, on how young people shall be identified and;
3. That an update on the Willenhall Youth Programmes Easter Activities project be included within the next funding report.

## **Termination of Meeting**

The meeting terminated at 7.30 p.m.