



# Walsall Area Partnerships

## Walsall South Area Partnership Area Manager Report – updated 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014

### Ongoing Updates on the Actions for Walsall South Area Plan

#### 1. Purpose of the report

This report seeks to inform the elected members of the Walsall South Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within Walsall South. The information in the report was correct at the time of writing, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

#### 2. Work Stream priority – Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

Responsible Members – Cllr Ali, Cllr Nazir & Cllr Sarohi

Partners Involved – ASB unit, IYPSS, WM Police, Town Centre Management Team, Walsall Area Partnership, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmoreaccord.

2.1 Apache CCTV for Walsall South - Area Manager working with Surveillance Unit we currently have access to two cameras that can be deployed in the area. Camera 1 Woodward's Road, Pleck due to Fly Tipping incidents and Camera 2 Camden Street, Palfrey due to ASB concerns raised by residents. We also help with the deployment of the Birchills NHW / Agenda 21 camera, which is for the Birchills area only, this camera is currently away for repair due to development of a fault.

2.2 IYPSS continues to provide detached youth work as and when needed. The Detached Team were out and about in our parks with the Winter Warmers programme to help reduce ASB they also visited key hot spot areas over the Christmas period engaging with young people across our area. Although they did report the area was very quiet possibly due to the inclement weather.

Walsall South's IYPSS MyPlace provision was open over the Christmas period offering support around managing relationships including a sleepover session Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December. This was a 12 hour event, which eleven young people attended plus 3 older young people who volunteered to help on the night. Within this group were a few Looked After young people who really enjoyed the session.



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- 2.3 British Transport Police have been working hard to crack down on metal thieves in our area. Officers have been carrying out an operation on the site near the M6 at junction 9 and they caught a man removing cable cord at Bescot Rail Yard. The man was given an eight week suspended prison sentence with a supervision order including a two month driving ban and court costs of £165.
- 2.4 Walsall Council Trading Standards and West Midlands Police have been working hard to track illegal activity in our area. They have identified 35,000 suspected illegal and counterfeit cigarettes to the value of £13,000 which were mainly discovered at a shop in Caldmore. In addition counterfeit cigarettes were found at a shop in Birchills and fake goods at Bescot Market which if they had been genuine would have been worth £20,000.

### 3. Work Stream priority – Creating cleaner and tidier neighbourhoods

Responsible Members – Cllr Azam & Cllr Ditta (Vice Chair Caldmore Tidy group - Cllr Arif)

Partners Involved – Caldmore Village Festival (CVF) committee, Walsall Area Partnership, Caldmoreaccord, Clean and Green, Walsall Housing Group, Reassurance Team, WM Fire Service, Caldmore Traders Association.

- 3.1 Merrions Wood the wonderful oak and beech woodland located in Paddock ward will be beautiful in spring when the bluebells are in bloom. Many activities take place in the woodland, including guided walks and talks by the rangers and sessions with schools and play groups. The Friends of Merrions Wood is open to anyone who is interested in getting involved with the care, protection, enjoyment and development of Merrions Wood. The group meet for events and activities throughout the year. For more information contact Morgan Bowers, Senior Countryside Ranger, on 01922 654220 [BowersM@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:BowersM@walsall.gov.uk)
- 3.2 The Walsall South Street Scene leaflets for Caldmore and Chuckery have been printed and will be distributed week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> January to these two neighbourhood areas.



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## 4. Work Stream priority – Healthy lifestyles

Responsible Members – Cllr Arif, Cllr Russell & Cllr McCracken

Partners involved – Public Health, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmoreaccord, Walsall Partnership, Walsall College, Extended schools, Social Care & Inclusion, IYPSS, Clean and Green, Sports and Leisure Services

- 4.1 The Community Development Workers from Dudley & Walsall NHS Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust are launching a BME Wellbeing Guide in early 2014 specifically aimed at Black and Minority Ethnic communities. The guide contains a snapshot of common mental health problems, with simple but effective guides on how you can manage these conditions. The guide covers depression and low mood, stress, anxiety and panic attacks. It also looks at relaxation techniques for more information please contact Kuldeep Singh, Lorien Haye or Michelle Raouf on Tel: (01384) 366517 or 366518.
- 4.2 Sure Start Palfrey Children's Centre will be launching their New Baby Academy starting 17<sup>th</sup> January and will run every Friday 10:00 am to 12:00 noon they will be offering sessions on Baby Massage, Baby Signs, Baby Peeps, introduction to solid foods and Baby Ballet.
- 4.3 Chuckey and Paddock Children's Centre along with Sure Start Palfrey are running a Saturday Dads and Toddler Club for 2014. They will be offering Parenting Programmes, Healthy Eating and Keep Active sessions with support from a Father's Worker for more information contact the help line on Tel: 01922 471864.
- 4.4 World AIDS Day took place 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 as part of this Walsall Council Public Health department launched mobile HIV testing in Walsall Town Centre. A wide range of people came forward for testing from teenagers to adults over 50 years of age. Walsall currently has 234 HIV positive people with 5,115 across the West Midlands accessing treatment. The purpose of this event was to raise awareness and to increase people's awareness of their HIV status. Almost 100 people came forward to take up the offer of free testing and the Public Health team were able to raise awareness of the importance of early diagnosis.
- 4.5 Walsall South's Partners and community members have raised their concerns about the mental wellbeing of our residents especially since the Welfare Reforms. Time to Change is a programme to end the discrimination faced by people with mental health problems. They will be launching "Time to Talk Day" 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014 asking people to come together to talk about mental health issues. The aim is by speaking more openly within communities we will help to improve understanding and



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reduce discrimination. Organisations and Community groups are being asked to get involved by registering their activities in support of this campaign for more information [www.time-to-change.org.uk](http://www.time-to-change.org.uk)

4.6 NHS Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will be seeking views from residents and patients during January on Urgent and Emergency Care Services in Walsall these include:

- **NHS 111** is the national telephone service that is able to offer people health advice and help to decide which service is best if they need healthcare quickly, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- **GP practices** are services where patients are registered with a GP who is responsible for their on-going care. GPs offer help and advice everyday but also in urgent situations.
- **Walsall Walk-in Health Centre** provides advice and treatment for minor illnesses or injuries when patients need help quickly. The walk-in centre is located in Market Square, Walsall Town Centre, WS1 1QZ.
- The **Emergency and Urgent Care Centre (EUCC)** is a walk-in centre that provides urgent advice and treatment for minor illnesses and injuries at any time of the day or night (24 hours, every day). The service is based at Manor Hospital which is run by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.
- **GP out-of-hours service** offers advice and treatment for patients when GP practices are closed;
- **Accident and Emergency (A&E)** offers advice and treatment for major illnesses or injuries at any time of the day or night;
- **Ambulance Service (999)** is an emergency service for people who have serious illness or injury needing immediate assessment or treatment but who cannot get to an A&E department.

For more information please go to [www.walsallccg.nhs.uk/urgentcare](http://www.walsallccg.nhs.uk/urgentcare)

4.7 Through NHS Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) a number of GP practices in our area will be offering extended opening hours till March 2014 for their registered patients:

- Birchills Health Centre Sunday 1:00pm – 4:00pm
- Palfrey Health Centre Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm
- Pleck Health Centre Saturday 9:00am – 12:00 noon
- Saddler's Health Centre Alternate Saturdays 8:00am -11:00am / 3:30am – 6:30pm
- Sai Medical Centre Saturday 2:00am – 5:00pm
- Wharf Family Practice Saturday 1:00am – 4:00pm

Patients are being asked to give their feedback at their practices of the value of this service.



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4.8 Disability Sport and Exercise sessions in Walsall are currently funded through Public Health and the Aiming High Grants scheme. This has allowed Sport & Leisure services to increase participation in physical activities by people with disabilities. Within our area a series of weekly instructor led walks targeting service users of mental health services took place through Park Hall Community Association & the Broadway North Centre. These weekly walks utilise the nearby Walsall Arboretum.

## 5. Work Stream priority – Remove the impact of sex workers and drug dealers

Responsible Member – Cllr Arif

Partners Involved – WM Police, Caldmoreaccord, Pleck NHW, Hi's N Lows, SAFE Project, Community Safety Partnership, Walsall Housing Group, Probation Services, Lantern House, Manor House Project, Addaction, Dudley and Walsall Mental Healthcare Trust, Supported Housing and Walsall Community Chaplaincy Project .

5.1 Under this work stream the Reducing Harm group, which is one of the three areas we are focusing on, has now been meeting monthly for nearly 11 months. The purpose of this group is to reduce the vulnerability of sex workers and community and to improve support and diversion for sex workers. The group has been focusing on supporting ten chaotic vulnerable women by offering a joined up multi-agency sympathetic approach, for example Caldmoreaccord have made available accommodation for a couple of the women, under their current process this would not normally happen but the Reducing Harm group has identified that the chaotic nature of the women's lifestyle means they don't always respond to our systematic approach to service delivery and Caldmoreaccord have been able to hold back housing offers to accommodate this project. Partners have also worked with Service Providers out of Walsall to try to accommodate one of the women as she said she felt she could break her cycle of prostitution and drug addiction if she was able to live outside of Walsall. The group is learning through the joined up process of support which will enable future development of service provision.

5.2 The Strategic Delivery group will be overseeing the three areas of focus:

- **Reducing harm**
- **Community & living** - to improve quality of life for community and local residents and to improve the reputation of Walsall
- **Effective justice** - reduce on street prostitution



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This group will be holding its second meeting end of January 2014 to understand the development and progress of each strand of work. The Delivery group will then update Walsall Safer Partnership Board.

- 5.2 Broadway North Residential Unit will be closed to all respite and crisis customers from 23<sup>rd</sup> December and will not be accepting further referrals for these services. Acceptance of referrals/assessments will continue for substance misuse detoxifications (Via DAAT) until the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The final week of availability for customers to access the service being week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The unit will close fully on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014.
- 5.3 WM Police discovered heroin and crack cocaine worth £75,000 inside a car in Fellows park Gardens, Bescot. A 23 year old man from Wednesbury Road was arrested and appeared in front of magistrates 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014 bail was refused and he will appear for a plea hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.

## 6. **Work Stream priority – Improving educational achievement**

Responsible Members – Cllr Ali & Cllr Hussain

Partners Involved – Children Services, Walsall South Schools, IYPSS

- 6.1 South Walsall Library, Delves will be running Chatterbooks sessions to enable young people between 7 and 12 years to talk to other young people about books they have enjoyed reading. It will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month (term time only) 4:00-4:45pm starting Thursday 9th January 2014. For more information please contact [southwalsalllibrary@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:southwalsalllibrary@walsall.gov.uk)



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## **7. Work Stream priority – Improving job prospects and employability**

Responsible Members – TBC

Partners Involved – Strategic Regeneration, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmoreaccord

7.1 Walsall Library Service will operate Work Clubs from January 2014 to help job seekers aged 16 and over. Library staff will be on hand to help visitors use the internet to search for work, complete online application forms, update their CV and write covering letters to boost their employment prospects. Work Clubs will be available from the following libraries in our area:

- Walsall Central Library, Lichfield Street, WS1 1TR (01922 653110) - Friday 10th, 17th & 24th January, between 10am & 12pm
- Pleck Library, Darlaston Road, Pleck, WS2 9RE (01922 654860) - Every Tuesday starting from 7th January, between 2pm & 4pm

Customers can book an appointment directly with each library or call the Library Development Team on 01922 653139 for more information.

## **8. Work Stream priority – Improving roads maintenance and traffic flow**

Responsible Members – Cllr Martin & Cllr Anson

Partners Involved – Highways & Traffic Management, WM Police, Walsall South NHW groups

Nothing to report this period





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**Positively Special** which is a parents support group for children with special needs was based at Surestart Alumwell Children's Centre has moved to St Paul's at The Crossing. The group was initially launched by Zoe Ball and Donna Street in September 2013. The group will enable socialisation, activities such as exercise and craft sessions and provide regular support meetings for parents for more information visit [www.positivelyspecial.co.uk](http://www.positivelyspecial.co.uk)

**Free Exercise Classes in Walsall South** Walsall Council's Public Health Department in partnership with Walsall Health Care NHS Trust will be delivering physical activity sessions at Aaina Community Hub, Caldmore, St Matthew's Church Hall, Walsall Central Hall and Wolverhampton University Campus, Gorway For more information please contact Lifestyle Link on 01922 44 40 44 or visit the Lifestyle Services website <http://lifestyle.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk/home.aspx>

**Pleck Library** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 10:00 am, the 50+ reading group will be holding meet the author session with the award winning author Christina Courtenay coming for a visit. Christina will be showcasing her new adult novel "The Gilded Fan". An engaging, well-written novel. Described as an enjoyable read. The story line described as fascinating, leaving the reader on tenterhooks!

**A Central Hall, Ablewell Street** recording of the BBC Radio 4 current affairs programme Any Questions? will be taking place in Walsall on Friday 14 February. The programme is chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby and panelists are expected to include Rt. Hon. Patrick McLoughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport; Camilla Cavendish, campaigning journalist, The Times; Rt. Hon. Keith Vaz, MP Home Affairs Select Committee and Sir Peter Bazalgette, Chairman, Arts Council England.

Admission is by ticket only by postal application to Central Hall, Ablewell Street, Walsall WS1 2EQ to arrive no later than 1 February 2014. Mark the envelope Any Questions? and the number of tickets you would like. Please enclose sae. There is no charge for tickets. Tickets will be posted in January, together with details of how to put questions to the panel. The BBC encourages questions on the most stimulating moral, political and social issues of the day - current issues that will get people talking. Humorous questions are also welcome.

Recording starts at 7.30pm and ends at 9pm. No admission after 7.15pm or during the recording. Taking photographs during the recording is expressly forbidden by the BBC. Refreshments will be available from 6pm until 7pm, the proceeds of which will be donated towards Central Hall's Organ Fund. Raffle tickets will also be on sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and Action for Children, the chosen charities of The Rotary Club of Walsall.

## **Report Author**

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