

WALSALL FOR ALL

Walsall for All Partnership Board Meeting

Date: 13th May 2019

Time: 16:00 - 18:30

Venue: The Crossing at St Pauls, Darwall St, Walsall WS1 1DA

Introduction

Walsall for All project managers attended the meeting for induction purpose (details in the appendix).

Welcome to the South Locality

John Morris, the Locality Manager for the area offered an overview of the South Locality. He presented demographic data (presentation shared with the notes) and referred to some of the challenges in the area:

- One of the most ethnically diverse area - Asians comprise the largest minority group in 42.2% (Walsall 15.2%); emerging population of Eastern European background population
- Significantly younger age profile than borough overall;
- Some neighbourhoods in the area are among mostt deprived quarter in England;
- Most of the asylum seekers accommodations are located in this area;
- ESOL hub is in Caldmore;
- Proportion of those with degree level qualifications is also higher than borough average;
- Some of the challenges around integration: school segregation (new children in the area struggle to get a place in schools and in the same time there are schools where 90% of children have English as a second language); housing issues (people new to Walsall tend to come first to Caldmore and Palfrey due to the cheap accommodation); hate crime;
- The most active and engaged Locality in terms of community actions, especially faith groups.

The Town Centre is part of the South Locality. There are operational groups formed of local stakeholders which meet monthly to deal with local issues (hate crime, antisocial behaviour etc.): Town Centre group; Palfrey Park group; Caldmore Green group.

Hate Crime

Jamie Hobday updated the board on the meeting with the third sector around Hate Crime.

The clear message from the meeting was about effective governance and strong leadership. A lot of good work happening needs to be coordinated and stakeholders brought together to avoid working in isolation.

Jamie asked the group opinion on having a steering group; who should be involved in the group; how core is hate crime in the Walsall for All agenda.

Feedback from the group:

- Hate crime can cause harm in terms of Walsall segregation
- About the governance (there are many groups that are not always working together) How do you engage with those who have experienced hate crime; how do we engage with those of different protected characteristics.
- LGBT is a sensitive subject at the moment, incidents are not reported
- We are missing the view of the disability and LGBT groups – a quality research to engage with victims – community dialogue
- Reduction of hate crime is part of the integration agenda
- Linking the initiative with the actual Walsall for All commissioning project on hate crime, which will address a bit of both – analysis and support intervention for victims
- Landlords associations could support with building a baseline and support data collection process
- Qualitative data will help identify people's views and the reasoning behind unreported incidents

AP1: Walsall for All provider will have the responsibility to work with Police to address Hate Crime issues and support the development of a coordination body.

Community Practitioner Research programme update

David Primrose mentioned about the event on the 9th of May – an information giving session conducted by Lisa Goodson (Birmingham University) for a group of 28 council employees and community people interest about the programme.

Next steps: finalize the recruitment process (expression of interest) and organize training.

Walsall for All Pledge and training – Brap presentation

Cheryl Garvey from Brap offered a brief presentation about the project she is leading on (written detailed information was handed to the group).

Cheryl mentioned about taking the Pledge project beyond the 3rd sector, involving private and public sector will be part of their implementation approach.

Support needed from the group:

- Sharing knowledge about local challenges and specific issues related to integration and cohesion;
- Advise on how to promote and market best the Pledge considering the local context;
- Participate in the mapping exercise

On 24th of June, Cheryl will present the project at the task & finish group meeting with Walsall businesses and employers.

Working with businesses and employers to enhance integration in Walsall

Imran updated the group about his participation at the Walsall Economic Board (WEB) event on 27th of March. Key messages of his presentation:

- Making sure employers understand the link between employment and equalities
- Providing visible path career – opportunities for development
- Cultural change

30 businesses have attended and 7 participants have shown particular interest in Walsall for All agenda.

A task and finish group meeting is planned for 24th of June where businesses and employers (including WEB members) will come together to discuss integration. Manjit Jhooty will be leading on the meeting from Walsall for All Partnership Board.

The Chair invited the group to offer suggestions for the task and finish group on June 24.

Suggestions from the group:

- Bring businesses in the town centre - we need to think how we ensure the link of our work with the town centre plan (to be included into the agenda)
- Arboretum needs to be utilized more to bring people together from across the borough – market stalls; world foods events
- Bring back the Illuminations – it used to bring people from outside who spent money locally;
- Lights night event;
- Vibrant Urban villages
- Looking at the demographic data of the people living in the area

Planning Housing and Integration Task & Finish group meeting

Elisabeth Buggins mentioned to the group about the good work happening around Housing and the potential links with Integration agenda: Homelessness Forum event with local and national stakeholders (Walsall has a Homelessness Strategy in place), Housing Strategy is being developed.

Elisabeth is leading on the Housing task and finish group meeting on 3rd of June. She invited the group to think and come with suggestions around following questions:

- Where is the weak spot that we can contribute to?
- Who should be part of the small group?

Suggestions from the group:

- This is about policy changing and we should look at the structural issues.
- The general feedback from Walsall Council CMT – WHG should be part of the board;

- Invite Walsall Housing group at the task & finish group meeting;
- Involve Walsall People Project (CMF) – Olga Cenkute
- Allocation of the properties

AP2: Walsall for All board members will inform Elisabeth about any other subjects they consider important for the meeting on 3rd of June and relevant stakeholders to be involved.

Walsall for All Programme Update

Imran Suddle updated the group on the progress of the programme (a written update was circulated).

AP3: Imran will prepare and share information with the board about the commissioned projects.

Any Other Business

Minara Karim invited the group to participate in a grading exercise around Equality Cohesion and Diversity across service provision for 2018.

Minara informed the group that she is leaving and Kathrin Greenfield will be replacing her in the board.

AP3: Ana will review the task & finish group grid for more clarity (add details about the activity and partners).

AP4: Board members interested in the grading exercise will send their feedback to Minara by the end of the next week, 24 May.

Dates and venues for the next meetings

Next dates agreed:

- July 15
- September 23
- November 25

In attendance were: Chair: David Primrose, Minara Karim, Janet Davies, Maureen Lewis, Marie Smith, Charlotte Weston, Irena Hergottova, Khuram Mahmood, Imran Suddle, Laurence Lessard-Phillips, Geetanjali Bhucher, Jamie Hobday, Isabel Vanderheeren, Alex Boys, Elisabeth Buggins, Margaret Turley, John Morris, Claire Wills, Cheryl Garvey (Facilitation and Projects Lead, Brap), Jane Murray, Michael Collyer, Haroon Ravat, Sunita Lal Kooner, Ana Tomulescu, Charlotte Gough

Apologies form: Simon Brake, Gerry Lyng, Ashvin Patel, Jamiesha Majevalia, Andy Seager