

# 7 NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL

## Area Manager's Report

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 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), 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, 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 & Streams Housing.

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

- 2.1 In August the Area Managers for North Walsall and Walsall South participated in the WMP web chat, organised and supported by Inspector Bridges. The web chat provided the opportunity for local residents to ask the police and Area Partnerships questions about neighbourhood policing and concerns that were affecting them.
- 2.2 Sgt. Martin Russell has moved onto other duties within WMP. He is replaced by Temporary Sergeant Julie Whiting.
- 2.3 Walsall College is seeking community leaders/groups who are able to undertake training regarding EU Gangs.

The 'Train the Trainer Course' will take place over the autumn at Walsall College.

Training is free and the aim is to enable community members to gain a Level 3 City & Guilds Certificate in Community Safety. The training will look at social psychological processes, policy, practice and working safely with young people.

It will also equip the participants with skills in how to deliver sessions in supporting organisations to tackle gangs.

Walsall College are asking for individuals who have experience of working with young people. Qualifications and previous training is not a pre-requisite to join the course.

15 places are available.

If anyone is interested contact Colin Isham, Associate Researcher  
[cisham@walsallcollege.ac.uk](mailto:cisham@walsallcollege.ac.uk)

- 2.4 The Beechdale ASB Group has continued to be supported by Area Partnerships. Concerns around the Lister Road play area are being raised as a concern by local residents and organisations. IYPSS and local youth services are supporting actions relating to engaging the young people concerned and other measures are also being followed up regarding supporting the wider community.
- 2.5 Sarah Heath, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, has been allocated the North Walsall area. She will be supporting and working with individuals, groups and organisations to address ASB concerns within & with the local community.
- 2.6 Following on from the speed survey visit undertaken on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June, specifically around Stephenson Avenue and Cavendish Road. The 'speed reduction CCTV' signs have been purchased and we are awaiting an additional power supply before they can be fitted.

The contractor has been notified and the expectation is that the signs will be situated in Cavendish Road and Stephenson Avenue by the end of September/early October.

The road markings will be for Stephenson Avenue, and will be situated by the speed signs.

The Highways Team are in the process of organising a pedestrian count for various sites across the borough.

We had to wait until the schools returned to enable an accurate and appropriate count to be taken.

Further data is required therefore a count will be undertaken around Stephenson Avenue to see if there is any scope for pedestrian refuges and also to identify where individuals are actually crossing the road.

Beechdale Community Housing have asked for information towards an article for their NOIZE magazine and this has been provided by the senior engineer responsible for the scheme.

- 2.7 IYPSS developed a referral process which allowed closer alignment and targeting of their resources.

The changes had been made to cover the summer months, June- August 2014. IYPSS aimed to attend areas where incidents have been reported with a view to signposting young people to Positive Activities in their local area or engaging them in a programme of informal learning opportunities within their community.

Organisations or members of the public reported their concerns via a referral form.

The ASB logs have shown that the Detached Youth Work Team have been able to attend the 'hot spots' around Blakenall. The IYPSS team were able to engage with parents and young people alongside working with the police.

- 2.8 The Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act comes into effect on 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

The Community Safety Team for WMBC will be delivering various workshops to partner agencies and staff over the next few weeks regarding the Act.

- 2.9 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	Mill Lane, Walsall	Neighbourhood Management	To identify Fly tippers	To reduce Fly tipping in the area
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 IYPSS, Frank F Harrison & Blakenall Community Partnerships delivered various positive activity sessions within the community.

The sessions included cross-boundary work involving, dance sessions, creative arts projects in local centres and physical sports, such as football and fitness sessions.

There were also environmental projects that included a graffiti art project under Reedswood Bridge. This project enabled young people from Reedswood and Beechdale to take further responsibility for their local environment. The young people designed and painted a mural in the underpass and cleared and cleaned the surrounding areas of rubbish.

Mossley Young People's Centre had a community fun day, linked to the Big Local initiative, so that adults and young people were able to identify what they wanted

for their local area, based around the £1m that is to be made available based on their Community Action Plan.

3.2 Children Centres and Sarah Barker's Team are supporting 300-350 families through the Early Help model. There will be further targeted work through school readiness and parenting support programmes. Children Centres continue to provide information to parents and organisations, so that they are aware of local networks.

3.3 Area Partnerships has been approached, in August, by a local resident from Caldmore in relation to trying to establish a youth group in Birchills. The aim is to engage young people who may be keen to have alternative youth provision in the local area.

Discussions with the local resident are being led by the Community Cohesion & Engagement Lead Officer, with Area Partnerships working to support the local actions from the discussions.

3.4 Black Country in Motion, are delivering a free qualification in Leadership. The course is 'Leadership in Running Fitness', and is based around getting individuals trained in how to deliver effective running courses, supported by Sport England. The course is on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at University of Wolverhampton, Delves Road, Walsall, WS1 3BD.

Contact Jessica Skinner 07917 388 172 [Jessica.skinner@sportsstructures.com](mailto:Jessica.skinner@sportsstructures.com)

3.5 The Community Cohesion (empowerment) Project with and for local young people has completed 9 taster sessions with adults and young people. There are 25 people who are participating in the project with the aim being to build further successful neighbourhoods and support participants to deal with difficult & challenging community issues. The course also enables young people and adults to gain confidence and contribute to making Walsall a more inclusive and enjoyable place to live in.

This initiative is funded by Walsall Public Safety Team and is being delivered by IYPSS Positive Activities Team.

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

4.1 The Social Economic Plan has received confirmation of the £35m bid that was submitted. 14 of the 16 programmes have been accepted. This includes the Goscote Lane housing programme, M6 J10 widening and skills capital to equip young engineers.

4.2 Steps to Work offers support at the multi-agency one stop shops. There are currently 2 one stop shops in the borough operated by Steps to Work, Darlaston Jet and Work on the Horizons in Bloxwich, which has been opened since 2005.

Work on the Horizon supports local people in CV writing, job search skills, broker vacancies; work with businesses and guides job seekers to appropriate services, training and employment opportunities.

Between January 2014-August 2014 Work on the Horizons has had 915 new users, 500 repeat users per month and they have assisted approximately 60 people with CV's per month. From January 2014 - August 2014 47 individuals gained employment, supported by Steps to Work.

4.3 Prospects (connexions services) are engaging with young people and trying to find appropriate destinations for them In North Walsall, month ending July 2014, there were 176 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) young people. There were 7 Not Known destinations for young people.

4.4 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.

4.5 As part of the support to whg, Area Partnerships is involved with local strategic meetings the 'Goscote Corridor Strategic Partnership Group' is planned for September. We will be working with Keepmoat Housing, the developer building the 400+ dwelling in Goscote. There are a number of community based initiatives that we are going to implement over the coming few years, based on community engagement.

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

5.1 Carol Williams, Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator met with Area Partnerships team and identified that teenage pregnancy is being addressed in Walsall. Blakenall is the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst place for teenage pregnancy Birchills/Leamore 3<sup>rd</sup> and Bloxwich East is 4<sup>th</sup>.

Bloxwich West is 8<sup>th</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> on the list is St Matthews, however this may be due to the transient population and the social housing that occurs in the local area, alongside other factors.

Teenage pregnancy is being tackled in Academies in North Walsall.

### Local Academy in North Walsall

Year	Pregnancies
2011/12	7
2012/13	8
2013/14	2

Reduction in rates is due to the Youth Development Programme (Teen & Toddlers) that has been running successfully in a local Academy.

The Academy identifies 12 young people for the programme who are at risk of becoming pregnant. Males are also engaged in the programme. The programme links the young people to a toddler and discusses issues such as relationships, STI's and role models.

5.2 Children Centre teams are working with NHS to engage women who may have missed their cervical screening appointments. The Children Centres have been operating drop-in clinics at times when mothers are dropping off their children to the centres. The preliminary results have been positive for North Walsall, as previously some appointments were not being kept. Children Centre staff are also being trained in smoking cessations and other health related matters.

5.3 Area Partnerships supported the Beechdale Health Centre Practice Health Fayre that occurred on 16<sup>th</sup> August. The event was organised by Beechdale residents and the local church.

The event was enabled local residents to receive Health Check Services in their locality and also to engage with community health teams and referral agencies.

The event coincided with a community event held at Frank F Harrison. There were stalls and displays that were organised by the community. The Move Truck was also on site and engaged with young people in creative arts projects.

### Other items of interest

- Walsall Community Living has now developed a web-site. The website provides advice on money matters, staying safe, help to live at home and housing options: [www.wcld.co.uk](http://www.wcld.co.uk)
- St Giles Walsall Hospice – Sponsored Abseil down Walsall Art Gallery, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 11.00am. If you are interested in participating contact Joanne Pritchard at St Giles 01922 602520 or [joanne.pritchard@walsall.nhs.uk](mailto:joanne.pritchard@walsall.nhs.uk)
- Vulnerable individuals can go to certain locations in the borough, if they feel unsafe, threatened or medically unwell. More details can be found at [www.walsallsafeplaces.co.uk](http://www.walsallsafeplaces.co.uk)
- Work is on-going with Mattesley Court to enable the residents to access learning and educational opportunities, alongside engaging in health related activities.

- RSPCA – Community Animal Action Event. St Chad's Church, Beechdale. Free micro-chipping for dogs and cats, free cat neutering vouchers, £10.00 dog neutering (vouchers proof of benefits may be needed), free pet advice.  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 10am-4pm, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2pm-8pm Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 10am-2pm.  
Contact [enquiries@rspca-walsall.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@rspca-walsall.org.uk)  
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