



## **CHESTER AREA PARTNERSHIP BOARD – September 2011**

### **DEVELOPING & DELIVERING THE AREA ACTION PLAN**

### **FOR 2011 – 13**

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#### **OVERVIEW OF CURRENT ACTIVITY:**

- Chester Area Partnership Board with one sub-group, Chester Community Safety Task Group
- Board developed its first action plan in year 1 and identified three key themes and 13 priorities – the themes are: Investing in Our City, Investing in our Neighbourhoods and Investing in Our Communities
- Board has taken consultative and reflective approach to ad-hoc issues rather than taking an action based / commissioning approach. So functioning more as a mini-LSP than a Locality Board
- Previous budget has been expended on a project by project basis rather than in co-ordinated manner
- Representation on the Area Partnership Board needs to be reviewed in line with priorities, changes arising from elections and the emerging Localism agenda
- Annual Budget of £30,000 provided by Cheshire West and Chester Council as well as in kind contribution – Michelle Talgam, programme management and APB support, administration – Denise Hitchin
- Chaired and supported by John Denny, Chief Exec, Chester and District Housing Trust; CDHT provides a significant in kind contribution through chairing and setting direction of Area Partnership Board, programme and project support and providing free meeting accommodation, refreshments etc for APB Board meetings
- In kind support from Cheshire Police – Inspector Ian Thorp chairs and directs the Chester Community Safety Task Group which is a sub-group of the APB
- Major on-going regeneration projects are Blacon Parade, One City Plan and proposed Countess of Chester Country Park
- Neighbourhood approaches under development – Blacon Asset Management Company, revised Lache Neighbourhood Management Board and potential neighbourhood plans in Huntington & Great Boughton wards and Garden Lane ward being explored

## VERSION 1.3

- Main health and wellbeing initiatives include Chester Heart City (working group in process of being established including Ellesmere Port Heart Town), Community Health Workers and Chester Healthy Living Network
- Regular community Forums held in Upton, Hoole & Newton wards; Blacon; ward; Lache Park ward; Handbridge Park ward, Huntington & Great Boughton wards, and City, Garden Lane & Boughton Hall wards
- Ward walks and problem solving meetings organised by Community Safety Task Group to address neighbourhood based issues around environment and crime

### **LOCALITY WORKING : APB'S TERMS OF REFERENCE**

In establishing the five Area Partnership Boards for Cheshire West and Chester borough the LSP, West Cheshire Together, defined their current terms of reference as follows:-

1. Develop local priorities for the area
2. Develop Area Action Plans
3. Develop and deliver localised projects and initiatives
4. Respond to local priorities and improve outcomes for communities
5. Shape service delivery to meet the needs of residents
6. Commission services to meet priorities through aligned budgets
7. Performance manage the Local Area Agreement targets and National Indicators – *these ceased in June last year.*

### **CONTEXT FOR CHANGE:**

Discussions have been held with partners at the West Cheshire Together LSP and at previous Chester Area Partnership Board meetings about the need to reshape the partnership landscape, in order to respond to national and local priorities around partnership working, public sector spending, service redesign & restructuring and commissioning.

As part of these discussions West Cheshire Together has identified a series of principles to underpin the design of its future partnership arrangements. In particular the principle of having “a robust programme of priorities, identify clear goals for the short, medium and long term and, at least initially, be satisfied with doing a small number of things well” is one to be commended to Chester Area Partnership Board in relation to the development and delivery of its Action Plan.

For each APB, the need to meet the new demands of enhanced community development, capacity building and engagement; neighbourhood planning; service review, re-design, commissioning and delivery; and scrutiny in a way that fits with its local needs and priorities has also be identified.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- a) For the Board to approve the way forward outlined below**
- b) To delegate decision-making to the Chair to progress in order to achieve the timetable for implementation set out below**

**FIVE STEPS TO ACTION:**

**1. Agree three Priority Themes for action:**

Based on an assessment of area profile, area asset management plan and the Board's concerns and proposed direction of travel, the focus will be on following priorities:

- Enhancing health and well-being / reducing health inequalities
- Enabling economic growth through employment support / infrastructure and enterprise communities / capacity building
- Improving the environment and regenerating neighbourhoods (including housing)

These will be in addition to the existing Chester Community Safety Task Group referred to in the overview above.

**2. Establish Priority Theme Action Groups with partners to deliver on the agreed priorities and to develop and deliver on its thematic element of the Chester Area Action Plan:**

Three Action Groups which will report to the APB are to be set up by start of November; each with a lead partner. These are:

- Health and Wellbeing Action Group – Pat Johnson, NHS Western Cheshire (Lead)
- Employment, Enterprise and Capacity Building Action Group – Clare Latham, CWAC (Lead)
- Environment and Regenerating Neighbourhoods Action Group – David Soothill, CDHT (Lead)

NB. These are suggested working titles

*(Please see Appendix A for more detail on each Action Group which will be refined further with partners - subject to APB approval of the approach recommended in this paper)*

## VERSION 1.3

Each Priority Theme Action Group and the Chester Community Safety Group will take the lead for the development and the subsequent delivery of its thematic element of the Chester Area Action Plan

*(Please see Appendix B for a sample action plan template)*

### **3. Resourcing the Area Action Plan:**

#### Financial

£5,000 to be allocated to each proposed of the Action Groups for 2011/12 and £5,000 towards community safety priorities / action plan; £10,000 to be retained at this stage for APB priority initiatives / projects

Resourcing by partners / alignment of budgets to be considered

#### In kind

Co-ordinating the “Virtual Chester Team” through work of the Priority Action Groups and refocusing the APB (see below)

Putting in place more co-ordinated arrangements to ensure all locality officers from all partners are more fully engaged and working together. E.g. working groups, task & finish groups, hot-desking, co-location of staff etc

Support from CDHT with communications (see point 5 below)

### **4. Refocus the APB in line with the Reshaping the Partnership Landscape:**

Revising the APB functions to :-

- a) carry out scrutiny, monitoring, evaluation and review work of the Priority Theme Action Groups and the Community Safety Task Group
- b) develop an enhanced community development / engagement approach and
- c) work towards a commissioning approach.

Revise membership so form follows function

Similarly review frequency of meetings to achieve its revised role and remit

Establish more effective mechanisms for Chester Ward Member to engage in APB processes and ensure closer engagement by ward members in their community leadership capacity for example through a Members Panel, member representation on Action Groups, Member champions etc.

**5. Promote and communicate with residents, members, key decision-makers and partners about the work of the APB and its Priority Theme Action Groups / Sub Groups**

Develop a communications plan linked to the Community Engagement Plan which will potentially include:

- Monthly e-shot from Chair / Area Manager / Action Group lead
- Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Development of pages on West Cheshire Together website
- Neighbourhood meetings and community forums
- APB branding
- Annual Events Programme focused on community and resident engagement

**IMPLEMENTATION TIMESCALE:**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lead</b>
Community Engagement Audit completed	Mid September	CWAC Chester Area Team / partners
Community Engagement Action Plan agreed	29 September	Chester APB
Health and Wellbeing Action Group established	Before end of October	Pat Johnston / Michelle Talgam
Employment, Enterprise and Capacity Building Action Group established	Mid November	Clare Latham / Michelle Talgam
Environment & Regenerating Neighbourhoods Action Group established	End of November	Dave Soothill / Michelle Talgam
First Draft of Area Action Plan produced	End of December	Action Group Leads & Michelle Talgam
Area Action Plan signed off by APB	January 2011	Chester APB

**APPENDIX 1:**

**RESHAPING CHESTER APB - PRIORITY THEME ACTION GROUPS**

Establish the Action Groups, focused on action and delivery, which will contribute towards the achievement of outcomes for each of the APB's priority themes:

**Health and Wellbeing Action Group (Proposed Sub-Group)**

Key issues to address:-

- i) focus our work together to reduce health inequalities in the Chester as identified at LSOA level to lead to lasting health improvement outcomes for Chester residents
- ii) work on key projects and services including events and activities that are in our work programmes e.g. Heart City, Healthy Homes, workplace health
- iii) support the hub and spoke principle of the Healthy Living Centre and its work across the Chester area
- iv) contribute towards producing the Chester Area Action Plan which identifies resources and opportunities for added value
- v) bring together partners from public, private, community and voluntary sector to deliver the above on a monthly basis including the West Cheshire Health Consortium (Chester City locality)
- vi) provide a locality focus to the work of the emerging Health and Wellbeing Board

Partners

PCT - Pat Johnson (Lead Officer); Lydia Orford & Chester Community Health Workers

CWAC – TBC - Michelle Talgam, Chester Area Manager; Jan Walters, Chester Community Engagement Officer; Dora Smith (healthy communities), Mary Corry (sports), Emma Knight (arts and 2012), Julia Hope (health and wellbeing), CDHT - ?

West Cheshire Health Consortium – GP Principal Claire Westmoreland?

Others?

Chester Voluntary Action – Carol Berry

West Cheshire College

Key projects

- Chester Heart City to develop and deliver activities to promote good heart health (5 year initiative) – links to the work of the Heart Town and City Steering Group for Chester and Ellesmere Port
- Healthy Homes
- Workplace Health
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- 2012
- “Conditions” management....AKA resilience building

**Employment, Enterprise and Capacity Building Action Group (Proposed Sub-Group)**

Key issues to address:

- NEET and pre- NEET (at risk)
- Private Sector Engagement and building social conscience perhaps Local Employment Charter model / co-ordinated employer engagement
- Work experience / accredited volunteering for 18-25s
- Skills gaps and future skills needs
- Key skills – attitude as well as aptitude
- Enterprising communities / capacity building

Partners:

- CWAC – Clare Latham Lead Officer
- CDHT
- Job Centre Plus
- West Cheshire College
- Connexions ( representative to specialise in NEET)
- University of Chester
- Chester Voluntary Action
- Chester Renaissance

Possible Projects:

- HEET Centre or equivalent for Chester to address worklessness etc – to be informed by HEET review which is underway
- Work Programme – reaching hard to reach / additional support needs
- Scooter commuter / wheels for work proposal from JCP
- Proposal to extend Blue Sky Initiative to Chester – Ex offenders work scheme
- Business Improvement District proposal for Sealand Road Industrial Estate / Retails Areas
- Local Employment Charter
- Chester Football Club Volunteer Learning Project with CWAC & CDHT
- Promotion of self employment option
- Promotion of Skills Share
- Employment, Learning and Digital Champions

**Environment and Regenerating Neighbourhoods Action Group (Proposed Sub-Group)**

Key issues to address:

- Infrastructure needs
- Sustainable Communities
- Regeneration approach outwith One City Plan area / relationship with One City Plan
- Community based regeneration / management

Partners:

- CDHT – lead partner
- Other RSLs
- University
- Chester Renaissance
- CWAC Michelle Talgam, Chester Area Manager
- CWAC Janet Gittins, Blacon Neighbourhood Manager
- CWAC Jan Walters, Community Engagement Officer
- Groundwork
- PCT

Possible Projects:

- Proposed Country park
- Community Clean ups
- Reuse and Recycle Days / Events
- Neighbourhood planning
- Community management / asset transfers
- BAMCo
- Lache Neighbourhood Management continuation

**Chester Community Safety Task Group (Existing Sub-Group)**

Key issues / objectives to address:

- Reduce violent crime and ASB incidents in Chester Inner
- Ensure appropriate measures are taken to reduce the opportunity for arson on Chester Rows.
- Remove rough sleepers from Chester City Centre by ?
- Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour across Chester
- Improve Road Safety
- Deliver Ward Walks linked to problem solving groups to address cleaner, greener and safer issues

Partners:

- Cheshire Police – Inspector Ian Thorp, Chair; Inspector Steve Beddows
- CWAC Elected Members – Cllr Jill Houlbrook and Cllr Adrian Walmsley
- CWAC –  
Joanne Byrne, Safer Stronger Partnerships Officer – Lead Officer  
Michelle Talgam, Chester Area Manager  
Guy Morris, Team Leader Licensing Processes  
Andy Moulton, Chester Streetscene Team Leader
- Connexions – Karen Cove
- Cheshire Probation – Grenville Millington & Dave Cringle
- Cheshire Fire & Rescue – Dave Warren ?
- CDHT – Julia Nundy
- CATH - Viv Valente
- Chester Renaissance – Roz Munslow and Bob Lelliot
- Turning Point -Andy Cornish

Supported by:

Cheshire West and Chester Council's Community Safety Team via Joanne Byrne

Possible Projects:

- DPPO in place – signage, monitoring and enforcement.
- Provision of public conveniences
- Schemes with voluntary sector partners and faith groups such as Street Pastors
- Key projects arising from ward walks (see above)
- 20's plenty type measures, such as traffic calming measures, residents parking etc
- Target hardening