

# WALSALL FOR ALL

## Walsall for All Partnership Board Meeting

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**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Time:** 16:00 - 18:30

**Venue:** Frank F Harrison Community Association

Stephenson Square, Beechdale Estate, Walsall, WS2 7DY

### Introduction

Gerald Nembhard introduced himself to the group. He is the new Integration Officer at One Walsall.

Andy Seager introduced to the group. He is the Headteacher of Bloxwich Academy and will be representing the Secondary schools on the board.

### Welcome to the North Locality

Vanessa Croft, the Locality Manager for the area offered an overview of the North Locality. She underlined that the 4 wards are radically different. However, a common pattern is that people from North are very innovative. Initiatives such as speed watch and street watch groups, social clubs and great advocacy for different causes were highlighted.

### Risk register Update

Simon Brake offered an update on the risk register from the Task and Finish group. The risks were now grouped in Operational, Finances & Governance, Reputational, and Sustainability.

Feedback from the group:

- Include the external factors that might affect the delivery. Priorities might change depending on what is happening in the society.
- Community differentiation is something to be taken into account. Our communities are at different level. This might affect their participation and engagement.

**AP1: Discuss risks mitigation with the board members in the next meeting.**

### Learning on integration – Sicily Visit

A group formed of representatives of MHCL, Walsall Council, Walsall organizations and Walsall for All partnership Board visited projects in Sicily to learn about their integration work model and look at things that we could replicate. Main learning:

- Some of the successful projects bring people together through food, music;
- People working in the project spent some time in the African countries for better understanding of the culture and as a result better service delivery for migrants
- Multi Culti Orchestra is a project to help raise awareness;
- There is a self-organised system
- Local people have the possibility to learn African languages by accessing existing courses;
- Awareness work in schools – talking about experiences of individuals;
- Local Authorities work approach with migrants makes a huge difference
- Poverty and high level of unemployment are some of the main issues
- Hate crime is not perceived as big issue

### DWP Update

Gerry Lyng offered written and verbal update on the work led by DWP: 3 community connectors are being hired; focus on working with women (employability projects, arts linking, share their stories, photographs).

**AP2: Ensure links and synergy between the DWP work and the collaboration with the Economic Board.**

**AP3: Ensure induction for community connectors from the integration perspective. Involve them with the rest of Walsall for All programme.**

### Walsall for All Programme Update

Imran Suddle updated the group on the progress of the programme. He mentioned the need to strengthen the work under the *Working and contributing together* priority of the programme. An intervention at the Economic Board meeting is planned.

**AP4: To update regarding Economic Board intervention as well as presenting its objectives and the mission.**

Walsall College is keen to work with business in terms of removing the language barriers for employment. The courses will be designed based on their needs around employees and integration.

### Looking into the future & thematic priorities

Irena Hergottova invited the group to reflect on what do we want to achieve and how can we do this as a board considering different areas of work such as: operational delivery of the programme, national evaluation of the 3 interventions, policy making and Walsall representation into work. Having a plan that offers people clarity on what kind of work we want to do was mentioned as an immediate need.

**AP5: Organise thematic afternoons with subgroups formed of board members and interested stakeholders to have in depth discussions. Create and circulate a grid with potential dates and themes. Identify board members to lead on each meeting.**

**AP6: The next board meeting (15 April) will be a single topic meeting instead.**

### **Any Other Business**

Windrush Day celebration will be planned and prepared at the initiative of Maureen Lewis and partners for June.

### **Dates and venues for the next meetings**

Next dates agreed:

- April 15
- May 13
- July 15

Proposed dates for the rest of the year:

- September 23
- November 25

**In attendance were:** Chair: David Primrose, Gerry Lyng, Minara Karim, Janet Davies, Maureen Lewis, Marie Smith, Charlotte Weston, Irena Hergottova, Ibrahim Sohail, Andy Seager, Imran Suddle, Laurence Lessard-Phillips, Vanessa Croft, Geetanjali Bhucher, Simon Brake, Gerald Nembhard, Ana Tomulescu, Charlotte Gough

**Apologies from:** Jamie Hobday, Helen Kindon, Ashvin Patel, Isabel Vanderheeren, Mark Lavender, Jamiesha Majeবাদia, Alex Boys, Elisabeth Buggins, Margaret Turley