

# NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL

## Area Manager's Report

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015

### 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 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 Safety Services (ASB Team), Young Support Services, West Midlands Police, 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, Mirus Academy, Frank F Harrison Community Association, St Aiden's Care Team, North Walsall Area Partnership, Walsall Adult Community College (WACC), Walsall College, Economic Regeneration Team, Work on the Horizons, Prospects, Public Health, Lifestyles Team, Forest Arts Centre, Blakenall Community Centre (BCC), Ryecroft Hub, Green Lane Baptist Church & Community Payback.

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

- 2.1 Inspector Jacqueline Nicholson and her team are undertaking further proactive policing across North Walsall. There are monthly focussed approaches undertaken by the police to tackle issues including those linked to child exploitation (safeguarding) and modern day slavery (human trafficking).
- 2.2 The police continue to support crime reduction and are in the process of finalising the new policing priorities that are to be set for 2015/2016. There will be continued action to reduce crime, fear of crime, keeping roads safe and increasing confidence in the police and partners to tackle crime.

The police have been working with Bloxwich retailers to develop measure to deter crime. One of the measures will be the introduction of 'linked radios', where retailers will be able to speak to each other to prevent offences and notify the police of any activities that may require their presence.

Criminal Behaviour Orders are being investigated for well-known offenders, with a view to possibly excluding them from certain areas in North Walsall.

- 2.3 Beechdale Community Housing Association are supporting the residents and local community in tackling anti-social behaviour. There has been support to tenants who are causing a concern through their ASB activities and various interventions have been implemented, supported across the partnership. The next Beechdale ASB meeting is scheduled for Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2pm BCH Offices.
- 2.4 Colin Isham & Walsall College are rolling out a course linked to EU Gangs & tackling gang cultures. The course offers a Community Safety qualification. For further information contact **Colin Isham**; EUGangs Lead; Tel 07415 029373
- 2.5 A pollination of green spaces is occurring across the borough. Led by Alison Bate, Strategic Development Officer, the project aims to identify appropriate green spaces and then work with local partners and agencies to encourage the space to be used by wildlife. Beechdale Community Housing is involved with identifying green spaces, supported by the BEES Environmental group for the estate.
- 2.6 Vernon Way in Bloxwich has been subject to off-road bikes and other vehicles gaining access to the green space by Glastonbury Crescent. With the support of the Area Partnership funding barriers are to be installed on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015 to deter such actions.

- 2.7 Commercial waste continues to be dumped in Goscote Lodge Crescent and Slackey Lane. Arrangements have been made to clear the rubbish and debris. The fly-tipping seems to occur on a weekly basis. Senior Officers have met with WMBC and further action is to be taken to deter these actions.
- 2.8 Along Hawbush Road fencing has been installed by the 'curly whirly bridge'. The fencing is to address a long-standing ASB issues.
- 2.9 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.

Reference	Installed at	Installing Agency	Purpose	Objective
ND1	Stephenson Square, Beechdale	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken
ND2	Valley Road	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement action
ND7	Chapel Street	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement action
ND8	Essex Street Walsall	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement action

Covert cameras are also utilised. The distributions of cameras are decided at the monthly Confidential Partnership Tasking & Co-ordination Meeting.

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

- 3.1 Youth Support Service, Frank F Harrison and Blakenall Community Centre are co-ordinating activities with the support of Community Safety and Area Partnership.
- 3.2 YSS developed activities over Feb. ½ term period, with 78 young people across North Walsall worked with as part of the detached youth work sessions. Beechdale and Birchills young people undertook a mixed cultural football sessions and the learning from that was the young people felt that they can work well together.

- 3.3 Youth Support Service are reviewing various exit strategies from different projects that have been operating in North Walsall, as the service is being reduced.
- 3.4 Youth Support Service are undertaking various surveys with young people on how they see the service being developed in future years. This includes speaking with young people in Birchills regarding youth provision.
- 3.5 A full-time worker has left Mossley Youth Centre & WMBC on 03/03/2015. This means that the Youth Support Service are reduced by 1 full-time worker; however the part-time staff are covering the sessions, supported by other senior full-time staff.
- 3.6 Youth Support Service is promoting a 'No Means No' campaign- linked to sexual health, relationships and well being.
- 3.7 Plans have been developed to engage young people over the Easter period.

An example being the activities operating from Blakenall Community Centre:

DAY	TIME	AGE	ACTIVITY	CENTRE
Monday	6pm - 8.30pm	8 to 12	Youth Club	BCC
Tuesday	7am to 8.30am	11+	Breakfast Club	BCC
Tuesday	4.30pm to 5.30pm	9 to 16	Footy Skills	BCC
Tuesday	6pm - 8.30pm	13 to 19	Youth Club	Elec. Pal
Wednesday	7am to 8.30am	11+	Breakfast Club	BCC
Wednesday	3.30pm - 5.30pm		ABC Project	BCC
Wednesday	6pm - 8.30pm	13 to 19	Youth Club	BCC
Thursday	6pm - 8.30pm	13 to 19	Youth Club	BCC
Thursday	6pm - 8.30pm	8 to 12	Youth Club	EP
Friday	3.30pm - 4.45pm	9 to 16	Multi Sports	BCC
Friday	6pm - 8.30pm	13 to 19	Youth Club	EP
Saturday	12pm -2.30pm	9 to 16	Youth Club	BCC

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

- 4.1 Goscote Regeneration Group has been meeting with residents over the last few months. The aim is to enable residents to have input into the Keepmoat housing activities. The next meeting is 24<sup>th</sup> March Ryecroft Centre, New Forest Road, Blakenall, 5.00pm- 6.30 pm.
- 4.2 Jason Fry is the newly appointed Engagement Officer for whg. He is seeking to further develop the local apprenticeships that are available to young people in the area. There are also opportunities for electrical companies to be involved.

Recruitment for the courses, starting in April, will target plumbing; June onwards targeting all sectors. The apprenticeships are not solely for whg tenants and the work is linked to Walsall Works (16-24 age range).

He is also looking to support and develop 'ready to work' programmes for adults. If you know of any interested organisations/partners please forward Jason's information onto them.

Contact [Jason.fry@whgrp.co.uk](mailto:Jason.fry@whgrp.co.uk) 07515 189 362

- 4.3 The Big Local National are holding an event in Birmingham on **Thursday 23 April**. The spring events are taking place in different locations in major cities around England.

This is an opportunity to meet and network with people from other Big Local areas and share in the achievements, successes and learning of Big Local.

These are active workshop-based events with a focus on networking and participation.

The conference provides the main opportunity in the year for Big Local areas to come together; find out what is happening in the programme; take part in workshops run by people in Big Local areas and by people with particular expertise in delivering community-led activities; share ideas and experiences; and network and learn together about a range of topics relevant to your activities.

The Big Local National would like representatives from Walsall to attend the session.

Area Partnerships attended this event last year, on behalf of the Mossley residents.

We are actively encouraging residents to attend the very useful and informative sessions.

Contact the Big Local directly if you would like to attend.

<http://localtrust.org.uk/news/blogs/come-to-the-big-local-spring-events-2015>

- 4.4 Steps to Work are continuing to develop Job Clubs in North Walsall from their base at Work on the Horizon. They offer a range of support, from job search skills, training advice and guidance and also signpost to different organisations to help reduce the risk of a family crisis.

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

- 5.1 The Aldridge area is undertaking a 'Forget me not' project. This is an information project for individuals caring for those with dementia. If the project is successful it could be replicated in North Walsall.
  
- 5.2 Mossley Estate over 50's Club, organised by and for local residents meet every Thursday 9.30am- 12.30pm at Mattesley Court.  
It is an open club session, no membership subs and all are welcome to attend.

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