

WALSALL FOR ALL

Walsall for All Partnership Board Meeting

Date: 3rd of February, 2020

Time: 16:00 - 18:30

Venue: The Crossing at St Pauls, Darwall St, Walsall WS1 1DA (North Room)

Welcome & Introduction

Ibrahim Sohail has delegated Mariam Sohaila.

Ashvin Patel has delegated Balbir Selmar.

Becca Scotter covering Charlotte Weston role while on maternity leave

Elisabeth Buggins has stepped down from the board for family reasons

Agreement of AOB, previous notes and matters arising

- Charlotte Gough reminded the members about the commitment to submit case studies and stories reflecting positive examples of integration & cohesion. Charlotte has shared guidance notes previously in order to support the practice.
- Membership changes: Becca Scotter is covering Charlotte Weston role, Elisabeth Buggins has stepped down from the board for family reasons
- Resilient Communities agenda item will be rescheduled for the next meeting as the speaker gave his apologies.
- During 20-21 January, Walsall for All hosted an exchange visit of Italian colleagues working with migrants and refugees. The group visited different local organisations learning about projects and positive examples of integration & cohesion work (Gio's Restaurant, RMC, DWP Women Empowerment Group, Place of Welcome – Green Lane Baptist Church)

Integration Areas – national perspective

- Representatives from the 5 Integrated Areas (Walsall, Bradford, Peterborough, Waltham Forest, Blackburn with Darwen) meet every 2-3 months to share experience and lessons learned.
- All IAs have their own Local Partnership Board.
- Evaluation will be undertaken across the 5 areas for some work streams/projects of the programme. MHCLG has contracted IFF for this work.

- Each area has its strengths and areas of focus: Blackburn has an ESOL hub with a great focus on quality assurance of the provisions; Bradford – LGBT, employability, Community Champions; Peterborough opted for a wider area of work – affordable childcare, jobs and career fairs etc.; Waltham Forest – lots of similarities with Walsall’s model - work around hate crime, citizen assembly, welcome Pack etc; Walsall was especially praised for good communications & branding

Board members are interested to learn more from IAs about:

- How the programme has improved the sectors work?
- Evaluation
- Community Champions
- LGBT
- Employability work

AP.1 Gerry would be able to bring an update from DWP meeting and share details of good practices across the IAs in the next meeting (25 March).

Partnership Creation

- Alex has informed the board the Partnership Development (submitted on behalf of the Board) bid was successful.
- A “Partnership creator” will be hired to look at the current provisions, identify the gaps as well as resources, monitoring and evaluation work and come with recommendations on mainstreaming integration. This work will build on the evidence for the next stage of our work.
- The collected evidence and findings of this research will potentially go into a future project application to the Big Lottery Fund.

AP2. Community Researchers will be engaged in this project

Walsall for All progress report

- A summary paper and a detailed excel spreadsheet with programme’s updates were shared prior the meeting. Imran has briefly informed the group about each action.
- 21 out of 25 projects are on green under the RAG status, the rest are on amber.
- Some of the Innovation projects ended and lessons learned are being applied for WfA
- The Community Dialogue project is now live and Walsall residents can participate in conversations;

- WfA will soon launch the Community Transport commissioning – local organisations/groups will have the chance to apply for small grants aiming to remove the mobility barrier to social mixing.
- DWP work stream: a new project to be launched soon – *Motivate your mind*
- DWP women empowerment groups – 52% are from White community; 48% come from BAME communities. Most of the women are going into volunteering, employment, studies. It has improved social mixing and it's a life changing experience for them.
- Hate Crime Ambassadors group has a diverse make up: LGB, newly arrived communities, BAME & white communities, victims of hate crime.

Case study: IMPACT Programme

- Claire Wills has shared an inspiring case study about the recent partnership work between Black Country Impact and Open Lens Media. As a result of it, young people have overcome their fears, trauma, anxiety, gained confidence and purpose. The work culminated in a documentary being produced by them about them, which was screened in a red carpet event.
- 3500 young people have been supported through the IMPACT Programme
- Claire will invite board members to the next public screening of the documentary

Action Plan 2020

- 5 meetings planned for 2020. Next 4 meetings will be re-booked for Wednesdays as per colleagues' suggestions.
- The practice of sharing a case study in every meeting will continue in 2020.

Board's interests for 2020:

- Community Champions – looking at the work that WfA is already doing, mapping resources and gaps in order to recruit and shape a group of Community champions;
- Making the work with LGBTQ+ groups a priority in the next stage;
- Cross sectorial work – extend collaboration and partnerships
- Link the Welcome Pack provider with Housing First;

Next meeting subjects:

- Share employability and employment practices/projects from other IAs (Gerry)
- Resilient Communities (Paul Gordon)
- A'isha Khan will be sharing a case study (Charlotte Gough will be supporting the preparation stage)

Dates and time for the next meetings: WEDNESDAYS, 16.00-18.30

March 25th

June 24th

September 23rd

December 2nd

In attendance were: David Primrose, Gerry Lyng, Mariam Sohaila, Balbir Selmar, Becca Scotter, Irena Hergottova, Alex Boys, Charlotte Gough, Marie Smith, Claire Wills, Imran Suddle, Laurence Lessard-Phillips, Janet Davies, A'sha Khan, Jamiesha Majeবাদia.

Apologies from: Paul Gordon, Maureen Lewis, Geetanjali Bhucher, Jamie Hobday, Isabel Vanderheeren, Margaret Turley, Paula Furnival, Andy Seager, Juliet Malone