

WALSALL FOR ALL

Walsall Local Integration Partnership Board Meeting

Date: 15th October 2018

Time: 16:30 - 18:30

Venue: Walsall College Hub, Wisemore Campus, Walsall College, Walsall WS2 8ES

Introduction

All present agreed for their contact details to be circulated, and for photographs to be taken

“Why integration matters to me”

Each person shared by integration mattered to them, and illustrated how this is an aspect of their work.

Cllr Perry affirmed the importance of integration to the Council, extending its relevance across the borough to include ethnicity, religion, sexuality, age and socio-economic status, as well as those living in isolation or struggling with loneliness. Celebrating uniqueness and diversity is key to integration. He encouraged the Board to include a focus on the programme’s implementation and to hold those involved accountable.

Integrated Communities Update – “where we’ve come from” and “where we are now”

Key messages (Irena and Charlotte), developing the document “Walsall Local Integration Strategy” which had been circulated:

- The first stage had been a series of community conversations to consult residents and stakeholders on Integration and related issues. These findings were fed into a draft programme.
- In March 2018 Walsall becomes one of the five Integration Areas to work with the MHCLG (Walsall, Blackburn with Darwen, Bradford, Peterborough and Waltham Forest)
- A small amount of money will be available for each of the five Areas and each area is developing interventions appropriate to its local context.
- The aim is long term cultural change.
- A diverse group of partners will be involved in the programme, including representation from business.
- Our integration programme was shaped based on residents’ feedback within consultations. The programme is about what residents said they want to see in Walsall. These was structured under four priorities:
 1. Connecting Across Communities
 2. Aspiring & Accepting Young People
 3. Contributing to Walsall
 4. Living together
- Most of the proposed activities are grass root.

- Members of this Board have an important role to play contributing with experience and expertise to the programme implementation.

Feedback from the group:

- The programme should address economic disparity within the borough.
- We should involve those from more deprived areas.

Review of Terms of Reference (ToR)

- The draft ToR was sent to each participant prior the meeting. There were no comments or suggestions to amend the text.

The ToRs for the Local Integration Partnership Board were agreed

Next steps – “where we are going together”

Key messages (Irena and David), also from the “Walsall Local Integration Strategy”:

- The priorities and delivery plan is due to be approved by the MHCLG. The funding for the programme is until the end of 2019/20 financial year.
- We are currently developing our Local Integration Strategy which is going to be a vision for a long term change. We will present a draft prior to our next meeting for feedback.
- It is planned to have the strategy published before Christmas.
- The strategy will be a flexible document that will be reviewed and adapted based on the lessons learned during implementation in order to keep it up to date and relevant, and bring new ideas.
- In parallel we will start having community conversations in order to keep people informed and continuously having their opinion on what is plan/delivered.
- We are very keen to have your thoughts on the messages that would “land” well in Walsall and how do we reach people.
- One suggested title is “**Walsall for all**”.
- Local case studies from Walsall will be inserted in the strategy document to show what works well already and celebrate successes

Feedback from the group:

- Individuals, families, communities can mutually support the learning - this is intergenerational learning - **family learning**.
- We need to listen before responding – **conversation before content**.
- The messages may need to be adapted for different parts of Walsall.
- We are looking for local champions and would want to have all areas of Walsall represented.
- It is not only about work; it is also about volunteering opportunities and engaging people. Volunteering is a good way of building skills for employment. It is also about supporting people returning back to work or volunteering.

- We must think of the sustainability. Integration is not something you do temporarily or artificially. Reaching the point when we are **comfortable to be uncomfortable** is a principle for integration.
- In regards to messages, vision may be a more helpful word than strategy, letting people come up with ideas for messages.

AP1. To share the draft of the local integration strategy document with the group for feed back by the next meeting (November 20).

Thoughts on the strategy and proposed activities

Feedback from the group:

- We should build our future intervention on positive things that already exist and work well in our communities – example Delves Community Library.
- It is important we focus on assets rather than deficits.
- Measuring the intervention and data collection is important.
- The learning will be widely shared with stakeholders and partners.
- We need to know how we are signposting. We need a network in place.
- We need to build on trust and confidence. As long as we identify community champions we have the right “voices” to do so.
- More volunteering opportunities for the people should be encouraged.

Communicating the work locally

Key messages (Irena):

- We don't celebrate our achievements enough. We have collected many case studies which we realised are not widely known, hence we should invest more time looking at what our localities already do and promote that.
- We have provided updates on the integration programme within the Strategic Locality Partnership Boards meeting and other groups.
- Importance of exploring external opportunities: using the knowledge and expertise of others for example University of Birmingham; The Challenge, looking at Pushing the Boundaries project by BRAP;
- We need to expand our list of contacts to share information.
- We are interest in a fresh brand.

Feedback from the group:

- Local groups and community organisations need on-going support to achieve sustainability.
- There needs to be more opportunities for women.
- The programme needs rewording to include young people who are not engaged
- Youth of Walsall are interested in working on the development of the Youth Platforms
- One Walsall has shown interest to support the integration work across the borough and community dialogue (having the experience of One Voice Forums).

- The reference to the integration coordinators feels more of a council thing rather than a community resource
- Aaina Community Hub has shown interest in supporting the linking activities based on their previous example to work with women groups from different geographical areas across Walsall.
- It's about making the most of the capacity and resources available, with expertise shared between locations.
- What would an integrated Walsall look like?
- We need a job description for a community champion, whether a group, an organisation or an individual.
- There are many community-minded business people who could serve as champions.
- We need more clarity about the inclusion charter, with careful choice of wording.
- It is good to involve young people in a way which will benefit their future.
- Learning from The Challenge shows the benefit of working with youth using incentives, being time limited, and skills based. Being a community champion for a young person is something to put in your CV.
- Social media is an important resource that should be used for communicating the messages. Podnosh - (<https://podnosh.com/about/>) was mentioned as a good example of communicating positive examples from the community.

AP2. To develop a description/criteria of a community champion.

AP3. To start developing a list of community champions.

AP4. To start communication work.

AP5. Board members to come up with suggestions/nominations for Chair role starting 2019.

Next dates agreed:

- 20 November:16:30 to 18:30
- 11 December: 16:30 to 18:30

In attendance were: Chair: David Primrose, Ashvin Patel, Tristan Dugdale-Pointon, Gerry Lyng, Marie Smith, Alisha Khan, Maureen Lewis, Charlotte Gough, Minara Karim, Janet Davies, Andrea Potts, Jamiesha Majeবাদia, Manjit Jhooty, Alex Boys, Laurence Lessard-Phillips , Jayne Holt, Emma Thomas, Ben Diamond, Charlotte Weston, Irena Hergottova, Sara Saville, Councillor Garry Perry

Apologies from: Elisabeth Buggins, Margaret Turley, Helen Keenan, Jamie Hobday