

## **WILLENHALL AND SHORT HEATH AREA PANEL**

### **Area Manager's Report**

**Thursday 24th March 2016**

#### **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.

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),

2.3 Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March was the Clean for the Queen event. Various locations were identified with the support of Clean & Green, Youth Justice and Walsall Community Payback. Locations included: Littleton Road/Johnson Road/ Stroud Avenue/ Short Heath Park/ opposite Wakes Car park and the land opposite the Sikh Temple car park on Walsall Road.

Network Rail has been notified about the railway embankment on Gypsy Lane/William Harper Street; which is being cleared in March 2016.

2.4 Willenhall & Short Heath has a new Police Inspector. Insp. Dave Payne has moved to a new role within the Force.

In his place is Insp. Kris Starynskyj. He will be officially taking over from Insp. Payne on Thursday 17th March.

2.5 Policing – Willenhall North & Short Heath

Overall Willenhall North and Short Heath area is well managed and controlled and has not featured in the top high demand locations, which indicates that in terms of total recorded crime and ASB issues the figures remain the same or lower than the year before.

Over the Christmas period and into the New Year, NHT officers carried out extensive drops covering advice and precautions for burglary, robbery and theft of and from motor vehicles offences.

This played a major part in the education and reassurance of the community, who themselves assisted in the prevention of crimes.

On Short Heath area, the main concern was the issue with ASB type incidents relating to Quad bikes, mainly around the Manor Farm Drive area along the canals and in Rough Wood County Park.

These were stringently patrolled and some good results were achieved with the seizure of bikes and persons reported for offences.

On Willenhall North the main issue is and has been The Square with ASB incidents caused by local youth. The NHT has been taking a zero tolerance approach, which has resulted in arrests, seizure of vehicles and reporting of persons for dangerous cycling amongst other traffic violations.

Long term strategies are in place with Police, WHG, Council and Youth Offending Teams working together to engage the youth to prevent and reduce issues.

The Youth (bus) Shelter on the Lichfield Road, which was damaged has now been repaired, which was one of the main concerns from the youth, as they had nowhere to hang out. This has to some extent taken the youth away from The Square and general area and has impacted positively on reduction of incidents.

The main bus stop on Lichfield Road, which was some concern for youth hanging in it and causing ASB issues to properties to the rear, Shires Grove, has been patrolled and the issue not as problematic as initially reported.

With the re-opening of the Youth (bus) shelter opposite The Square as above, this will now have a knock on effect as the youth now have their own shelter to sit in, so issues near Squires Grove should reduce dramatically.

In other good news NHT officers have seized numerous vehicles from the roads for various traffic offence violations, arrests have been made on burglars and vehicle crime offenders, seizure of cannabis plants made as a result of home grown cannabis set ups and also NHT has made arrests for breach of civil injunctions which were taken out by WHG colleagues.

## 2.6 Policing - Willenhall South

Willenhall South Neighbourhood currently features as a hot spot concentrated around the town centre which is showing an increase crime in the Walsall borough, accounting for 4% of the total recorded crime for the borough.

The top five locations account for 41% of our total.

These locations primarily are retail businesses in the town and include Morrison's, Boots, and Superdrug and Heron foods.

An examination of the Total Recorded Crime for this neighbourhood shows an increase of 30 crimes compared with last year (2014-15 – 1901 crimes, 2015/16 – 1931 crimes).

In relation to ASB, five locations account for 94% of the total recorded complaints of ASB.

These locations include, New Road, Parkes Street, Stafford Street, Rosehill and Middle Piece Way.

Upon this analysis you can expect that the police focus of patrol will be within these key areas.

From a partnership perspective, we would value partner support in these effected areas.

Commercial Burglaries – Willenhall town centre has seen a reduction in these offences during this period, with only one offence at a Hair Dresser shop in the town. This has been assisted by the fact that a number of offenders were arrested following a break in at Superdrug which has resulted in two offenders being remanding in custody.

In addition there has been positive work in relation to this offence type, with NHT officers apprehending two offenders red handed in Victoria Street having been located in a house burgling the premises.

The offenders have been charged and remanded in custody.

In addition as a result of excellent CCTV, officers from this team were able to identify two offenders for a burglary at TC Morris, the Pie factory, Walsall Road. The offenders have been arrested and charged for that offence.

There was a large scale fire discovered at the former Legge Locks factory, Moat Street, it was believed the cause was of doubtful origin, but due to the damage caused forensic examination could not reveal the cause or seat of the fire.

These premises have been redundant for some time and have been subject to youth intrusion. There was no suggestion that any person was sleeping rough at the location, but such premises are vulnerable to ASB activity which can lead to fires and an increase requirement of emergency services' time in dealing with such incidents.

Drug issues – Two further cannabis farms have been discovered in New Hall Street and St Anne's Road, where a large number of mature plants have been seized and destroyed removed same from circulation. Both were in commercial units.

In relation to partnership working, there has been a positive contribution made, with increased activity of joint working between the local NHT and Walsall Council Trading Standards with joint visits to the town centre on market days aimed at enforcing the new goods pricing legislation.

In addition a further joint operation with Trading Standards involving a sniffer dog operation has resulted in a large quantity of fake cigarettes being recovered from two stores in the town, removing both fake and potentially dangerous substances from the community and sending out appropriate messages to the community that in partnership we will reduce the risk to the public from such goods.

The team have located a Drug Den situated at Angels Passage in the town centre, where it appears drug users are frequenting to consume drugs. The team are actively patrolling this area, but will require partnership intervention both to clear up the site and look at the potential of the removal of this dilapidated building in order to prevent the miss-use and reduce the risk for those users.

Community Interaction – Officers from this team have hosted a high profile visit to Willenhall by Mr Jeremy Corbin MP, in company with the West Midlands Police Commissioner Mr Jameson, who expressed a wish to go out on patrol with officers from the team. He spent a couple of hours meeting local people and gaining an understanding of Neighbourhood policing locally.

The team have conducted a successful beat surgery at The Sikh Temple, Walsall Road, enabling us to provide a bespoke response to issues from the congregation.

Officers have also carried out one to one meetings with problematic school children within Fibbersley School at the request of the staff and parents, in order to educate and target child misbehaviour. In support of a schools base initiative one of the PCSOs was chosen as an independent witness for a Guinness book of records attempt by the school in Walsall Borough attempt to form the largest Book quiz event.

2.7 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 The Targeted Youth Work Team (Youth Service) structure for Walsall is changing. There will be a re-focus of the service and a commissioned provision is being developed across the borough. The current Targeted Youth Work Team are arranging a 'bring and share' celebration event at Myplace Walsall on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> April 5.30pm – 7.30pm. Partners and young people are welcomed to attend to say goodbye to the team members who are leaving the authority.

3.2 Willenhall E-ACT

Area Partnership participated in the 'Your Future Careers Fair' on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Willenhall EACT Academy.

The young people attending the event were given tasks to do and questions to ask exhibitors in order to find out more about the work industry, organisation or job roles.

The young people were encouraged to engage in conversation with delegates as to other opportunities as well, including volunteering.

Supported by representatives from the Partnership we engaged, informed and assisted young people in their aim to make informed choices.

We were also able to share information on tackling anti-social behaviour.

This was a well represented event with exhibitors from universities, local employers, colleges and voluntary groups present and supporting students.

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

4.1. Walsall College are holding a 'Volunteering Promotion and Recruitment Event' Monday 18<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 10am – 2pm at Wisemore Campus

Plus, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 12 – 1pm at Green Lane Technology Campus  
This provides a free place to promote opportunities and recruit prospective volunteers.

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

##### **5.1 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.

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.

[www.facebook.com/LifestyleLink](http://www.facebook.com/LifestyleLink) @ 01922444044

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)

Contact: Ashley Smith, Physical Activity Advisor, Physical Activity Team  
Tel: 01922 444044 Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Darlaston Health Centre, 1st Floor, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, WS10 8SY.

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

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