

WALSALL SOUTH AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

Updated Friday 13th March 2015

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the Walsall South Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area. The information in this report was correct at the time of writing, Friday 13th March 2015.

1.2 Walsall Council 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

1.3 Walsall South Area Partnership has a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with Ward Councillors, partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community:

- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Creating cleaner and tidier neighbourhoods
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Remove the impact of sex workers and drug dealers
- Improving educational achievement
- Improving job prospects and employability
- Improving roads maintenance and traffic flow

1.4 Walsall South Ward Councillors: Cllr Anson, Cllr Arif, Cllr Ditta, Cllr Hussain, Cllr Nazir, Cllr Nawaz, Cllr McCracken, Cllr Martin, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sarohi, Cllr Singh Sohal, Cllr Whyte

1.5 Walsall South Partners: Community Safety, Walsall Youth Support Services, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Probation Service, Walsall Intelligence Network, Environmental Health, Reassurance Team, Walsall South Area

Partnership, Public Health, NHS Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Walsall Town Centre Management Team, Engineering and Transport, Clean & Green Services, Caldmoreaccord Housing Association, Walsall Housing Group (whg), Watmos Community Homes, Walsall Voluntary Action, West Midlands Fire Service, Social Care and Inclusion, Birchills Children's Centre, Chuckery & Paddock Children's Centre, Sure Start Palfrey Children's Centre, Sure Start Alumwell Pleck Children's Centre, Area Family Support Team, Trading Standards, Community Development, Park Hall Community Association, Palfrey Community Association, Joseph Leckie Community Association, Caldmore Traders Association, Caldmore Village Festival Group, Chuckery Festival Group, Caldmore Community Garden, Bath Street Centre – Befriending Service, Walsall Black Sisters Collective, Aaiana Community Hub, Time4Real project, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Clean & Green Services, Sports & Leisure Services, Jobcentre Plus, Citizen Advice Bureau, Welfare Rights, Walsall College, Libraries, Walsall South Neighbourhood Watch Groups, Walsall South Friends of the Parks Groups, Walsall Community Chaplaincy Service, First Base, Addaction, Lantern House, Hi's N Lows, The Glebe Centre, Victim Support, Walsall South Schools, Walsall Adult Community College (WACC).

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

- 2.1 Apache CCTV for Walsall South - Area Manager working with Surveillance Unit we currently have access to one camera that can be deployed in the area. Camera 1 Spout Lane due to ASB concerns including street drinking and fly tipping. We also help with the deployment of the Birchills NHW / Agenda 21 camera, which is for the Birchills area only, current location Cairns Street / Raleigh Street due to ASB concerns raised by residents.
- 2.2 Resident from Skip Lane – has been arrested and gone to trial for masterminding a drugs selling business. Police found almost 12,000 plants at 10 addresses across the Midlands. When Police went to the Skip Lane address bags of cannabis were found along with £37,500 of Scottish bank notes. The resident was jailed for 10 1/2 years and his nephew was sentenced to 9 years. It has been estimated that this drugs business annually made £20 million; this is the largest cannabis production case to have come to trial in the UK.
- 2.3 Cannabis Factory – police were called to an attempted burglary in Vicarage Place, Caldmore at a disused building. When inside, they discovered 644 cannabis plants across six rooms, they also seized unattended dogs from the site. On going enquiries are taking place to track the people responsible.

- 2.4 St Matthew's Church Hill – a community event has been organised for Saturday 20th June 12:00 to 4:00 pm if local organisations want to take part please contact Diane Edlin Church Elder diane.edlin@tiscali.co.uk
- 2.5 Friends of Palfrey Park – organised a litter pick event around Palfrey Park on Saturday 21st February. A good turn out from group members with 20 black bags collected.
- 2.6 Caldmore & Palfrey Community Clean-up Event - UKIM Youth group from Aisha Mosque and Islamic Centre, Caldmore Village Festival group and Bath Street Centre organised a Tidy Event Saturday 28th February, meeting at the Mosque. Nineteen volunteers turned up with a large number of black bags collected.
- 2.7 Little London multi-storey car park – will be demolition and replaced with a 40 spaced floodlit surface car park. This has been a site of long standing anti-social behaviour with residents and visitors frightened to park their cars in the building.
- 2.8 Hoppy the Hippo has moved – from Bridge Street where he has been for the past 40 years. He is now situated outside Walsall Central Library as a temporary measure to allow for the development of the new Town Centre market. Hoppy has also been temporarily painted in Walsall FC colours to celebrate their trip to Wembley on 22nd March.
- 2.9 £1.7 million National Lottery funding for Walsall – 42 grants have been received. For example in Walsall South The New Art Gallery for building improvements has been allocated £487,000 and Positively Special for social activities for children with special needs has been allocated £9,300.
- 2.10 The Church at Junction 10, Pleck – will be knocked down to build a new church which will seat up to 500 people. The new building along with the auditorium will have a cafe area, food bank, crèche and seminar rooms. The new facility will hold a regular luncheon club, women's group and counselling services.
- 2.11 Palfrey Big Local Event – will be taking place at Palfrey CA Saturday 28th March. This will be the official launch of the One Palfrey Big Local initiative to enable residents living in Palfrey to make a difference for their area. The event will include activities for the whole family.

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

- 3.1 Myplace Delves, Walsall South's Youth Support Services - is now running a Young Carers' group, which supports young people who care for a parent or guardian by providing a safe space for them to interact with other young carers and have fun. They ran an initial welcome session on Wednesday 11th March, and the feedback from the young people was really positive.

Since December 2014, Myplace has been working in partnership with Walsall College to engage the students in informal education around the experiences of LGBT young people, in order to foster empathy and mutual understanding, and challenge homophobia. This has also created opportunities to promote the LGBT group which runs at Myplace, and aims to create a safe space for young people who identify as LGBT.

Partnership work between Joseph Leckie Community Association has strengthened, and young people are now accessing their sports facilities on a more regular basis to run sports sessions for the young people who attend Myplace. This has enhanced the service they provide to young people, and also create opportunities for community engagement.

On 7th March they held an International Women's Day event which was attended by 47 women and girls of all ages from the community. They participated in various activities which were informed by a consultation undertaken at the Young Women's group at Myplace. They also used the "#thisgirlcan" theme which provided scope to engage the community members in a range of challenging sports activities at Joseph Leckie Academy and bikeride sessions delivered by Bikability. They were also able to obtain funding to invite a hairdresser to talk about hair care and raise self-esteem, and a masseuse to offer well-deserved pampering and relaxation techniques.

Myplace has also recently completed the development of the state-of-the-art music studio, which will increase engagement with the local community they will be offering studio time for a fee in the near future. The studio also gives young people who attend Myplace the opportunity to learn new skills, and gain confidence.

- 3.2 Sure Start Palfrey and Paddock & Chuckery Children's Centre – both centres have a full packed programme, however they will be closed from 3rd April opening up 8th April. A parent who attended the Palfrey Centre's Paediatric First Aid course was able to use their new skills to save a child's life. The child was choking on some food and the parent was

able to apply the appropriate skills. The next course starts Tuesday 24th March 9:15 am. For more information please contact Palfrey 01922 642382 and Paddock & Chuckery 01922 644005

- 3.3 Sure Start Birchills and Alumwell/Pleck – both centres have a full packed programme including; Chatter Box Playgroup , Well Baby Clinic, Health Trainer sessions, Stop Smoking service, Sewing classes, antenatal classes, introduction to solids, Breast Feeding Support group. For more information please contact Birchills 01922 646574 and Alumwell/Pleck 01922 637794
- 3.4 Big Centre TV, Walsall Studio School – launched Saturday 28th February broadcasting to millions of viewers on Freeview channel 8. Over 30 students from the school will have the opportunity to gain work experience at the TV Centre. The Centre was official opened by the Mayor of Walsall and saw both students and professionals working alongside each other.
- 3.5 Joint patrols to tackle truancy – Walsall Council and West Midlands Police are providing joint patrols. They will be travelling around the area in a marked vehicle to speak to children who are seen out and about during school time. The project is part of a national programme and will also look at targeting anti-social behaviour. The project runs until July 2015 and will check children of all ages, but also provide support for families if there is an identified need.
- 3.6 Abu Bakr Primary & Secondary schools – have worked with Tauheedul Charity and FareShare to support Food for All Day. Students donated non-perishable food items and these will be used thought-out the UK. The schools are working on an ongoing project called The Fault in Our Waste and are supporting people in need through offering support for the FareShare charity.
- 3.7 Maddisons Activity Clubs at Palfrey Junior School – are currently delivering dance training for staff to introduce in their PE sessions. For more information please contact maddisonscic@yahoo.co.uk or look at their website www.maddisonactivelifestyles.org

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

- 4.1 As part of the Gigaport corridor – the derelict factories in Albert Street have been pulled down to enable the land to be used for regeneration purposes as part of the business corridor. It will be used as a car park in

the short term, for up to 40 places, while discussions take place on its future use.

- 4.2 Commercial development at the Waterfront – as part of the government's pledge for an extra £24 million investment in the Black Country. The commercial premises will be created at this Town Centre site with the hope of generating 160 jobs.
- 4.3 New jobs at Religion Nightclub, Bridge Street – WS1 nightclub will be closing down and reopening as Religion on Thursday 2nd April. The scheme will be creating 25 new jobs which will be added to the existing 23 staff. The building will undergo structural changes including an extended terrace, video wall and new sounds system.

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

- 5.1 Sex Worker (SW) Project - this project's coordinated approach helps reduce some of the negative impacts on the individuals and the wider community. For example, one of the partners discovered that one of the SWs was pregnant and she hadn't yet engaged with services, historically SWs try to hide pregnancy and this puts mother and baby at great risk Through the group we were able to raise the child & adult safeguarding concerns and get Nurse intervention to help the expectant mother.
- 5.2 Physical Activity – Lifestyle Services Team offer a variety of services across Walsall South including smoking cessation, exercise sessions and healthy diet advice. For more information please visit their website www.lifestyle.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk/lifestyle-services.aspx or phone the team on 01922 444044
- 5.3 Joseph Leckie Community Association – are providing free swimming and multi-sports activities for women and young girls aged 14 to 25 years 5:30 – 7:00pm at Joseph Leckie Academy. The sessions started 2nd March running through to 16th April there will be free sports/swim kits available to ladies attending 5 or more sessions. For more information www.josephleckieca.wordpress.com
- 5.4 New Yoga Studio, Park Hall – Byoga has recently opened at Park Hall shopping centre. It was formally opened by the Mayor with Cllr Martin and Cllr Sohal in attendance. The centre provides yoga for all ages for additional information please contact Belinda 07719 777759.

- 5.5 Asthma Care, Manor Hospital – has been improved by the Paediatric Asthma Team who set up a care pathway after higher than average Asthma admissions. The multi-disciplinary pathway care team is lead by Dr Muhammad Tariq and will be piloting an emergency department discharge programme in March.
- 5.6 Aston University's Sports Campus, Birmingham Road – will be building a new £250,000 floodlit all weather pitch. The project has received funding from Sport England to improve their facilities. The University is hoping to increase regular participation in sport by 14 – 25 year olds in the area.

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