

WILLENHALL AND SHORT HEATH AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

Tuesday 22nd September 2015

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area.
- 1.2 Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership 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 includes: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit, Youth Support Services, West Midlands Police, residents, Ward Councillors, Walsall Housing Group (WHG), West Midlands Probation Service, Walsall Intelligence Network, Environmental Health, Reassurance Team, Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership, Public Health, Caldmoreaccord Housing Association, Walsall Voluntary Action, West Midlands Fire Service, Social Care and Inclusion, Area Family Support Team, Trading Standards, Community Development, Substance Matters, Willenhall CHART, Willenhall E-Act, Clean and Green, Sports and Leisure, Jobcentre Plus, Steps to Work, Darlaston JET, Welfare Rights, Walsall College, Holy Trinity Online Centre, Libraries

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

- 2.1 Crime and anti social behaviour continues to be discussed at the Confidential Tasking Meetings in Willenhall chaired by the Area Manager. Various partner agencies are involved in the discussions and actions undertaken to support those affected by the issues.
- 2.2 Willenhall Police has a new Neighbourhood Sergeant on the Willenhall North/Short Heath Team.
SGT. Harjinder (Harj) Cheema has joined Insp. Bevington's team and is working closely with the communities.
- 2.3 Through the work of the police team, supported by local intelligence, they have been able to tackle crime in various locations.

A brief summary includes activities

- A male who was causing regular ASB issues at a location and disrupting the lives of the other residents was arrested for several civil injunction breaches and a committal warrant. Officers gathered the evidence and working with WHG the County Court hearing was arranged and the male has been sentenced to 4 months imprisonment. Male has been evicted and a new Civil Injunction with a power of arrest has been issued, which is in force until April 2017.
- Drugs warrants executed with a Cannabis factory set up found in a dwelling and £2,500 worth of cannabis seized. Two persons arrested and later charged with drugs offences.
- Class A drugs recovered namely Cocaine, Heroin and Methadone. Two persons arrested, one has been charged with possession and supply of Class A drugs and remanded in Prison until 1/9/15 for the hearing. Second person has been bailed pending further enquiries.
- Quad bikes/Scooters ASB. Due to several reports from local residents Officers attended the area of Pooles Lane, Bentley Lane and Druids Park Road and conducted an area search and located a Quad bike. The bike has been seized and a male reported for documentation offences.
- In the Short Heath area a male on a Scooter doing wheelies around the roads, he was reported for careless driving and for not wearing a Helmet. Scooter was insured and taxed and not seized.
- The Neighbourhood Police Teams are tackling anti-social behaviour that is occurring in Gypsy Lane, William Harper Rd with suspected incidents of suspected drug dealing at this location.
- The local Neighbourhood Team have actively patrolling the area, in addition other covert police resources have been used locally in order to gain increased intelligence relating to offences.

- Insp. Bevington reports that as a direct result of this police activity, an offender was arrested from his car in Wolverhampton in August in possession of a quantity of Class A drugs and charged for possession with intent to supply a controlled drug and will appear at Wolverhampton Magistrates court.
- Walsall Swimming and Water Polo club: Officers from Willenhall South Neighbourhood Teams (NHT) were approached to assist a local swimming club in need of funds to support swimming activities for young people across the borough. As a result of an application to the Police Property Act, Pc Wayne Morris from this team has successfully gained support funding to the value of £1000, which can be used by the club to secure swimming facilities for young people and divert youths away from the temptation of crime.
- Schools event: The Willenhall South NHT provided both Barcroft and St Giles primary schools with an end of school term input into the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour aimed at ensuring the safety of young people across Willenhall during the summer months.
- This was complimented by officers taking time out and sharing crime prevention advice with parents whilst the children were given an opportunity to sit in one of the Police vehicles at the schools' summer fetes.
- Willenhall by the Sea event: Despite police demands across the borough to police the EDL protest and other events in Walsall, Officers from the team patrolled the various events ensuring public safety and providing a reassuring presence locally.
- By working within the Partnerships the police have also been able to tackle general ASB issues, which include several reports from local residents about children climbing scaffolding and garages and causing a general nuisance.

Officers have attended and spoken to several youths, who have all been taken to their homes and parents advised about the child's conduct. Strong advice and stern warnings given to both child and parents with officers reminding residents of their obligation to their council housing not to cause alarm and distress to other residents.

A juvenile male was arrested, who appeared to be the leader and had been causing ASB issues for a couple of days.

This male has been referred to the Youth Offending Team and his parents reminded of the WHG rules of their house tenancy.

The police are seeking further information and support from the public in identifying perpetrators of ASB/crime or acts of general nuisance.

- 2.4 Following an internal re-structure by WMP Senior Management Team there have been a number of changes. Insp. Bevington is moving to Central Sector and Insp. Dave Payne will cover both East Sector and West Sector, from around the 7/9/15.

Insp. Bevington would like to thank the public, Area Partnership and councillors for the support provided to her and the police officers & PCSOs in Willenhall & Short Heath.

- 2.5 The following have domehawk cameras in situ:

- Lichfield Road- New Invention
- Astoria Close- New Invention
- Ward Street Willenhall
- Willenhall Memorial

Area Partnerships are able to re-deploy the domehawk cameras, based on feedback from partners, relevant data (i.e. ASB incidents) or if there is a priority concern (i.e. Hate incidents). This list is not exhaustive.

The decision to re-deploy cameras is taken at the Confidential Tasking & Co-ordination Meeting, with the next one occurring on Thursday 3rd September.

West Midlands Police are looking for more ways to improve their intelligence in relation to hidden crimes to enable them to better support victims and tackle perpetrators.

They are working with different groups across the West Midlands to incorporate further intelligence/evidence into their front line work.

The emphasis for SENTINEL is to record information that could be used towards further intelligence and it is not a referral pathway.

It is to be used as a route where information has been heard/identified from a client/pupil/potential victim that does not require a 101 or a 999 response from police.

Further information will be sent to the wider Partnership.

- 2.6 Residents are asked to report Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) to the services/agencies directly:

Private residents can report matters directly to the Anti Social Behaviour Unit by any method below:

Telephone (01922) 648291 Email asb@walsall.gov.uk

It may also be possible that one of the following council departments can assist in the first instance:

- Walsall MBC 01922 650000
- Environmental Health 01922 652223
- Clean & Green 01922 653344
- Trading Standards 01922 652210
- Walsall Mediation 01922 637713

2.7 There were two unauthorised encampments in the Willenhall Area. Services within WMBC undertook various welfare assessments, following which the encampments were moved.

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

3.1 A number of activities are occurring over the summer for children and young people.

A brief snapshot includes:

- Library Service: Wednesday 15th July Festival Finale 7.30pm – 10.00pm Storytelling Finale.
- Willenhall E- ACT Summer School 27th July till end of August
- Willenhall Fun Day- Memorial Park - 12th August
- Willenhall By The Sea: Event 13-15th August 2015- Willenhall
- Willenhall Fire Station Open Day: 15th August
- Poland Trip to Auschwitz: August

There are other events occurring organised by various partners, including whg.

3.2 The Area Manager met with the Tom Ashley, Principal of Willenhall E-ACT Academy, a member of his senior management team & Youth Support Services.

The Academy is developing a number of strategies to enhance the student experience and to assist with teaching and education of its pupils.

Area Partnership, the Academy and the Library Services are working together to enable pupils to access books and other materials within the library service. This includes the Library Service having regular input and attendance at the Academy to notify pupils of the range and depth of material on offer.

3.3 Following the meeting with the Area Manager a number of follow-up actions are occurring within the Academy.

A few of the actions are supporting pupils and families who are linked to the Early Help Strategy for the borough, working with the police to reduce ASB,

especially around 'Mischief Week' and encouraging the pupils to volunteer into their community.

- 3.4 Willenhall Amateur Boxing Club (affiliated to the Amateur Boxing Association) was visited in August by the Area Manager. The club are keen to engage with the residents of Willenhall & Short Heath and they are undertaking a number of activities linked to tackling health and ASB.

They undertake various boxing/fitness sessions, including women's only, children and young people and adult classes.

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

- 4.1. Area Partnerships has worked with a number of partnership agencies to deliver a 2 day Community Information Day at Wetherspoons in Willenhall. The event was 29th & 30th July 2015. 8.30am - 2.30pm

This was the first time this had been trialled in such a venue with the aim being to bring the resources to individuals/public.

The feedback from the public and the partnership organisations was that it was beneficial to be on site, as they were more 'visible' to the public.

There were a range of actions and topics that arose from discussions with the public, including those relating to housing, health, council service, community safety and job training opportunities.

Wetherspoons were particularly helpful with their assistance, publicity, support and generous use of internal space.

- 4.2 Area Partnership organised a meeting with retailers in the High Road, Short Heath. The event was held on Thursday 6th August, at Eat Fresh - 60 High Road – Willenhall.

This was an opportunity for retailers to meet with officers from different services, so that we could further support them in the community.

The aim being to get the local retailers interested in different activities that could assist the council/community/their business, including volunteering, Apprenticeships, Enhancing the High Road, Engaging with Willenhall E-ACT Academy and Working with community groups.

Representatives included colleagues from Environmental Services, Employment & Skills, and the Community & Voluntary Sector Development Team were present to answer queries.

The event was successful and retailers have now undertaken a number of actions for follow-up, supported by Area Partnerships.

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

- 5.1 The Lifestyles Services Department have developed a number of free activities to encourage adults and children to take further responsibility for their own health related needs.

All sessions are **free** if you live or work in Walsall.

They also offer a programme called 'Make it Count'. Make It Count is a 10 week programme for children aged 4-7 years old and their families to increase physical activity levels and knowledge of healthy eating.

Contact Lifestyle Link for more information or to register an interest in the Saturday morning sessions 01922 44 40 44. Or www.walsall.gov.uk/getactive

- 5.2 Working with Empowering U- Area Partnerships were able to promote their Birthday celebration event, which was held on Wednesday 15th July.

Empowering U works with adults with additional needs and learning disabilities and they aim to work with groups to enable them to play an active part in the community.

Willenhall Fire Service attended on the day, alongside support from councillors and partners.

Empowering U are continually looking for resources and would welcome any equipment or material from house clearances for their shop based at: Claremont House, John Harper Street, Willenhall, WV13 1RE

- 5.3 Area Partnerships attended the Healthy Weight Management Meeting Chaired by Public Health.

As a brief summary:

- From Sept. 2015 there is new Ofsted Framework in place - Schools have to consider physical activity/healthy eating alongside other criteria. Head teachers have been briefed on the impact this will have on the schools and the support that WMBC/Public Health can provide
- Schools also have to consider Food Standards and the link between health & well-being and attainment- from guidance notes issued in November 2014

- Food Dudes programme is going well. There has been some re-branding of a few items to use with pupils. There will be different lunch boxes, pump bags and 'goodies' as part of the healthy food dudes programme.
- Make it Count Programmes: these are working well in schools with the different Sports Development Teams engaging in the programmes.
- Lifestyles team are developing a Diabetes Clinic as part of their 'Fun for Life' activities which will enable young people to manage their diabetes whilst still being active.
- 'A' Stars programme being delivered in schools. There are 3 courses being delivered each week in schools with schools writing action plans linked to improving transports and healthy activities.
The 'A' Star programme is proving to be successful and a presentation occurred in Town Hall with over 23 schools involved in the event.
56 schools now 'A Star' – more to come in Sept 2015
- 'Change for Life': There is a '10 minute shake up' based on Disney characters. It is targeted to KS1 & KS2 pupils. Once they sign up they get free stickers and watches to monitor their health.
There is a national media campaign attached to the '10 minute shake up'.

Other

Further events can be found at <http://www.whatsonwalsall.co.uk/>

Michael Greenfield; Area Manager - Willenhall & Short Heath

Email: michael.greenfield@walsall.gov.uk