

Report to Willenhall Area Panel

Area Plan Summary Document Approval 25 June, 2013

1. Context

1.1 On 8 April 2013, Walsall Council approved 'The Walsall Plan 2013 - 2016' - the Sustainable Community Strategy for the Borough. This sets out a three year vision for Walsall as a "great place to live, learn, work and invest". The Walsall Plan identifies four strategic priorities:

- Economic development, employment and improving employability
- Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people
- Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities
- Improving learning and life chances for children and young people

1.2 Each Area Partnership has an Area Plan (also known as a Delivery Plan), setting out activity against identified workstreams / priorities. These are mapped against 'The Walsall Plan' priorities. The Area Plan / Delivery Plan is a detailed operational document which is regularly updated at Area Partner Meetings, which monitor delivery against the Area Plan priorities. Area Partner Meetings include representatives from Walsall Council, Police, Fire Service, Walsall Housing Group, voluntary and community sector organisations and health).

1.3 In order to inform the public of Area Partnership activity, a summarised Area Plan document for each Area Partnership has been drafted. The Area Plan for Willenhall Area Partnership is attached as Appendix 1. This has been drafted in consultation with Elected Members and partners.

1.4 The summarised Area Plan document for each area contains details of activity undertaken across the Area Partnership together with planned future activity.

1.5 The Area Plan for Willenhall Area Partnership is submitted to the Area Panel for their consideration, noting it highlights for Elected Members and the community, the range of activities undertaken within their locality, in accordance with the multi-agency arrangements put in place for Area Partnerships.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Area Plan Summary Document be approved.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 As mentioned at 1.2 above, the detailed operational Area Plan is regularly monitored and updated.
- 3.2 It is anticipated that the Area Plan Summary Documents will be updated, on an annual basis, to ensure residents are kept informed.
- 3.3 The Area Plan Summary Documents will be made available, by the end of July 2013, in print and on-line, in order to inform residents of the work of Area Partnerships.

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Walsall Area Partnerships

Area Plan – Willenhall and Short Heath

Welcome to the Area Community Plan for your local area

Developed for residents of Willenhall, Short Heath and New Invention by your local Area Partnership team who are working together, to support the overall vision for Walsall as set out in “The Walsall Plan”, to make Walsall a great place to live, learn, work and invest”

There are six area partnerships across Walsall including Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership supporting its local residents

Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership includes local councillors, local communities, the voluntary sector and organisations such as Walsall Council, West Midlands Police, NHS Walsall, Walsall Housing Group, West Midlands Fire Service, Walsall College and many others.

Your Area Community Plan will support the vision for Walsall by:

- Supporting businesses to thrive and local people into work
- Improving health including well being and independence for older people
- Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities – reducing levels of crime and providing the right environment for people to live in
- Improving Safeguarding, Learning and the Life Chances for Children and Young People. Recognising that a person’s early years crucially help to determine what kind of future they will have

If you would like to be informed about activities and projects in your area contact your Area Partnership Team on

Telephone 01922 653707

Email areapartnerships@walsall.gov.uk

Twitter [@areapartnership](https://twitter.com/areapartnership)

or visit www.walsallpartnership.org.uk



Walsall Area Partnerships

Partnerships in action

Local partners and organisations within the Willenhall and Short Heath area have been working together to improve your local area. Here are just a few of the initiatives identified as a result of their work.

Across the partnership

- Local Health and Area Profiles have helped local agencies identify priorities and actions to improve the lives of local residents
- Safer Walsall advice campaigns targeted local residents to share key messages about personal and home safety
- Willenhall agencies including West Midlands Police, whg and Walsall Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit shared advice and targeted hot spot areas to prevent car key theft, Asian Gold theft, 'Darker Nights', Bogus Callers and Rogue Traders
- Multi Agency meetings discussed cases, vulnerable areas, repeat incidents and new crime trends. This led to more joined up enforcement of perpetrators, support for victims and also increased resources into youth engagement in hot spot areas.
- Getting people back into work has been the focus of new support service created in Willenhall Town Centre, delivered by Darlaston Jet, and two job clubs created at both libraries, Willenhall CHART centre and Holy Trinity Centre supported by a local directory for Willenhall and Short Heath residents listing all local employment providers
- A Community Safety newsletter was launched with an introduction to the new Police management in Willenhall. WHG and the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit supported the newsletter by providing some key safety messages and contact details.
- Welfare Benefits advice about Benefits and Welfare Reform were shared with local residents
- Community friendly literature including community safety newsletters, leaflets, personal and domestic security items given to vulnerable residents
- Projects were funded to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and to reduce off road bikes including security fencing, gating and lighting
- Holiday activities were targeted at areas where there had been anti-social behaviour and this resulted in fewer instances in hot spot areas
- A local directory of children and young people's services was printed and distributed in community locations and schools
- Operation Steel targeted and reduced Scrap Metal Theft across the area
- 'Health Check' drop in sessions were held in community venues across the area



Walsall Area Partnerships

- Working with Public Health, the Healthy Workplace Team has made contact with large companies across the area, to invite them to take part in their scheme offering health checks and other support in-house
- Job Centre Plus delivered training to over thirty local partner agencies to support online applications and opportunities for job seekers and benefit claimants

Willenhall North

- New activities were created to support residents on Friday evenings at New Invention Methodist Church
- Activities for over 50's were promoted in New Invention
- Work is underway to address issues around teenage pregnancy in New Invention and Short Heath by working with Willenhall EACT Academy and Lighthouse Children's Centre. The local health data has highlighted issues and the partnership are bringing together agencies to look at what can be done to raise awareness of sexual health
- Residents complained about the state of the area around Nottingham Drive shops. Weeds, litter and graffiti were removed, new gates were installed and anti-social behaviour was reduced
- A summer activity programme in New Invention for young people helped to reduce anti-social behaviour and increased the range of activities locally across the area
- Community clear ups were used in North Willenhall to remove litter, graffiti, fly tipping utilising Community Payback and other partners.
- Installation of community football pitches on green spaces in New Invention

Willenhall South

- Risks from domestic burglary and Asian Gold theft were shared at a safety event during Diwali and at Willenhall Sikh Gurdwara with crime reduction packs distributed to every household in vulnerable streets
- Community Safety and Health themed events were delivered with partners to address issues of anti-social behaviour and health for young people
- Willenhall's Got Talent annual event has created a fund to celebrate the talent of young people in the area
- Substance Matters is delivering support in Willenhall to people affected by drugs and alcohol misuse offering confidential expert one to one support



Walsall Area Partnerships

- Walsall Welfare Benefit team delivered training to over thirty local partner agencies, on Welfare Reform and the upcoming Universal Credit system, assisting local organisations such as schools, children's and community centres to support their service users and improve referrals
- Walsall College students volunteered in various community projects to improve their experience e.g website design, graphic design and interior design for Willenhall CHART
- Outdoor Gym equipment was funded in Willenhall Memorial Park for all residents including people with mobility issues (wheelchair accessible)
- A Water feature playground was provided in Willenhall Memorial Park
- Teen health project at Willenhall CHART Centre provided events, consultation, free gym sessions and support services delivered by Integrated Young People's Support Services with local partners
- Caldmore Accord Housing are launching a Time4Real Time Banking programme at Willenhall CHART centre to promote volunteering and support people to get back into work
- Over 150 young people were consulted at Willenhall CHART Centre about health and well being issues. This informed a Teen Health event which resulted in young people joining the gym at CHART and signing up to exercise activities on a weekly basis

Short Heath

- Activities for over 50's are being promoted in New Invention and Short Heath
- The partnership has mapped the range of physical activities that are available for older people across the area to identify gaps in coverage and promote advice services. Short Heath and New Invention areas will be targeted and specific groups will be prioritised. Partners are planning to arrange free physical activities to encourage more men to take positive action to improve their health
- Friends of Rough Wood have held clean up events and made improvements to their country park to move towards Green Flag status
- Willenhall E Act academy has provided additional activities for young people in the area and additional activities have been funded at Pool Hayes Community Association
- A stars road safety schemes have been developed at Pool Hayes Primary and Secondary school



Walsall Area Partnerships

- Meet and greet event was arranged at Pool Hayes Primary school for parents to meet local agencies
- Summer Hayes estate provided with Community Safety Information
- Estate tours around Queens Lea to engage local residents and identify issues
- Development of Rough Wood to move towards a Green Flag Status including security improvements to car parks, funding to the Friends Group for equipment and improvements to pathways
- Detached youth activities in Short Heath Park
- Development of services from Holy Trinity Online Centre including IT and photography groups for the elderly and disabled
- Event was held to support older people to network and prioritise work for local partner agencies
- Funding was provided to Pool Hayes Community Association to further engage young people
- A youth gym was launched at Willenhall E-Act Academy
- Security improvements increased safety in Willenhall Lawn Cemetery
- Anti-social behaviour was reduced around Short Heath Park due to partnership working
- A clean up project improve the area around Bridgnorth Grove
- A Junior Police Community Support Officer project was launched at Willenhall E-Act Academy and Short Health Junior School



Walsall Area Partnerships

Partnership Working in Willenhall and Short Heath

Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership have identified a number of local priorities following consultation with local residents and communities. This plan will continue to be developed as the area partnerships evolve and following ongoing consultation with our residents and community partnerships. Here are just a few of the planned improvements in your area to support the vision for Willenhall and Short Heath.

Local partner agencies are working together to:

Supporting people into work and training

- Encourage volunteering for whole area through the Time4Real Time Bank Project at Willenhall CHART
- Increase the amount of local facilities open for free to access computers and online services
- Promote support available for most vulnerable re budgeting skills and money management
- Provide additional support and advice to job seekers including job clubs
- Develop an advice booklet for job seekers and benefit claimants with details about recommended Credit Unions and advice agencies who offer support around money management and debt advice as well as the provision of local food banks
- Deliver a range of free training courses for local people

Cleaner, Green & Environmental Issues

- Improve awareness of litter dropping through local primary schools and utilise Community Payback and Street Champions to support a series of litter picks
- Highlight the risks from dog fouling across the area
- Regular estate tours and skip days and fund clear up campaigns to target local hot spots

Creating Safe, Sustainable and Inclusive Communities

- Develop a voluntary sector network to help to promote local clubs and groups, share information and help them to apply for funding
- Produce regular Community Safety newsletters and advice to residents about local issues
- Provide advice to residents about Bogus callers and distraction burglaries and to promote Walsall TraderRegister
- Organise visits for older people in the area to the Police Safe House in Brownhills to learn about personal and property safety
- Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime and continue to promote key messages through a quarterly Community Safety newsletter with information from local police teams



Walsall Area Partnerships

- Purchase hand held CCTV equipment to assist Police and partners to identify ASB perpetrators
- Deliver an ASB Roadshow to all Willenhall secondary schools prior supported by local police agencies including West Midlands Police, Walsall Council, whg and West Midlands Fire Service
- Deliver a series of community safety events in New Invention Square and Willenhall Memorial Park including areas where anti-social behaviour has been reported
- Embed Time4Real Timebanking to develop a pool of volunteers in the area

Increasing the accessibility of youth activities

- Provide targeted positive activities for young people in the area
- Fund activities during holiday periods in areas where anti-social behaviour has been reported.
- Directory of children and young people's services printed and distributed in community locations, schools and to partners
- New activities created for young people on Friday evenings at New Invention Methodist Church and Willenhall CHART Centre
- Community Safety and Health themed events to be delivered with partners to address issues of ASB and health for young people
- Open Mic night at local youth clubs
- Continue to increase activities for young people during school holiday periods
- Map out the requirements of younger persons (aged 0-9) to determine what is available and what is needed locally
- The Junior PCSO project will take place in Short Heath Junior School and also Willenhall EACT Academy to train young people with a range of community skills.
- Substance Matters work with substance using individuals, their families and carers, providing support, education and family mediation
- A skate park is being developed in Willenhall Memorial Park

Health Inequalities

- Provide additional health services to support the prevention of long term health conditions including cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, cancer & palliative care and dementia
- Tackle the health issues of those areas most at risk within the area
- Develop a new project in North Willenhall for over 50's to encourage better health and fitness
- Implement a Healthy workplace scheme encouraging local businesses to host health checks in house



Walsall Area Partnerships

- Work with Brook to deliver training to local partners and Willenhall EACT Academy to develop piece of work in the school re sexual health to address teenage pregnancy
- Develop a Junior Gym at Willenhall EACT academy
- Promote family support work in partnership with Willenhall EACT Academy and the Lighthouse Children's Centre
- Build links with PPG Groups and GP surgeries to promote local community based services and better networks between other partners
- Develop Chlymidia training for local partners to provide support to residents or those most at risk
- Develop an outdoor gym
- The partnership has mapped the range of physical activities that are available for older people across the area to identify gaps in coverage and promote advice services. Short Heath and New Invention areas will be targeted and specific groups will be prioritised. Partners are planning to arrange free physical activities to encourage more men to take positive action to improve their health

Services for Older people

- Snack and chat services with health checks
- Older peoples consultation to identify gaps in services and activities
- Produce a list of events and activities for older people
- Develop community based health checks in suitable locations
- Further support local faith organisations to deliver services for adults
- Place suitable volunteers from Time4Real
- Promote the carers strategy across the area
- Further develop community reassurance projects to support the most vulnerable and encourage engagement in local activities
- Local referral processes to support the most isolated residents
- Develop the capacity of local community based services for older people and identify gaps in delivery