

Health and Wellbeing Board

4 January 2018

One Walsall - Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the work of the borough's voluntary and community sector and One Walsall in support of health and wellbeing priorities.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board:
 - 2.1.1. note the content of the report,
 - 2.1.2. share information about the People's Health Trust funding and One Walsall's wider offer within their networks.

3. Report Detail

Walsall Together/Sector Representation

- 3.1. One Walsall membership has increased to over 170 VCS organisations as of September, further strengthening our representation of our diverse sector and the role it plays in supporting the health and care economy in Walsall. We continue to represent the sector on the Walsall Together Providers Board and ensure the voice and role of the sector is included within the emerging model of care of governance arrangements.
- 3.2. A funding application has been submitted to NHS England which seeks to expand the Making Connections programme by embedding additional Link Workers within the place-based health and care teams, and provide increased access to social prescribing services for patients at highest risk of hospital admission. The bid is supported by match funding from Walsall CCG and Public Health, and a decision from NHSE is anticipated in late December.

Capacity Building activities

- 3.3. The Development Team has delivered over 50 support cases to date this year, and continues to support many organisations delivering in the field of health and wellbeing. We have recently worked with several organisations focusing on mental health, including helping Recovery Union and the newly established GRIT Project to each secure £10,000 for the delivery of peer-to-peer support activities for those experiencing mental ill health. We have also established a partnership between the mental health charity Rethink and youth organisation British Muslim Youth Group, for the development of activities aimed at young people from BME communities experiencing mental health issues.
- 3.4. The first of our One Voice forums took place in the West Locality on 4 December and was attended by over 25 voluntary, community and faith groups. Facilitated discussions and asset mapping activities were well

received and have helped identify links between local organisations and potential partnership activities on themes such as loneliness and isolation, bereavement support and mental health. The Development Team will now continue to support partnership development. The One Voice forums provide a valuable opportunity to uncover and map community assets, focusing on what's strong rather than what's wrong, build practical links and common purpose. We are keen to continue to work with HWBB partners to utilise this as an opportunity to support health and wellbeing outcomes.

People's Health Trust – Local Funding Opportunity

- 3.5. During December and January, we will be working with the People's Health Trust to deliver targeted promotion and application support for its Active Communities Programme in Walsall. The aim of the fund is to reduce health inequalities in more disadvantaged areas through projects that increase positive activities within communities, which then leads to people being and feeling healthier. Applications for up to £25,000 over two years are being sought from grassroots community organisations covering small geographical communities or communities of interest. Our ambition is to support a minimum of eight projects through to award. Attached are examples of previously funded projects in Walsall and partners are encouraged to share this information within their networks and signpost interested organisations to One Walsall for support. The deadline for applications is 10 January 2018.

Volunteering/Social Action

- 3.6. Since March 2017, 189 volunteers have registered their interest in volunteering and 63 new volunteer opportunities have been registered via the Volunteer Connect system. This includes several roles developed within Council service areas through Public Health's Active Volunteering pilot. Anecdotally, we are aware of at least 50 volunteers who have taken up roles and we believe this is only a fraction of the real figure. We are establishing measures to effectively track volunteer placements and retention, which is proving challenging and time intensive at present. The Volunteer Centre continues to deliver information sessions at various venues and events to increase engagement in formal volunteering.
- 3.7. Positive meetings have taken place with Walsall CCG's Head of Organisational Development and Staff Council to develop approaches to engage CCG staff in more local volunteering. Briefing sessions will be held with staff teams to provide more information on the roles available and the value of volunteering, and the CCG has committed to further investigating a corporate volunteering policy which provides employer supported volunteering time. We are also working with Homeserve, one of the largest employers in the borough, to unlock the potential of their 1000+ staff to support local community action. Discussions with both the CCG and Homeserve have been positive around the ideas of community volunteering and a skills-share programme which sees employees dedicate voluntary time in support of VCS organisational capacity building. These approaches will continue to be explored.
- 3.8. We are working with the Walsall Patient Participation Liaison Group to help individual PPGs find more volunteers and to help them access funding to take their work forward. Sadly, we are yet to see any PPGs become members of One Walsall despite promoting the value of our offer to them as formally constituted voluntary organisations.

4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements

Financial Implications

- 4.1. There are no legal implications.

Legal Implications

- 4.2. There are no legal implications.

Other Resource Implications

- 4.3. There are no resource implications.

5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities

- 5.1. The voluntary and community sector provides a broad and diverse range of services and activities which touch upon all aspects of health and wellbeing, whether explicitly or implicitly. Supporting a strong and vibrant voluntary sector, and supporting citizens and partner agencies to engage in local social action will undoubtedly impact positively on Walsall health and wellbeing priorities.

Author

Alex Boys

Chief Executive, One Walsall

☎ 01922 619 840

✉ alexb@onewalsall.org



Active Communities: Previously funded in HealthDesire (Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton)

Social club for older people: £20,188

This two-year project has expanded an existing lunch club for older people to develop more social activities including coffee mornings, arts and crafts and a singing group. The club was established to address the social isolation experienced by older residents and the new project has developed from participants request for a greater variety of activities alongside the luncheon. The club is run by older people for older people, and has established a steering group to lead the project.

Carer and toddler group: £11,800

The funding has enable an existing carer and toddler playgroup to continue running. In addition, it has emplyed an experienced sessional play worker to provide support to the parents/carers, with the aim of reducing the disadvantage experienced by local children. The project supports children to socialise in larger groups and aims to model best practice in creative play.

Cross-cultural community-building activities: £22,600

This new project aims to enable local people in a large town to learn about other cultures and faiths, form new lasting relationships, and become active empowered citizens through engaging in culturally-sensitive activities and workshops. All activities include the cross-cultural custom of 'breaking bread' and sharing meals where participants can also have discussions on community life issues. The project aims to challenge and break down existing community demarcations and negative stereotypical views. Local people design and play a role in delivering the project through a steering group which ensures that it is service user led.

Peer support group for carers of people with mental ill-health: £19,959

This new two-year project aims to deliver information, advice, signposting, and group-based and one-to-one well-being support to carers of people with mental ill-health who are from a Black African/Caribbean background. The project is led by a steering group which has decision-making powers about how the project is delivered, evaluated and reported on, and a majority of its members are participants, alongside staff and volunteers. Carers also deliver certain elements of the programme, mentor others, provide peer support and are encouraged to take on leadership roles. The project aims to bring participants together regularly to form friendships and benefit from mutual support.

Social activities for Asian women: £39,914

This two-year project builds on work already delivered by the organisation to support Asian women experiencing isolation and to strengthen their relationships with local communities. The project has linked with another local women's group in order to increase the spread of the project. The project aims to develop two local Listening Circles - one for Indian women and one for Pakistani women, to establish local needs and then deliver activities which address them and bring the groups together.