

NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

Thursday 20th November 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 There are monthly Open Meetings that occur in North Walsall. The meetings provide the opportunity for partner agencies to come together and share ideas, information and co-ordinate strategy based on the Walsall Plan.

The partners include: Community Safety Services (ASB Team), Young Support Services, 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, 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, Prospects, Public Health, Lifestyles Team, Forest Arts Centre, Blakenall Community Centre (BCC), Ryecroft Hub, Green Lane Baptist Church & Community Payback.

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

- 2.1 Inspector Beth Bridges has recruited Sgt. Nick Morton to the Bloxwich Neighbourhood Team. He will be joining Sgt. Jim Nixon & Temporary Sgt. Julie Whiting in delivering policing across the area.
- 2.2 Halloween Week passed off without significant incidents, with levels of ASB being lower compared to last year. Youth Action Team patrols occurred in Harden, Blakenall and The Lea, with additional youth related activities in Beechdale which contributed to fewer incidents this year.
- 2.3 Beechdale Community Housing Association are supporting the residents and local community in tackling anti-social behaviour. There has been support to tenants who are causing a concern through their asb activities and various interventions have been implemented, supported across the partnership.
- 2.4 Sgt Jules Whiting and Insp. Beth Bridges organised a Dispersal Order for Stephenson Square. Four young people were banned from the area for 24 hours, from Wednesday October 29th, due to their anti-social behaviour.
- 2.5 Local Policing and Crime Board has met, with Councillor Chris Jones representing North Walsall.
- 2.6 Sarah Heath, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, has continued to work across the partnership, to enable groups and individuals to report asb activities. Various campaigns have begun, linked to darker nights, Halloween and personal safety. Posters have been distributed across the partnership and into Mirus Academy.



- 2.7 The 'speed reduction CCTV' signs have been installed at Stephenson Avenue and Cavendish Road. The Stephenson Avenue sign activates if cars exceed 30mph and the Cavendish one activates if cars exceed 20mph.

The contractor has been notified to complete the remainder of the programme, which includes road markings.

The current feedback from residents is that they have seen a difference by drivers in the area, as they slow down once the signs activate.

Beechdale Community Housing are monitoring the progress supported by the BEES Group.

- 2.8 Youth Support Service developed a referral process which allowed closer alignment and targeting of their resources.


The Detached Youth Work Team has attended 'hot spots' around Blakenall, The Lea, and Harden.

The Youth Support Service team were able to engage with parents and young people alongside working with the police. They identified a number of young people with whom they had engaged with previously and signposted young people to local youth centres, including Blakenall.


- 2.9 Borough wide training, with partner agencies occurred regarding the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act comes into effect on 20th October 2014.

There will be new tools and powers that will cut across many areas of the council and partner agencies. The Act covers Civil Injunctions, Criminal Behaviour Orders, Public Space Protection Orders, Community Protection Orders, Closure Powers, Community Trigger, and new Absolute Powers for Possessions.

Community Trigger Procedure



The Community Trigger Procedure has been introduced to help those suffering from persistent ASB and allows individuals to request a review of the way in which the ASB they have reported is being dealt with.

 Safer Walsall Partnership
Working together for a safer Walsall

10/14

- 2.10 Environmental services have submitted three flytipping prosecutions in October 2014 and they are expecting to put forward another five in the coming few weeks.
- 2.11 Cameras 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.

Reference	Installed at	Installing Agency	Purpose	Objective
ND1	Stephenson Square, Beechdale	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken
ND2	Valley Road	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement action
ND7	Pioli Place, Walsall	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement action
ND8	Essex Street Walsall	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement action
ASB3	Croxdene Avenue/Dudley Fields Estate	ASB	To reduce asb and offer reassurance to residents	To identify offenders to enable appropriate action to be taken

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

- 3.1 Walsall's Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS) changed its name to Walsall Youth Support Service. The Service provides a range of targeted and community support for young people.

The new name was launched by young people at a local youth conference held on 6 November 2014 at the Goldmine Centre Walsall. This launch coincided with National Youth Work Week.

The aim of the conference was for young people to have their say regarding the budget proposals and also as a celebration to young people's achievement across the borough.

Youth Support Services also worked with eight young people on the 'Raising Your Game' training and the young people who have completed the course received certificates amounting to three UCAS points.

- 3.2 Youth Support Service, Frank F Harrison & Blakenall Community Partnerships continue to deliver positive activity sessions within the community.

A comprehensive half-term activity programme has been implemented by Youth Support Service, supported by partners.

The programmes consists of creative arts projects, dance sessions, sports and recreational activity sessions.

- 3.3 Frank F Harrison are submitting their Big Lottery bid for the motor cross track by 16 January 2015.

Frank F have been successful in their Children in Need bid which will compliment their Big Lottery submission. The motor cross project will be taking referrals to the programme from January.

- 3.4 Active Communities provides funding which may be of interest to groups and charities.

Grants of between £5,000-£50,000 for projects lasting up to two years. The funding is linked to local community initiatives & the programme closes for applications on Wednesday 19 November 2014 at 1pm.

<http://www.peopleshealthtrust.org.uk/>

4. Business and Jobs: Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people into work

- 4.1 Prospects (Connexions Services) are engaging with young people and trying to find appropriate destinations for them In North Walsall. Month ending September 2014, there were 14 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) young people. There were 85 Not Known destinations for young people.

Working with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND), Prospects has identified that up to 70% of NEETs may have learning disabilities. As a result they are looking to implement new programmes of learning for NEET young people, through SEND.

SEND are engaging across the partnerships to identify appropriate work opportunities for their clients.

- 4.2 Funding is still available from whg, which will need to be allocated by December 2014.

By approximation, for the 4 wards from the Community First Funding there is funding as follows: Birchills/Leamore - £50k, Bloxwich East/West £22k each, Blakenall £16k.

Groups can apply for up to £2,500.

Area Partnerships and whg are actively seeking applicants for these funds.

- 4.3 The 'Goscote Corridor Strategic Partnership Group' met on 13th October. The meeting, organised by whg, engaged with local residents and partners, with a view to discuss local developments in the area. Discussion points encompassed Estate Management, Regeneration and Open Spaces alongside community safety.

- 4.4 The Talent Match Hubs are based in partnership organisations across the Black Country. Hubs are located in Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Central Black Country covering Bilston and Darlaston. The hubs provide a welcoming place for young people meet. Each hub has facilities to encourage development & inform individuals on local provision, appropriate to their needs.

Talent Match is accepting referrals from those who are 18-24 and been out of work or training or education for at least 12 months and who require tailored support to overcome specific barriers to employment. Clients are paired with a mentor who assesses progress and takes them through the journey. The website is www.bctalentmatch.com

- 4.5 Wetherspoons Pubs should be opening their venue, in Bloxwich, on January 15th 2015, with the creation of 40 jobs. They are working with Steps to Work to create local employment opportunities.

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

- 5.1 Dudley and Walsall NHS have produced their annual report summary for 2013-2014. The report highlights their achievements and future plans. A few of their plans include transformation of services for older people, leadership & staff development and engagement with stakeholders to enable appropriate reviews of different pathways and services provided by the Trust.

Further information can be accessed at www.dwmh.nhs.uk

- 5.2 Environmental Services completed their 14th skip day on 15 October at Oakland Road where 12 tonnes of waste was removed. Two more skip days are scheduled, 12th November & 26th November.
- 5.3 A meeting took place on Thursday 6 November regarding the consistent flytipping issues at Goscote Lodge Crescent. The meeting was held with Severn Trent and WHG, with the aim being to put in various strategies and solutions to combat the on-going problems.

Analysis has shown that over the last 18 months there has been a lot of financial resources and time which have been spent in clearing the site.

Follow-up actions and meetings are occurring across the Partnership.

Other items of interest

- Budget consultation is occurring across the borough. The closing date for responses is 10th December 2014.
- WVA are the main infrastructure support project to the local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Walsall. WVA's primary role includes:
 - Developing - the VCS by providing direct support to VCS organisations on technical, financial, legal and funding priorities;
 - Influencing – promoting the VCS and representing the sector on key strategic groups i.e. Partnership Tasking and Co-ordination Group;
 - Connecting – developing networks (such as the Third Sector Strategic Leaders Forum) within the VCS, providing a brokerage service and encouraging collaborative working;
 - Volunteering – WVA manage an expanding town centre Volunteer Centre that promotes volunteering opportunities to local people and organisations.

As part of WVA's Strategic Plan 2013/15 WMBC have enhanced WVA's core funding to develop a range of key VCS projects, one of which is a "Hub and Spoke" Work Programme.

This specifically entails targeting WVA's resources to Area Management priorities especially for the VCS and working closely with Area Managers to build up the capacity and capability of local VCS organisations working with Area Managers to meet their priorities and commitments.

Following a strategic setting meeting between WVA's Chief Executive and the Area Managers a programme was agreed of developing a "Hub and Spoke" Work Programme based on bespoke support to each area based on the needs and priorities of the VCS within the area.

WVA are initiating work with Michael Greenfield on developing a Local VCS event and through these targeting VCS organisations to actively support the local Area Partnership initiatives particularly includes Ryecroft NRC

WVA are holding fortnightly Funding and Development Surgeries which are over-subscribed by local VCS organisations, to provide an opportunity for VCS organisations to receive one to one development support. These surgeries have been popular with the VCS in the past and are planned days with up to 8 organisations booking into a 45 minute slot each to discuss their issue with a WVA Community Development Worker.

WVA have supported the successful Ryecroft Open Day event which initiated a number of VCS contacts locally.

WVA are supporting Ryecroft NRC in several funding submissions and are supporting them in their new Business Plan to ensure their future sustainability.

- The Big Local are to meet; Wednesday 12th November at 4.00 p.m. at St Thomas Church, Tuesday 16th December at 4.00 p.m. - Open Forum at St Thomas' Church
- Sparkle into Bloxwich is occurring at Bloxwich Park on Saturday 29th November.
- The Eleventh Annual Mayor's Civic Awards, honours local people who make outstanding contributions to the borough, are seeking nominations.

The Awards will be held at the end of March 2015 at Walsall Town Hall where all of the finalists will be invited to attend and the winners will be announced. Contact Jo Whitehouse, Legal & Democratic Services
Council House, First Floor, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TW Telephone – 01922 654368.

Email – whitehousejl@walsall.gov.uk for nomination information.

- Stan Ball Centre: Christmas Fayre – Saturday 6th December 2014 – 10.00am - 1.00pm it will feature tombola, crafts, gifts, jewellery and a Santa Grotto.
- West Midlands Fire Service are promoting Road Safety week, which begins on Monday 17 November with initiative launches in schools. All the junior schools in the borough received a pack on firework and bonfire safety which included story books.

- On Wednesday 5 November a borough wide rough sleeper count occurred.
- Lifegate Outreach Centre have opened are a community group who are situated near Walsall Police Station and Green Lane Baptist Church. They are also keen on expanding into local targeted initiatives, similar to work that the Green Lane Baptist Church undertakes.

Lifegate Outreach Centre have identified a few programmes and target groups.
Areas included:

Engaging with elderly community members; Reducing social isolation projects; Community cohesion projects; Befriending projects; Youth engagement projects; Local learning and accredited programmes operating from the Lifegate Outreach site.

They have also made links with West Midlands Open College and are able to offer a suite of learning programmes, ranging from: Assessor qualifications; Teacher training; Health & Social Care; Church Leadership and Management

They are being supported in North Walsall via the partnership and are keen to expand across the local area. Contact David Oloke info@lifegatecentre.org

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