

## Health and Wellbeing Board

3 December 2018

### Health and Wellbeing Board Priority Focus:

#### Air Quality /Sustainable Travel.

##### 1. Purpose

To inform the Board of actions taken by organisations represented on the Board to contribute to improving Air Quality in the Borough.

##### 2. Recommendations

That the Board note the actions of partner organisations to contribute to improving Air Quality in Walsall Borough.

##### 3.0 Report detail

- 3.1 Air quality concerns have risen nationally and poor air quality has been identified as the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. It is known to have more severe effects on vulnerable groups, for example the elderly, children and people already suffering from pre-existing health conditions (notably respiratory and cardiovascular conditions). Poor air quality is acknowledged to be the fourth largest risk to public health behind cancer, obesity and cardiovascular disease. The Health and Wellbeing Board has therefore agreed that addressing air quality issues is an area for priority focus.

At its meeting on 10 April 2018 the Board received a detailed report, which provided information on air quality issues at a national and local level. Members were keen to look at ways to address the issues raised and undertook to take this through their own organisations' structures and subsequently report to the Board before December 2018.

On 23 July 2018, the Health and Wellbeing Board received a presentation and report which informed of how Walsall Council, with its partners was further supporting improvements to air quality through the "Shaping a sustainable healthy environment programme". It was again resolved "That Health and Wellbeing Board partners consider what their organisations could do to support this agenda".

Responses are attached as appendices.

#### **4. Health and Wellbeing Priorities:**

- 4.1 Improving Air Quality is a priority in “The Walsall Plan: Our Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2020. The Health and Wellbeing Board is responsible for overseeing its delivery.
- 4.2 At its meeting on 10 September 2018, the Board received a report, which set out proposals to refresh the Walsall Plan with the aim of agreeing a smaller number of more focussed priorities by February 2019. The Board agreed, in the meantime, to focus on the added value that member organisations could bring to two priority areas over the ensuing six months i.e. Homelessness/rough sleeping and Air quality/sustainable travel.
- 4.3 The Walsall Plan priorities are consistent with the policy objectives in the Marmot Review report 2010 – ‘Fair Society, Health Lives. The Marmot report states *“There is clear evidence of the adverse effects of outdoor air pollution, especially for cardio-respiratory mortality and morbidity. It is estimated that each year in the UK, short-term air pollution is associated with 12,000 to 24,000 premature deaths... Creating a physical environment in which people can live healthier lives with a greater sense of well-being is a hugely significant factor in reducing health inequalities”*

#### **Appendices:**

Walsall Council	Appendix 1
West Midlands Fire Service	Appendix 2
One Walsall	Appendix 3
Walsall Housing Partnership	Appendix 4

#### **To be confirmed:**

Healthwatch Walsall  
Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group  
Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust  
West Midlands Police  
Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust –

#### **Background papers**

Reports to Health and Wellbeing Board 10 April 2018 and 23 July 2018.

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