

# **WILLENHALL AND SHORT HEATH AREA PANEL**

## **Area Manager's Report**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

### **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.

A brief summary includes

- Neighbourhood Teams will be conducting information leaflet drops to residents highlighting the 'The Darker Nights Return'
- The leaflets consist of West Midlands Police 'House Security and Safety Advice' cards and the Safer Walsall Partnership 'Festive Season Guide to Looking after yourself and your property this Christmas'.
- Target hardening tactics will also be implemented by conducting reassurance visits to attacked premises and offering house security advice and also handing out security devices for windows, doors, sheds and light switch timers.

#### **Vehicle crime.**

- Neighbourhood Teams will be working half nights on some of the late shift to proactively patrol and target main areas of concern, where 'Taking of Motor vehicles' and 'Taking from Motor Vehicles' have been highlighted.
- Officers will patrol in both uniform and plain clothes as well as using marked and plain vehicles to maximise the potential of catching the culprits.
- As well as the above Neighbourhood Teams will also be conducting intense information leaflet drops highlighting the need for vehicle security. WMP 'Reducing vehicle crime' leaflets and tamper proof vehicle registration plate screws will be handed out to residents.

#### **Theft from the person/ Robbery**

- In attempts to combat the rise in the theft from the person and robbery offences, the Neighbourhood Teams will patrol locations of the 2 main Royal mail Post offices on the area.
- It has been highlighted that a majority of residents will be given their winter fuel allowance payment two weeks prior to Christmas, and also same applies to people withdrawing large amounts of money for presents and Christmas.
- Elderly Customers of the Post Office may be at risk to potential Offenders, who are aware of this fact and may become likely targets. With the additional Neighbourhood Teams patrols, this will hopefully significantly reduce the risk and be a deterrent to would be offenders.

The police are seeking further information and support from the public in identifying perpetrators of ASB/crime or acts of general nuisance.

- 2.3 The police are highlighting the dark nights to enable residents to receive advice to reduce the chances of becoming victims of crime.

Some thieves are opportunists, looking for an easy way to steal items of value from an unlocked or unattended vehicle. Police are reminding residents to remove all valuables from their vehicle. This could include laptops, phones, sat navs, sunglasses, loose change or anything that may catch the attraction of an opportunist thief.

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),

**Willenhall Memorial Park** – Residents may be aware of on-going complaints of miss- use of motor cycles and scooters in the park. Walsall Council has been requested to improve its gating in order to make ingress less accessible and the police and Clean & Green staff are working on appropriate solutions to this matter.

The local police neighbourhood team have increased its patrols in this area and have investigated one occurrence of dangerous driving which has led to a positive identification of a local offender.

To enhance the file police have sought impact statements from both park staff and a local Councillor in support of the actions being taken. Police are seeking to arrest the offender.

**Willenhall town centre** – The police team continue to provide high visibility patrols in the town centre complying with the hot grid system adopted by West Midlands Police. As part of these grids, high visibility foot patrols are conducted by this team and on police rest days patrols are conducted by neighbouring teams.

As part of these town centre patrols, a cannabis factory has been discovered in Market Place. The illegal growth was discovered across four floors of a redundant building. As a result numerous plants totalling 200 mature plants were recovered and three males arrested.

Similarly, investigation has resulted in the discovery of an industrial unit of Owen Road, Willenhall where the unit had been used again as illegal cannabis grow. At this location 2 males were arrested and over a thousand plants were recovered. Residents can be assured that police teams will continue to close down such cannabis factories with the aim of reducing illegal substance accessibility to local people.

On the same theme, the police team have obtained a warrant under the misuse of drugs act and executing the Warrant at an address in Market Place, Willenhall, following credible information of drug dealing from a flat. One offender has been interviewed and cash seized. The aim of these warrants is to reduce the amount of illegal drugs available to users on the streets of Willenhall.

**Theft from Shops in the town** – The police continue to have a high volume of theft from stores in the town.

The team actively investigate these offences and had recently had some success in identification of an offender caught on CCTV, regularly stealing large quantities of vitamin tablets, and believed to be stealing to order.

The middle aged smartly dressed male from Wolverhampton has been arrested and appears to travel around the region targeting stores and stealing large quantities of goods on each visit.

**Sporting Khalsa Football Club, Noose Lane, Willenhall** – Residents may be aware this local football team was very successful in gaining a fourth round place in the FA cup, which resulted in a fixture at the former Willenhall Town Football club, Noose Lane, versus United FC of Manchester and saw a capacity crowd of over 2000 spectators.

This was intended to be a police free match, but due to early disorder which included punches being thrown, missiles thrown and flairs fired towards the opposing crowd resulted in this neighbourhood policing team having to intervene, and required reinforcements from Wolverhampton to quell the disorder due to an outbreak of serious disorder at the ground and then on Noose lane after the match.

This was intended to be a family orientated match, but as a direct result there were 10 males ejected from the ground, two arrested and there is currently a post-match investigation to identify offenders. The police are confident that this will result in further arrests, in due course on, those identified.

From what was a positive media story of the local under dog team, Willenhall may have resulted in a negative one following the bad behaviour of a minority of young men set to disrupt the proceedings. Police believe the majority of offenders are Wolverhampton Risk members.

**Christmas** - As we head towards Christmas, the police will continue concentrating on Willenhall town centre, aimed at preventing theft and Burglaries of commercial premises.

This time of year tends to see an increase in this offence type, and the police have experienced two already where offenders have targeted premises by climbing onto the roof and removing tiles to gain entry. The Neighbourhood Sergeant has personally sent an appeal to the traders to review their premises' security in order to prevent access to vulnerable roofs and to report suspicious activity particularly after dark.

Willenhall town centre has its Christmas event on 5 December and the police aim to have a presence in the town for that event.

**Make-up of the team** – the police continue to operate with a team of one sergeant, three constables and three PCSOs, for the Willenhall South Neighbourhood team.

**Willenhall Police Station** - The two neighbourhood teams for Willenhall remain based at the town's police station and there is no confirmation of relocation dates at present.

The police will remain in Willenhall until after Christmas, as the temporary closure of Bloxwich Police Station and the relocation of staff to Green Lane will take precedence in the short term.

2.4 The following have domehawk cameras in situ:

- Lichfield Road- New Invention
- Astoria Close- New Invention
- Ward Street Willenhall
- Willenhall Memorial

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.

2.5 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 is 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 for applications.
- Successful applications will be provided with training and reasonable reimbursement of travel costs etc.

The aim is to have at least 15 volunteers who will start the project in January 2016

- Contact details: Admin Support, Youth Justice Service Tel. 01922 714966
- Application Form: Youth Justice Admin – 01922 714966
- Any Questions: Contact Darrell Gregoire/Rachael Bird 01922 714966

2.6 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.

The young people participated in a number of team building activities and learning workshops designed to develop skills in photography and video recording.

During the project young people attended a weekend residential at the DOTA (Defence Operational Training Area) in Cosford where they stayed in tents designed to familiarise military personal to conditions overseas.

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 in February.

### **Summer 15**

Willenhall young people participated in a fun and full Positive Activity programme during Summer 15.

Youth workers also supported the Willenhall Partnership by attending events at.

- Short Heath Park
- Willenhall Fire Station
- Lighthouse Children's Centre

## **Detached Youth Work**

In addition to supporting the Area Partnership with incidents involving youth related ASB Willenhall Youth Workers are engaging with approximately 40 young people at Willenhall Memorial Park in a piece of work on Tuesday's and Wednesday evenings aimed at deterring young people from congregating on Morrisons due to complaints from the public and to engage young people in positive activities.

Youth workers bring with them the Youth Services Hoppa Bus and portable lighting which extends the time that young people can access the park and utilise the Skate Park whilst supervised by staff.

Willenhall Youth Workers have been successful developing this group who support them to develop their interest in skating by arranging various trips to other skate parks in Liverpool and Gloucester. Young people finance their own trips by paying their own fees whilst Youth Support Services support them by providing transport and youth workers.

Willenhall Memorial Friends of the Park are also supporting this group and have donated funding and resources which enable us to continue to further develop this group.

The skater group have also been approached via Willenhall Youth Workers to support development of the Laser 20 Limited business in Willenhall Town Centre by helping to advise and add to the decoration of the project, ensuring that Willenhall Young People feel that they have some ownership in the facility and it meets the needs of local young people.

Between 30-40 young people attend the multi sports youth session on Willenhall Memorial Park on Saturday afternoons where young people participate in a range of sporting sessions and utilising existing equipment aimed at improving health prospects.

On Friday afternoons and Friday evenings Willenhall Youth Workers are engaging with young people in Short Heath and on the Poets Estate who have been identified through the Area Partnership as engaging in low level ASB.

Willenhall Youth Workers attend New Invention Square regularly and engage with young people and local businesses regarding ASB.

Due to the arson attack at the Allens Centre in New Invention we are no longer able to continue the work at the Assessment House however, we are



looking at securing the Cyber Bus to ensure that a provision for young people continues.

### **Willenhall E-Act Academy**

Willenhall Youth Workers continue to support young people at risk of disengaging from education by delivering The Right Track Project on Friday mornings at the Academy working with young people around their barriers to learning.

### **Black History Month**

Currently the programme for St Giles Youth Project and Rosehill Youth Club are focused on celebrating Black History Month with activities designed for young people to look at culture and heritage.

### **Willenhall Youth Clubs**

At present Willenhall St Giles Youth Clubs and Rosehill Youth Club continue to operate on:

St Giles - Monday's & Wednesday's 6.15pm – 8.45pm

Rosehill - Tuesday's & Thursday's 6.15pm – 8.45pm

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

### **4.1. Willenhall & Short Heath Site Allocation Document consultation events**

What Are The Plans?

#### *Walsall Site Allocation Document*

The Site Allocation Document shows sites which the Council proposes to allocate for homes for our communities, for employment and other land uses such public open spaces. It also shows areas and uses that should be protected, including the Green Belt. The Site Allocation Document will cover the whole of the borough except for the town and district centres.

The council are seeking views on the proposals.

Consultations occurred on

- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October: Time 10.00am - 1pm: CHART 19 Gomer Street, Willenhall
- and
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October: Time: 10.30am - 1pm Willenhall Market

- Displays have gone up in New Invention Library & New Invention Square (in the Community Notice Board).
- Willenhall Library.
- Responses by **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015**.

All consultation documents are available to view and download online at [www.walsall.gov.uk/planning\\_2026](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/planning_2026) and paper copies of the main documents are available to view in your local library and at the First Stop Shop in Walsall Civic Centre, Darwall Street.

**Email:** [planningpolicy@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@walsall.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 01922 658020

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

- 5.1 Area Partnerships attended a Funding & Information Conference in October held in Wolverhampton.

Organisations present included:

- Lloyds Bank Foundation
- Children In Need
- Queens Award for Voluntary Services
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- The Way Youth Zone.
- Walsall Voluntary Action

Lloyds Bank Foundation are able to provide funding to charitable organisations and are actively encouraging organisations to apply for the funding.

<http://www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk/our-programmes/>

Types of Funding from Lloyds Bank Foundation

### **Invest**

- Invest provides longer term core or delivery funding for charities which meet the programme aim and are delivering clear outcomes as a result of their work. These grants are from £10,000 up to maximum of £25,000 per year for two or three years, with the opportunity for continuation funding for a further period – up to six years in total
- Invest provides longer term core or delivery funding for charities which meet the programme aim and are delivering clear outcomes as a result of their work.

- They fund 'core' organisational costs (including running costs and salaries). By 'core' costs they mean those related to the day to day running of the charity. they also fund costs associated with the direct delivery of your work.

### **Enable**

- Enable provides a great opportunity to strengthen your charity so it can deliver more effectively.
- It can reinvigorate the charity by funding; organisational improvements; development of areas such as leadership and governance; improved systems; demonstrating outcomes etc. These developments will put the charity in a stronger position to be able to deliver services better and attracting funding
- Enable grants are for up to £15k over two years. Grants are awarded to charities that meet the same basic criteria as the Invest programme (charities addressing issues of multiple disadvantages at points of transition) but have also identified clear development areas which will support their growth.

Enable can fund a range of activity related to the development and improvement of the capability of your organisation, for example:

- business and service developments and plans
- development of monitoring systems
- investigation of mergers, partnerships, shared services, contract diversification
- consultancy support
- quality standards
- development of new income streams and enterprise

### **Enhance**

- A Grant Plus Model- offering an optional range of support to strengthen organisational effectiveness of those funded organisation.
- This is where they may match volunteer consultants (i.e. business people/counsellors/etc) to support individuals in the organisation.

The person to contact for the West Midlands is:

Peter Cunnison: Grant Manager West Midlands

[pcunnison@lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk](mailto:pcunnison@lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk)

Tel: 07500 787746

- 5.2 The Area Managers for Willenhall & Short Heath & Darlaston & Bentley are organisations a joint information session.

The session is to be held at Darlaston All Active on Friday November 6<sup>th</sup> from 9.30am – 12pm about the various support services which are available to vulnerable people in Darlaston.

The session will include information about:

- **Early Help Programme including Troubled Families** from Children's Services – information about the new Early Help model, changes to Children's Centres and support available to vulnerable children and families.
- **Mental Health Support Services** – Information about referral processes and agencies that support people with mental health issues, how to make referrals and useful contacts in commissioned Mental Health Services.
- **Adult Social Care** – Information about support available to people, referral processes, agencies commissioned by Adult Social Care and useful contacts.
- **Vulnerability Forum** – Information about supporting victims of anti social behaviour and how to make referrals as well as useful contacts.
- **Domestic Abuse Forum** – Information about how to make referrals, what support is available and useful contacts
- **WM Fire Service Safe and Well Programme** – Information about the new referral programme, how to make referrals, support available and useful contacts.

#### **Who is this session useful for?**

- Anyone who works within the local community within the two areas that works with vulnerable people, both adults and children.
- Schools, children's centres, housing providers, police, fire, community groups, local councillors, healthcare workers, all welcome.

5.3 Walsall Healthcare Information Event Older People's Day was held on Thursday 1st October 2015, 10am - 3pm, Main Atrium, Manor Hospital, Moat Road, WS2 9PS

The aim was to increase awareness of Older People's Mental Health and the event included participants from

- Alzheimer's Society
- West Midlands Fire
- Walsall Bereavement Service
- Independent Living Centre
- Mindful Gifts
- Mobile Library
- Link Line
- Health Watch Walsall
- Kissing it Better
- Purple Hub Team (Volunteering, Membership, Charity)
- Social Care & Inclusion

Further information can be sought from Georgie on 01922 656643 or [georgie.westley@walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk](mailto:georgie.westley@walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk)

5.4 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.

Sessions on this month

- Family Fun at St Peters School Primary, Lichfield Road, Walsall, WS3 3LY, 3:30-4:15pm
- Aerobasics at Moxley Peoples Centre, 3 Queen Street, Moxley, Wednesbury, WS10 8TA, 2:00-3:00pm Friday
- Women's only taster sessions at the Healthy Living Centre in Palfrey every Thursday From 10.00-11.00am.

### **Make it Count**

**Make It Count** is a 10 week programme for children aged 4-7 years old and their families to increase physical activity levels and knowledge of healthy eating. 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.

- 5.5 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)

If you have any comments or feedback for the Physical Activity Team that could improve our service to you please let us know because we love to hear your feedback!

Contact Ashley Smith Physical Activity Advisor; Physical Activity Team; Tel: 01922 444044

### **Other**

#### Mosque Open Day.

- Never before have we seen so much media coverage of terrorism and the impact on the victims of terrorism through refugees fleeing places of conflict.
- The wider impact of this has seen an increase in hate crime against Muslims around the country and a feeling of suspicion. These are some of the aims of terrorist organisations to create a fear and suspicion on the general Muslims population.

- The majority of Muslims are appalled at terrorism and are often the first to challenge extremists, even though this fact is rarely publicised.
- On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015 there was an open day at Al Farouq mosque at Milton Street off the Wednesbury Road.
- This provided an opportunity for visitors to ask questions; experience the traditional Muslim welcome and have free refreshments
- If you were unable to attend but would like to know a little more about Islam and have beliefs around Muslims then please contact Lutfur Rahman Community Cohesion & Engagement, Walsall Council on 01922 653044

#### Brownhills Community Safe House Visit– organised by Our Willenhall Library (OWL)

- Learn how to secure your home, be safer within the community and understand about community safety
- Brownhill's Safety House visit occurred on Wednesday 4th November

The community group organised and co-ordinated the local activity.  
Contact Willenhall Library Tel: 01922 650773 / 650771

#### Half-term Activities & Bonfire Activities

- Half Term activity, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015, 2:30 - 3:30 pm Willenhall Library
- Halloween Half Term Crafts, family event, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 11-12 New Invention Library
- 31<sup>st</sup> Oct St Giles Arboretum Halloween Event 12-3pm
- Willenhall Bonfire & Firework Display – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November – opens 5.30pm Tickets available from:  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/walsallcouncilcleanandgreenservices](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/walsallcouncilcleanandgreenservices)
- Town Centre Christmas Event 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015
- Winehala Court- Housing 21 Christmas Event
- CHART Christmas Event Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December

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

**Michael Greenfield; Area Manager - Willenhall & Short Heath**  
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