

## **WILLENHALL AND SHORT HEATH AREA PANEL**

### **Area Manager's Report**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

#### **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 Through the work of the police team, supported by local intelligence, they have been able to tackle crime in various locations.

If you see anyone or anything suspicious in your local community please call officers on 101. Always dial 999 if a crime is in progress.

Likewise if you have information on people or properties linked to the handling of stolen property please call officers or contact the independent charity Crimestoppers in confidence on 0800 555 111.

Crime prevention literature/flyers are available; please contact WS Partnerships [ws\\_partnerships@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ws_partnerships@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk),

- 2.3 Police Community Support Officers staffing proposals to reduce the number of PCSOs employed has changed by the force following a review of neighbourhood policing.

Police had to consider a number of factors including the Comprehensive Spending Review and the final financial settlement. Whilst there is a reduction in overall budget this is not the level of cuts the force had begun to plan for.

As a result the police believe it is no longer necessary to proceed with any compulsory redundancy arrangements for Police Community Support Officers.

However there remains considerable uncertainty in the funding position. A new funding formula for policing planned for 2017-18 means they only have certainty on the budget for one year and there will be a need to fund increases in force capability.

The Willenhall South NHT team currently maintains 1 Sergeant, 2 full time Constables, 1 part time constable and 3 PCSO's.

West Midlands Police are continuing to recruit 450 police officers as part of their commitment to bolstering the number of police officers.

- 2.4 A review of the overall crime recorded for Willenhall South during December 2015 compared with the previous year has seen a positive outcome showing a reduction of 14.2% that's 25 fewer victims of crime (175 for 2014, 170 for 2015).

There was a fatal stabbing on 28 December 2015 at Walsall Road, Willenhall, and as a result of the injuries caused the sad loss of life.

Two offenders have been arrested and charged with murder. The two local neighbourhood teams were given responsibility for security of three forensic scenes between the fatal stabbing and the New Year.

In common with other Neighbourhoods across Walsall, Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire, commercial shop premises have been targeted for cigarettes and cosmetic goods, where a gang has attended stores in the early hours, forcing the security shutters and stealing large quantities of goods. Willenhall Town Centre was targeted twice, with Super Drug, Market Place, being attacked on 23 Dec 2015.

As a result of this attack, the Police can report 4 offenders were arrested and two have been remanded in custody.

As part of this on-going operation, officers from the Investigation Team and the Neighbourhood Team undertook a series of dawn raids on five suspected offenders' home addresses across Willenhall and Portabello.

This operation saw the arrest of three offenders believed to be involved in these offence types.

Again focusing on Willenhall Town Centre, officers from the Neighbourhood Team supported Walsall Council Trading Standards and Licensing Officers by providing high visibility patrols in the town centre during the run up to Christmas, which saw both inspection of goods being sold in both the street market and shops.

As a result of one of these operations, one store in the town was found to be selling suspected counterfeit cigarettes, which resulted in the seizure of 3800 suspected fake cigarettes and the owner of the store being reported for offences disclosed.

Traffic related matters: - As a result of complaints from residents near to Walsall Road, officers from this team observed by residents have been undertaking a community speed watch campaign during December, which saw Pro-laser speed detection devices being used to monitor speeding motorists with view to challenging speed on our roads and educating drivers. As a result of this operation covering two separate days, 26 drivers will soon receive advisory notices in the post.

Staying with traffic related matters and to support the Nationwide and force wide alcohol drink drive campaign, officers from this team supported by colleagues from Aldridge Neighbourhood Team, conducted a late evening operation near to the Sikh temple in Walsall Road on the 19 December 2015, drivers entering the Restricted Road section were targeted for this and possible drink drive offences. In total 34 vehicles and drivers were stopped; none were found to be over the drink drive limit.

Crime Reduction - PCSO's from the Neighbourhood Team undertook two pop-up type police surgeries during the run up to Christmas aimed at providing and reminding the public of crime prevention issues during the festive season. These took place at Morrison's and Tesco supermarkets aimed at maximising engagement with our community. It is estimated that over 100 people were encountered during these pop-up events.

Facewatch - Working with store-holders in Willenhall and supported by the Town Centre Management, a number of stores and businesses will or have now been trained by the NHT to assist with the borough wide supported initiative.

The aim of Facewatch is to maximise opportunities for businesses to report and share crime information on line.

It is achieved via a downloadable application which can be accessed via a computer or other mobile device.

This system allows businesses to report crime to the police at their convenience and reduces delays in waiting for an officer to call.

The virtual crime recording permits the police to access the evidence quickly and investigate more efficiently.

The scheme has been piloted elsewhere in the West Midlands and positive feedback has resulted in its roll out across Walsall Borough. The Neighbourhood Sergeant welcomes the roll out, as Willenhall Town Centre and larger stores locally experience a number of occurrences of theft from shops and this application will both assist store holder and police alike.

2.5 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.

2.6 Area Partnerships has been working with Youth Justice and other partners to develop volunteering opportunities.

The work is targeted to vulnerable adults and ex-offenders who are committed and enthusiastic individuals, with a range of life experience, who want to gain valuable work experience, an accredited qualification and support to meet

their own individual aspirations. The minimum work period is a total 30 hours over a 6 month period of time.

The successful volunteers will advocate, encourage and support young people of the local Youth Justice Service.

The closing date was 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 for applications. Following a successful recruitment the programme has a number of volunteers who will be engaging in a learning and development programme organised by the Youth Justice Team.

The training begins in January 2016.

- 2.7 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](mailto: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

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

- 3.1 A number of activities are occurred for children and young.

#### **3.2 Past and Present Project**

During August 2015 7 young people from Willenhall and 5 young people from Walsall teamed up with young people from RAF Cosford and engaged in a piece of work funded by the Armed Forces Covenant which resulted in a international learning experience where the group visited Poland.

The aims of the project were:

- To develop a deeper understanding of the history of war, sacrifices made and the effects on each respective community.
- To support learning on issues both communities face

- To develop community cohesion and strengthen partnership work between a civilian and a non civilian community.
- To develop an understanding around how it would be to live in a deployed environment
- To engage young people in an educational international learning experience
- To develop an understanding around the impact of segregation linked to modern day tensions and equality
- To break down barriers and raise aspirations for future opportunities

The project consisted of a number of visits to St Giles Youth Project and Myplace in Walsall followed by a number of visits to the Youth Project at RAF Cosford.

During the residential in Poland young people stayed in the Jewish Quarter and visited historical sites including:

- Wieliczka Salt Mines
- Schndler's Factory
- Auschwitz Concentration Camp
- Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum
- Pomorska Street Museum

Young people have kept a photographic and video diary of their visits and experiences. Youth workers are now in the process of supporting the young people to produce an exhibition of their work which will be showcased at the Cinema at RAF Cosford, Albrighton Wolverhampton, WV7 3EX on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016; 6.30pm – 8.00pm

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

- 4.1. Proposals to widen one of the country's busiest motorway junctions are now out for consultation.

The roundabout at M6 Junction 10 is being revamped as part of Highways England and Walsall Council's plans to tackle congestion problems and resultant delays at peak times in and around Walsall.

The scheme is estimated to cost around £65m, with Highways England and the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) sharing the costs of the scheme. The LEP secured the funding through the DfT's Local Growth Deal for the Black Country in July 2014, which includes Department for Transport funding.

The junction is part of a busy route between Walsall and Wolverhampton and often causes long queues on the A454 Black Country Route, Wolverhampton Road and the motorway slip roads. The busy road junction at Wolverhampton Road/Bloxwich Lane (where traffic enters/exits the developments by the Village Hotel) is also being widened and improved.

M6 J10 is at the heart of the Black Country's traffic network in Walsall and gets clogged up during peak periods. Between 125,000 and 150,000 vehicles pass through Junctions 9 and 10 daily.

Highways England and the council have been looking at various design options to improve the junction and are now inviting members of the public to have their say on the proposals, alongside other designs that have been considered.

Work will begin on site in 2018 and will take around 2 years to complete.

Ways to get involved:

To find out more visit [www.walsall.gov.uk/M6J10](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/M6J10) and follow 'Walsall Transport' on Facebook and Twitter for updates. Feedback on the options can be sent to Walsall Council by emailing [M6J10@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:M6J10@walsall.gov.uk) or by calling 01922 654771 or to Highways England by email [M6Junction10improvement@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:M6Junction10improvement@highwaysengland.co.uk). Businesses can email [M6J10@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:M6J10@walsall.gov.uk) or call 01922 654468.

- 4.2 Environmental Services are currently distributing leaflets to food businesses in the borough to remind them what to look out for and do in the event of finding evidence of pests.

This follows on from a spate of formal closures that have taken place in the last 15 months following infestations found in food businesses.

It is hoped to prevent a reoccurrence of the same.

Copies of the poster are available for distribution from the Area Manager.

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

5.1 Change4life New Year campaign has launched called 'Sugar Smart'; this will be promoted over the next 4 weeks with the following themes;

- W/c 11 January – Drinks
- W/c 18 January – Breakfast
- W/c 25 January – After school snacks
- W/c 1 February – Puddings

### Primary messages

- Children consume three times more sugar than the recommended maximum daily amount – the biggest source is sugary drinks.
- Children might seem fine on the outside but too much sugar can lead to the build-up of harmful fat around internal organs that we can't see. This can cause serious diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, heart disease and some cancers in the future
- Download the Change4Life Sugar Smart app to find out how much total sugar is in everyday food and drinks.
- The Sugar Smart app is available for free to download now from iTunes or Google Play:
- <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/change4life-sugar-swaps/id1015850256?mt=8>
- <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.PHE.SugarSwaps>

### Recommended sugar guidelines

- Children aged 4 to 6 years old should not have more than 19g of added sugar per day – that's 5 cubes (based on 4g sugar cubes).
- Kids aged 7 to 10 years old should have no more than 24g per day – that's 6 cubes (based on 4g sugar cubes).
- From 11 years up, kids should have no more than 30g per day – that's 7 cubes (based on 4g sugar cubes).
- No more than 5% of people's (from 2 years old and above) daily energy intake should come from free sugars. This is a halving of the old recommendation

Five million Sugar Smart packs will be given away free to primary age children and their families via schools, local authorities and retailers.

The packs include:

- the new government guidelines on sugar, revealing how much sugar there is in some of the most popular food and drinks
- hints and tips for how families can get Sugar Smart and eat less sugar



- pointers to all the Sugar Smart tips on the Change4Life website
- information on the free Change4Life Sugar Smart app which lets people see just how much total sugar there is in everyday food and drinks they are buying and giving their children

Information packs are available for distribution from the Public Health team in Walsall.

## 5.2 **Willenhall E-Act Swimming pool changing facility opening**

Willenhall E-ACT has opened a new swimming pool changing facility on their site.

Funded via Sport England's Inspired Facilities, Walsall Council, and Cory Environmental Trust the new facilities offer an improved swimming environment for students and the local community.

## 5.3 **NHS Physical Activity Calendar**

The Physical Activity Timetable is available.

All classes are delivered by experienced Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's Physical Activity Team.

All sessions are FREE if you live or work in Walsall or have a Walsall G.P Please note that you are required to bring proof to a session when you register that you are either a Walsall resident or work in Walsall.

If you are interested, or know of any families that may be interested please phone the Lifestyle Link for more information or to register your interest in the Saturday morning sessions **01922 44 40 44**.

[www.facebook.com/LifestyleLink](http://www.facebook.com/LifestyleLink) @ 01922444044

The **Walsall Get Active** Database is now available with information on local clubs and activities. Have a look or register at [www.walsall.gov.uk/getactive](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/getactive)

Contact: **Ashley Smith**, Physical Activity Advisor, Physical Activity Team  
Tel: 01922 444044 Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Darlaston Health Centre, 1st Floor, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, WS10 8SY.

## **Other**

- Various successful Christmas and Holiday activity events occurred, which engaged the community and local schools.

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

Michael Greenfield; Area Manager - Willenhall & Short Heath Email: [michael.greenfield@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:michael.greenfield@walsall.gov.uk)