

NORTH WALSALL AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

Tuesday 15th July 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-line with local policing strategy Inspector Dave Payne has moved geographical areas, as of April 2014. Inspector Beth Bridges is the current Inspector, covering North Walsall and Walsall South.
Inspector Bridges has been working with her team to deliver the policing strategies across North Walsall.
As part of that strategy we are aiming to organise a 'web chat' in early autumn, so that the communities can ask questions and receive appropriate responses on neighbourhood policing and ASB.
- 2.2 The Beechdale ASB Group met in early April. The meeting, chaired by BCH, had identified a number of challenges. This included young people causing ASB in the local area, inappropriate use of pedal scooters (i.e. riding on roads), individuals climbing on private property in Stephenson Square, and general nuisance. The police also identified a small cohort of individuals who seemed to be leaders in the group.
Actions were put into place, which included engaging with Mirus Academy, Walsall Parenting Team, Community Champions and IYSPP, to enable appropriate support to be introduced to those causing concern.
- 2.3 In late March & early April there were a number of nuisance issues at retail premises around Leamore and Reedswood Retail Park. As a result banning orders were issued, 41 for KFC, 12 for McDonalds' and there has been an increase in police patrols around the hotspot areas. Discussions on how to provide further support to local businesses will be discussed with the Business Park Co-ordinator for the area.
- 2.4 Beechdale Community Housing (BCH) have been working with Area Partnerships to tackle a range of local challenges. Some of the challenges have included parenting support with the young people on the estate. The ASB meeting group, chaired by BCH, identified this as a concern.
To support BCH regarding parenting issues on the estate, Area Partnerships met with the Parenting Co-ordinator for the council and we were able to identify a number of parenting programmes that could be delivered from BCH, Hatherton Children's Centre, Mirus Academy and Frank F Harrison. Therefore supporting parents who require assistance in parenting skills.
- 2.5 With the support of BCH, Area Partnership and an officer from the ASB Team visited the local shops in Stephenson Square and discussed local ASB issues. This included distribution of leaflets, so that business owners were aware of where to report ASB issues and other related issues.
Illegal sales of cigarettes and alcohol was also discussed and Trading Standards posters distributed to promote legal sales. The work of illegal sales is part of the

overall North Walsall campaign to promote the Proof of Age Card organised via Trading Standards.

- 2.6 Working with BCH, the police and local residents, Area Partnerships has been looking at different feasibility measures regarding traffic speeds along Stephenson Avenue & Cavendish Road.

Working with a Senior Engineer from the Highways/Traffic Team, a traffic speed survey was undertaken on Thursday 12th June, specifically around Stephenson Avenue and Cavendish Road.

From the 'speed gun' analysis it has been identified that there may be a need to put up the CCTV 'Reduce Speed Sign' along those roads.

These measures will tie into the road safety campaigns that are to occur in the local area, including the messages to pupils from Mirus Academy.

The Senior Engineer is also looking at other road safety measures that could be implemented.

- 2.7 IYPSS have developed a referral process which aims to allow closer alignment and targeting of their resources.

The changes have been made to cover the summer months, June- August 2014.

IYPSS aim 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 will be able to report their concerns by requesting a referral form from Youthasbreporting@walsall.gov.uk or by leaving a message on **IYPSS ASB reporting line 07894886708**.

IYPSS have identified that calls and reports will be treated as confidential. One of their Detached Youth Workers will be responding to requests and may find it necessary to contact the reporter for more information.

- 2.8 As part of the review of the Frank F. Bike Light Project, Area Partnerships took part in the strategic review of the project with Alex Boys, Strategic Funding Officer for the council. The review occurred with representatives from Children's Services, Probation Frank F Harrison and IYPSS. The conclusion was that there project was beneficial to young people and service referral agencies. Frank F Harrison are going to submit further funding applications to organisations, such as the National Lottery.

- 2.9 Area Partnerships has been attending the Residents Association Meeting in Mossley. The residents were raising concerns regarding issues, such as off-road bikes and possible drug use in the local area. Supported by the police Area Partnerships were able to highlight the importance of notifying and reporting incidents, to enable local solutions to local problems.

On-going support to the local residents occurs through different actions, including trying to block access to areas causing concern by off-road bikes.

2.10 The Big Local has been developing across Mossley. There are currently 2 groups in operation. The Steering Group and the main Big Local Group. Each group meets on a monthly basis. Community Action & Training Services - CAATS (caatservicesltd@yahoo.co.uk) have taken over responsibility for supporting the local community in developing the Big Local Plan for Mossley and the expectation is that the plan will be ready for submission to the National Big Local by August 2014. The plan should be a culmination of the discussion held over the last few months, linked to action planning and local priorities.

2.11

2012/13 to 2013/14 (with the exception of the fire data).

North Walsall				
Crime/Incident Type	2012/13	2013/14	Change	% Change
Total Recorded Crime	3404	3549	145	4.3
Serious Acquisitive Crime	678	800	122	18.0
Anti Social Behaviour (Police Reported)	1831	1439	-392	-21.4
Youth Related ASB (Police Reported)	766	556	-210	-27.4
Domestic Burglary	258	276	18	7.0
Burglary Other Building	250	202	-48	-19.2
Criminal Damage	711	716	5	0.7
Vehicle Crime	367	474	107	29.2
Violence Against the Person	650	747	97	14.9
Robbery	56	59	3	5.4
Deliberate Primary Fires (WMFS Data)*	48	62	14	29.2
Deliberate Secondary Fires (WMFS data)*	206	251	45	21.8
Drug Offences	110	119	9	8.2
Domestic Violence	291	333	42	14.4
Hate Crime	56	50	-6	-10.7

* Data covers the period April – February

2.12 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.

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 Road Walsall	Neighbourhood Management	To reduce crime & ASB and offer reassurance	To gather evidence of ASB and support subsequent enforcement action

2.13 Lancaster Place, verge parking work has been completed. The site has been visited and local residents have commented that it has improved the flow of traffic in the street, especially when the bin lorries are on the road. A comment was also made that various residents are using the parking bays, not just those whose houses are adjacent to the newly created bays.

2.14 Green Lane Baptist Church’s Mend-it Project showcased their work on 23rd June. The showcase involved a display of the fabrics and patchwork bags that have been made by the participants. The volunteers and participants articulated how the programme had helped them develop a range of additional skills, not just in craft work, but in language acquisition, confidence building, understanding other cultures and having shared values. The project, which has been supported by Area Partnership funding, mirrors the community development and cohesion work that is being replicated across other parts of North Walsall.

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

3.1 Area Partnership is working with the Early Help Teams so that identification of support to communities occurs in a co-ordinated way. This is further enhanced through the ‘Supporting/Strengthening Families’ work that Children’s Services manage. The work includes closer alignment with Sarah Barker, who is the Cluster Manager for North Walsall, linked to the Early Help team.

3.2 IYPSS have also delivered sessions in the local area over Easter. The projects included football sessions, triathlon sports, music making & creative arts projects.

3.3 IYPSS have been working with Blakenall Community Partnerships, Frank F Harrison, Area Partnerships and whg to enable a programme of activities to be developed over the summer months. The programme is a culmination of the various discussions regarding supporting young people in the local area and

builds on the successful work that occurred last summer alongside the feedback from the young people and parents.

Councillors were able to hear the views on how the programme had met the needs of the young people from the Area Panel meeting held in November 2013.

This summer's programme will include FA Coaching Level 1 qualification, arts and craft projects, fitness modules, healthy lifestyles projects and summer trips.

- 3.4 IYPSS & Walsall College are developing an 'empowerment project' with and for local young people. The project, to be run over the summer, leads to a residential supporting all those who want to deal with difficult & challenging community issues. The course enables young people 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 will be developed and delivered by IYPSS Positive Activities Team.
- 3.5 There will still be regular youth based activities in the local area, running alongside the holiday provision.
- 3.6 The Challenge Network (National Citizenship Scheme, young people's volunteering service), has continued to engage with young people in Walsall and across the Black Country. They have already recruited a number of Walsall young people to the summer programmes, and over the coming months there will be various campaigns, designed by young people and supported by local businesses and organisations. One of the groups that the young people will be supporting will be 'Keyring' an organisation that works with adults with additional needs, from dementia, learning difficulties and mobility issues.

Throughout 2013 Area Partnerships supported the Challenge Network.

Statistics show that for Walsall 2013,

- 693 young people participated,
- 210 from Walsall,
- 145 female, 65 male,
- 71% graduated (completed the course),
- 1466 young people showed an interest in attending the Challenge Network events,
- 55% from BME,
- 20% were in receipt of Free School Meals,
- 4% were special education needs,
- 0.5% were looked after or in care,
- The Black County scored the highest satisfaction scores.

Statistics show for Walsall 2014,

- 1000 places across the Black County,
- 446 young people already signed up from Walsall,
- 5 'waves' on Walsall (300 spaces for young people),
- Venues for use will be Forest Arts & Brownhills community Centre,
- More local businesses and charities have been signed up to engage with the Challenge Network,
- 7 paid Graduates working on the programme,
- 29 young people volunteering this summer on the programmes from last year's Graduates.

There will be more programmes developed by the Challenge Network, to encourage young people to volunteer into their community.

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

- 4.1 Steps to Work holds a quarterly multi-agency meeting, which is attended by Area Partnerships. Membership of the group includes Job Centre, Walsall College, Regeneration Team, Prospects (Careers Services) and training providers linked to employment opportunities in the borough.

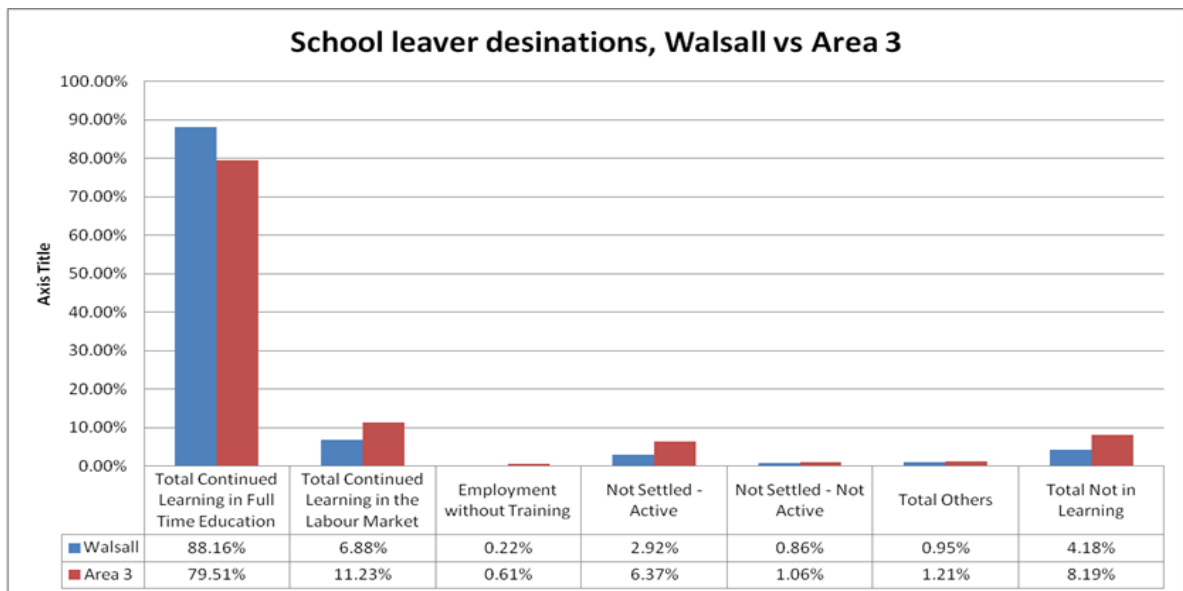
Steps to Work offers support at the multi-agency one stop shops. There are currently 2 one stop shops in the borough operated by Steps to Work, Darlaston Jet and Work on the Horizons in Bloxwich, which has been opened since 2005. Work on the Horizon supports local people in CV writing, job search skills, broker vacancies; work with businesses and guides job seekers to appropriate services, training and employment opportunities.

They are seeing over 100 first time users per month, as a result they have started a Job Club, following the changes to the Job Seekers Allowance. One of the aims being to teach jobseekers how to use the internet for job search skills. Work on the Horizons also runs non-accredited courses as well as signposting to accredited courses.

- 4.2 The Regeneration Team have produced a number of documents to inform businesses and individuals with how to 'get into work'. Walsall Works is engaging with a number of providers, including Walsall Adult Community College (WACC), Walsall College and Steps to Work to deliver apprenticeships. They have helped over 500 young people into work.

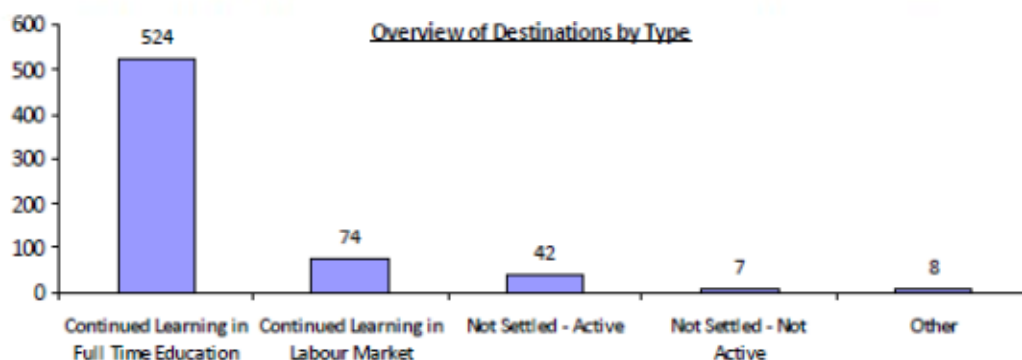
This programme will run for another 4 years.

In North Walsall we are increasing opportunities for people to gain employment skills.



4.3 Area Partnerships is working with Prospects Careers Service, and training providers, to enable young people to access education, training and employment opportunities.

DESTINATION	SCHOOL LEAVERS	
	NUMBERS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Post 16 - Existing School	254	38.54
Post 16 - Other School	34	5.16
Post 16 - Further Education	236	35.81
Total Continued Learning in Full Time Education	524	79.51
Apprenticeship	17	2.58
Employment with Training	5	0.76
Training (including e2e)	52	7.89
Total Continued Learning in the Labour Market	74	11.23
Employment without Training	4	0.61
Post 16 - Part Time Learning	0	0.00
Part Time Employment	0	0.00
Voluntary/Personal Development	9	1.37
Unemployed	33	5.01
Not Settled - Active [□]	42	6.37
Not Settled - Not Active [○]	7	1.06
Cannot be contacted	1	0.15
Refused to Participate in Survey	0	0.00
Unknown	7	1.06
Total Others	8	1.21
Total Not in Learning	54	8.19
Grand Total	659	-
Movement Into Learning	598	90.74



NB: As the percentages have been rounded to 2 decimal places, the totals may not add up exactly

- [□] Not Settled - Active is the total of those looking for work, those studying or working part time and those attending a voluntary or personal development activity.
- [○] Not Settled - Not Active is the total of those not actively looking for work (i.e. Custodial Sentence, Teenage Parent, Pregnancy, Illness, Young Carers)

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prospects

- 4.4 whg has a range of funding streams that 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.

Working with Alex Boys and whg strategic leads we have been able to plan a way to dovetail the promotion of funding information to local groups. This will also mean that we will be able to look at groups applying funds and notify them of the most appropriate route to fund their activities, and avoid duplication funding.

Alex Boys is also planning workshops with whg and Area Partnerships, so that groups are able to apply for funding (building local capacity to apply for funding) and meet the criteria for the different funding streams (e.g. People's Fund via whg, 301 funding from Big Local, Area Partnership Fund).

- 4.5 The Black Country Chamber of Commerce's Business Park Co-ordinator works around Leamore Park and the surrounding local business parks. The local businesses are planning on undertaking some environmental work in the local area (i.e. sprucing up the business parks).

Meetings are being planned so that any work fits into the local plans of the council and that the community are also made aware of the local enhancements.

- 4.6 As part of the support to whg, Area Partnerships is involved with local strategic meetings. These meetings occur at Blakenall Village Centre.

A separate group has been formed, by whg, with the aim being to bring in other key agencies, including the developer, creative arts teams and community consultation partners. The first meeting of the 'Goscote Corridor Strategic Partnership Group' is planned for 15th July.

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

5.1 Working with Alex Boys, and the Parks Teams, Area Partnership have been able to engage with Blakenall Community Partnerships, Stan Ball Centre, Mattesley Court (Bloxwich), whg and other providers to support the event called 'Walsall Green Funding Fair' that was held on Thursday 22nd May at Goscote Green Acres.

The event was to enable those organisations that wanted to develop horticultural gardens within the local community to attend where they would receive funding, design and project advice.

They were also supported in how to form community groups so that similar geographical groups were not competing for the same pots of money.

5.2 Area Partnerships are supporting the co-ordination of services into the local community, linked to the work undertaken by the Lifestyles Team and Sports & Leisure Service.

This fits into the strategic health assessments needs that Public Health has identified, i.e. health priority areas for the borough.

North Walsall has challenges regarding healthy weight management for young people and adults and as such we have been working with the operational group of the Young People's Healthy Weight Management Group. This group comprises of schools, Lifestyles Team, Public Health and health visitors.

The group looks at healthy weight strategies across the borough and provides appropriate levels of intervention. They are also able to influence some commissioning arrangements, through identifying where services are not operating in the local areas.

Local programmes include 'Fun for Life' programme running in Bloxwich, with specific programmes being developed linked to disability sports at Bloxwich Leisure Centre.

Active Clubs is also operating in Mirus Academy, which is part of the local initiatives to enable young people to be healthier.

5.3 Mossley 'Fit & Fun Day' event was held on 29th May, half-term. The event, supported by the Big Local, was an opportunity for local residents to visit Mattesley Court and gain further understanding of the Big Local.

Leaflets were distributed to all households in the Big Local area.

Various information stalls were made available, including information on tackling lone sharks, healthy lifestyles, Stop Smoking Campaigns, tackling ASB via the police, and information from Families Information Services and the Children Centre/Early Help Teams.

Healthwatch were also present, as part of their community engagement strategy.

The Move Truck and Reach Tower was available, with over 100 young people using the equipment. The Big Local representatives used the occasion to build on their local action plan and undertook additional consultation on the needs of the community.

The event was well attended by the local community, with some of the feedback being that the Big Local would like to replicate something similar in the future.

- 5.4 To further promote the Big Local, Area Partnerships provided information to them regarding the 'Big Lunch'. 'The Big Lunch' is an initiative from the Eden Project.

The aim being to get as many people across the UK to have lunch with their neighbours. The event is usually held on the first Sunday in June, with the hope of building community, friendship and to have fun.

Funding is available for community groups to apply for events, ranging from a garden party to a street party. Big Local representatives are exploring the idea of this project.

- 5.5 Beechdale Health Centre Practice, based in Edison Road, did an Easter egg hunt, as part of their Health Information Open Day in April. They have also promoted their Practice through the BCH newsletter, 'Noize'. They are looking to run a Health Fayre on 16th August and are inviting local representatives from different health based organisations to attend. Attendance is sought from NHS Health Check Services, community health teams and referral agencies.

- 5.6 'Party in Bloxwich Park' is to be held on Saturday 28th June. 10.00am- 5.00pm. There will be live music areas, games and activities for the family. There will also be a service commemorating 100 years in Bloxwich, with the service being located at All Saints Church, 11.00am- 4.00pm. This has been merged with Armed Forces Day, to commemorate World War 1 Centenary.

- 5.7 The Joint commissioning Unit (JCU) are seeing views on the Carers Strategy.

There is a consultation process occurring seeking to ascertain gaps in services delivery for unpaid carers (i.e. you look after a family member or friend and they live in Walsall and are registered with a Walsall GP).

The JCU has sent the questionnaire out to partner organisations for their views.

Completed questionnaires should be returned by 30th June 2014.

For further information contact Parmajit Kaur or email jcu@walsall.gov.uk

- 5.8 Area Partnerships has supported Public Health's '5 Ways of Well-being' strategy. This is a directory specific to the 6 Area partnerships that reflect where individuals can go to enhance their well-being. The directory includes information on parks, community gardens, leisure centre facilities, libraries and open spaces.
- 5.9 Healthwatch Walsall have been engaging with Area Partnerships regarding consulting local people on health priorities for the borough. They have commissioned an organisation from Wolverhampton, who have been able to use the North Walsall networks to discuss residents' health needs and also to enable residents to comment on the borough's health plans.
- 5.10 Area Partnerships has been supporting St Giles Hospice and promoting opportunities for groups to be involved in their work.

With the support of Area Partnership, Lafarge Tarmac chose them as their nominated charity for 2013/14.

600 patients have been treated at St Giles over the last 3 years and various fund raising events will be promoted over the coming months.

One of the events will include 'The Sunflower Garden' where the departed can be remembered by dedicating a sunflower in the hospice or in the memorial planter at Bloxwich.

- 5.11 Area Partnerships has attended various health and promotional events. These have included health displays at Stan Ball Health event, Forest Arts displays, and promotional activities with health visitors.
- 5.12 North Walsall's Clinical Commissioning Group met in June 2014. The Area Managers for North Walsall and Walsall South are due to meet the Chair of the North Walsall CCG to discuss and plan how they can be further supported within the local areas.
- 5.13 The New Physical Activity Timetable, provided by the Lifestyle Team, for July 2014 is available. The exercise classes and sessions are delivered by the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's Physical Activity Team.
All sessions are free if you live or work in Walsall. Proof is required to show that you are either a Walsall resident or work in Walsall.
Sessions include family and adult park sessions starting in August.

There will be new land based Ante & Post Natal Exercise Class at Bloxwich Leisure Centre on Tuesdays which replaces the Aqua Natal at Bloxwich Leisure Centre.

Other Sessions include the 'Make it Count' which is a 12 week healthy lifestyles programme for 4-7 year olds and their families held in the community. The programme covers the Change4Life healthy lifestyle topics such as Healthy

Eating, Being Active, Sugar Swaps, and the Eatwell Plate whilst having fun and playing active games.

- 5.14 The Walsall Get Active Database is now available with information on local clubs and activities. www.walsall.gov.uk/getactive

Other items of interest

Parks Team are putting on fun day events:

- Birchills Fun day – Wednesday 23rd July- Reedswood Park, Bentley Lane, Birchills.
- Blakenall-on-the-Beach Community Summer-Fun-Day - Saturday 26th July, Blakenall Village Centre.
- 27th August, Bloxwich Fun day - Wednesday Bloxwich Park, Bloxwich.
- Dementia Friend Information session available for local organisations. Contact Joy Sumner, Day Care Manager, Housing & Care 21 Tel: 0370 192 4993
- Walsall Lifestyles Team will be running an additional Physical Activity Timetable including outdoor sessions throughout the month of August. Please promote these sessions across local community groups. Contact Lifestyle Link on 01922 444044 <http://lifestyle.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk/>
- Various events at the Stan Ball Centre, which is advertised through the 'What's on at the Stan Ball Centre' emails, along with a schedule of autumn excursions.

Stan Ball will be introducing a monthly Coffee Morning commencing on Wednesday 9th July from 11am until 12pm.

On 24th July at 11am the Funtime Theatre visits Stan Ball to perform their "Songs from the Shows & Musicals". Tickets are £2 each for this show.

From Monday 11th August until Friday 15th August Stan Ball have a 30-seater canal boat moored on the canal outside the Stan Ball Centre.

Throughout the week they shall be offering twice-daily trips leaving from, and returning to, the Stan Ball Centre.

For further details including costs and booking contact Stan Ball Centre.

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