

## DARLASTON AND BENTLEY AREA PANEL

### Area Manager's Report

4<sup>th</sup> July 2016

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.2 This report is designed to inform Elected Members for the Darlaston and Bentley Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area.

1.3 Darlaston South and Darlaston North and Bentley has a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community.

#### 2.0 The strategic priorities are:

##### **2.1 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.**

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

3.1 Strategic partners include; West Midlands Police, Walsall Council Community Safety Team, Integrated Young Peoples Support Services, Clean and Green Services, Reassurance Team, Social Care and Inclusion, Area Family Support Team, Environmental Health, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmore/Accord Housing, Heantun Housing, Sanctuary Housing, Victim Support.

3.2 There have been no specific location based issues over the past few months, no ASB hotspots of concern with exception to a number of low level ASB issues on Kings Hill Park and theft or and from motor vehicles in Moxley. King Street in the town centre previously saw issues of youth related ASB which have been addressed by Police and Community Protection Teams issuing a number of ABC (Acceptable Behaviour Contracts) which have had a positive impact with issues reducing.

3.3 Restructures within the council have seen a new Community Protection Team be created. Previous officers within Community Safety, Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Noise Pollution now have one role as Community Protection Officers, they are now able to work evening and weekends so that patrols can be carried out at locations which are flagged up through partners and community members.

3.4 Darlaston Neighbourhood Team have been running a number of summer prevention campaigns including anti drink and drug driving during the Euro Tournament, talks in local schools about the impact of anti social behaviour and litter dropping. They have also provided crime prevention items to victims of crime and to vulnerable members of the community.

3.5 The Boat Public House has seen a number of repeat incidents of arson on the building in June. Update to be provided at Darlaston Area Panel meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016

3.6 Willenhall Fire Station have been working with local primary schools in Darlaston to address road safety issues by providing banners to each school with important safety messages on to drivers. The banners were funded previously by Darlaston Area Panel and have been well received by schools. Further work is ongoing with the Fire Service and schools to discuss future joint initiatives.

3.7 A workshop has been arranged for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July to discuss future arrangements for Darlaston confidential tasking meetings. A number of key partners will be attending to help shape how these meetings can best function ensuring ongoing communication and partnership working in light of recent restructures, budget reductions and changes to intelligence support previously provided by Walsall Intelligence Network. With the number of resident meetings taking place that focus on Police issues / community safety it is hoped that a more effective local strategy for engagement can be developed to incorporate local views into these meetings in order to shape joint working and addressing local issues. It is also important that the meeting is able to feed into other forums that exist in Walsall such as Early Help Panels, Vulnerability Forum, Adult Social Care and Safeguarding, Troubled Families and so on.

3.8 A number of litterpicks have been arranged in June through to September to address and raise awareness of litter and fly tipping issues across the area. Five events have been arranged and involve Grace Academy students, Darlaston Rotary Club, Walsall Cooperative, Tesco Willenhall, Police, Fire, Clean and Green, Canals and Rivers Trust and local residents and councillors. Forthcoming litterpicks will be taking place on 29<sup>th</sup> July 10am – 12pm at Moorcroft Wood, 10<sup>th</sup> August 11am – 1pm at Bentley Pocket Park and Wilkes Avenue area and 1<sup>st</sup> September 10am – 12pm from Moxley People's Centre. Grace Academy have been very proactive in educating students about the implications of litter and feedback from their litterpick on 27<sup>th</sup> June was that the young people who took part around Rough Hay enjoyed the event and could see the impact of litter around their community.

3.9 A successful interfaith celebration event took place at All Saints Darlaston in May with hundreds of local community members attending. The event was the first organised by Darlaston Interfaith Network and saw local performances by pupils from Old Church and Salisbury Primary Schools, talks from a number of faith leaders of different religions across the area, information stalls were also set up by local organisations invited to attend include Darlaston Rotary Club, Walsall Federation of Tenants and Residents, Sure Start, Rowley Robins Nursery, Darlaston Air Cadets, Healthwatch and WM Fire Service. More events are being planned by the Forum including an interfaith cricket tournament to engage local community members from different faiths to take part.

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

4.1 Strategic Partners include; Integrated Youth Support Services, Bentley West Children's Centre, Darlaston Sure Start, Area Family Support Team, Grace Academy, Darlaston Schools Cluster, Walsall Housing Group, West Midlands Police, Moxley Community Hub Project Management Group, Old Hall People's Partnership.

4.2 A Nature Trail is being developed in Darlaston along the canal from Midland Road to Wolverhampton Street in partnership with Grace Academy, Canals and River Trust, Wildlife Trust, Sure Start, Walsall Council Clean and Green, Heathfield Lane Fishing Club, Tarmac and Tesco. A number of events have taken place at the site including litterpicks, an Ecostudy day with students and also a funding application has been submitted to purchase information boards and signage. A steering group has been set up to drive the project forward and seek funding opportunities. Sure Start will be including the location within their September activities planner to introduce more local families to the area.

4.3 Darlaston Early Help Panel is now meeting on a monthly basis offering partners the opportunity to attend and discuss complex cases in need of a multi agency approach. A number of difficult cases have been discussed and supported by agencies including CAMHS, Safeguarding, Troubled Families, and Housing Associations.

4.4 Sure Start Darlaston are seeking to engage more families in the Bentley area by delivering sessions from Wilkes Avenue All Ages Centre. A number of events including Teddy Bear Picnics and Family Activity events have taken place in order to register new parents and offer support from Sure Start.

4.5 Rowley Robins 'The Nest' is seeking more parents to take up the free childcare places for 2 year and 3 year olds. Some play and stay sessions have been organised in order to publicise the centre and they are looking to promote the childcare across the area to more families and will be taking part and attending local events over the summer.

4.6 A number of organisations have been successful in being awarded funding from Walsall Council's Youth Service. Old Hall People's Partnership, Olio Hub, Kic FM, Moxley People's Centre, Youthwork Toolbox and Kic FM will be delivering youth provision and supported by Julie Hill (WMBC Senior Area Youth Worker). A steering group will be set up for these providers to ensure ongoing communication and contact with partner agencies including local Police and other agencies interested in youth provision.

4.7 Darlaston Youth Centre is no longer funded or staffed by Walsall Council and now is the responsibility of All Saints Church. The Area Partnership will be working closely with the centre to develop plans and support with external funding opportunities. A number of cohesion projects are being planned to develop better links with adults as well as young people in particular women in the area working together with the Mosque.

4.8 A week of youth activities have been planned during 25<sup>th</sup> July in the school holidays in partnership with Sport and Leisure, WM Fire Service, Sure Start, Rowley Robins, WHG and Kic FM. Family activities will be delivered from 1pm – 3pm on George Rose Park from 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> with the Kings Hill Park Fun Day on 28<sup>th</sup> July and the following day on Kings Hill park from 1pm – 3pm.

4.9 Old Hall People's Partnership will also be delivering a week of holiday activities based on environmental projects for young people during the summer with posters due to be produced.

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

5.1 Strategic partners include; Walsall Council Economic Regeneration, Welfare Rights, District Centre Management, Walsall College, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmore/Accord Housing, Moxley People's Centre

5.2 A steering group meeting took place on 18<sup>th</sup> September at Walsall Federation of Tenants and Residents with agencies including WHG, City Deal, Walsall Council libraries, Welfare Rights Team, Work on the Horizon, Darlaston Sure Start and Old Hall People's Partnership. It was agreed that communication and publicising what support is available to local people should be a priority for agencies moving forward with an agreement to print a local guide for people seeking work, training or who are suffering hardship. It was also discussed that supporting people who may need support with financial management and debt should be another priority for the group moving forward.

5.3 City Deal are now only funding WACC to provide support to people in Darlaston South and operating from Wildlife Trust Centre by Moorcroft Wood. Previously funded projects in 2015/16 are no longer delivery partners in the second round of funding.

5.4 A number of training opportunities are being delivered across the area. Moxley People's Centre, WACC, WFTRA, Steps to Work, WHG, Walsall Council, OHPP and Sure Start are offering a range of courses suitable for people looking for work, new qualifications and also volunteering opportunities.

5.5 Darlaston Youth Centre are also seeking to develop support and training for people within the local community by developing a new IT zone in the centre for people to access the internet and attend training activities.

5.6 Walsall Council is a delivery partner for the **Youth Employment Initiative** (IMPACT) programme being delivered across the Black country. IMPACT will provide a Black Country co-ordinated response that will truly engage NEET's / unemployed young people aged 16-29 and move them towards positive outcomes. The programme is targeted at supporting young residents who are unemployed, not in education and training and help them get closer to a positive outcomes such as mainstream education and training,

employment, apprenticeships and traineeships. Marginalised 15 year olds identified as at risk of becoming NEET are also eligible. Those marginalised communities who are unemployed, inactive, at risk of social inclusion will be specifically targeted to overcome barriers to participation. The Black Country wide programme will be a multi agency approach that offers a personalised and joined up provision of local services to support young people. A varied menu of provision will be offered by local authorities and their approved delivery partners and it is expected that these will include statutory, voluntary and commercial providers, delivering alternative innovative options to mainstream delivery including short courses, specialist vocational provision, and creative activity to develop self confidence and personal skills. More information is available from Claire Wills in Walsall Council - [claire.wills@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:claire.wills@walsall.gov.uk)

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

6.1 Strategic partners include; Walsall Council Public Health, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group, Walsall Council Sports Development, Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust, Integrated Young People's Support Services, Walsall Housing Group, Social Care and Inclusion, Darlaston Sure Start, Moxley Community Hub Project Management Group.

6.2 Mindful Gifts CIC is continuing to build on its success in supporting people with dementia and their carers offering regular activities in the shop. Local care homes attend on a regular basis. Moxley People's Centre are also providing a fortnightly group called Memory Club supported by the local healthcentre. The group offers activities on a regular basis and also has professional services such as GP attending to offer additional support to attendants.

6.3 A Health Promotion event is taking place at Tesco Superstore, Willenhall on 8<sup>th</sup> July with a number of services from Darlaston attending to promote their activities and support available. This is the first of a number of joint events with Area Partnerships being organised on a themed basis with a future event planned in August to focus on unemployment support. ASDA Darlaston have also expressed an interest in organising themed information events for local residents in the store.

6.4 The new Director for Public Health, Paula Furnival met with Area Partnerships to discuss effective locality working across Walsall. Points of contact have been provided within the new management team for areas and further talks will be arranged to develop more closer working relationships locally with Adult Social Care and community based services. She is particularly keen to map local provision and build support links to the many groups offering much needed activities and support across Darlaston to older people and vulnerable adults.

6.5 Darlaston Rotary Club are planning an awareness event in September around homelessness. This will include a rough sleep out at Grace Academy with the support of local councillors and partner agencies.

6.7 A number of fitness programmes are running across the area for young people and adults including from Darlaston All Active (various fitness clubs and junior wrestling), Old Hall People's Partnership (vibra fit), Bentley Freestylers (kick boxing), Darlaston Town Hall (boxing), (Moxley People's Centre (junior boxing), Darlaston Leisure Centre (swimming and fitness).

6.8 Teens and Toddlers (funded by AP) has been well received by Grace Academy in preventing teenage pregnancy in Darlaston. Both the school and Teenage Pregnancy team are pleased with the impact of the project and have so far reported no teenage pregnancies in the area to their knowledge.

## **7.0 Other activities**

7.1 The Area Partnership working with City Deal Community Connector has launched the 'Darlaston Community Breakfast' events taking place on a monthly basis from 8.30am as a networking opportunity for local community groups, partner agencies and councillors. Two have taken place with good attendance at both. Mindful Gifts hosted the first followed by Darlaston Sure Start with breakfast provided by Tesco. The

next will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> July at 8.30am All Ages Centre, Bentley with a free hot breakfast provided and a workshop by the External Funding Team on funding opportunities available.

7.2 Meeting are being arranged with community groups and Zoey West from External Funding Team to help advise and encourage more applications from the area for funding opportunities.

Nicola Holmes

Area Manager

07539 222875

[nicola.holmes@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.holmes@walsall.gov.uk)