

DARLASTON AND BENTLEY AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

16th September 2015

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 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.

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

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 Positive work ongoing at Whitton Street play area with partner agencies working closely to address youth related asb and community cohesion issues in this area. YSS, Community Safety and Police have made progress working with young people and a new project is running to engage mothers as part of the work taking place. The number of complaints received has reduced as a result of input.
- 2.3 Security items have now been delivered to Darlaston Police Station and a meeting has been arranged to plan visits to community groups across the area in partnership with WMFS, Community Safety and Trading Standards to promote personal and community safety messages.
- 2.4 Issues off off road bikes continue to cause concern to partner agencies and also the local community. While there is little pattern to where incidents are taking place across the area partners Borough wide are looking at this issue as concerns have been raised at local tasking meetings across all area partnerships.
- 2.5 Vulnerability session to be arranged for November 2015 with all colleagues invited. The session aims to provide and update and overview about different support services such as Vulnerability Forum, Troubled Families and Early Help, Domestic Violence Forum, WM Fire Service as well as updates from Mental Health and Adult Social Care. The intention will be to provide local agencies

including local councillors and community groups with a better understanding of the various referral pathways to support for the most vulnerable in the community. This session is being delivered with Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership to maximise impact across both area

2.6 A positive meeting took place with Yale UK, Police and Fire Service in August to discuss joint working across the area and it was agreed that a communication campaign will be launched in the new year to help publicise key personal and community safety messages. Yale are also keen to provide a number of items for vulnerable people, attend community events and be part of ongoing discussions locally to play a more proactive role in Darlaston.

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

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 Kic FM are working from Rough Hay Community Centre three days a week in August delivering activities for young people with the intention of establishing a core group at the centre after the school holidays for ongoing engagement.
- 3.3 Youth activities are being delivered over the summer by YSS and commissioned partners with information promoted on what's on Walsall website.
- 3.4 Black Country in Motion are working with OHPP to deliver youth activities from Bentley All Ages Centre on a weekly basis. They are also linking with Darlaston Youth Club to arrange sessions for young people and their families mainly boys and their fathers to help send a positive message to local residents.
- 3.5 A new boxing club has been funded by the AP and operating from Darlaston Town Hall on a weekly basis.
- 3.6 Moxley People's Centre has been awarded funding from the AP for a youth programme of activities.
- 3.7 A project around road safety with primary schools is being developed with Willenhall Fire Station to promote key safety messages across the area.

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

- 4.1 Strategic partners include; Walsall Council Economic Regeneration, Welfare Rights, District Centre Management, Darlaston JET, Walsall College, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmore/Accord Housing, Moxley Community Hub Project Management Group
- 4.2 City Deal funded programmes continue to be delivered in the Darlaston South ward from a number of agencies. A steering group of local agencies met in July to ensure communication is in place between different providers. A coffee morning for local community groups is to take place in conjunction with Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 25th September organised jointly by City Deal Community Connector and AP. It will take place from 10am – 12pm at a venue to be confirmed.
- 4.3 The next unemployment steering group will be taking place on Friday 19th September at 10am – 11am, Walsall Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations for local providers to discuss issues

and priorities across the area with a particular focus on providing support to people in budgeting and financial management.

4.4 Bentley Community Library will be launching its services on Saturday 26th September.

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

5.1 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.

5.2 Moxley People's Centre has started a support group for people with dementia and their carers from the Darlaston area in partnership with the local health centre and Mindful Gifts CIC. An initial session was arranged in July for people to attend to discuss what activities they would like to do and how often they would like to meet in order to help inform activities for this project.

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