

Manager Report

– Updated June 2013

Ongoing Updates on the Actions for Brownhills, Rushall - Sheffield and Pelsall Area Plan

1. Purpose of the Report

This report seeks to inform the elected members of the Brownhills, Rushall - Sheffield and Pelsall Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the Area Partnership. The information in the report was correct at the time of writing, 3 June 2013.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Area Panel is requested to note the report

3. Work Stream Priority – Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Partners Involved – ASB unit, IYPSS, Police, the Area Partnership, Walsall Housing Group

3.1 Apache CCTV for Brownhills, Rushall - Sheffield and Pelsall - we currently have access to two cameras that can be deployed in the area:

- Camera 1 High Street, Pelsall
- Camera 2 Green Lane, Pelsall.

3.2 IYPSS continues to provide detached youth work which have been taking place:

- High Heath Park - Students from the Academy causing nuisance to local residents and in the park. Lunch time patrols were instigated by partners and the detached team engaged with the young people after school. Partners attended a series of school assemblies to talk to all years about ASB and consequences of ASB. Assemblies well received by the students and well supported by the head of years
- Nest Common - In both locations the Hopper Bus has been deployed to engage with young people. Young people were positively engaged with and many were engaged into projects and now attend Pelsall Youth centre

3.3 To encourage positive activities for young people, each Area Partnership has been offered some activity sessions from the Move Truck. Sessions were provide on the Brownhills estate

3.4 Off road biking around Rushall has been an issue. A number of section 59 warning notices have been issued and one bike seized. The police continue to monitor the situation closely.

- 3.5 Stay Safe Project – A number of young people across the Partnership took part in this project which was run by IYPSS from Pelsall Youth Centre, in response to the Police reports of indecent exposure taking place in the area. The aim of the project was to encourage the young people to evaluate how to stay safe, explore risk and risk taking behaviour and to be more equipped to take appropriate action when potential danger arises. This could be as simple as feeling confident to say 'No'. The youth workers discussed these issues with young people and developed the programme around their views. The programme has also explored the potential dangers that can arise through the use of appropriate action when potential danger arises using social media.

4. Work Stream Priority – Creating Cleaner and Tidier Neighbourhoods

Partners Involved – Area Partnership, Clean & Green Services, Countryside Services, Walsall Housing Group, Friends of Parks groups , McDonalds

- 4.1 Brownhills Common - Looking to hold a series of consultation events across Brownhills including at schools and at some local events. To consult on the revised plans for Brownhills common.
- 4.2 The Princes Trust was involved in painting the external and the internal of Shelfield Pavilion. The Area Partnership provided the materials, after the group had agreed to undertake the project. The young people involved enjoyed the project and it will hopefully benefit the users and the local community as the building is more aseptically pleasing.
- 4.4 Joint litter pick with St Michael's Primary school and McDonald's was undertaken early May on Pelsall Common. The event was well attended and supported by Partners
- 4.5 Holland Park – There were problems with traveller encampment on the park quite recently. Security of the park is being looked and as part of this, a "box" is being installed over the lock on the gates at the parade to prevent the lock being accessible .
- 4.6 Work is underway to reinstate a missing plaque in Pelsall (the Dr McCullough Plaque). The original wording of the plaque has been established and the plaque will be installed shortly. As part of the work, we are in conversation with community payback to paint the railings around the clock area to help improve the overall area.
- 4.7 Ravens Court - Talks are underway with the police and representatives of Ravens Court to look at improving the safety of the derelict shops and what can be done to the site.

5. Work Stream Priority – Healthy Lifestyles

Partners involved – NHS Walsall, Walsall Housing Group, Area Partnership, extended schools, Social Care and Inclusion, IYPSS, Clean and Green Services, Sports and Leisure

- 5.1 Healthy Futures - IYPSS detached team started this session in February with a group of young people across the Partnership in a Healthy Futures Project. The project which takes place at - Pulse Fitness Centre in Wednesbury is being delivered by Centre Spot. It uses sport and physical activity to engage and build capacities of young people. The focus, as well as being on personal fitness, also looks at a variety of other issues such as nutrition, hooliganism, citizenship, entrepreneurship, etc.

- 5.2 Smoking Cessation - Some young people at Pelsall Youth Centre decided that they would like to try and give up smoking, but knew they would need help. As a result of a conversation between young people and a member of staff, this project was developed. A smoking cessation nurse from Lloyds Chemist visits the youth centre on a Thursday evening and offers advice and support to help quit smoking. Some young people have "given up giving up", however, according to Fiona Campbell, the young people that remain on the project, are still sticking at it and have reduced their number of cigarettes per day, with "view to quitting". Although the project will soon end, young people have been advised that they can continue visiting the nurse at the local pharmacy.
- 5.3 'Care Fayre Week' is taking place across the borough in April where carers / service users are invited to meet service providers, where service users can get advice on employing a personal assistant, there will also be an opportunity to share experiences with Peer Assessors. Friday 19th April there will be advice available on finances at the Carers Centre, St Paul's Crossing, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, with additional information on welfare benefits.
- 5.4 Discussions are underway with NHS to look at delivering some health initiatives on the Brownhills West estate, as the estate is quite isolated, to look at:
- Physical activity for elderly in the community such as arm chair exercises
 - Walk a route
 - Smoking cessation
 - Health check event - potential August time, whereby blood test, diabetes checks, BMI, etc, will be done

It is hoped that some of the activity will be underway by or the start of July.

- 5.5 The New Pelsall Village Centre is now fully open to the public, as of 19 March 2013. The Doctors have been resident since January, but the Children Centre and Library services moved in March. The Centre also houses a pharmacy on site. The building has taken nearly 18 months to complete and it looks great with a fantastic view over the common. I have already started to spend some time at the centre and I am hoping to get other partners to start to hot desk from the centre and look at having set days where partners are at the Centre, such as WHG, ASB, police and hopefully the community social worker.

6. Work Stream Priority – Positive Activities for Young People

- 6.1 Box clever sessions were run for six weeks from Pelsall Youth Centre the attendance grew weekly. The sessions consisted of a boxing ring being set up inside the youth centre, which includes punch bags and speed balls on each corner. Young people take turns to work out on each corner and then have an opportunity to spar in the ring with a Box Clever coach. It is hoped that in the summer, some sessions can be run on the green spaces to encourage more positive use of the green spaces.
- 6.2 Skate Park - There has been a demand from young people for a skate park in the area. In consultation with partners, Friends of Rushall Park and Rushall Development Group are in the process of looking at consulting with the wider community on the proposals for Rushall Park. IYPSS have already undertaken consultation with students at Shelfield Academy and will be looking to follow up on the consultation. A group of young people have already come together to form a steering group . Funding streams are been looked in to.

- 6.3 Brownhills West - IYPSS are delivering a session at the new Hub one evening, which is successfully engaging with young people. NACRO will continue to deliver the provision on the estate on Monday evenings.
- 6.4 Junior Street Champions is being launched in the Brownhills, Rushall - Shelfield and Pelsall Area Partnership. We have had interest from several Primary Schools in the Area to do sessions at the school assemblies. The first session will be at the New Leaf Centre.
- 6.5 Clayhanger Community Centre – Recently, the building formerly known as the Little Green Dragon’s Nursery has been taken over by the Clayhanger Residents. A lot of work has been done by volunteers to convert the building into a place that will be used to offer activities for young people. Already a couple of the rooms have been transformed, but still work is on going to revamp the other rooms. A limited youth provision is running from the centre, but by the summer, the number of activities will increase. The project was a big a commitment from the community, especially by some community members who have fought hard and long for a community facility in the area, their endurance has paid off and the community are working together to revamp the centre into a facility that can be used by the whole community for various activities. The Area Partnership has funded the group to buy some additional equipment for the centre.

7. Work Stream Priority – Support for Elderly

- 7.1 Launch of the luncheon clubs at Rushall Community Centre. Numbers continue to grow each week. Coffee mornings are also seeing numbers grow, which has led to a second coffee morning being established
- 7.2 Launch of community garden *Growzone* in Rushall run and managed by the elderly, who wanted to have a place where they could meet and grow vegetables.
- 7.3 Looking to introduce some light physical activity into the coffee morning with the support of NHS lifestyle team.

Other Activity :-

- Launch of the Area Family Support Team for the Area Partnership, from Pelsall Village Centre, from 1 May. They will cover the whole of the Area Partnership and also Aldridge, Streetly , Pheasey and Walsall Wood
- Cheerleading group were asked to perform at the Young People Award Ceremony in May. This was quite an achievement for the young girls who took part, as they had been learning routines for quite some time and some had never performed in front of an audience
- A multi-faith event was held at Brownhills Community Association, to promote community cohesion on 16 May
- Since the Children Area Partnership (CAP) ended about 18 months ago, there has been little engagement with the local primary schools. The Area Partnership, with IYPSS, has had initial meetings with some of the schools in the Rushall - Shelfield and Pelsall area to look at starting up the CAP again, but possibly under a new name

- Welfare Benefit Drop In Sessions have been held in various locations across the Partnership. It was an opportunity for local residents to talk to an Advisor about the forthcoming changes and how they may impact on them. Chiman Karadia held the drop in sessions and also did a training awareness session for staff at a children centre
- Stop the Loan Sharks – Awareness session for Partnership was held on 18 March. Two sessions were held and they were extremely well attended. Colleagues found the sessions to be informative and it was definitely an eye opener, as it highlighted some of the lengths that loan sharks will go to get their money back and the impact it had on people's lives and their families. The session helped raise awareness amongst partners and the type of signs to look out for when potentially dealing with people who may be victims
- York's Bridge Replacement Scheme - The new bridge is being built next to the existing bridge. A number of consultation events have been held in Pelsall, to consult with the local residents. Booklets giving detailed plans and 'Questions and Answer' leaflets have been widely distributed in Pelsall. As part of the consultation, the First Stop Express Bus has been used on the estate that will be affected by the proposed developments and a consultation event was held at a primary school whilst it was a parents evening

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