

Report to North Walsall Panel
Area Community Plan Refresh 2014-15

Tuesday, 15 July 2014

1. Context

1.1 On 8 April 2013, Walsall Council approved 'The Walsall Plan 2013 - 16' – the Sustainable Community Strategy for the Borough. This sets out a three year vision for Walsall as a “great place to live, learn and invest”. The Walsall Plan identifies four strategic priorities;

- Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people into work
- Improving health including well-being and independence for older people
- Creating safe and sustainable communities
- Improving safeguarding and the learning and life chances for children and young people

1.2 In order to inform the public of Area Partnership activity, a summarised Area Plan document for each Area Partnership has been drafted. The draft summarised Area Plan for North Walsall Area Partnership is attached at appendix 1.

1.3 The Area Community Plan summary document contains details of activity undertaken across the Area Partnership together with planned activity for the future.

1.4 The Area Community Plan summary document for the North Walsall Area Partnership is submitted to the Area Panel for their consideration, noting it highlights for Elected Members and the community, the range of activity undertaken in their locality, in accordance with the multi-agency arrangements put in place for Area Partnerships.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Area Community Plan summary document be approved, with amendments to the final version to be agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair

3. Next Steps

3.1 It is anticipated that the Area Community Plan summary document will be updated on an annual basis, to ensure Elected Members and the community are kept informed.

3.2 The Area Community Plan summary document will be made available by the end of July 2014, in print and on-line, to inform of the work of Area Partnerships.

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Area 3 – North Walsall Community Area Plan

North Walsall has a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community.

The strategic priorities, as set out by the 'Walsall Plan', 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

A few of the North Walsall Area Partnerships strategic priorities activities, from April 2013 – June 2014, are outlined below.

Bloxwich East
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Party in the Park Event in June 2013 & June 2014, organised by the Bloxwich & Brownhills District Regeneration Officer, incorporating live music events, information stalls and fun activities.• Working with Trading Standards, to identify retail outlets that could sell items to underage individuals alongside tackling illegal sales.• Proof of Age Scheme (PASS) campaign occurred, supported by the Town Centre Manager and Bloxwich Partnership• Verge Parking Bay completed at Lancaster Place in April 2014• Installation of community dropped kerb to south side of junction of Stoney Lane and Stafford Road (by the pond)
Bloxwich West
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Street Champions filming for the Mayor's Award occurred in the area to highlight successful local community engagement projects.• Mossley Big Local - £1m may be available to local communities over 10 years, based on a local community action plan.• 'Fit & Fun Day' event organised in May 2014 with Mattesley Court staff and supported by local residents.• Community and environmental clean- up events organised with whg, Street Champions and local residents.• Residents Association supported so that they could access appropriate local services/resources.
Birchills – Leamore
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dispersal Order for Stephenson Square operated from July 2013 for 6 months.• Area Partnerships supporting local neighbourhood groups in Birchills area regarding deployment of CCTV cameras in specific locations and community safety issues.• EVOLVE, healthy weight management programme, delivered in the local area, supported by Beechdale Community Housing.• Consultations organised with local residents, supported by Beechdale Community Housing, to discuss issues such as BH Energy Gap, a developer specialising in resource recovery of low carbon energy production.• Environmental projects and campaigns around tackling anti-social behaviour have occurred across the area, linked to residents' feedback.
Blakenall
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supported by partners, improvements to the 'Lea' included footpaths being cleared, removal of rubbish and funding to local groups who have an interest in maintaining and developing the local environment.• Supported various organisations, including New Horizons, Blakenall Information Centre, Blakenall Village Centre and the Children's Centre, to enable them to access appropriate resources and services, whilst helping and assisting their client groups.• Support to different enterprise hubs and new businesses in the area, including those contained in Rycroft Hub & Blakenall Village Hub.• Supporting health activities including those held at Forest Arts & Stan Ball Centre.• Developing the 'Goscote Corridor Strategic Partnership Group' with partner agencies.

North Walsall
Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities
Environmental Information Days and 'skip clear up sessions' delivered across North Walsall.
Dome hawk cameras deployed across North Walsall, supported by police and partnership intelligence.
October 2013 Trading Standards and Area Partnerships arranged for 6 th Form pupils from Mirus Academy to become part of the Proof of Age Scheme (PASS). PASS is the UK's national guarantee scheme for proof-of age cards. The PASS (Validate Card) card encourages retailers to ask for proof of age prior to serving certain stock to individuals.
In March 2014 the Street Champions won the Mayor's Award. Over 30 Street Champions participated in the ceremony, with North Walsall represented by its Street Champions.
Working with Trading Standards Area Partnerships has worked on Fire Safety Campaigns with West Midlands Fire Service, especially around bonfire night and illegal sales of fireworks
Children and Young People: Improving safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people
Challenge Network (National Citizenship Scheme) organised a celebration event in October 2013, which involved young people from Walsall. In 2013, 210 young people from Walsall participated in the volunteering programme, for 2014 over 446 young people from Walsall have registered to participate in the programme.
Open mic sessions are held monthly at Bloxwich Library. Funded by Area Partnerships, this project enables young people to showcase their musical talents and creative skills.
IYPSS continues to deliver successful summer activities across North Walsall, ranging from creative arts, sports activities, trips, fundraising and inter-generational projects.
Environmental projects around Mill Lane Nature Reserve completed, supported by the council teams.
Safeguarding adults and children's promoted across the partnership, with training delivered to local organisations .
Business and Jobs: Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people in to work
Mirus Academy engaged with various community projects, including litter picking, refurbishment information sessions.
Area Partnerships are supporting Walsall Works in promoting the National Apprenticeships Scheme across North Walsall.
'Big Dig Project' held at Goscote Greenacres. This was aimed at recruiting volunteers and creating opportunities for people to take part in community gardening
Co-ordination of Business & Job Search provider sessions for young people across North Walsall. Supported by Walsall College, Walsall Adult Community College and employment and training centres.
Discussions with Reedswood Retail Park representatives on supporting local businesses to support local initiatives.
Health and Well-Being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people
The Black Country Food Bank has been supported by Area Partnerships, to enable it to work in different locations across the area, and to deliver the services to those who are experiencing difficulties.
Public Health, Lifestyles Team, Sports & Leisure and other health based organisations working in a co-ordinated way to address local health inequalities. Targeting areas such as healthy weight management programmes and activities for adults and children.
Supporting Healthwatch Walsall to engage with different groups across North Walsall, to enable them to build their networks in the local area and undertake consultation activities.
Area Partnerships working with the Carers Board, to enable the Carers Strategy to be implemented across Walsall.
Area Partnerships has been identifying local needs with partners and working with Public Health, Clinical Commissioning Groups and local providers to develop local health related activities.