
REPORT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTOR PLACE

TO: The Community and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel

ON: Monday 21 November 2022

**TITLE: Little Hulton, Walkden, Boothstown, Worsley and Westwood Park
Neighbourhood Resilience Forums Update.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS: Community and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel
is requested to note the information.**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The purpose of this report is to share the work of
Little Hulton, Walkden, Boothstown, Worsley and Westwood Park
Neighbourhood Resilience Forums.**

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: N/A

KEY DECISION: NO

DETAILS:

Background

Neighbourhood Resilience Forums (NRF) were established in each of the city's eight neighbourhood areas in April 2020 in response to the covid 19 pandemic with the purpose of:

- Developing civil resilience in Salford at a neighbourhood level.
- Being the multi-agency tactical tasking and co-ordinating group for each Neighbourhood area.

When the Neighbourhood Resilience Forums were launched in 2020, the Little Hulton, Walkden, / Boothstown, Worsley and Westwood Park forums initially met on a bi-weekly basis. In the last few months, the cycle for both areas have moved to a monthly meeting to run in line with the rest of the city.

Neighbourhood Resilience Forum Membership

Neighbourhood Resilience Forums have a diverse membership, with a wide range of partner agencies playing a key role, alongside Elected Members. This incorporates housing, GMP, GMFRS, Public Health, Youth Services, Health Improvement, Regulatory Services, Salford CVS and other internal and external partners who join meetings when required to input on specific issues and priorities.

Focus/Priorities

The Neighbourhood Resilience Forums for Little Hulton and Walkden, and Boothstown, Worsley and Westwood Park have been at the forefront of driving forward improvements to these areas by focusing on issues that impact on the quality of life for residents within these neighbourhoods and setting priorities that matter most to local residents. Some of the key priorities over the last 12 months have included the following:

Community Safety

The Neighbourhood Resilience Forums have been an effective mechanism to update partners on neighbourhood and city-wide police operations, including Op Sycamore (knife crime) and the annual Safe 4 Summer response to anti-social behaviour. Priorities such as burglary and car crime are brought to the forums for discussion with partners and Cllrs. This has helped in spreading target hardening messages throughout the neighbourhood to assist residents and to also feedback on progress in tackling these issues.

Following the significant increase in burglaries within the northwest of the city in the second quarter of 2022, there was a big focus from GMP on targeting suspected offenders and through close partnership working via the Resilience Forums and Community Safety Referral Team (CSRT), suspects were identified and warrants executed.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

The Neighbourhood Resilience Forums have played a key role, alongside the CSRT, in targeting hotspots where anti-social behaviour is impacting on communities across the northwest of the city. The forums have provided a fully joined up approach for partners and Cllrs to both identify where issues are occurring and develop solutions to tackling the issues. Some examples of key hotspot areas that forum members have come together to tackle include the following:

- Peel Park – Little Hulton and an increase in deliberate fires
- Walkden town centre
- Amblecote playing Fields
- Circle park , Boothstown

When hotspots of anti-social behaviour have occurred across the area, the forums have been at the very forefront of tackling the issues. Youth service detached teams have visited these locations when directed from information shared at Neighbourhood Resilience Forums by partners and Cllrs. This has led to positive engagement of many young people, in particular on the Amblecote estate and in Walkden town centre.

In Walkden town centre regular meetings between the neighbourhood management team, shopping centre management team, neighbourhood policing colleagues, youth service colleagues and local schools have led to the swift identification of individuals

causing anti-social issues and they have been proactively dealt with via school based police officers. This has led to a significant decrease in anti-social behaviour at the centre and its environs.

The forums have linked in effectively with CSRT, to ensure problematic individuals and hotspot areas identified are referred to CSRT for discussion so that multi-agency plans can be put in place. This process has enabled Cllrs, housing providers and police partners to feed back to complainants regarding the actions taken. Issues including the need for the installation of CCTV at the Standfield centre in Boothstown to tackle anti-social behaviour as the night time economy and activity over the past five years has increased in this area with further provision of bars and restaurants, have been addressed. This CCTV system has been secured via devolved budget and standing together monies and is due for installation in November 2022.

Primary Care Networks (PCN's)

Neighbourhood Resilience Forums have facilitated a much closer working relationships between Public Health and the neighbourhood partnership. Public Health attended the forums throughout the last two years, initially to provide support through the covid pandemic, sharing regular data updates for partners to fully understand the picture at city, neighbourhood and ward level. More recently the Public Health representative has been important in clarifying the vaccination process and testing arrangements, this has enabled forum members to seek guidance and ask questions ensuring that the correct information is relayed wider and into the community. In conjunction with public health, partners and Cllrs contributed to identifying local testing sites and any local issues surrounding those sites were addressed.

Following the recent implementation of the new Primary Care Network's across the city, close links have been established between the PCN and Neighbourhood Resilience Forum in each neighbourhood. Public Health Engagement and Inclusion Leads (PHEIL) now represent Public Health at the forums and provide detailed updates, using an evidence-based approach. The link between the PCN and the forum allows key health messages to be conveyed to members and then onto the wider neighbourhood and the collection of information at ward level to identify gaps in knowledge to reduce health inequalities.

Work with Foundation 92 and the Johan Cruyff Foundation

Following six months of partnership working with the Johan Cruyff Foundation, Foundation 92 and For Housing, construction of a new Cruyff Court multi use games area has been confirmed (Nov 22) for Peel Park Little Hulton. This new facility will enhance the delivery of sport, and physical activity sessions in the Little Hulton area and serve as a new communal space for the residents of Little Hulton.

The state-of-the-art pitch will be the first of its kind in Salford, and only the second in Greater Manchester.

Construction of the pitch is expected to begin in December 2022 with a planned opening in February 2023.

Health Improvement Team

Both the Little Hulton and Walkden and Worsley / Boothstown and Westwood park health improvement teams are represented at the forums by their Health Improvement officers. They share information on key initiatives such as smoking cessation, weight management, healthy cooking and eating programmes, getting active and linking residents with special interest groups.

Initiatives promoted via the forums and various partners include the Holiday Hunger scheme, summer activity programs and the Warm Home Investment scheme, which has subsequently been running weekly sessions at local venues.

CVS outreach & support

In a similar approach to the Health Improvement Team, CVS first linked into the forums in the early stages of the pandemic, playing a key role in delivering outreach and support across all wards within the area, offering support to vulnerable and elderly residents. Attendance at the forums enables CVS colleagues to update partners and Cllrs on work including their support of Community Champions, hard to reach groups including disability awareness, BME community and LGBTQ groups.

CVS attendance at Resilience Forums has also led to new initiatives being developed, including the establishing of new groups within the area. A recent example of this has been the collaboration between the Neighbourhood Management Team, CVS colleagues, GMP, Cllrs and residents living around Parr Fold Park in Walkden, to address issues of safety and security within the park. This has resulted in the existing friends group gaining more volunteers and we continue to work with the friends group on fund raising bids.

Housing providers

The forums for Little Hulton, Walkden, Boothstown, Worsley and Westwood Park have benefitted from attendance by all of the key local housing providers, these include:

- For Housing
- Salix
- Great Places

Extensive discussions have taken place at both forum meetings between key housing providers, wider partners and Cllrs regarding issues such as anti-social behaviour, serious criminality, environmental concerns and pest control hot spots. An example of this is the work undertaken through the Little Hulton and Walkden forum to tackle issues that have occurred around a number of social housing hot spots for rat infestations. This has been discussed at the forum a walkabout with key partners conducted and action plans put in place with input from the housing provider and wider partners.

Amblecote Playing Fields

A number of measures have been implemented at Amblecote playing fields following reports of off road motorcycles gaining access and damaging the sports pitches. The measures include replacing of fencing to restrict access and the renewal of signage and litter bins.

Youth Engagement / Providers

Little Hulton, Walkden and Worsley, Boothstown and Westwood Park have established youth partnerships and lead officers from the partnership attend the forums for both areas. Forum members link into the youth partnership, highlighting where gaps exist in provision for young people and discussions have taken place at the forums that have led to partners pooling resources to provide a proactive approach to engagement with young people across the area, targeting hotspots in an ever changing environment. Some of the projects that have formed as part of this link between the forums and the Youth Partnership include the very successful bike maintenance project and work around knife crime in schools across the northwest of the City.

The Neighbourhood Resilience Forums have also informed and directed where youth engagement and outreach has been taking place over the last year, with hotspots being identified by officers and Cllrs and detached teams being directed to those areas to engage with young people. Some examples of where this guided engagement has been successful has been in Peel Park, Amblecote Fields, Walkden town centre and Boothsbank Park.

Standing Together Funding

Each Neighbourhood Resilience Forum has a neighbourhood grants budget based on the principles of building community resilience, keeping people safe and reducing harm and offending. The forums have invited applications and awarded funds based upon the criteria and what it identifies as the neighbourhood priorities. Funding has been awarded to projects that focus on several themes, including:

- Sports Programmes particularly during school holidays
- Diversity / Addressing hate crime issues
- CCTV – Boothstown
- Holiday hunger projects
- Community forest garden
- Environmental Initiatives
- Young people's outreach

Partners/Cllrs Feedback

As the Neighbourhood Resilience Forums have progressed over the last year the Neighbourhood Management Team for Little Hulton, Walkden, Boothstown, / Worsley and Westwood Park have regularly asked forum members for feedback on both the format and impact of the meetings, to ensure that changes and improvements can be

made where possible. Feedback from partners has always been positive as they have found real value in the model for several reasons:

- Frequency: holding monthly meetings enables a fuller understanding of neighbourhood issues as they arise.
- Pace: forums have been between 60-90 minutes in length and useful information has been shared in a concise manner.
- Actions: emerging issues have been discussed and enabled partners to respond with quick resolve and joined up planning.
- Partnership: partnerships have been strengthened due to regular meetings and increased and effective joint working across a range of issues.
- Communication: information from all partners has been shared regularly so there is an improved understanding of the work each service is delivering.
- Support: a virtual team of people have come together regularly and feel supported and trusted in the work they do
- Where required key issues that have been brought to the forums have been the focus of subsequent multi-agency meetings that have enabled detailed action plans to be put in place (for example anti-social behaviour issues around Boothsbank Park).

There is a shared sense of purpose amongst Neighbourhood Resilience Forum members as there is recognition of the role each partner contributes to improving lives within the immediate neighbourhoods and the wider City.

Next Steps

The youth partnership for Little Hulton, Walkden/Boothstown, Worsley and Westwood Park was recently refreshed and has been going from strength to strength, with new partners joining the partnership and working together to produce a co-ordinated youth engagement plan and a fresh terms of reference for each of the two youth partnerships in the north west of the city.

During the last 12 months key partners have pooled resources to provide a proactive approach to engagement with young people across the areas, targeting hotspots in an ever-changing environment, this will be further developed to ensure any gaps in provision are covered. This work will take in closer working relationships with key community facilities such as the den in Walkden town centre and the newly formed youth group in Boothstown.

Another big focus for the remainder of 2022 will be to continue the positive work around recruitment of street champions within the area. There are currently over 230 street champions across the northwest locality. This work, co-ordinated through the Neighbourhood Management team with support from resilience forum members, has gone from strength to strength and the project will continue to be a priority moving forward.

Conclusion

Little Hulton, Walkden and Boothstown, Worsley and Westwood Park Neighbourhood Resilience Forums have established themselves as an effective multi-agency

partnership and have delivered tangible outcomes that have made a real difference to the lives of residents in the area.

From their early inception as a vehicle to discuss and tackle the many issues caused by the pandemic, through their natural progression to incorporating wider neighbourhood issues, the forums have strengthened the neighbourhood partnership structures and created a joined up and cohesive approach. The frequency and tone of the meetings has allowed issues arising to be actioned quickly and proactively in response to the priorities in the neighbourhood at the time.

The consensus is that Councillors and partners feel the Neighbourhood Resilience Forums should continue to grow and develop and this is demonstrated by the continued buy in and attendance from Councillors and partners.

KEY COUNCIL POLICIES: Community Safety Strategy and Emergency Response and Recovery Plan

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND IMPLICATIONS: N/A

ASSESSMENT OF RISK: Low

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: N/A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: N/A

PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: N/A

HR IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: N/A

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: N/A

OTHER DIRECTORATES CONSULTED: N/A

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WARDS TO WHICH REPORT RELATES:

Little Hulton, Walkden North and South, Boothstown, Worsley and Westwood Park