

WALSALL SOUTH AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

Updated Tuesday 16th September 2014

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, Tuesday 16th September 2014.

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: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit, Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS), 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 two cameras that are deployed in the area. Camera 1 Arboretum Park by the Skate Park entrance due to ASB concerns and Camera 2 Camden Street, Palfrey due to ASB concerns raised by residents. We are also borrowing a camera from Darlaston Area Partnership for Darlaston Road / Dora Street, Pleck due to ASB concerns raised by residents (see 2.2) and also for Hough Place, Pleck provided by whg (see 2.2) 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 Remove The Impact – through the Tasking process information has been received with regards to residents concerns in the Pleck area of an increase of ASB in particular relating to Sex Working. WM Police, Community Safety and whg have been working closely in the area and this process has been overseen by the Area Partnership Tasking process. WM Police and whg have been carrying out joint patrols and Community Safety has been door knocking and speaking face to face with residents providing leaflets and encouraging reporting of incidents of ASB. Whg has provided CCTV for Hough Place and Walsall South has

supplied a camera for Darlaston Road / Dora Street (see 2.1) both to provide reassurance for residents and to capture any ASB taking place in the locality.

- 2.3 Local Government Service Awards (APSE) 2014 - the work that Walsall South has been coordinating with regards to reducing on street sex working had been nominated and shortlisted for an award, under the Best Public / Voluntary Partnership Working Initiative. The project was selected for the final as one of eight finalists in this category and the only Walsall Council entry amongst the 19 awards. The award ceremony took place Thursday 11th September with a small group attending the event at Nottingham Ice Arena to represent the project, this included Cllr Arif, WM Police, Caldmoreaccord and Area Partnership. Maria Filippov from Dancing on Ice presented the awards. The project was cited as a Runner Up and APSE said all finalists did very well to be nominated as many organisations were unsuccessful with their applications.
- 2.4 Orlando Estate, Caldmore – whg Community Safety Team and the police neighbourhood team carried out joint monthly ASB patrols in the area between 6:30 – 10:00pm. This was to provide visible reassurance for residents. To date both agencies have picked up on various issues taking place during these hours such as drug activity, sex workers operating, youth nuisance and noise nuisance. The patrols will continue with the aim to reduce ASB in the area and to send a positive message to the community around partnership working.
- 2.5 Whg CCTV in highrise blocks, Caldmore – have recently been extended and upgraded to include audio transmission, Control room can now talk to customers on site. This has enabled, for example, the recovery of costs for damage to whg property and arrests for theft.
- 2.6 Old Square shopping centre – a prolific shop lifter was caught by a police officer as he ran out of the centre having stolen aftershave from Debenhams. He raised a knife to both staff in Debenhams and the police officer. The shop lifter who has 62 previous convictions appeared in court and was jailed for two years.
- 2.7 House Fire Rowley Street, Chuckery – three patrolling police officers saw a fire in a converted Victorian Property in Chuckery and rescued the four sleeping occupants after calling the fire service. The occupants who were already suffering with smoke inhalation were taken to the Manor Hospital where they were later discharged after receiving treatment. The fire was suspected to have been started by food left cooking on the hob.

- 2.8 Pocket Places, Chuckery – the Sustrans / Walsall South Area Partnership/ Walsall Council project has been out and about in Chuckery. A Litter Pick was organised for Saturday 9th August because residents had raised their concerns about litter and untidy streets. Twelve volunteers turned up with 20 bags of litter being gathered. The overall project is now moving into the 'Design Workshop' stage. Four potential pocket areas have been identified through recent consultations and events. These areas include Lincoln Road and the alleyways off Selborne Street, the Chuckery Corner Green, Kinnerley Street close to Karim's Pharmacy and the Bridge Street/Ablewell Street Junction. Design Workshops will use large scale maps, symbols and activities to enable people to share more specific thoughts and ideas about improving local streets and spaces. The information gathered through this stage will begin to shape the nature and location of the designs they take forward. For more information please contact Chloe Booth Chloe.Booth@sustrans.org.uk
- 2.9 Big Litter Pick, St Matthew's Church Hill – St Matthew's Asda organised a Big litter pick on Thursday 28th August. Litterpickers, hi-viz jackets and bin liners were provided along with drinks and snacks for the volunteers. Clean & Green services supported the event with removal of the collected rubbish. The Mayor, Cllr Pete Smith took part along with Asda staff. The Time4Real project that is based at Caldmore Village Hub provided volunteers along with The Princes Trust and KeyRing charity. Approximately 75 bags of rubbish were collected on the day with over 25 volunteers taking part.
- 2.10 Roadworks in Caldmore – a one way system was introduced in Corporation Street, West Bromwich Street and Weston Street by South Staffordshire Water for approximately six weeks. This was to enable a water main scheme to be installed.
- 2.11 Roadworks in Pleck – the junction of Darlaston Road and Bescot Road will be widened to enable improved travel between Pleck and Darlaston. This is part of the Darlaston Strategic Development Scheme (STA).
- 2.12 The Place of Refuge Church, Delves – due to the popularity of this community venue an expansion/update plan has been proposed with an extension to accommodate rising numbers. The registered charity currently provides facilities for an after-school clubs, cafe, men's forum, English classes, health awareness and first-aid training. The charity would like to expand their outreach work and provide more space for their community meals provision.

- 2.13 The Community Garden, Caldmore Village – held a BBQ community event on Saturday 23rd August with 40 people taking part. Produce from the garden was used in the BBQ and was also for sale at the event. As part of the Great War (WW1) commemorations the group provided a display of the history and connections of Caldmore and its residents with the Great War. The Local History museum have been really supportive helping the group with their research including identifying Caldmore residents who took part in the war and following their journey some of whom did return to Caldmore after the battle.
- 2.14 The new visitor centre at the Arboretum – work on the new building is now progressing with plans to be finished early 2015. The location is currently fenced off while the works takes place. The centre will have a classroom, meeting rooms, cafe area, office space and toilet facilities.
- 2.15 St Matthew's Church roof repair project – has received £125,000 from English Heritage towards the costs of the £250,000 project. The church has managed to fundraise £85,000 towards the repairs and is now running more fund raising events to raise the £40,000 shortfall. These have included Sheffield Male Voice Choir performance and a 'songs of praise' event. For more information on how to donate please call 01922 626039.
- 2.16 Development of Station Street, Town Centre – derelict buildings are to be demolished to enable regeneration of this site. The site will be cleared with temporary boarding around the site while proposals are developed for the location. This intervention is timely as the empty properties were being used by rough sleepers and drug users and had become a site of concern for Environmental Health Officers.
- 2.17 The Tales From the Trenches – as part of the First World War events Walsall Museum held an event to commemorate the anniversary of the out break of the First World War. Actors performed songs and tales dressed as soldiers to help the community understand life in the Trenches. The event was part of the summer activities the museum has been running over the summer holidays.
- 2.18 Open Day Event 'whg by the sea' - over 1,000 people turned up to this event on 21st August at Hatherton Street. It was a family fun day with updates on services provided along with information on Universal Credit. Whg Customers had an opportunity to feedback on services.

- 2.19 Orlando Estate and Whiston House, Caldmore – whg have completed the refurbishment on the 4 blocks. This included Thermal Raps, internal decorations, windows, resurfacing car park area, fencing and a heating system upgrade. This work will be followed with an upgrade of the Door Entry Systems. For example whg are able to disable fobs remotely if they are lost or stolen. To improve security further new fobs have been issued and resident's photo ID has been taken.
- 2.20 Lottery Funding for schools and groups in Walsall South – nine groups across Walsall have collectively been awarded just over £72,000. In Walsall South Blue Coat Junior School has received £10,000 to replace equipment in their dining room to help with there provision of their Breakfast Club, Lunch Club and After School Club. The LGBT community have been awarded £9,993 for their Walsall Pride event, which this year took place by the Art Gallery. Park Hall Community Association received £8,925 to support workshops for older people who experience social isolation. The Place of Refuge Church, Delves was awarded £800 to provide a community event. Total **£29,718** received by Walsall South groups.
- 2.21 African Caribbean Community Association, Birchills – held an open day on 30th August with over 200 people attending. NHS provided health checks along with representation from whg and WM Police. The main aim of the event was to encourage residents to express their views on how the centre should develop.

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

- 3.1 Walsall South's Integrated Young Peoples Support Services (IYPSS) - team continues to provide Detached youth work. The Summer school holiday programme was delivered across Walsall South including Get Active – sports challenge, Community Feast, Big Music project, dancing, Hate Crime awareness, BBQ in the park to name but a few. The Smothie Bike funded by Walsall South was well used by young people during the summer holidays especially at the 'healthy & fitter' young people's sessions.
- 3.2 Special needs charity, nominated for an award – Positively Special who are based at St Pauls The Crossing have been nominated for the Community Organisation Award at the National Diversity Awards. They offer support for families with special needs children who live in Walsall.

- 3.3 Free training on Tax Credit and Universal Credit – to help frontline staff and volunteers Palfrey Sure Start in partnership with Gingerbread are providing training. They will be providing basic information on the new systems and how they differ from the previous model. The training is available 10th October 10:00 am – 12:30 or 1:30pm – 4:00pm, for more information please contact Arfan Zaman on 01922 642382 or email arfanzaman@surestartpalfrey.co.uk
- 3.4 Caldmore Village Primary School Open Day – Tuesday 16th September the formal opening of the extension to the school building took place. The event was attended by pupils past and present, parents, governors, Cllr Arif, Cllr Russell and former Cllr Azam, local businesses and community members. The event started at 2:00 pm and was opened by Cllr Arif with the youngest and oldest pupil cutting a ribbon releasing over 300 balloons into the air one for every pupil in the school. The school were very appreciative of all the hard work that has gone into making the new school extension possible.
- 3.5 Time 2 Start (T2S) - is Walsall's response to the Government's strategy of free childcare places for the most disadvantaged 2 year olds. To access a place you must have a child who is 2, or will be 2 in the next few months and be getting one of the following benefits:
- Families receiving Income Support;
 - Families receiving Income-based Jobseekers Allowance;
 - Families receiving Income-related Employment & Support Allowance;
 - Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190;
 - Working Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190;
 - Families receiving support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999;
 - Families receiving the Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit.
- You can also access a place if:
- The child is getting Disability Living Allowance;
 - The child is a looked after child.
- For more information ask at Walsall South Children Centre's or call Walsall Families Information Services on 01922 653383
- 3.6 Sure Start Palfrey and Paddock & Chuckery Children's Centre – both centres have a full packed programme including Baby Spaces, Baby Clinic with stay and play / breast feeding support, Paediatric First Aid training for dads, family fun days, wonderful world of stories, knit and

natter, antenatal parent education programme. For more information please contact Palfrey 01922 642382 and Paddock & Chuckery 01922 644005

- 3.7 Sure Start Birchills and Alumwell/Pleck – both centres have a full packed programme including Play & Stay with the Music Man, Well Baby Clinic, Health Trainer sessions, Stop Smoking service, Sewing classes, antenatal classes, Messy Monkey's, tots & toddlers, understanding your child parent education programme. For more information please contact Birchills 01922 646574 and Alumwell/Pleck 01922 637794

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

- 4.1 21 warehouse jobs for Pleck – Travelodge as part of a £57 million modernisation project across the country will be creating 21 jobs by expanding its maintenance team at Walsall Enterprise Park in Pleck. The jobs will be based in Pleck but will involve travelling all over the country providing in-house maintenance service for their Hotels.
- 4.2 Retail Centre in Walsall – foundations have now been laid for the Primark and Co-op build as part of the revamp of the Old Square Shopping Centre. The concrete foundations have been laid by construction workers which will support the new build and the metal frame has been erected.
- 4.3 Broadway North Pub expansion plan – the Tobay Carvery is proposing to extend and carry out alterations/upgrade. If this goes ahead Mitchells & Butlers who own the Carvery would be looking to create additional jobs at the premises.
- 4.4 £400 million business corridor – as part of the Town Centre improvements the Albion Tannery and 7 Hatherton Street building have been demolished to show the site as a development opportunity. A temporary car park is proposed on the Hatherton Street site. The business corridor will provide office/business space which is hoped to generate an increase in jobs for the area.
- 4.5 New jobs for pharmacy headquarters – building work has started on the Jhoots headquarters at the corner of Littleton Street West and Hatherton Street. The site is planned to be completed summer 2015 with the creation of 30 new jobs.
- 4.6 New jobs for Park Street – KFC is planning to open in an empty unit in Park Street creating 30 Jobs with 20 of those posts being full-time.

- 4.7 New jobs for Bescot Retail Park – JTF discount outlet is taking over empty units on the site and creating 60 jobs. They are hoping to open by the end of the year.
- 4.8 Local Development Framework – the Black Country City Deal has created an Investment Fund to provide apprenticeships, housing and business support packages. Walsall's allocation will enable a residential development and site remediation work in Bentley Lane and improvements to junction 10.

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

- 5.1 New Health and Wellbeing group, Small Street Centre, Caldmore – The Kaleidoscope Plus group have launched 'Introductions to Mindfulness' every Thursday 2:30 – 3:30pm this is part of the charity's community wellbeing service. The group has been requested by both service users and professionals. For more information please contact Heather Lomax on 0121 565 7815 or visit www.kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk
- 5.2 The 'Safe Places' scheme, Walsall Town Centre – a number of shops and businesses have signed up to the pilot project including Citizen's Advice Bureau, Walsall Gala Baths, Age UK, First Stop Shop, Independent Living Centre, Central Library, Art Gallery, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Boots, Walsall hub (Mencap) and Walsall College. The scheme offers a safe place for vulnerable people aged 14 years and over to go for support. Those signed up to the scheme carry a card with their emergency contact details and if they feel unsafe or unwell they can go into any of the above locations for support.
- 5.3 Walsall Cricket Club, Gorway Road - have secured £65,000 through a government-backed Funding for Lending Scheme. The money will be used for refurbishment of the club house and grounds to help increase visitors. The club also offers space for other local sports clubs such as football and bowls and is a community focused organisation. The club was established in 1812 and facilitates a nursery school, junior football team and private functions.
- 5.4 British Heart Foundation, Old Square Centre – they are providing a free collection service for unwanted furniture and working electrical for more information contact the store on 01922 460710 or book online www.bhf.org.uk/collection

- 5.5 Health & Fitness Centre, Littleton Street West – plans for a gym to open near Tesco’s has been approved. The gym will create up to 30 jobs and have capacity to have up to 6,500 members.
- 5.6 Community Gardeners for Chuckery – Chuckery TMO is forming a gardening group, the idea has come from the residents themselves who would like to come together to improve their neighbourhood. The newly formed group have already started adding flowers to the beds on their estate. If you would like to get involved or for more information please contact Stephanie Rees 01922 644456.
- 5.7 Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust – ran an event at Walsall Central Hall on Tuesday 2nd September. Members of the public were invited to take part in a question and answer session where the trust’s lead governor and three medical consultants were put on the hot spot. The event was followed by the annual general meeting of the foundation.
- 5.8 20th Anniversary of Walsall Manor Hospital’s Maternity Unit – celebrations took place 26th August in the Family Health area. The event included a cake cutting ceremony, free aromatherapy and reflexology sessions, plus children’s activities including activity packs provided by Asda. Mothercare supported the event by offering a free Child Seat fitting service. The unit opened in 1994 with 2,700 babies being delivered, today the unit delivers approximately 5,000 babies per year.
- 5.9 Asian Women’s Support Group, Alumwell – the group will be run at Alumwell Sure Start in Pleck. They will meet every Monday 1:00 – 2:30pm starting Monday 22nd September. The purpose of the group is for women to come together to discuss stress, anxiety and depression and to share their experiences in a safe environment. The sessions will be supported by Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust Community Development Worker for more information please contact Anita Chumber 01384 366 517.
- 5.10 St John’s Church and Community Centre, Pleck - through Near Neighbours funding Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust are working in partnership with the Community Centre to provide a Mental Health and Wellbeing Project covering the Pleck and Bescot areas. Stage one of the project is to deliver a wellbeing event to enable local people from different backgrounds to come together and to provide an opportunity to talk about mental health. The event will take place on Saturday 8th November at 12pm-3pm for more information please contact Anita Chumber 01384 366 517.

- 5.11 Walsall Football Club, Bescot – the Multi Media Arts & Sports Project (MAP) and Time to Change ran a music event on Saturday 6th September promoting Mental Health Services. For more information please contact Karen Simkiss 01922 643270.
- 5.12 Palfrey Park Free Cycle Training – for adults 16+ equipment provided. BikeRight and Aecom are working in partnership with Centro and Walsall Council to provide free ‘Cycle Smarter’ activities. For more information www.bikeright.co.uk/westmidlands or call 0121 2002266 email info2@bikeright.co.uk
- 5.13 Walsall Golf Club, Broadway – has trained its entire staff to use a defibrillator. The Club has purchased a life-saving defibrillator to give its staff the best chance of helping people if the worse should happen. This approach will greatly improve the chance of survival of a cardiac arrest. There are currently only a third of Golf Clubs in the UK who have this equipment. For more information please call the club on 01922 613512.
- 5.14 Park Hall Community Association – have been working in the community for over 38 years and more recently in partnership with the Broadway North Centre. They offer support to help people ‘achieve, socialise, learn and be healthy’ by using the Five Ways to Wellbeing model. Courses commence from Monday 15th September for more information www.parkhallca.co.uk or call 01922 720866 email reception@parkhallca.co.uk
- 5.15 Over 55s housing development at the Waterfront – 44 homes overlooking the canal. The whg new ‘wellbeing’ complex will provide facilities for independent living for older residents. All the homes will be wheelchair accessible and self-contained.
- 5.16 Diabetes Event, Manor Hospital – Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust through their membership scheme are hosting a presentation and discussions on diagnosis and treatment of Type 1 diabetes and prevalence, causes, diagnosis and treatment of Type 2 diabetes, including diet management. The event will be held 1st October 2:00 – 5:00 pm refreshments will be provided and car parking is free for attendees. For more information please contact Georgie Westley on 01922 656643 or email georgie.westley@walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk

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