

# WALSALL SOUTH AREA PANEL

## Area Manager's Report

Updated Friday 27th June 2014

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the Walsall South Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area. The information in this report was correct at the time of writing, Friday 27th June 2014.
- 1.2 Walsall Council 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
- 1.3 Walsall South Area Partnership has a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with Ward Councillors, partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community:
  - Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
  - Creating cleaner and tidier neighbourhoods
  - Healthy Lifestyles
  - Remove the impact of sex workers and drug dealers
  - Improving educational achievement
  - Improving job prospects and employability
  - Improving roads maintenance and traffic flow
- 1.4 Walsall South Ward Councillors: Cllr Anson, Cllr Arif, Cllr Ditta, Cllr Hussain, Cllr Nazir, Cllr Nawaz, Cllr McCracken, Cllr Martin, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sarohi, Cllr Singh Sohal, Cllr Whyte
- 1.5 Walsall South Partners: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit, Integrated Young People's Support Services (IYPSS), West Midlands Police, Walsall Housing Group (whg), West Midlands Probation Service, Walsall Intelligence Network, Environmental Health, Reassurance Team, Walsall South Area Partnership, Public Health, NHS Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Walsall Town Centre Management

Team, Engineering and Transport, Clean & Green Services, Caldmoreaccord Housing Association, Walsall Housing Group (whg), Watmos Community Homes, Walsall Voluntary Action, West Midlands Fire Service, Social Care and Inclusion, Birchills Children's Centre, Chuckery & Paddock Children's Centre, Sure Start Palfrey Children's Centre, Sure Start Alumwell Pleck Children's Centre, Area Family Support Team, Trading Standards, Community Development, Park Hall Community Association, Palfrey Community Association, Joseph Leckie Community Association, Caldmore Traders Association, Caldmore Village Festival Group, Chuckery Festival Group, Caldmore Community Garden, Bath Street Centre – Befriending Service, Walsall Black Sisters Collective, Aaiana Community Hub, Time4Real project, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Clean & Green Services, Sports & Leisure Services, Jobcentre Plus, Citizen Advice Bureau, Welfare Rights, Walsall College, Libraries, Walsall South Neighbourhood Watch Groups, Walsall South Friends of the Parks Groups, Walsall Community Chaplaincy Service, First Base, Addaction, Lantern House, Hi's N Lows, The Glebe Centre, Victim Support, Walsall South Schools, Walsall Adult Community College (WACC).

## **2. Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities**

- 2.1 Apache CCTV for Walsall South - Area Manager working with Surveillance Unit we currently have access to two cameras that can be deployed in the area. Camera 1 Arboretum Park by the Skate Park entrance due to ASB concerns and Camera 2 Camden Street, Palfrey due to ASB concerns raised by residents. We also help with the deployment of the Birchills NHW / Agenda 21 camera, which is for the Birchills area only, current location Cairns Street / Raleigh Street due to ASB concerns raised by residents.
- 2.2 Cannabis Plants in Caldmore and Alumwell – a cannabis factory was discovered in Dudley Street, Caldmore with over 200 plants along with another site found in Durham Road, Alumwell. A teenager was arrested in connection with the Caldmore site and remanded in custody.
- 2.3 Heroin and cocaine discovery in Pleck – police uncovered nearly £80,000 of drugs in Fellows Park Gardens, Pleck. A man was arrested and his home in Wednesbury Road was found to contain drugs paraphernalia. The man was jailed for 6 years and a known associate got 12 months detention for supplying drugs in the area.
- 2.4 Fly-tipping in Watery Lane Palfrey – a man was found guilty of fly-tipping a settee, two mattresses and several bags of rubbish on a local car park owned by whg. The man from Rutter Street was fined £555. Residents who supply evidence that leads to a successful prosecution are being offered a reward of £100.

- 2.5 Borneo Street Allotments in Butts – will receive two new car parking areas along with a new entrance. This has been agreed to tackle parking problems in the location.
- 2.6 Caldmore and Palfrey Festival – this year’s festival took place in Palfrey Park Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Despite the heavy rain on Saturday the community day was supported with performances from Caldmore Village Primary School and Palfrey Girls School to name but a few. Overall the Festival was well attended with a wide musical range being delivered to cater for all cultures. The event also provided children entertainment and a Bazaar showcasing local businesses. The highlight of this years festival was the Carnival procession – Strolling Stories, from the Caldmore Village Community Garden to Palfrey Park.
- 2.7 Strolling Stories - funded by the Arts Council and Caldmoreaccord. Building on the success of the annual carnival, the project developed a piece of processional theatre to perform along the carnival route on Monday 26th May. The project worked with the local community residents and local schools to prepare for the carnival by collecting local stories and using them to develop a script for the performance. Original music, costumes and props were created. The following Walsall South groups were involved in the project; Desi Ladies Cooking group, AAINA women’s group, Bath Street Centre, Palfrey Junior School, Caldmore Primary School, Caldmore Community Garden group, Afghan Support group, British Muslim Youth Group, Girls group from Aisha Mosque.
- 2.8 Chuckery Festival – this year’s festival took place with a free music and community events. Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014 was a Bandstand event at the Arboretum, the weather was lovely and the day was well attended by residents from across the Walsall South Area. The event ended with the Walsall Jazz Orchestra with many of the band members admitting to a Chuckery connection. The community event took place 7<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at the Chuckery TMO site Chuckery Primary, Blue Coat Junior and Blue Coat Academy all giving excellent musical performances. The Park Hall Community Choir and Jazz Phoneys also performed at the well attended event. There was also a community market place with free food being provided. The event was funded by Walsall South Area Partnership, whg, WATMOS and with some donations from local businesses.
- 2.9 World Environmental Week (Environment Matters) - as part of this week, Environmental Health and Clean & Green services joined forces to run a day long event in Walsall Town Centre 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014. They educated residents on recycling, accumulation of household waste in rear gardens and how to report fly tipping. The event was well supported with officers engaging with over 500 people. Park Rangers also organised an Environment Day event in the

Arboretum 7<sup>th</sup> June 2014 with a farmers market, gardener's question time, willow weaving, guided walks and craft stalls.

- 2.10 Street Association – would like to develop this project in our area by helping streets to restore real community friendship through Street Associations. For more information go to [www.streetassociations.org](http://www.streetassociations.org)
- 2.11 Delves Community Baptist Church – has launched a fund raising campaign to help towards their £57,000 extension building project. Events such as a flower festival, concert and Irish nights have taken place. So far they have managed to raise £8,000.
- 2.12 Arboretum Tidy Event – volunteers from the Princes Trust and Asda St Matthew's collected 15 bags of rubbish left behind by visitors in the park. The event was organised after the death in the lake of Chris Mills. The Tidy aimed to bring a positive feel back to the locality after such a tragic accident.
- 2.13 Chuckery Make do and Mend – meets each Wednesday between 7:00 – 9:00pm at the Croft House Community Room, Chuckery TMO. The group aims to keep traditional skills and crafts alive, taking inspiration from the historic 'make do and mend' culture. For more information please phone Chuckery TMO 01922 644456.
- 2.14 New Allotment Plots – due to the popularity of allotments South Walsall Allotments at Broadway now have 40 plots. New members can pay for the first year and get the second year free. For more information please contact South Walsall Allotments [staplesarrow@aol.com](mailto:staplesarrow@aol.com)
- 2.15 Pocket Places, Chuckery – the Sustrans / Walsall South Area Partnership/ Walsall Council project has been out and about in Chuckery. A Pop Up Photobooth has been used across the area to capture people's views. The launch event will take place 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014 on Chuckery Green and this will be followed by design and activity workshops in August. For more information please contact Chloe Booth [Chloe.Booth@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:Chloe.Booth@sustrans.org.uk)
- 2.16 Aaina Community Hub, Caldmore – is an organisation for women and their children run by women living and working in Walsall. They work with women of all ages and background who are affected by social exclusion, disadvantage and excluded from mainstream provision. They offer VTCT accredited courses, Social Well being support, advice and information, volunteering opportunities and youth provision.
- 2.17 Pop-up Shop in the Saddler Centre – Wm Police will be taking over a unit next to Vodafone from Monday, 30 June, for a period of seven weeks. There will be an opportunity for partners and community groups to join the information shop to help promote their activities. The theme for the location should be connected to policing, crime prevention, community safety, health, welfare etc. For more

information please contact Kevin Pitt [k.pitt@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:k.pitt@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk) 01922 439103.

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

- 3.1 Walsall South's Integrated Young Peoples Support Services (IYPSS) - team continues to provide Detached youth work which have been taking place four times a week across our area and the last Saturday of each month, where the team support the free styling event at Myplace, Delves. The Summer school holiday programme has been developed and will run from Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August including Get Active – sports challenge, Community Feast, Big Music project, dancing, Hate Crime awareness to name but a few.
- 3.2 The Swim, Gym and Groove project at the Gala Baths – has been running successfully with increasing attendance from Walsall South young people. IYPSS have provided a bus to transport young people from across our area as it was found that they had difficulty attending, this approach has enabled 12 young people from Palfrey and Caldmore to participate.
- 3.3 Cook sessions at MyPlace, Delves – these sessions are run by young people to showcase their talents. They recently visited young people in Willenhall and exchanged cooking ideas including impressing the group with their Black Forest Gateaux. The Walsall South young people will now be doing an event for friends and family.
- 3.4 Vulnerable young women - have participated in a variety of creative activities based around educative and preventative themes. The course empowers the young women to make positive choices about their own lives, preventing them from being involved with grooming and potentially involved in sex work.
- 3.5 Walsall South Young People Consultation – 289 young people from our area were consulted with. The young people were asked various questions about positive activities including when would they like sessions to take place 108 said Friday's, 110 said Saturday's with 35% liking sessions before 6:00pm and 33% after 6:00pm.
- 3.6 Smoking cessation sessions – as part of the consultation young people expressed a need for smoking cessation advice. A programme has newly started with Walsall NHS health care trust staff discussing the facts around electronic cigarettes.
- 3.7 Sure Start Birchills and Alumwell/Pleck – both centres have a full packed programme including Fathers Day Craft event, stay & play sessions, Post Natal

Clinic, parenting courses and Teaching Assistant NVQ. For more information please contact Birchills 01922 646574 and Alumwell/Pleck 01922 637794

- 3.8 Bluecoat Juniors School – is one of four Walsall Schools (the only one in our area) who have been awarded funding from Sports England to provide sports/play area facilities in schools who have limited space and provision. They have been allocated £30,000.
- 3.9 Stone Lifting Workshops, Caldmore – every Sunday 7:30 to 9:30pm at the Bath Street Centre young people are invited to take part in learning the skills for this exciting sport. For more information please contact Lutfur Rahman 01922 653044 [rahmanl@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:rahmanl@walsall.gov.uk)
- 3.10 Children In Need – a free fund raising workshop will take place at The Crossing, St Paul's Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014 10:30 – 3:30pm. This is a joint event between Children In Need, Walsall Council and Walsall Voluntary Action (WVA). For more information or to book a place please contact WVA on 01922 619840 or [reception@walsallva.org.uk](mailto:reception@walsallva.org.uk)

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

- 4.1 Electrifying the railway, Walsall Town Centre – Park Street Bridge is over 100 years old and needs a rebuild. This is to allow electricity lines to enable the trains to be powered from December 2017. Initial work will take place September to November 2014 and then restart late January 2015 to avoid the Christmas period. This work will happen in four stages to allow Park Street to remain open for business throughout the project with completion planned by July 2015.
- 4.2 Potential new jobs – the Caldmore Tidy group had identified a number of empty properties in the Caldmore area that the project had asked for support from the council and wider community to try to develop. The old Electro-plating building in Corporation Street has been empty for sometime. Local developers have put in plans for a medical centre complex for the site which could create up to 30 new jobs for the area to support a 70 strong workforce.
- 4.3 Business and Sports Hub – preparation work has started on the old Lime House site with the main building work to start in August 2014 with a planned opening September 2015. The three story building will include a sports hall, fitness studio, restaurant and business centre with a focus on young entrepreneurs and training opportunities.

- 4.4 The TALK project – is a partnership approach between Walsall Voluntary Action (WVA) and Walsall Citizen Advice Bureau with funding provided by The Big Lottery. They provide training programmes, for example Work Benefits, Benefits for Older People, Project Planning. For more information please Deborah Bonnique [dbonique@cab.walsall.org.uk](mailto:dbonique@cab.walsall.org.uk)

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

- 5.1 Diabetes Awareness Week 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June – as part of Walsall South's Healthy Lifestyle group partners, councillors and Diabetes UK have come together to lead on a piece of work for our area. Diabetes is both a national and local issue with 3.2 million people diagnosed with the condition and last year saw the biggest increase in new cases since 2008. Early warning has been identified as the key to meet this growing challenge. Walsall Central, Pleck, Palfrey and Alumwell have been sent information packs to encourage our community to test their Risk Score. The risk assessment only involves 7 questions, including height and gender and will take approximately 3 minutes. Residents will be able to know if they are at risk of developing diabetes from this simple test and the kind of things they can do to lower the risk. Centres across our area had trained staff who provided support during the week these included: Mosques, Temples, Pharmacies, Supermarkets, Caldmore Village Hub, Sure Start Children Centres, Caldmoreaccord and the Manor Hospital. The campaign will be monitored through Diabetes UK to identify those accessing Diabetes UK risk tools following receipt of the campaign packs. To date:

- Over 13,000 envelopes were delivered across Walsall South
- 45 officers from across partners including the voluntary sector were trained so they could pass the information about the campaign to colleagues and the wider community
- 500 individuals have been spoken to in the community along with 800 additional leaflets being handed out
- 200 were helped to complete the on-line risk assessment and signposted accordingly

The group will summarise the outcome from the project to provide an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board and NHS Walsall CCG Diabetes STaR group. For more information go to the website where people can check their score [www.walsall.gov.uk/diabetesrisk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/diabetesrisk)

- 5.3 Critical Care Unit, Walsall Manor Hospital – work on this new unit will start this July the plans have been redesigned to make the site bigger than first suggested due to the expected increase in demand. The improved plans will take approximately 72 weeks to complete.

- 5.2 Walsall Community Chaplaincy project – the gym project funded by Walsall South and run at Walsall Campus at Gorway has successfully helped 9 men from our area to address the way they think about their criminal activity and its impact on the local community. By using physical exercise followed by group discussion the men have identified their problems and developed support networks to help them build positive coping skills.
- 5.3 A New Gym for Stroke Patients – Walsall Manor Hospital will start work shortly on the £100,000 gym with completion anticipated for October 2014. The aim is to help stroke patients on the road to recovery by providing much needed supervised rehabilitation sessions. The single storey building will fit into the design of the main hospital plan and will be equipped with suitable exercise equipment.
- 5.4 Summer Outdoor Fitness Sessions – Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust Physical Activity team will be running a Family Fitness session during August in the Arboretum Friday's 2:00 to 2:45pm meeting by the play area. There will also be Adult Fitness sessions at Palfrey Park Thursday's 10:00 - 10:45am meeting by the play area. Please arrive 15 minutes before start time and bring a drink and sensible footwear, sessions will take place no matter what the weather. For more information please contact Louise Webster 0121 5684372 [louise.webster@walsall.nhs.uk](mailto:louise.webster@walsall.nhs.uk)
- 5.5 Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) – would like help from organisations who work with minority groups in our area to fill out an Urgent and Emergency Care health survey before 25<sup>th</sup> July. It is designed to be complementary to the survey of individuals called 'Consultation on urgent and emergency care choices in Walsall'. A copy of this is available from the Walsall CCG website [www.walsallccg.nhs.uk/urgentcare](http://www.walsallccg.nhs.uk/urgentcare). The term 'urgent care' is used as a shorthand term to cover experiences of GPs, Accident and Emergency, Urgent Care Centres, Walk-in Centres, GP Out of Hours, and the 999 and 111 telephone services. The link is at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/walsallUC>. For more information please contact Steve Corton Tel: 0121 612 3824. There will also be a public event where residents can express their views at Walsall Football Stadium Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 1:00 – 3:00pm if you would like to book a place or discuss the review please contact Roxanna Modiri [roxanna.modiri@walsall.nhs.uk](mailto:roxanna.modiri@walsall.nhs.uk)

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