

# **Winsford and Rural East Area Partnership Board**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

## **In attendance**

John Salt (Chair) – Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Councillor Brian Clarke – Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Stephen Flanagan – Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Jonathan Griffiths – GP, Chair of Vale Royal Practice Based Commissioning Consortia  
Barbara Johnson – Job Centre Plus  
Pat Johnson – Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust  
Sue Lowe – Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust (PCT)  
Ewan McHenry – Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Chris Mitchell - Connexions  
Councillor Keith Musgrave – Cheshire West and Chester Council  
John Reilly – Principal, Mid-Cheshire College  
Graham Roberts – Weaver Vale Housing Trust  
Vicky Rodwell – Jobcentre Plus  
David Snasdell – Cheshire Police  
John Stephens – Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Alison Armstrong – Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Jane Binyon – Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Councillor Charlie Parkinson (Cheshire West and Chester Council - Observer)

## **Apologies –**

Debbie Washington – Job Centre Plus  
Mike Worthington – Business After Hours

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair (John Salt) welcomed everyone to the meeting, and partners introduced themselves.

### **2. Minutes of last meeting**

**Agreed:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2009, be approved as a correct record, subject to the addition of Councillor Charlie Parkinson as having been in attendance as an observer.

### **3. Partnership and Area Working**

Alison Armstrong – Director Local Strategic Partnership outlined the structure and delivery cycle of partnership and area working, and explained the relationship between the Local Strategic Partnership at the strategic level, the Thematic Partnerships at the tactical level, and the Area Partnership Board (APB) and Community Forums at the operational level.

It was also announced that following a meeting of the Thematic Leads the previous day, that an allocation of £10 000 be awarded to the five Area Partnership Boards. The APBs will have a role in accessing other sources of such funding, as well as influencing the direction of each partner agencies mainstream funding. In the longer term, it was hoped partners would wish to commission through the APB to undertake priority tasks.

John Reilly asked whether the direction of the APB would be underpinned by any community surveys. Alison responded that, in addition to the national Place Survey that took place every two years, Cheshire West and Chester would undertake its own local survey in the intervening year, and would also manage performance, to ensure that priorities and actions were in accordance with local needs, and resulted in positive change.

Partners discussed the relative roles of the Community Forums and APB. Specific issues were being addressed successfully at the Forums, enabling the APB to focus on tackling the priorities.

#### 4. **Area Partnership Board – Priorities**

Ewan McHenry gave a brief presentation on the priorities which it was proposed be focussed on by the Area Partnership Board and highlighted the role of partners in achieving these objectives –

- identify local priorities and capture local issues
- participate in the design and commissioning of local services
- develop and implement an Area Action Plan
- develop a local Performance Management Framework
- establish delivery structures

It has now been agreed that the Area Partnership Board will identify the top three issues within their boundaries as opposed to replicating the five corporate priorities focussed on through West Cheshire Together and the Thematic Partnerships.

It was proposed that the priorities of Winsford & Rural East Area Partnership Board would be as follows –

- Children and Young People
  - Reducing the number of First Time Entrants into the Criminal Justice System
  - Reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs)
  - Reducing under 18 conception rates
  - Increase the number of parents taking responsibility for their children
  - To raise awareness and promote positive activities for young people

- Adult Health and Wellbeing
  - reduce mortality rates
  - improve access and quality of health services
  - reduce health inequalities through reducing the consumption alcohol, substance misuse, those classified as obese and the prevalence of smoking
  
- Jobs and Enterprise
  - Reduce the number of claimants for Job Seekers Allowance
  - Improve partnership working in neighbourhoods where more than 25% of the population is unemployed
  - Improve the skills levels of local communities
  - Reduce the number of young people not in education, training and employment
  - Deliver regeneration projects in Winsford

Presentation also explained why the Safer and Stronger Communities theme, previously agreed had now been omitted:

- below average rates of crime per 1000 of population
- above average levels of satisfaction with how anti-social behaviour was being dealt with by the Police and Local Authority (National Indicator 21)

In addition there are a number of elements within the priorities proposed that will contribute directly to tackling the causes of crime ie. tackling alcohol and substance misuse, reducing the number of young people entering the criminal justice system.

In respect of the Environmental Sustainability priority, previously agreed, this would be addressed through the remaining three groups and should underpin all of the APB's activities.

Pat Johnson suggested that the term 'quality of health services' be clarified, as the current term could have several meanings, such as access to services, quality, or lack of services. Ewan McHenry responded that he would seek clarification, and the issue would also be addressed by the respective task group.

Councillor Clarke asked how the two 'dropped' priorities would continue to be monitored. Ewan McHenry responded that data arising from the Place Survey, and other national indicators would ensure that issues such as local transport and crime levels would be closely monitored. The area of highest crime, West Winsford MSOA, was also the subject of the neighbourhood management pilot and the priorities could be monitored and tackled through the pilot (see Minute No.6).

Inspector Dave Snasdell outlined the ways that incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour were dealt with by the Police under government-set performance indicators. He also pointed out that, given the pressure on Police resources, the joint working and support provided by partner organisations, such as CCTV coverage by the Local Authority, was invaluable.

Partners went on to discuss the need for flexibility in the setting of priorities, which might need to change or be deviated from in response to changing circumstances or specific situations, and it was agreed that the set priorities continue to be monitored to ensure they continued to meet local need.

**Agreed:** That approval be given to the proposed three priority areas of the APB, namely:

- Children and Young People
- Adult health and Wellbeing
- Jobs and Enterprise

## 5. Task Group Updates

Ewan McHenry submitted progress reports on the work carried out to date by each of the three task groups which had been set up since the last meeting to address the priority areas of Children and Young People, Adult Health and Wellbeing, and Jobs and Enterprise.

Each task group had identified its priorities, the national indicators against which it could manage performance if feasible, and the actions that were proposed. This information was set out in each of the three progress reports submitted at the meeting.

Ewan McHenry summarised the content of each report, and highlighted the key initiatives proposed by each group.

Job Centre Plus (Debbie Washington) had agreed to be the lead partner on the Jobs and Enterprise Task Group.

Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust had taken the lead role to date on the Adult Health and Wellbeing task group. Both Pat Johnson and Jonathan Griffiths offered to assist in this respect, and it was agreed that partners would arrange to meet to agree who should take the lead.

A lead partner was also required for the Children and Young People Task Group. John Reilly offered to nominate a representative from Mid-Cheshire College, and Chris Mitchell offered on behalf of Connexions. It was agreed that these partners meet after the meeting to determine who would take this role.

Councillor Musgrave reported on the formation of a new management board, of which he was a member, to run the Winning Winsford, Northwich Vision, and Weaver Valley projects. Some £250,000 had just been allocated for

streetscene improvements at Northwich, and it was hoped similar schemes would be brought to Winsford in due course.

John Stephens pointed out the links between the various priorities, and highlighted the need for a flexible approach in ensuring existing and future educational and training needs were met.

Councillor Musgrave raised the issues of poor access to health services, waiting times for treatments and hospital car parking charges. Ewan McHenry responded that health service issues that had arisen at the Community Forums had been addressed without needing to be referred to the APB.

John Stephens referred to a potential issue for the APB – that of GPs in rural areas, who were often seen by the community as the sole representation of the National Health Service, and the implications of this in terms of the commissioning of services.

John Reilly pointed out that there was a lack of reference to mental health issues in the Health and Wellbeing task group report. Whilst this point was acknowledged, Pat Johnson also responded that 'wellbeing' would incorporate mental health issues.

John Reilly raised the issue of alcohol misuse, and the role of the Local Authority in controlling this problem. He was advised that Cheshire West and Chester Council was in the process of producing a Strategy on Alcohol.

**Agreed:** That the progress reports from the Children and Young people, Jobs and Enterprise and Health and Wellbeing task groups, be received, and the outstanding lead partner roles be determined between those agencies who have expressed an interest.

## **6. Neighbourhood Management in West Winsford**

Ewan McHenry submitted a report on the West Winsford Neighbourhood Management Pilot.

This pilot scheme had commenced in April 2008 as part of the Local Strategic Partnership's commitment to improving the quality of life of residents in those areas identified as priority through the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

The West Winsford Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) had been identified and targeted for multi-agency action, promoting local working to improve outcomes for communities.

The report outlined the current and planned activities and initiatives under the pilot, the outcomes of these initiatives, and the future plans for West Winsford MSOA.

Ewan recommended that the APB should focus action on West Winsford because of the potential for significant positive impacts on performance and

inequalities. A representative was sought from the key partners involved in this area (Local Authority, Police or Weaver Vale Housing) to take a lead role in focussing action on West Winsford. Dave Snasdell and Graham Roberts agreed to discuss and determine this between their respective organisations.

**Agreed:** That the report on the West Winsford Neighbourhood Management Pilot be noted, and approval be given for the delivery of services to continue to be focussed on West Winsford.

## 7. **Format of Next Meeting**

**Agreed:** That the format of the next meeting be as follows –

- each of the three task groups to have met, and to report on identified priorities and actions, progress made to date, challenges, barrier to delivery, threats and proposed delivery of projects in terms of resources, governance issues etc
- neighbourhood management update
- how to measure performance/success
- community feedback through community engagement mechanisms, eg from Community Forums, Ward walks, Police consultation, to inform APB

NB: Alison Armstrong suggested that each task group should consider how best to measure the outcomes of their actions, given that the national indicators might not be appropriate at this level.

## 8. **Dates of future meetings**

**Agreed:** That

- a meeting of the APB be arranged on a date prior to 22 December 2009, specifically for consultation on the Local Development Framework, the Local Transport Plan and the Sustainable Communities Strategy,
- the next full meeting of the APB be held on Wednesday 13 January 2010, at The Edge, Cheviot Square, Winsford, commencing at 9.30am
- a schedule of meetings for the following 12 months be agreed in January
- the principle of APB meetings being held at community venues throughout Winsford and Rural East Area, be approved.

## 9. **Other Business**

Inspector Dave Snasdell offered any partners, wishing to gain an insight into the problems of anti social behaviour in Winsford, to contact him and he would arrange for them to join him on an evening tour of duty.