

West Cheshire Together

Working in partnership for local people

Date: 29th April 2010
Time: 1.30pm
Venue: Chester & District Housing Trust Offices, Chester

In Attendance:

Mike Jones - Chair	Leader, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Colin Billingsley	Jobcentre Plus
Eric Bowers	CHAWREC
Moira Chapman	Cheshire Police Authority
John Denny	Chester APB
Stephen Flanagan	Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
Craig Guildford	Cheshire Constabulary/ Safer Stronger Thematic Group
Steve Hoy	Connexions
Sarah Johnson Griffiths	Health and Wellbeing Thematic Partnership
Chris Koral	North West Development Agency
Sara Mogel	Business, Enterprise and Culture Partnership
Marie Orrell	Cheshire Probation Area
Steve Robinson	Children's Trust
Chris Rowbottom	Northwich and Rural North APB
Alison Roylance-White	Rural West APB
John Salt	Winsford and Rural East APB
Jane Staley	Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership
Jackie Weaver	ChALC

Apologies: Helen Bellairs, Mark Cashin, John Church, Emma Clarke, Cllr Brian Crowe, Avril Coady, Steve Jennings, Andrew Jones, Arthur Neil, Julie Webster and Helen Woollacott

Support Staff: Alistair Jeffs, Alison Armstrong, Andrea Mageean and Lyn Raynor (*Cheshire West and Chester Council*)

Visitors: Laurence Ainsworth, Clive Roberts and Nicola Samuels (*Cheshire West and Chester Council*)
 Lesley Brown (*Cheshire and Warrington Improvement and Efficiency Commission*)
 Val Edmonds and David Wilson (*Audit Commission*)
 Rebecca Mead and Miranda Thurston (*University of Chester*)
 Tony Sharples (*NHS Western Cheshire*)
 Liz Weston (*UK Border Agency*)

Item No. 1	Welcome, introductions and apologies
	Mike Jones welcomed partners and visitors to the meeting, thanked Chester and District Housing Trust for hosting the meeting and apologies were noted.
Item No. 2	Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.
	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2010 were agreed as an accurate record, subject to Eric Bowers being noted as having given apologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairman commented on the very good results of the Police Authority's recent inspection, with Cheshire emerging as one of the three highest in the country. • The Chairman thanked all involved in the recent LSP Network event which launched the Sustainable Community Strategy for West Cheshire "Together we can Aim High" and the extremely positive feedback received from the event was noted. • Val Edmonds (Audit Commission) presented a draft early document containing the initial areas of focus for West Cheshire's Comprehensive Area Assessment 2010. The document was welcomed as a timely accurate reflection of the significant progress made and would provide the direction required on specific areas.
Decision:	n/a
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further CAA update to be issued in June and a more detailed update to be presented to the LSP at its July meeting.
Item No. 3	Partnership Risk Management Strategy and Register
	<p>Nicola Samuels, Insurance and Risk Manager, reported on progress with developing a Risk Management Strategy for the LSP which sets out how to effectively manage potential opportunities and threats to the achievement of partnership objectives. A 'first cut' risk register was considered, along with recommendations on how the register will be refined and managed in the future.</p> <p>In addition to input on risks from the Thematic Groups, there was discussion on the need to include risks at Area Partnership Board level. Also, it was pointed out that Cheshire Police Authority was a separate body from Cheshire Police and this needed reflecting in the documentation.</p>
Decision:	The Risk Management Strategy and Policy was adopted.
Action:	Thematic Groups to continue to provide input into the refinement of the risk register and consideration be given to input from the five Area Partnership Boards.

	Cheshire Police and Cheshire Police Authority to be reflected as separate bodies within the documentation.
Item No. 4	<p>Local Area Agreement Update</p> <p>Alison Armstrong updated partners on progress with and recent changes to the LAA 2010/11, as agreed by the relevant thematic groups.</p> <p>It was noted that three of the LAA targets affected by the economic downturn had been renegotiated with GONW:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI 153: Working People claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods; • NI 154: Net additional homes provided; and • NI 171: New business registration rate. <p>Following a recommendation from its 'Stronger' sub-group, the Safer & Stronger Communities Thematic Group agreed to adopt two new non-designated national indicators to support the achievement of stronger communities:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI 6: Percentage of people participating in regular volunteering; and • NI 35: Building resilience to violent extremism. <p>Six non-designated indicators relating to looked after children which do not provide evidence of positive change to the outcomes for looked after children were dropped; this will be considered again during the development of the new Children's Plan (by April 2011). The Environmental Sustainability Thematic Group also agreed to adopt <i>NI 188: Adapting to Climate Change</i> as a non-designated indicator for 2010/11.</p>
Decision:	Partners endorsed the amendments and additions as outlined above.
Action:	n/a
Item No. 5	<p>Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy</p> <p>Dr Tony Sharples, NHS Western Cheshire, presented the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2010-2013 for endorsement and implementation by the Partnership. This follows on from the establishment in September 2009 of a cross-cutting, multi-agency West Cheshire Alcohol Group. The strategy seeks to reduce the harm caused by alcohol, including harm associated with chronic and acute ill-health, crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>As 2010 was the Year of Wellbeing, it was felt that employers could attempt to address issues around stress at an earlier stage, such as offering incentives around sport, leisure and recreational facilities to relieve stress. There was the suggestion of a common message across partner organisations to promote the key components of the strategy.</p>

	<p>It was noted that agencies were already liaising over the potential risks surrounding event clashes such as the World Cup and Chester Races in June, bringing with them increased levels of alcohol consumption. However, whilst this action would address street alcohol and associated crime, it was felt the strategy did not highlight enough the alcohol related issues linked to domestic violence.</p>
Decision:	Partners endorsed the strategy, subject to the enhancement of the mention of alcohol linked to domestic violence.
Action:	The impact of alcohol on levels of domestic violence to be better highlighted in the strategy.
Item No. 6	<p>The Future of the Cheshire Drug Action Team Supt Craig Guildford reported on the uncertain future of the DAT (a non-statutory partnership for drug and some alcohol services) and outlined potential options for its future development. The DAT was considered a 'shared service' across Cheshire in 2009-10 and proposals were presented which would either see the retention of the shared arrangement into 2011 and beyond, or the creation of two separate DATs based on Cheshire West & Chester and Cheshire East boundaries.</p> <p>In the ensuing discussion, it was felt that a more robust and firm arrangement would ultimately need to be sought, rather than the ongoing interim arrangements. In the meantime, the option of retention of the shared arrangement was preferred and governance and operational oversight was determined as below.</p>
Decision:	<p>Agreed to retain the arrangement of operating as a 'shared service' across Cheshire in 2010-11, with governance being provided by the West Cheshire Safer and Stronger Communities Thematic Group.</p> <p>Agreed that the Council's 'Community and Environment' Directorate assume departmental ownership of the DAT (noted that Steve Kent was Director and Cllr Lynn Riley was Executive Member).</p>
Action:	Alistair Jeffs to follow up discussions with Shared Services staff and host agencies.
Item No. 7	<p>London 2012: Opportunities for West Cheshire Clive Roberts, Business Excellence Manager, presented an overview of the potential opportunities for West Cheshire and the sub-region offered by the presence of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London in 2012, ranging from the regional to the local level.</p> <p>A North West regional steering group had been established, supported by a Cheshire & Warrington sub-regional group focusing on legacy themes around sport and physical activity, the cultural Olympiad, the visitor economy and business opportunities, with events and volunteering considered as cross-cutting issues involved in all themes. More locally, a range of activity was currently underway in West</p>

	<p>Cheshire including developing elite sporting events such as the Cycling Tour series and Masters show jumping as well as promoting schools' involvement through registration onto the Get Set programme.</p> <p>The Business, Enterprise and Culture Thematic Group had recently received a similar presentation and the offer was given to attend other thematic partnerships, in particular 'West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing' which had been identified as an area needing further attention.</p>
Decision:	n/a
Action:	Clive to attend the West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing Thematic Group and others if required.
Item No. 8	<p>Thematic Partnership Spotlight: "Business, Enterprise and Culture" Thematic Group</p> <p>Sara Mogel, Chair of the Business, Enterprise and Culture Thematic Group, updated partners on recent progress and activity within the thematic partnership, specifically highlighting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorsement of the Economic Recession Action Plan; • commencement of implementation of the Future Jobs Fund; • broadening of remit to include 'culture' – consideration being given to future jobs and skill requirements for the culture and heritage sectors, not just about attracting visitors; • establishment of a private sector led Business and Enterprise sub-group whose role is to look at issues for business development across the borough and provide a challenge back to the Council; • funding received from second homes taxation which the group is using to support research into the skills gap relating to jobs into the 'hospitality' and 'care' sectors; • support to a range of other initiatives such as the 'buy local' campaign.
Decision:	n/a
Action:	Cheshire West and Chester Council to assist in raising awareness of support available for businesses.
Item No. 9	<p>Community Cohesion Strategy</p> <p>Alistair Jeffs (Head of Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Transformation) presented the latest position on the formation of a Community Cohesion Strategy for West Cheshire, a partnership plan setting out how we aim to achieve a place where everybody feels comfortable and positive about living and working alongside one another. Partners were asked to note progress with the draft document and agree partner leads in relation to key responsibilities within the action plan. Any comments were to be fed back to Alistair Jeffs.</p> <p>It was noted the draft document had been developed in close consultation with local people and organisations and will be</p>

	implemented over the next five years. The general feeling was that whilst the narrative was good, there was more work required around smartening the actions. There was also a need to ensure this is cascaded to the APB level and that the local dimension is fed into borough-wide strategies.
Decision:	Progress with the draft Community Cohesion Strategy for West Cheshire was noted.
Action:	Comments to be fed back to Alistair Jeffs and a further update to be brought to the LSP at its July meeting.
Item No. 10	Research Project: Exploring local delivery to improve health and reduce inequalities: a sociological study of one local public health system Rebecca Mead, a research student jointly supervised by NHS Western Cheshire (PCT) and the University of Chester, presented an overview of her PhD research project. This aims to understand how the local public health system works in translating public health policy aspirations – such as improving population health and reducing health inequalities – into local delivery plans and activities. Partners were asked for their help and support with this work which will improve understanding of partnership working and policy implementation in this area. Findings will be fed back to the LSP at regular intervals.
Decision:	Partners agreed to support the information gathering process required for this research project.
Action:	The LSP will receive regular reports back on action relating to health inequalities.
Item No. 11	Third Sector Assembly Update In the absence of Arthur Neil, an updated report was circulated on Third Sector Assembly achievements since its formal launch in April 2009.
Decision:	n/a
Action:	Update to be posted onto the West Cheshire Together website.
Item No. 12	Any other business There were no further items.
Decision:	n/a
Action:	n/a

Details of next meeting: Thursday 29th July 2010, 2.00 – 4.00pm, Ellesmere Port Civic Hall (Civic Suite)

Signed (Chair):

Date: