



Chester

Area Partnership Board

Chester Area Partnership Board

16th February 2011

CDHT, Centurion House

Chester

Minutes:

Chair: John Denny

Present:

Community & Voluntary Sector:

Cheshire West and Chester BME Network	Linda Lee Parker (Interim representative)
Third Sector Assembly	Carol Berry (Interim representative)
Chester Communities Together	Avril Coady
Chester Inter-Faith Group	Keith Rycroft

Private Sector:

Chester & District Housing Trust	John Denny, Chair
Private Sector representative	Robin Norrie, Affirm 4

Public Sector:

Cheshire West and Chester Council	Charlie Seward
Chester Association of Local Councils	Sue Proctor
Community Forum representative	Cllr Adrian Walmsley, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Community Forum representative	Cllr Reggie Jones, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Chester Renaissance	Rita Waters
Connexions	Chris Mitchell Jimmy Crewe
NHS Western Cheshire	Lydia Orford
Cheshire Police	Insp. Ian Thorp
University of Chester	Paul Kirkbright

Advisors:

Cheshire West and Chester Council	Alison Armstrong, LSP Director Michelle Talgam, Chester Area Manager Janet Gittins, Blacon Neighbourhood Manager Janet Walters, Community Engagement Officer Julia Wilson, Community Engagement Officer Denise Hitchin, Partnerships Support Officer Hazel Job, Property Strategy and Information Jane Williamson, Property Strategy and Information
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Observers:

University of Chester	Rebecca Mead
Chester Association of Local Councils	Jean Evans (Deputy)
Cheshire West and Chester BME Network	Aihau Chan
NHS Western Cheshire	Liz Noakes
Cheshire West and Chester Council	Laurence Ainsworth Fil Prevc
CDHT	Dave Shaw
Chester Renaissance	Peter Webb
RHWL Architects	Martin West,
GVA	Matthew Spilsbury,

Item 1:**Apologies**

Cheshire Police	Insp. Steve Beddows
Job Centre Plus	Debbie Washington and Barbara Johnson
West Cheshire College	Sara Mogel

Item 2 : Minutes and Matters Arising***Summary of discussion***Board meeting held on 14th October, 2010

- Item 5 - Michelle reported that two meetings have been held with the Youth APB in Blacon
- The Delta Centre is much valued by the young people, there is a desire to have a BMX facility and to be able to use the Astro-Turf pitch at the High school after 8pm. She circulated a book produced by the young people about their feelings about the Delta Centre (containing letters, photos and comments) which emphasises what a big impact the closure of the centre would have on the community.
- In particular she advised that young people from Blacon did not find that the city centre was welcoming environment for them – they especially felt unsafe there at night. Some had been to the Winter Wonderland but on the whole it was thought to be pretty expensive for young

<p>people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The June Blacon Community Forum meeting is to be a ‘youth themed’ meeting with workshops. ▪ Item 6 – Michelle informed the Board that the Community Capacity Building Task and Finish Group had met immediately before this APB meeting and had agreed to develop a template to audit the existing community engagement activities of all partners. This work would be a precursor to the development of an annual community engagement strategy for Chester APB. 		
<p>Action Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Template to audit community engagement activities of all partners to be developed</i> • <i>Template to be completed by all board partners and returned for consideration at the May meeting</i> 	<p>Completion Date:</p> <p><i>End of March</i></p> <p><i>End of April</i></p>	<p>By:</p> <p><i>Michelle Talgam, Avril Coady, Carol Berry.</i></p> <p><i>All</i></p>
<p>Decision:</p>	<p><i>Minutes of meeting on 14th October and Special Meeting on Health Inequalities held on 24th November were both approved as a correct and true records</i></p>	

<p>Item 3: Health and Social Care Bill</p>		
<p>Summary of discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liz Noakes explained the national changes which include new duties to local authorities to improve public health, appointing the directors of public health and establishing the Health and Wellbeing Boards. Copies of her slides are on http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/pdf/NHS%20Reforms%20slide%20presentation.pdf ▪ She informed the Board about the consultation on the White paper on the public health system “Healthy Lives, Healthy People” which centres around a life-stage approach rather than tackling individual risk factors in isolation ▪ In response to questions raised Liz advised that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The approach to commissioning from the VCS sector is still under development - Recognition that mental health and illness has impact on other services locally including the Police and that addressing this has been a priority for Chester GPs for a number of years - The local GP consortia will be accountable to the Public Health Consortia Board which will be established and will include GPs and health professionals 		
<p>Action Points:</p> <p><i>Liz to provide a response to the development of the community engagement strategy – see item 2</i></p> <p><i>APB partners to produce a joint response to go forward as</i></p>	<p>Completion Date:</p> <p><i>End of April</i></p> <p><i>8 March</i></p>	<p>By:</p> <p><i>Liz Noakes</i></p> <p><i>All</i></p>

<i>part of the White Paper consultation (John Denny / Michelle to co-ordinate all responses received from the Board)</i>	
Decision:	<i>Board members to provide their views on the White Paper consultation by the end of February</i>

Item 4 : Decentralisation and Localism Bill

Summary of discussion

- Laurence Ainsworth set out the implications of the Localism Bill in terms of community empowerment, measures to strengthen local democracy, reform of the planning system etc.
- He highlighted that it was incumbent on LA's to set the priorities in line with the SCS etc and that the localism agenda was the single biggest driver in public sector organisational change
- It was emphasized that partners and communities needed to work together to make this happen. It was recognised that this would be easier in some communities than others due to community infrastructure and existing networks
- Copies of his slides are on:

<http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/pdf/Localism%20Bill%20slide%20presentation.pdf>

Action Points:	Completion Date:	By:
○ <i>Update on localism / locality working to be brought back on regular basis for partners to be updated.</i>	<i>On-going</i>	<i>Michelle / Laurence Ainsworth</i>

Decision:	<i>Noted</i>
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Item 5 : Housing Reform Bill

Summary of discussion

- Dave Shaw advised the Board on the main points introduced through the bill "Local Decisions: A Fairer Future for Social Housing" including need to make better use of the housing stock, addressing issues of over and under occupation, end of lifetime tenancies and introduction of flexible tenancies.
- Copies of his slides are on:

<http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/pdf/Housing%20Reform%20Bill%20slide%20presentation.pdf>

- In response to questions raised Dave advised that:
 - Succession of tenancies may not longer apply to the same property e.g. in the case death of a carer looking after a vulnerable family member, they may be rehoused in other accommodation
 - Of 16,000 people on the housing waiting list, 50% have v little housing need e.g. not immediate / emergency need
 - If tenants move for work they would potentially lose their lifetime tenancy. This issue of migration for economic reasons and housing impact was a concern for the Board as did not encourage job seeking

Copy of CDHT's response to the Govt consultation provided by Dave is attached



fairer future final
letter.doc

Action Points:	Completion Date:	By:
<i>Dave to share CDHT's response on the consultation paper with the Board – see above</i>	16 Feb	<i>Dave Shaw</i>
<i>Item on CDHT/ CWAC joint working initiatives to be brought to the next meeting</i>	19 May	<i>John Denny</i>
Decision:	<i>Noted</i>	

Item 6: Reshaping the Partnership Landscape

Summary of discussion

- Alison asked the Board to note the changing context within West Cheshire Together and its component partnerships and to consider the impact of these changes on the future role and responsibilities of the APB.
- Alison advised that the Big Society had been re-launched by the PM again this week.
- She informed the Board of the need to demonstrate that we do more for less.
- Through the Big Society, citizens are to be encouraged & empowered to help themselves and to end the culture of dependency on LA / public sector for local services, facilities etc esp. at neighbourhood level
- In additional local agencies will be held to account by citizens
- It is still about improving outcomes for local residents against a back drop of VFM and achieving efficiencies.
- Alison suggested that we need to ask how we can do things better or differently
- She posed the question “What does this mean for partners?”
- With the LSPs changing (i.e. still have an SCS but LAA gone) partnerships are more important than ever
- In relation to the West Cheshire Together LSP, changes are due to take place with its thematic

partnerships for example : will Business Enterprise and Culture be needed now we have the LEP? Will the Health and Well-being thematic partnership morph into the Public Health Board

- Alison outlined the Local Integrated Services approach that is being developed and piloted in Ellesmere Port; the LIS as it is known is locality approach with joined up working by agencies with a single resource budget at neighbourhood level to meet local needs. She also described the locality working approach of Our Place in Ellesmere Port which includes Resident Advisory Panels for each of the 10 neighbourhoods and how this approach is being rolled out to all APB areas
- Alison accentuated eight point model of locality working
 - Identify Neighbourhoods
 - Neighbourhood Plans
 - Local priorities
 - Service reviews
 - Commission service delivery
 - Deliver the service
 - Monitoring delivery
 - Scrutiny
- In response to questions posed she advised the APB that what will make this a success or failure will depend on partners themselves and that the Residents Advisory Panel (RAP) will have a monitoring and scrutiny role with support

Action Points:	Completion Date:	By:
• <i>Ellesmere Port workshop to used to inform Chester APB's approach</i>	<i>End of March</i>	<i>Alison Armstrong</i>
• <i>Alison to bring Ellesmere Port APB LIS governance to next Chester APB meeting</i>	<i>19th May</i>	<i>Alison Armstrong</i>
• <i>Alison's slides to go on WCT website</i>	<i>End of March</i>	<i>Alison Armstrong / Lyn Raynor</i>
Decision:	<i>To give consideration to reshaping Chester APB to ensure it is able to respond effectively to the Localism agenda</i>	

Item 7: One Chester City Plan

Summary of discussion

- Peter Webb introduced this item and outlined that the production of the One City Plan for Chester is to be completed by Summer 2011 and it will set an overall vision (to 2027) and framework for Chester, 'the place, the product and the ambition'. It will be a living document
- The plan responds to the Urban Land Institute findings / criticisms of Chester
- Research is being undertaken to identify issues and problems affecting the city; this research includes desk based and stakeholder consultation
- The intention is that the plan will be owned by the people of Chester and residents need to be involved in its development. To enable this there will be a series of public consultation events (including a shop in the city centre and public meetings / resident group consultations) and 7

<p>potential neighbourhoods / action areas have been identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It recognises that the city has fantastic assets and performance groups. ▪ There is a need to linking the city to the river and address transport issues re gyratory including ensuring the city is walkable ▪ Overall there 58 development opportunities in the city; this includes the new theatre proposal 		
Action Points:	Completion Date:	By:
<i>Consultation events to be shared with the Chester APB as appropriate</i>	<i>On-going</i>	<i>Gemma Easter / Michelle Talgam</i>
Decision:	<i>Noted</i>	

Item 8: Chester Area Action Plan
<p>Summary of discussion</p> <p>a) On-going Projects</p> <p>Respect and Dignity Project update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An update was given and a further report / funding request is to be brought to the next meeting <p>b) New Projects / Bids</p> <p>Proposed Countess of Chester Country Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bid for funding considered and approved (see decisions) ▪ Sue suggested that Upton Parish Council should be involved in development of the Park <p>Faith Sector Audit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Board were asked to recognise the value and work of faith based organisations and faith communities in the delivery of services and provision of welfare and also to encourage greater partnership working and promote further initiatives. <p>Heart Town Proposal – British Heart Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chester has been put forward as one of 50 national Heart City ▪ Likewise Ellesmere Port is seeking to become a Heart Town too ▪ It is a 5 year commitment which is reviewed annually. Some Heart Town have gone for one year agreements that they will extend each year. ▪ Heart Towns will be launched in February and ideally the British Heart Foundation is looking for towns to sign up to this ASAP ▪ The only direct cost to the APB / Council would be in terms of a piece of branding to communicate that Chester had become a Heart City

HomeStart West Cheshire

- Home-Start Vale Royal Scheme and the Home-Start Chester and Ellesmere Port Steering Group merged in December 2010 and have been re-named Home-Start West Cheshire.
- It is the intention of this new scheme to continue to secure funding to sustain the service already built up and to identify and secure new funding to allow expansion – including into the Chester area

Action Points:

Completion Date:

By:

Upton Parish Council to be involved in the proposed Country Park project

ASAP

Michelle Talgam

Board partners to encourage and promote further initiatives and deeper partnership working with faith communities and faith based organisations amongst others to secure wider community benefits

On-going

All

Meeting to be held with BHF to explore requirements to delivery of Heart Town initiative in Chester etc

End of March

Michelle Talgam, David Tai & BHF

Partners should advise the Chester Area Manager if they wish to participate in / support the development of Home Start West Cheshire in the Chester area

End of March

All

Decision:

- *The funding bid of £9927 was approved for the project management costs of the proposed Countess of Chester Country Park*
- *Faith Sector Audit report and findings were noted*
- *It was agreed that Chester should become a one of the national Heart Towns, alongside Ellesmere Port*
- *Creation of HomeStart West Cheshire and expansion of its services to include the Chester area were noted*

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 19th May 2011 from 1.00-3.00 pm, CDHT 's Offices
(Please note revised time)