

West Cheshire Together

Working in partnership for local people

Date: 29th July 2010
Time: 2.00pm
Venue: Ellesmere Port Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port

In Attendance:

Mike Jones - Chair	Leader, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Jon Betts	Ellesmere Port APB
Eric Bowers	CHAWREC
John Church	NHS Western Cheshire
Avril Coady	Urban Communities representative
Cllr Brian Crowe	Cheshire Fire Authority
Craig Guildford	Cheshire Constabulary/ Safer Stronger Thematic Group
Steve Jennings	Cheshire Housing Alliance
Ian Jones	ChALC
Chris Koral	North West Development Agency
Arthur Neil	Third Sector Assembly representative
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 / Cheshire Fire & Rescue
Julie Webster	NHS Western Cheshire

Apologies: Alison Armstrong, Helen Bellairs, Chris Brown, Moira Chapman, Emma Clarke, John Denny, Steve Hoy, Alistair Jeffs, Andrew Jones, Sara Mogel, Elaine Parry, Charlie Seward, Jane Staley, Jackie Weaver and Helen Woollacott

Support Staff: Andrea Mageean and Lyn Raynor (*Cheshire West and Chester Council*)

Visitors: Chris Capes, Ian Kirby, Jane Middleton, Helen Pickin and Beverley Wilson (*Cheshire West and Chester Council*)
 Rob Faulkner (*Liverpool PCT*)
 Pat Johnson and Alison Paul (*NHS Western Cheshire*)
 Rebecca Mead (*University of Chester*)

Item No. 1	Welcome, introductions and apologies
	Mike Jones welcomed partners and visitors to the meeting and apologies were noted.
Item No. 2	Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2010 were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Partnership Risk Register</i> – this had been circulated in advance of the meeting for comments and it was noted that any comments would be incorporated via Nicola Samuels (Risk Manager). • <i>Community Cohesion Strategy</i> – this was being taken forward by the Stronger Group (sub-group of the Safer Stronger Communities Group) and would be brought to the October LSP Meeting. • <i>Research Project: local delivery to improve health and reduce inequalities</i> - Rebecca Mead attended to observe the meeting as part of her research project “Exploring local delivery to improve health and reduce inequalities” focusing on West Cheshire. Those present signed consent forms agreeing to take part in the project. • <i>Future of the Cheshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team</i> – to revisit the decision at the previous meeting for the governance of this group to sit within the West Cheshire Safer and Stronger Communities Group. Ongoing discussions still to be had and it was hoped to resolve this at the Thematic Leads meeting in September.
Decision/ Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any comments regarding the Partnership Risk Register to be fed to Andrea Mageean/Nicola Samuels. • Community Cohesion Strategy to be brought to the October LSP meeting. • Future governance arrangements for the Cheshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team to be revisited and resolved at the Thematic Leads meeting in September.
Item No. 3	<p>Statement on recent financial changes</p> <p>A partner finance special ‘Spotlight’ briefing note had been circulated for information as a summary of the latest announcements from central Government on issues of financial interest to partners. This included identified reductions in Area Based Grant coming to West Cheshire 2010/11 and officers were currently reviewing the impact these reductions will have on service delivery. It was noted that the Comprehensive Spending Review announcement was due in October.</p>
Decision/ Action:	N/A
Item No. 4	<p>Local Area Agreement Update</p> <p>Ian Kirby, Senior Performance Manager, presented an updated overview of available outturn performance for the designated and non-designated LAA performance indicators for 2009/10. Data had been collected for 26 of the 34 designated indicators and target attainment showed a fair picture with 15 (58%) of the indicators achieving targets set for 2009/10, 3 (11%) marginally failing to achieve target</p>

	<p>performance; and 8 (31%) failing to achieve. It was reported that a complete set of published data will not be available until February 2011.</p> <p>In the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the current LAA comes to an end on 31st March 2011 and, at present, we are not sure what will replace it and what, if any, requirements there will be from central government on performance management. Whilst there is likely to be a basic suite of benchmarking indicators, it is also probable that we will be encouraged to identify more locally relevant indicators to support the delivery of outcomes in all priority areas. This led neatly to the next agenda item.</p>
Decision/ Action:	<p>The following recommendations in the report were accepted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to review outturn performance and ensure that actions within the delivery plans are appropriate to remedy areas of under or poor performance; • to accept, as the final LAA position for the designated indicators for children and young people’s positive participation and substance misuse, the results reported in 2009/10 outturn that were derived from the TellUs4 survey; and • to identify “good news” stories, linked to improved performance, and to consider the most appropriate means of communicating them more widely, for example through the West Cheshire Together partnerships bulletin and/or the website.
Item No. 5	<p>Sustainable Community Strategy Delivery Plan</p> <p>Andrea Mageean, Partnership Manager, introduced partners to the process by which a Delivery Plan could be developed to achieve the outcomes set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and cover the period when the current LAA comes to an end on 31st March 2011. Using the commitments set out in the SCS as a starting point, work will be undertaken over the coming months with the Thematic Groups and Area Partnership Boards to consider (i) <i>what resource we have available to achieve delivery</i>; (ii) <i>how best to measure progress</i>; and (iii) <i>how to ensure community views and aspirations are embedded through the APBs and Community Forums</i>.</p> <p>Partners felt that this was a positive and constructive step forward. Further work would be required around the 15 SCS outcomes together with the development of a complimentary set of tangible local indicators which could then be built into all our organisations, with resources for delivery linked to this. However, concern was expressed that this was very agency-led and the involvement of the Third Sector, community groups and Local Council representatives would be crucial, particularly around local accountability.</p>
Decision/ Action:	<p>The following recommendations in the report were agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) support the overall approach suggested for the development of an SCS Delivery Plan; (b) support work with the Thematic Partnerships and Area Partnership Boards to identify the performance measures required to support the delivery of the outcomes we are aiming

	<p>to achieve; and</p> <p>(c) support work with Thematic Partnerships and Area Partnership Boards to map and evaluate the alignment of resources to achieve these outcomes.</p> <p>In addition, a fourth recommendation was agreed:-</p> <p>(d) ensure the involvement of local groups in this process to guard against a top-down / organisational led approach and make the best use of existing mechanisms such as Community Forums.</p>
Item No. 6	<p>“Our Community” Survey</p> <p>Beverley Wilson and Helen Pickin from the Council’s Research, Intelligence and Consultation team presented the findings of the “Our Community” survey undertaken during January and February 2010. This was an interim measure as the Place Survey, conducted every two years, was last undertaken in 2008 before local government re-organisation and the LAA needs annual monitoring. The survey helps to track changes in public attitudes on a variety of topics used to monitor the LAA.</p> <p>A random sample of 5,000 local residents were asked about a range of issues affecting their local area and quality of life, with a response rate of 35%. The findings of the survey were used as evidence for a whole raft of future policies, plans and strategies. The survey results have been analysed by topic, by Area Partnership Board as well as by age, gender and there are also “spotlights” such as areas of disadvantage.</p> <p>Partners felt that more needed to be done around addressing negative perceptions which often masked the actual more positive reality of an area or issues. It was also important to repeat the survey to gain comparisons and measure changes. With the removal of the national TellUs and Place Surveys, we would need to decide locally when to repeat the survey.</p>
Decision/ Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration be given as to the most appropriate time to carry out another survey – to revisit issue at the October LSP meeting.
Item No. 7	<p>Five Ways to Wellbeing</p> <p>Pat Johnson, NHS Western Cheshire and Rob Faulkner, NHS Liverpool, introduced work being developed by the New Economics Foundation around the Five Ways to Wellbeing. These are: <i>Connect</i>; <i>Give</i>; <i>Be Active</i>; <i>Take Notice</i>; and <i>Keep Learning</i>. This promotion seeks to raise awareness of the fact that by building these 5 ways into daily routines people could add 7.5 years to their lives.</p> <p>Partners were encouraged to support the work to embed these elements into all our organisational cultures, and thereby influence everyone’s daily routines and lifestyles from 2010 and beyond. It was noted that Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust would also need to be engaged as there were areas of the Northwich and Winsford hinterland covered by this PCT.</p>

Decision/ Action:	Partners endorsed this approach.
Item No. 8	<p>Thematic Partnership Spotlight: “Children’s Trust” and incorporating “Child Poverty Board and Strategy”</p> <p>Jane Middleton, Head of Integrated Strategic Commissioning, gave a progress report on Children’s Trust activity. Most recently this had focused on establishing a multi-agency outcome leads group with the purpose of assessing needs, defining outcomes, agreeing priorities and producing a draft Children’s Plan for consultation. This will be broken down into specific actions/priorities for APBs. Some discussion took place about the removal of the statutory requirement to have Children’s Trusts and the possibility of this function being handled differently, potentially by extending the remit of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board which had similar membership.</p> <p>In addition, progress with the statutory duty for local authorities and named partners to co-operate around arrangements to reduce the effects of Child Poverty was considered. This includes publishing both a Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Child Poverty Strategy. The West Cheshire response has been to establish a Child Poverty Board reporting to the Children’s Trust which will produce a Child Poverty Strategy by April 2011.</p>
Decision/ Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed to give consideration to how to address potential duplication and bureaucracy (the Government recently invited organisations to submit ideas) and revisit at the October LSP meeting.
Item No. 9	<p>Rural Regeneration Strategy</p> <p>Chris Capes, Special Projects Team Manager, reported on a process for driving forward the regeneration of four identified key settlements and areas within the borough – <i>Chester, Ellesmere Port, the Weaver Valley and Rural and Market towns</i>. The Rural area has been selected to focus on development of a Rural Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan which aims to redefine how we work in our rural areas, maximising economic and environmental potential and creating connected and sustainable communities. It was noted there would be a programme of consultation events during September and October to feed into the development of the Strategy.</p> <p>Partners were keen to understand how community engagement would be undertaken in non-parished areas such as Ellesmere Port during development of the Strategy. It was hoped that existing mechanisms such as Area Partnership Boards and Community Forums would be utilised to best effect.</p>
Decision/ Action:	Progress reports to be received at future meetings as appropriate.

Item No. 10	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council Capital Investment Programme</p> <p>Mike Jones outlined the forthcoming process planned for this major consultation on the Council's capital investment priorities for the next ten years and a timetable was circulated. Three consultation phases were planned over the next six months, which began with a stakeholder launch event on 21st July. There would then follow a series of focus groups and specific targeted events in August/September. Finally a more detailed consultation document would be published in October/November, containing early proposals where schemes can be ranked on a scale of one to three. It was noted that the recent Talking Together newspaper, delivered to every household in the borough, contained an insert for residents to complete and give their views on capital investment priorities.</p> <p>There would be a consultation event during phase three specifically for the wider LSP network to consider the more detailed document and proposed schemes – this was likely to be the next LSP Network event scheduled for Thursday 18th November at Winsford Lifestyle Centre.</p>
Decision/ Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners were encouraged to complete the Talking Together insert giving their priorities and asked to note the date for the next LSP Network event.
Item No. 11	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avril Coady reiterated the importance of embedding community engagement and empowerment activity within the risk register. • Chris Rowbottom reported that the Big Lottery Fund had just announced lottery funding of around £1m had been awarded to the areas of Rudheath and Witton in Northwich under its Big Local Trust programme. • John Salt reported the recent appointment of two advocates to work with migrant communities across the borough in conjunction with the Domestic Violence Unit as part of the Migration Impact Fund. • Mike Jones highlighted the huge changes being announced from central Government, the need to digest the regional and local implications and the opportunity to radically change our way of working. Ideas were beginning to be developed around Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) which would replace Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and partners were encouraged to feed in their thoughts/comments as this was a huge opportunity to create something fit for purpose for the area. Similarly, there was a challenge to think more openly regarding organisational budgets and the potential for joint pooling in order to deliver better services for our residents.

Decision/ Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Partners were encouraged to feed in any ideas around developing new ways of working in response to the changing central Government agenda/announcements.
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Details of next meeting: Thursday 28th October 2010, 2.00 – 4.00pm (venue tbc)

Signed (Chair):

Date: