

# **NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL**

## **Area Manager's Report**

**Wednesday, 9 April 2014**

### **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 Partners involved: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit, Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS), 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, Reassurance Team, 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, Propsects, Public Health, Lifestyles Team, Forest Arts Centre, Blakenall Community Centre (BCC), Ryecroft Hub, Green Lane Baptist Church, Community Payback, Streams Housing

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

- 2.1 The six month Dispersal Order, covering Stephenson Square to Reedswood Park, was effectively implemented by the Police. The residents of Beechdale are being kept informed of actions through the Police Neighbourhoods Team, which also involves Beechdale Community Housing (BCH), who have been able to respond directly to any requests/queries/concerns.

- 2.2 The Beechdale Anti-Social Behaviour Sub-Group has arranged a meeting for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. The aim being to further support local businesses and the community to identify how local partners can continue to work with young people & other individuals to further reduce anti-social behaviour.
- 2.3 IYPSS have continued to fund youth related activities through their commissioning contracts with Frank F Harrison CA. There is some discussion occurring between Frank F Harrison CA & the commissioning team/IYPSS relating to youth activities on Dudley Fields, as the provision relating to 8-12 year olds may alter or stop.
- 2.4 The Frank F Harrison CA motorbike project has been successful in engaging a number of young people. There is an intensive programme of activities targeted to young people in the area. The feedback from local residents has been that the behaviour of the engaged young people has improved. This is reflected in the steady decrease in recorded Police logs in the local area for Reedswood Retail Park and Reedswood Park.  
The Bike Light lottery funding provided to Frank F Harrison CA has finished. The project was successful, as a number of young people who were causing anti-social behaviour were engaged. Frank F Harrison are looking to submit funding applications to continue the project.
- 2.5 Glastonbury Crescent partners have introduced further measures to tackle the off-road bikes that are used on the fields. The police, Clean & Green Services & Street Champions have been working together to implement a number of deterrents. Counter-measures have included inserting large logs across access points, however off-road bikes continue to circumvent the counter-measures to gain access to the fields.
- 2.6 Street alleyway has been cleared of overhanging bushes and debris. Rubbish has been cleared from the associated social housing sites by WHG & WMBC, respectively.  
The open 'garden space' between the houses of Mary Street, Lewis Street & Croft Street, has been cleared of rubbish by Community Payback & Clean & Green Services.
- 2.7 Community Action & Training Services - CAATS ([caatservicesltd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:caatservicesltd@yahoo.co.uk)) have taken over responsibility for supporting the local community in developing the Big Local Plan for Mossley.

A Big Local Steering Group took place on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014 between 7.00pm- 9.00pm at St Thomas' Church, Mossley. This was open to members of the public with the aim being to establish a local group, who would develop the Big Local initiative.

A newsletter was agreed at the meeting and this will be distributed around the estate w/c 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. Part of the process is that grants for up to £500.00 will be

made available for local groups. Grant Appraisal training will be provided to members of the Steering Group on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April (2pm-4pm) at the youth club and (5pm-7pm) at the Methodist Church. CAATS will also be undertaking an on-line survey with local residents.

The main Big Local Group is scheduled to meet on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm at the St Thomas' Methodist Church.

2.8 Ryecroft Hub continues to develop, supported by a range of partners. The Ryecroft Hub is operational and enterprise businesses are occurring on the site. Ryecroft Hub members have full access to the site.

A report to Cabinet was presented on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014, with various recommendations to further develop the community hub initiative and minimise void costs to Dartmouth House.

2.9 A Community Champions event occurred on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014. This event brought the Community Champions from across the borough together, with the aim being to share ideas, good practice and further support them in their role. The Area Manager. The Community Champions continue to receive on going reports from Area Partnerships.

2.10 Community Safety Plan Statistics Comparison of 2011/12 and 2012/13 for North Walsall Area Partnership:

<b>North Walsall</b>				
<b>Crime/Incident Type</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Change %</b>
Total Recorded Crime	4324	3403	-921	-21.3
Serious Acquisitive Crime	873	680	-193	-22.1
Anti-Social Behaviour (Police Reported)	2383	1835	-548	-23
Youth Related Anti-Social Behaviour (Police Reported)	1022	766	-256	-25
Domestic Burglary	394	260	-134	-34
Burglary, Other Building	440	250	-190	-43.2
Criminal Damage	916	710	-206	-22.5
Vehicle Crime	424	367	-57	-13.4
Violence Against the Person	802	635	-167	-20.8
Robbery	60	58	-2	-3.3
Deliberate Primary Fires (West Midlands Fire Service Data)	93	55	-38	-40.9
Deliberate Secondary Fires (West Midlands Fire Service Data)	382	232	-150	-39.3
Drug Offences	132	111	-21	-15.9
Domestic Violence	330	291	-39	-11.8
Hate Crime	133	56	-77	-57.9

2.11 Camera are deployed in different locations across North Walsall to tackle fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and to assist with the detection of criminal activities. Covert cameras are also utilised. The distributions of cameras are decided at the monthly Confidential Partnership Tasking and Co-ordination Meeting.

2.12 Lancaster Place, verge parking using participatory budget processes. It is anticipated to be completed week commencing 31st March 2014.

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

3.1 Supported by WHG and the Area Partnerships, IYPSS were able to undertake activity programmes for young people in the North Walsall Area Partnership.

Further programmes were delivered over half-term. These included young people participating in gym & swim sessions, visits to Birmingham Library and a trip to a popular reality show street in Birmingham.

A number of activities were put on at the Lea in Goscote which included football and hopper bus activities.

The analysis by Walsall Intelligence Network indicates that the activities provided had a positive impact on supporting young people into diversionary activities.

#### ASB in Goscote

As an Area Partnership request, one of the West Midlands Police Data Analyst has undertaken an '**ASB incident search between 1st April 2011 and 28th February 2014**' on the following locations: Chaucer Road, Goscote Lane, Shakespeare Crescent, Well Lane.

Reviewing the number of incidents year to date (1st April 2013 - 28th February 2014) and compared it to the previous two years as shown in the table below:

Incident Date		
Apr11-Feb12	Apr12-Feb13	Apr13-Feb14
53	51	39

The table shows a 23.5% reduction in ASB incidents year to date (1st April 2013 - 28th February 2014) compared to the same time the previous year (1st April 2012 - 28th February 2013).

- 3.2 IYPSS, WHG and Area Partnerships continue to support programmes which enables young people to be engaged and become leaders within their communities.

The “Me, Myself and I” programme, held at Profitt Street Youth Centre, provides opportunities for young people to look at identities within ethnic communities. Additional programmes around community cohesion have been developed, with 25-35 young people attending the sessions.

The IYPSS detached youth work team undertook a Lister Close floodlit football tournament, supported by Beechdale Community Housing and Frank F Harrison CA. The purpose was to raise funds for McMillan Cancer Research. The young people raised £59.00 for the charity.

The ‘Validate’ project where young people apply for a free identity card to prove their age to local retailers (who have signed up to the scheme) is to be rolled out further across North Walsall with the support to Trading Standards.

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

- 4.1 Activities continue around the economic regeneration within North Walsall, working with Walsall Adult Community College, Mirus Academy, Walsall College, Economic Regeneration Team, Work on the Horizons, WHG, Propsects and other work-related organisations, to enable the community to be supported in to work, training and skills.

- 4.2 Walsall Works continue to provide funding to local businesses to support apprenticeship opportunities for local young people.

- 4.3 New Horizons Community Enterprise has developed a local ‘Enterprise Hub’ in Blakenall. Area Partnerships met with Mike Brice, Chief Officer for New Horizons Community Enterprise & the management committee chair. The new enterprise hub provides business start up premises and advice.

The business hub currently managed by Jane Dean comprises of:-

- Amour Therapy: beauty treatments
- Enterprise Tree: training & development opportunities for communities alongside (self) employment sessions
- Admin Aid: whole service professional admin support for businesses
- ‘*Make my wedding special*’: bespoke wedding designers & planners
- Braveen Catering Solutions: homemade catering for business and provide functions. The cafe is open to the public as well.
- Special Educational Needs Team (not the correct name, but that is their remit) who work with schools in Walsall.

The venue also has capacity for hiring 1:1 meeting rooms and for meetings of up to 12 people.

In addition, a number of businesses have won various/multiple awards through the 'Best of' national web site: <http://www.thebestof.co.uk/loveometer/business-by-town> & other competitions.

The expectation is that the Regeneration Team for WMBC will further promote the activities that are on site, thus providing greater opportunities to business start ups in the local area. The enterprise hub compliments the Ryecroft hub model.

4.4 The Real Apprenticeship show was held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at Banks Stadium. It was targeted to year 11 pupils. Connexions have been supporting and promoting the event throughout the partnership.

4.5 On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 a panel of three Council officers considered the nomination in relation to the property known as Dartmouth House situated at Ryecroft Place, Walsall, WS3 1SW ('the property'). The panel's decision was that the property should be included on the Council's list of community assets from the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

Specifically, the panel considered that the property was:

- a) within the Council's area;
- b) nominated by an eligible body;
- c) not within any category of property that is exempt from inclusion on the list;
- d) of community value as there was clear evidence that the property has previously within the last five years been used principally for purposes which further the social well being and social interests of the local community, and that it is realistic to think it can continue to be so used.

In particular the panel noted that:

- NHS services operated from the building providing a stroke unit offering physiotherapy for stroke victims and support for people with disabilities which were on a weekly basis.
- The Welfare Rights Service of Walsall Council operated out of the property.
- Ryecroft Resource Centre offered IT courses from the property.
- The local police force was based out of the property.
- A nursery operated from the property.
- A chiropodist and a fall unit was located at the property.
- The property is on a local bus route.

The property will remain on the list of community assets for five years from the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014, or until the Council decides to remove it from the list (whichever is sooner).

After five years the property will be removed from the list. The Council will write to the owner in the event that the property is removed from the list.

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

- 5.1 With the support of Public Health, Area Partnership has been able to continue a range of local activities, including working with the Lifestyles Team, Forest Arts Centre, Blakenall Community Centre, BCH, Ryecroft Hub and Green Lane Baptist Church have been able to secure further health resources for local residents.
- 5.2 Area Partnership are working with the Walsall Active Youth (WAY) & Physical Activity Referral Coordinator (Health & Fitness Team - Sport & Leisure Services) to enable young people to access the free swim sessions at Bloxwich Leisure Centre.
- A meeting is planned for 10<sup>th</sup> April, with the Leisure Centre Manager, to discuss how the activities can be communicated across the North Walsall area. The Lifestyles team are also involved, as it links to reducing childhood obesity in Year 6 children.
- 5.3 Children & Young People's Partnership have altered the children centres management structure. Area Partnerships are meeting with the new lead for North Walsall, Sue Barker on 2<sup>nd</sup> April to discuss the changes and the effect it will have on delivery of services for the local area.
- 5.4 The 'asset-based' approach continues to be progressed, facilitated by Public Health and Area Partnerships, targeting individual needs and identification of health needs. Services and support are then sourced.
- The asset based plan is being refreshed, with a meeting is occurring on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, with Public Health, to determine the local health priorities for North Walsall
- 5.5 Blakenall Community Centre has hosted a successful health display. Residents & staff have commented that they have found the information useful and have asked for additional information relating to health.
- The exhibition is linked to the refurbished Dance Studio and Fitness gym, which has been allocated funding through Area Partnership, the aim being is to ensure that health information is available to residents across the Area Partnership.
- 5.6 The Lifestyles Team continues to offer health checks to men aged 16+, and will provide advice, guidance, information and possible referrals to relevant services. This project is linked to Walsall College, who offer similar services to young people.
- 5.7 The Black Country Food bank scheme has identified a need in the Blakenall area. A follow-up meeting has been held with the Chief Officer, Mike Brice and the Chair of the organisation. It has been agreed that WHG, operating out of Blakenall Village Centre, will continue to be the distribution venue for the food bank in the area. Blakenall Village Centre will work closely with WHG and operate as a possible referral point for local residents.

- 5.8 Area Partnerships participated in the Forest Arts Open Day held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014. The event comprised on free taster sessions for short mat bowling, line dancing, photography session and live music from the 'Senior Citizens Swing Band'. The event enabled Area Partnerships to engage with Walsall residents and discuss their health priorities. Information regarding council services was also distributed.

## 6 Other Items of Interest

- 6.1 North Walsall is losing Insp Dave Payne who is moving from Central Neighbourhoods Walsall/Bloxwich to Eastern Neighbourhoods Aldridge/Brownhills. Insp Beth Bridges who currently covers Western Neighbourhoods Willenhall/Darlaston will be moving to Central Neighbourhoods Walsall/Bloxwich.  
This is due to take effect from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.
- 6.2 Following on from a successful dog obedience training/dog handling awareness training, funded through the Area Partnership, a second training session will be held, facilitated by Frank F Harrison Community Association. The project also raises awareness of issues with dog fouling and encourages responsible ownership.
- 6.3 The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals is the UK's leading veterinary charity. They are developing new opportunities to bring pet health care messages to more communities.  
PDSA's mission is to care for pets of people in need by providing free veterinary services to their sick and injured animals and promoting responsible pet ownership.  
Through their special mobile PetCheck units the onboard veterinary nurse provides FREE well-being to dogs (dogs only for health and safety reasons), and offers advice on the care of other popular pets linked to the Animal Welfare Act 2006. This includes health requirements, behaviour, companionship and socialisation.  
PetCheck is targeted at areas that benefit most from the service, or for people who are unable to visit a vet on a regular basis. The service can be based at a variety of locations ranging from community/leisure centre car parks to the middle of residential estates.  
They have contacted WMBC and are keen to come into Walsall to deliver the services. There is a cost of £500.00 for 4 days work and North Walsall organisations are expressing an interest in engaging with the PDSA.
- 6.4 Frank F Harrison have successfully started a Nail & Beauty project with 3 courses being filled. The expectation is that a number of the participants will go into self-employment.

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