

DARLASTON AND BENTLEY AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

26th January 2016

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.2 This report is designed to inform Elected Members for the Darlaston and Bentley Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area.

1.3 Darlaston South and Darlaston North and Bentley has a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community.

2.0 The strategic priorities are:

2.1 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.

3.0 Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities

3.1 Strategic partners include; West Midlands Police, Walsall Council Community Safety Team, Integrated Young Peoples Support Services, Clean and Green Services, Reassurance Team, Social Care and Inclusion, Area Family Support Team, Environmental Health, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmore/Accord Housing, Heantun Housing, Sanctuary Housing, Victim Support.

3.2 Following ongoing concerns of ASB on Kings Hill Park involving a known group of young adults a project has been coordinated with the support of Walsall Council Cohesion Team to deliver a number of outreach sessions from Kings Hill Pavillion. The intention is to create better links with the group and engage them in positive activities reducing the likelihood of repeat incidents and to also put some support in place for the group based on their needs.

3.3 Issues at the previous Darlaston Multi Purpose have improved with ongoing litterpicks being carried out by Community Payback. Complaints to Walsall Council have decreased significantly and CP intend to visit the site on a regular basis to ensure it is maintained and kept clear of litter.

3.4 Assa Abloy / Yale continue to work with the Area Partnership following their donation of security items. They intend to attend local community events taking place in Darlaston to provide security advice for residents and also would like to host a safety event at their site in Willenhall. This is being planned to take place at the end of May in partnership with WM Fire and Police colleagues.

3.5 Following complaints made regarding litter in Burns Close, Moxley a site visit took place in February with Clean and Green with a litterpick and tidy up of the site agreed. This should take place by the end of March.

3.6 A meeting has been arranged between Walsall Council Highways, WM Fire and WM Police to discuss road safety concerns around schools following ongoing complaints to Darlaston Police Team about parking issues. This will take place on 16th March and an update will follow.

3.7 Insp Dave Payne will be leaving Darlaston Neighbourhood Team at the end of March and will be replaced by Inspector Kris Starynskyj.

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

4.1 Strategic Partners include; Integrated Youth Support Services, Bentley West Children's Centre, Darlaston Sure Start, Area Family Support Team, Grace Academy, Darlaston Schools Cluster, Walsall Housing Group, West Midlands Police, Moxley Community Hub Project Management Group, Old Hall People's Partnership.

4.2 Darlaston Youth Club hosted an event to raise awareness of muslim youth culture in particular the hijab. A documentary has been produced by young people and is available to view via Raqia Akhtar at the centre. The project has been highly commended by partner agencies and links are being facilitated by Walsall Council Cohesion Team and the Home Office to support Raqia to create a centre of excellence for community cohesion work in Darlaston.

4.3 Darlaston Town Hall Boxing Club funded by the AP is continuing in its success providing weekly sessions every Monday evening for young people. The club intends to continue after the end of March to provide this activity based on its positive membership and support.

4.4 Darlaston Air Cadets have received a lot of positive support from the local community and further afield with donations of replacement items which were stolen. They are now in a position to purchase much needed kit and are looking promote the group and recruit more young people to join. They are keen to participate in local litterpicks and community events.

4.5 Walsall Council Youth Service is encouraging local groups in Darlaston to submit applications to deliver youth activities. The link to the e-tendering portal is <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/walsallcouncil> to respond to PME3138 - Youth Support - Targeted Youth Work Grant. The closing date is 24th March 2016.

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

5.1 Strategic partners include; Walsall Council Economic Regeneration, Welfare Rights, District Centre Management, Darlaston JET, Walsall College, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmore/accord Housing, Moxley Community Hub Project Management Group

5.2 City Deal delivered a networking event on 18th February at Darlaston Sure Start to attract local people to find out more about what support is available to them from the providers within City Deal. The event was well attended by local residents and supported by partner agencies. City Deal are working with the AP to organise a further event to bring together local community groups in the area to find out more about City Deal. This will be a breakfast morning in a community venue in the Darlaston South area with the intention of understanding what local services are available and how community groups can help to promote these to their contacts.

5.3 City Deal have a new Community Connector in post – Sarah Richards covers both Bilston and Darlaston South and can be contacted on 07713 313240 or sarah.richards@accordgroup.org.uk

5.4 A money advice roadshow was hosted by Darlaston Sure Start in February aiming to provide information, advice and guidance to local people around debt support, money management and benefits.

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

6.1 Strategic partners include; Walsall Council Public Health, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group, Walsall Council Sports Development, Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust, Integrated Young People's Support Services, Walsall Housing Group, Social Care and Inclusion, Darlaston Sure Start, Moxley Community Hub Project Management Group.

6.2 Mindful Gifts CIC continues to provide a range of weekly activities from the shop on King Street.

Daytime

Tuesdays 1030am- Crocheting/knitting, £1 inc tea/coffee

Tuesdays 1pm- Learn to Draw, £4.99 inc tea/coffee

Wednesdays 1030am - Rag Rug Making, £1 inc tea/coffee

Thursdays 1100am - Papier-mâché, £4.99 inc tea/coffee

Thursdays 1pm- Painting , £4.99 inc tea/coffee

Evening

Monday 21 March 7pm - Victorian Psychic Evening, £5 inc light buffet plus £20 to see psychic

Monday 4 April 6pm- Italian Meal, Ghost Stories and Psychics, £9.99 plus £20 to see psychic (At Gio's Italian Restaurant)

Friday 15 April 7pm- Social, Meet and Greet Night , £6 inc light buffet

Saturday 7 May 7pm- AL 'most Haunted Night (Vigil and other spooky activities) , £14.99 inc light buffet.

Vintage Tea Parties, every day, £4.99.

Support is also being planned with students from Walsall College with Mindful Gifts CIC to offer help with marketing and communication.

6.3 A mini local directory of services for older people and vulnerable adults is being collated by the AP to be distributed for the benefit of partner agencies and local people to include a range of activities and services. This will include local churches and community centres.

6.4 A Healthy Lifestyles Event is being held at Darlaston Youth Club on 25th March to showcase a project which has been delivered at the centre for local women and girls.

7.1 Other activities

7.2 Darlaston took part in the national Clean for the Queen event on 26th February along the canal area between Midland Road and Wolverhampton Street. Clean and Green, Community Payback, Canals and Rivers Trust, WM Police, WM Fire Service, Tarmac, AP and Darlaston Rotary including residents took part and collected over 50 bags of litter as well as the Fire Service assisting to retrieve 16 trolleys from the canal and a stolen motorbike. Community Payback will attend on a monthly basis to ensure the area continues to be maintained and a project is being coordinated with Clean and Green, Canals and River Trust and AP to look into developing a nature trail on this site. This will compliment the work ongoing being developed by Wolverhampton City Council to seek European Funding to improve canal paths and cycle routes across the Black Country.

7.3 AP is working with Walsall College to provide support to community groups across the area with their communication and marketing. A workshop will be delivered to include support around topics

such as posters, newsletters, blogging and using social media more effectively in order to support local organisations to promote what they deliver more successfully and reach more people.

7.4 Darlaston Town FC will be hosting its summer fun day on Saturday 2nd July building on the success of their first event last year. Any agencies or groups interested in attending should contact the club.

7.5 Darlaston Party in the Park will take place on Saturday 16th July in Victoria Park for families across the area. Interested stall holders can contact Cllr Rose Burley or the Events Committee for more information.

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