

### **Sustainable Community Strategy**

The new Sustainable Community Strategy for West Cheshire '*Together we can Aim High*' was launched at a partnership event on 27<sup>th</sup> April at the Guildhall in Chester. Around 150 delegates attended to consider current successes and future challenges for partnership working. A particular challenge was presented around health inequalities, with Dr Mike Grady from the national Marmot Review giving a keynote presentation.

### **Comprehensive Area Assessment Update**

Representatives from the Audit Commission presented the initial areas of focus for West Cheshire CAA 2010: these included *concerns about health inequalities widening locally, particularly amongst men; the need to improve the number of people in jobs and the number of people in training; and the need for a reduction in the number of teenage pregnancies.*

### **Partnership Risk Management Strategy and Register**

Partners agreed to adopt a Risk Management Strategy and Policy which sets out how to effectively manage potential opportunities and threats to the achievement of partnership objectives. Consideration was also given to the emerging risk register and action required by all the thematic groups to refine this.

### **Local Area Agreement Update**

Three of the Local Area Agreement targets that have been affected by the economic downturn have been renegotiated with GONW (*NI 153: Working People claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods; NI154: Net additional homes provided; and NI 171: New business registration rate*). 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 (*NI 6: Percentage of people participating in regular volunteering; and NI 35: Building resilience to violent extremism*). 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 *NI 188: Adapting to Climate Change* as a non-designated indicator for 2010/11.

### **Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy**

Dr Tony Sharples 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. Partners endorsed the strategy and suggested the need for a common message across partner organisations to promote the key components.

### **The Future of the Cheshire Drug Action Team**

The Cheshire Drug Action Team is a non statutory partnership between Cheshire West and Chester Council, Cheshire East Council, the Primary Care Trusts, Probation, Prisons, Cheshire Police and the voluntary sector. Its role is to improve and expand the drug treatment system with the goal of getting more drug users into treatment, helping them recover from dependency and

reintegrating them into the community. This is currently delivered as a shared service across Cheshire: it was agreed that this arrangement should continue for 2010-11, with governance being provided by the West Cheshire Safer & Stronger Thematic Partnership.

### **London 2012: Opportunities for West Cheshire**

Clive Richards presented an overview of some of the opportunities for West Cheshire offered by the presence of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London in 2012. A North West regional steering group has been established, supported by a Cheshire and Warrington sub-regional group. This sub-regional group is 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 is currently underway in West 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.

### **Thematic Partnership Spotlight: Business, Enterprise and Culture Thematic Group**

Sara Mogel, Chair of this Group, presented an overview of its recent activities. This included the establishment of a private sector led Business and Enterprise sub-committee whose role is to look at issues for business development across the Borough and provide a challenge back to the Council. The Group is currently using funding received from second homes taxation to support research into the skills gap relating to jobs into the hospitality and care sectors. Consideration is also being given to future jobs and skill requirements for the culture and heritage sectors. The Group is involved in supporting a range of other initiatives such as the 'buy local' campaign.

### **Community Cohesion Strategy**

The Community Cohesion Strategy was presented as a draft partnership plan setting out how we aim to achieve a place where everyone feels comfortable and positive about living and working alongside one another. It has been developed in close consultation with local people and organisations and will be implemented over the next five years. Partners were asked to note progress and send any comments on the document through to Alistair Jeffs ([alistair.jeffs@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:alistair.jeffs@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)).

### **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.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2010 (1.30 – 3.30pm)  
Ellesmere Port Civic Hall

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