

## Walsall for All Partnership Board Meeting

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**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**Time: 16:30 - 18:30**

**Venue: Zoom Video Call**

### Welcome & Introduction

David Primrose welcomed board members to the online Zoom meeting.

Bally Pahal, Employer Lead for DWP joined as a guest. She leads on the Community Connectors programme as part of Walsall for All, supporting women across the borough through regular support, coffee mornings and empowerment workshops. The work falls under the Working Together priority of the strategy.

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes and no declarations of interest.

### Capturing Stories

At the previous meeting, Charlotte discussed with the board about setting up a potential forum on the Walsall for All website, giving people the opportunity to contribute positive stories, news and information relevant to Walsall communities. The idea of the forum was inspired by the existing work Cheshire West were doing, encouraging their residents to share stories.

The feedback and suggestions were appreciated from the board members. Charlotte went away to consider the ideas and it was decided that existing platforms (such as Walsall for All Facebook group) could be more utilised to increase networking and sharing of stories and information.

**AP 1: Charlotte to send the Facebook group link to board members following the meeting (completed).**

As Claire Wills (Black Country Impact) was unable to make the meeting, the Reformation film trailer was played. The full length of the film is 40 minutes.

The film, made by Open Lens Media, shows five inspiring young people from Walsall, West Midlands share their triumphant individual stories of how they turned hardships into success: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDwc-CII01I>

Feedback from the board:

- Facebook only reaches a certain demographic. YouTube is a good way of getting the messages out to young people.
- Could the Reformation video be built in the tutorial work that takes place at Walsall College?

- Bally could share the Reformation video with the training providers her team works with to help increase sign-ups for the Black Country Impact programme.
- Jan will share the videos with the community centres.

## **AP 2: Charlotte to send Reformation film to board members following the meeting (completed).**

### **Walsall for All Programme Update**

Irena shared with the board the current programme update (Appendix 1).

About half of the projects are continuing online or have been re-profiled to support COVID-19 response. The other half have been postponed. As the pandemic becomes long-term, it is likely that extra time may be needed to re-purpose projects and amend contracts.

Projects such as Community Transport and Deaf Support have been re-profiled to support vulnerable communities during COVID-19.

Schools and youth organisations part of our young peoples' programmes have received resources with integration ideas.

Despite the pandemic, Walsall for All is still serious about integration and people can still get involved in different ways.

Substantial programmes like Community Dialogue have been impacted by the pandemic and discussions are taking place with The Faith and Belief Forum to explore alternative ideas on delivering the project.

ESOL groups are meeting online and receiving homework packs.

Feedback from the board:

- What is the difference between a project postponed and a project suspended?
  - **Postponed** – the project has stopped for the time being but it is likely that the project could resume in the short-term. For example, the project could be delivered online instead.
  - **Suspended** – it may not be possible to continue the project in its intended way, but the project could be revisited at a later date and be reconsidered.
  - When Walsall for All were reporting back to the ministry, these terms were used when describing the statuses of each project. If projects are suspended, extra time would be requested.
- Bally corrected that the DWP Community Connectors are continuing online and they are looking for a provider to support the delivery of virtual or socially distanced sessions.
- Isabel mentioned that currently in Children's Services, they are running 'Meet and Connect' sessions to put a spotlight on organisations and activities that have been taking place. Urban Hax is an example of one project that has used this opportunity. Sessions take place throughout the week and are

recorded and published afterwards. Isabel is also leading on the coordination of summer activities.

- Isabel asked if there are opportunities to bring children and young people into the Community Dialogue programme. Irena is happy to explore this further.
- Paul mentioned that opportunities could be pursued further to better support our existing projects. The team are open to suggestions.

### **AP3: Isabel to catch up with Irena about links between Walsall for All and Children's Services activities.**

#### **Black Lives Matter**

David thanked the board, particularly Maureen for their work on the statement in response to the position on the Black Lives Matter movement. **This was published on behalf of the board.**

Maureen was invited to share some ideas on how we can move forward. She thanked David for his involvement.

One suggestion could be to raise awareness about racial discrimination and embedding these discussions into relevant projects like the Hate Crime Reduction Initiative.

Jamie gave a presentation to the board from the Police's perspective on crime and links to ethnicity. The presentation included the spread of reported hate crime (year to date) in the West Midlands and Walsall using a heat map, racial hate crime count, information on stop and searches (e.g. search powers, objects searched, ethnicity breakdown).

Questions and comments from the board:

- What sort of hate crime activity happens i.e. verbal?
  - *It is a wide variety, based towards anti-social behaviour, public order or harassment (as an example), where fallouts have taken place or racial language is used.*
- Is there any way we can get a breakdown of ethnicity over a period of time compared to another period of time in order to have a more historical overview and what has changed.
  - *This data is available, but it would require a data analysis to break it down into specific groups or segments. There is a force procedure in place in regards to data sharing.*
  - David suggested that the board could come up with questions that could inform the data and the way it is shared.
- Black Lives Matter has different angles e.g. criminal justice system. Is there any engagement from the police, where we could encourage people from Walsall to take part and engage by sharing first-hand experiences? How are we going to build this up?
  - *We should ask those residents who feel the conversation is needed and want to have that conversation, how would it work for them and how they would want to engage with the police.*

- What is it that prompts a police officer to stop a person of ethnic minority?
  - *This is a complex question, as there are many reasons that an individual officer may decide to stop and search any person, irrespective of ethnicity.*
- We should be driven not only by data but also experiences and celebrating diverse communities.
- There are potential links to the Community Researchers programme and capturing those experiences.
- We have to have conversations with people that are honest.
- How can we influence decision makers to implement recommendations from national legislation?
- Is there a plan with identified parameters that sets how things will improve over time?
- The College used 'trust' and 'tolerance' in their statement on Black Lives Matter. Could we consider how we talk about these words within communities, as well as cohesion and integration?
- Are the projects in Walsall for All including equality and diversity awareness raising? Does this impact community cohesion and the way projects are delivered?

**AP4: David will revisit the questions raised by the board members and respond to them.**

The statement is of necessity. David asked if the board members could consider 5 to 10 words about why cohesion and integration matters. *This aspect of the meeting was done towards the end of the meeting.*

It was suggested that Charlotte could invite board members to record their responses individually.

### Partnership Creation Update

Matthew and Ian from Publicus gave an update on the Partnership Creation.

The process is going well. Some people have already been contacted and others are yet to be contacted. They have contacted people sector by sector so they can work around the stories. They anticipate by the end of the process that 90-100 hours' worth of 1-2-1 conversations with people will have been conducted.

The conversations allow people to speak freely and discuss how Walsall for All is impacting on their work and what they are doing around cohesion and integration in their organisation.

As Publicus are mid-way through the process rather than the end, they were not able to share a great amount of detail. However, there are some clear things emerging from across the groups.

Matthew particularly highlighted the work that has been done around the Walsall for All branding, online presence and communication. Everyone that Publicus has spoken to has mentioned this. For some organisations, it is an identity that

crystallises the work they are doing. For others, it's brought them to ideas and debates about cohesion and integration. The work on communication has, for some people, made a transformation change. In terms of legacy, branding is something that should be preserved.

Ian has thanked people for giving their time generously. The level of investment is needed in order to gain such details.

If individuals are keen to participate in the interviews for the Partnership Review, they can contact Matthew at Publicus directly.

David has recommended that Matthew and Ian should have conversations with those who are outside Walsall for All.

Paul Gordon thanked Publicus for their comments and is pleased with the brand.

Paul also congratulated Charlotte on delivering the Walsall for All brand and communications, with the support of the board members.

#### **Dates of the next board meeting (all on Wednesday):**

September 23<sup>rd</sup>

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Time: 4.30pm to 6.30pm

*Future board meetings would take place online due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and current social distancing guidelines.*

**In attendance were:**

Bally Pahal (DWP)

Charlotte Gough (Walsall Council)

David Primrose (Diocese of Lichfield and Board Chair)

Davina Lytton (One Walsall)

Deb Rajania (Walsall College)

Gerry Lyng (DWP)

Ian Cotterill (Publicus)

Irena Hergottova (Walsall Council)

Isabel Vanderheeren (Walsall Council – Children’s Services)

Jamie Hobday (Walsall Police Partnerships)

Janet Davies (Chair of Walsall Community Network and manager at Brownhills Community Centre)

Laurence Lessard-Phillips (University of Birmingham)

Matthew Green (Publicus)

Maureen Lewis (Walsall Black Sisters Collective)

Paul Gordon (Walsall Council)

Sarah Grant (MHCLG)

**Apologies:**

Andy Seager (Bloxwich Academy)

Claire Wills (Walsall Council – Black Country Impact)

Jenny Phillimore (University of Birmingham)

Kerrie Allward (Walsall Council – Adult Social Care)