

WALSALL FOR ALL

Walsall for All Partnership Board Meeting

Date: 25 November, 2019

Time: 16:00 - 18:30

Venue: Gio's Italian deli at Ryecroft Community Hub, 28 NEW FOREST ROAD, WALSALL, WS3 1TR

Welcome & Introduction

Two new participants (non-board members) have attending the meeting:

Balbinder Pahal, Operation Lead, Community Connectors, DWP

Lisa Lockley, Community Development Officer, WATMOS Community Homes

Partnership Development grant & Risk register

- Alex has informed the board that the Partnership Development bid was submitted and the answer will be known by the end of December.
- The risk register was reviewed at the task & finish group on 20th of November 2019
- The **key risks** identified: low level of engagement & lack of consistency for some sectors; initiative fatigue (loads of initiatives happening now in Walsall that overlap) which might lead to duplication or missed opportunities;
- As a way forward (mitigation action for the risks identified) was proposed to organise a meeting with the Chairs of different groups and operational leads (analysis is needed) to look at the overlaps and ways of mainstreaming cohesion & integration.

TOR review

- The Chair has brought into discussion some of the gaps from Board's activity over the last 12 months:
 - Identify and nominate inspirational people to become Walsall for All Champions;
 - Ensure the flow of interaction and information share within our networks – being part of the movement;
 - Engage with Walsall for All projects;
- The legitimacy is given to the people that do things in this area;
- There is impact out there that we don't see and we should capture more;

- We need longer timeframe for what we want to achieve through the WfA Strategy. What we want to achieve requires more time, 5-10 years. WfA is legitimizing a lot of activity;
- We need to use our networks when we organise things;
- WfA is a branded name, a lot of activities are happening across diverse groups and geographic areas;
- It is a language issue that we are missing here. We talk about integration & cohesion which often do not resonate with our residents.
- We should capture and share more impact of these activities;
- The board members need clarity on how they can be useful and contribute;
- We need a bit more space to be able to talk about what is happening, not necessarily about branding but about ethos.
- To ensure that other community activities are down in the same Walsall for All ethos;
- We need to map out the operational work and link it with one another;
- We need to build that ethos as we cannot fund everything and it is not sustainable;
- I am in this work for 10 years and I can say that there is no real drive. This group (WfA board) is really important in shaping the future. If we pass this work to someone else it won't be a priority;
- Great things happen when there is a focus on it;
- I am not a person with integration & cohesion background, but what I see it would be beneficial – having someone to tease out the integration, coming across the sectors.
- There is a lot of good integration already happening. Finding out about these projects/initiatives and embedding the integration would be the way forward;
- WfA officers could do more behind the scenes to mainstream integration;
- At the first board meeting people talked about role models and how inspiring is that for our communities.
- Let's collect examples of excellence and share the widely. We did try to do this but didn't have a lot of return;
- The austerity is a reality and I am glad this project is still around. I am not sure about the impact it makes. How do we measure it?
- WfA has done some brilliant things. My worry is when this comes to an end, how do we ensure sustainability?
- Each department should be taking up community and cohesion work. We can invite leaders and partners from the sectors to tell us what are they doing and look at how we can help to embed integration & cohesion.
- I am thinking of a Roma woman I met recently who takes care of 5 children. We need to share stories with which people can resonate and say – “I am like that”.
- It would be great to extend the Community Connectors intervention beyond employment and work on self-confidence and self-awareness.

As future actions we need to look at:

- Stories
- Community Champions
- Networking - mainstream messages by using your networks
- How is it possible to embed community cohesion & integration into what you are doing?
- Some sectors' engagement is patchy. We could have 2 persons for representing one sector.
- Engaging with a wider group of people – mechanism in place is needed;
- How can be engagement increased with some sectors?
- MHCLG could challenge the Local Public Authority as we see poor representation from Public Health, Education.
- If people are not adding up value we should invest our energy somewhere else;
- If people feel value in coming to the board meetings they would come. If they don't show up that means there is no value. What would be the issue?
- It's just Walsall;
- If people live in their groups they don't need engaging with others;
- How can you help each other making the cohesion part of what are you doing?
- We need to change the way we work. A lot of people in the community don't understand these terms. We need to be grounded for people in the community
- Good interaction with T&F groups, we need to take that further. Report on T&F groups, looking at the activities taken forward and groups that decided to meet regularly.
- It is being suggested to invite those with poor attendance and ask them how this fit in their agenda does. We need to look at the problematic sectors.
- Is there anyone else that should be in the Board.

AP 1. Include future events and engagement opportunities in WfA newsletter;

AP 2. Charlotte will share some key bullet points/guidelines for stories sharing to encourage the board members to send stories, case studies.

AP3. Produce and share report on T&F groups (2019);

AP4. Increase transparency and upload the notes on the website.

WfA programme update - Operational risks

- Jane has presented the WfA projects map which reflects the geographical coverage. The map is under development.
- It is intended to have the option to click on each project and find out more information about.

AP 3. To include community and integration projects outside WfA on the map.

DWP presentation

- Gerry has updated the group about the community connectors work stream and main achievements so far (a Power Point Presentation was share with the group prior the meeting).
- The connectors are the solid foundation of this work
- Suggestion from the group: pilot work with a group of women around self-esteem and self- confidence increase.

Dates and time for the next meetings:

- January 20
- March 23

In attendance were: David Primrose, Gerry Lyng, Charlotte Weston, Irena Hergottova, Alex Boys, Charlotte Gough, Marie Smith, Claire Wills, Elisabeth Buggins, Maureen Lewis, Nigel Rowe, Michael Collyer, Jane Murray, A'sha Khan, Balbinder Pahal, Lisa Lockley.

Apologies from: Imran Suddle, Laurence Lessard-Phillips, Ibrahim Sohail, Geetanjali Bhucher, Jamie Hobday, Isabel Vanderheeren, Margaret Turley, Ashvin Patel, Paula Furnival, Andy Seager, Janet Davies, Juliet Malone