

# WALSALL FOR ALL

## Walsall for All Partnership Board Meeting

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Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Time: 16:30 - 18:30

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

### Introduction

**Geetanjali Bhucher** will be representing Walsall College in the board on permanent basis.

**Isabel Vanderheeren** will share the role with **Sally Rowe**.

### Walsall for All integration Strategy

Participants were briefed on the feedback and input provided by the partners regarding the Strategy text.

It was agreed to proceed with print and design work after making the last changes so we have the printed version by the launch event (31<sup>st</sup> January 2019).

### Away Day initiative

The Programme Manager, Imran Suddle, proposed an away day for the Board members, which was well received.

- Imran circulated a proposed programme and discussed it with members [plan attached]
- The purpose is to build on the current delivery plan and build on skills expertise, skills and leadership of the LIP board so board members become community champions for Walsall for All and we build a meaningful legacy beyond the 18 month financial timeline.
- Chair and Charlotte is keen for further training to be offered to organisations, teams, and grass roots organisations.
- The key principles of underlining the work: engage, enable, empower.
- A skilled facilitator with national expertise will deliver the training

### Agreed:

**The date for the away day – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 [Venue has now been confirmed as Walsall Football Club]**

**AP1: The programme manager will send invitation to the members and will ensure preparation for the Away Day.**

### Delivery Plan

The delivery plan was shared prior the meeting as well as the time line and governance structure.

It was underlined that the plan was built on the community consultation and existing evidence.

The outcomes of the plan were set for a long term.

Feedback from the group:

- To be mindful of the time scale and set realistic outcomes we want to achieve in the long term and short term;
- We should avoid creating high expectations and later not being able to deliver;
- The delivery plan is more about attitudinal change which requires time
- Regarding schools to be involved in the school linking programme, the Primary, Nursery & Special schools Forum could assist as a recruitment platform.
- We have to set measurable and achievable goals for short term;
- Away day provides an opportunity to take stock and reflect on the different elements

### Commissioning process

- Approximately 70% of the project budget will be commissioned work and 30 % will be used for administrative work and overseeing the programme;
- The Innovation Fund will be part of the granting scheme for this work;
- More information about commissioning will be offered within the information giving sessions in January – as part of a market warming exercise;
- Board members will have to sign an internal document regarding the conflict of interest and declare any conflicts of interests at the start of each meeting.

**Agreed:**

**AP2: To organise surgeries on commissioning process where potential applicants will receive detailed information –[chair requested after away day]**

**AP3: Conflict of interest to be part of the next meeting agenda's items**

### Evaluation of the programme

IFF Research Agency was contracted by the government to evaluate the Integration Programme in the 5 pilot areas.

The draft of the evaluation plan was shared with the board members.

IFF is looking at 4 similar areas of intervention for evaluation: Migrant welcome pack; Community Conversations; School linking; Community ambassadors;

In depth evaluation will be based on the projects.

A working group responsible for research and evaluation will be created.

Feedback from the group:

- In terms of welcome pack, it should also focus on how we prepare the community for the newly arrived residents.
- There is a long history and existing evidence about the asylum seekers' group compared to the European migrants.
- We have to be mindful that our welcome pack does not replace or double the existing resources/work as part of some statutory services

**Agreed:**

**Members interested to be part of the research/evaluation group: Imran Suddle, Jamiesha Majevalia, Laurence Lessard-Phillips, David Primrose.**

**AP4: Board members to feedback/comment on the IFF paper.**

### Launch

- The group will help sharing invitations using their networks
- A video to be developed that will help us to build the story of integration (Example: Romma community have started a foodbank initiative for homeless people – contact Community Church/Elisabeth Buggins for more details)
- The event should offer geographical exposure;
- To include an evening event so working people in the community can attend;
- Building a momentum which will culminate with the launch;
- Isabel Vanderheeren is happy to be part of the task group for the launch;
- The event should demonstrate community involvement;
- Ideally it should reflect good examples of integration that will shape the picture of *what we would like Walsall to look like.*

**Agreed:**

**Launch date: 31th January 2019 (including evening event)**

**AP5: Board members will share information about the launch event within their networks.**

### Community Champions

- Each participant was encouraged to write down individuals/groups whom they know to be committed to integration work and potentially could become community champions;
- Karma Accord Housing said Romma communities made the biggest contributions to food banks in Walsall [which benefit all poor communities regardless of ethnicity religion] But stories like this don't get the time of day. Yet hate and prejudice is evidenced towards Roma community.

- Anti hate initiatives in the programme currently led by Police could to interlink with stories like this and in other core elements such as housing so hate narratives are challenged properly
- We need to explore how themes interlink are how they inform each other and cannot be treated as separate elements
- Community Champions will be provided with training and tools starting with the away day
- Community champions could become our ambassadors.

### Agreed:

**AP6: Charlotte Gough will follow up with each member to get in touch with the potential community champions.**

## Communication

Debate about social media – website priority and tweeting activities in Jan including away day & Launch- and creating a video of local people discussing what integration means to them and using this to build excitement and awareness

Each participant has pledged to share information about the launch and Integration Area Programme within their personal or work related networks

To promote more champions, Chair asked members who they will be speaking about the integration programme the journey so far asked if Imran can put a form of words together to give them a template IS agreed to be sent as part of next minutes [by end of week]

- **David Primrose** – Churches;
- **A'isha Khan** – Partners organisations; Building Resilience Network
- **Ashvin Patel** – faith groups, temples
- **Gerry Lyng** - Job centre, employers, partners on domestic violence and substances misuse;
- **Ibrahim Sohail** - Youth of Walsall network, social media, 3 adult schools
- **Minara Karim** – Community Nurses, CCGs, Hospital
- **Janet Davies** – 8 organizations part of Federation
- **Laurence Lessard-Phillips** - University of Wolverhampton
- **Geetanjali Bhucher** - Student body, community partners, other colleges
- **Marie Smith** – WHG, Community volunteers
- **Charlotte Weston** – Government;
- **Irena Hergottova** – social media space; partners
- **Elisabeth Buggins** – WHG, Walsall Community Church
- **Margaret Turley** – Special schools, head teachers
- **Jamie Hobday** – National Network of Police Forces, PCSOs
- **Helen Kindon** – Thematic boards

## Other business

The Interim Chair of the board invited members to self nominate or nominate someone (potentially a non member) who they think would be interested to chair the board in 2019.

**Agreed:**

**Members to send nominations for the chair role to Ana Tomulescu by start of 16<sup>th</sup> January (Away Day)**

Charlotte says government are interested in hearing stories issues intelligence linked to brexit – Chair said what can we do proactively?

Imran said councils are planning contingences we could invite them form Walsall MBC to away day as observer-

Chair agreed

## Reflection on the process

- We need to focus on good news about Walsall
- Walsall people are kind; they look out for each other. We should see this as a strength
- The general feedback from the group was positive
- Away Day is a good idea
- To explore and work together at the operational level;

**Next date agreed: Monday, 25th February, 16:30 to 18:30**

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**In attendance were:** Chair: David Primrose, A'isha Khan, Ashvin Patel, Gerry Lyng, Ibrahim Sohail, Minara Karim, Janet Davies, Isabel Vanderheeren, Laurence Lessard-Phillips, Geetanjali Bhucher, Marie Smith, Charlotte Weston, Irena Hergottova, Imran Suddle, Elisabeth Buggins, Margaret Turley, Jamie Hobday, Helen Kindon

**Apologies from: Jamiesha Majevalia, Mark Lavender, Alex Boys**