



Ellesmere Port Area Partnership Board Date 15 th December 2011	Item Nr 2
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Report Heading: Area Managers Update

Purpose of the Report:

To update the Area Partnership Board on key aspects of the neighbourhood delivery plans up to the end of quarter 3. The report focuses on the work the partnership have delivered and information on the projects being planned in the final quarter of the year.

The report also provides an overview on the APB commissioned kick start projects and members are asked to focus on how these projects will influence future budget arrangements and commissioning in 2012/13.

Recommendations:

1. The Area Partnership Board notes the information in the report
2. Identify further areas of co-location of services and resources to continue to support the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plans

This section of the report focuses on the progress against the five themes the Area Partnership Board has adopted to make a difference in Ellesmere Port.

When reviewing the progress against the key priorities it's important to remind ourselves of the vision from the local integrated services submission:

Vision: A 10 year programme that will focus on:

- **reducing Children and Young People's inequalities**

As a consequence

- **will significantly improve public service outcomes in 10 neighbourhoods which make up Ellesmere Port**

Releasing the community and resident potential

The Our Place has been focusing heavily on building the capacity and empowerment skills in the Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAG's) in each of the 10 neighbourhoods. The NAG's are in different stages of development but the re-design of the new governance structures, previously discussed with the APB, will place the NAG at the heart of neighbourhood delivery and service re-design. Whilst it's important to ensure community groups move at their own pace the aim is to have constituted groups by the end of the financial year.

In some neighbourhoods despite a number of approaches to get communities engaged engagement is still at a low level. The Our Place team have piloted a number of different approaches for residents to influence local delivery for example meetings have been held at different times of the day and at weekends to see if any barriers could be removed.

The approach the team is now proposing is to develop a programme of interventions based on local issues raised through Ward Councillor surgeries or through intelligence gained from other agencies.

The key neighbourhoods where we engagement is difficult are:-

- Great Sutton
- Whitby

Member's of the Partnership Board need to consider how, through the work they are doing in Ellesmere Port, they can support the Our Place Team in developing groups in these areas and also contribute to ideas to develop innovative ways using the devolved neighbourhood budget of £2000 to each neighbourhood to add value to existing programmes that will make a difference in these areas and thereby demonstrate to residents their voice and views matter and can deliver change in their community.

Following consultation with the residents of Parklands and Little Sutton both neighbourhoods are now formed into one group and in addition the secondary schools in the area are working with the team to launch a Youth Forum in early 2012.

There has been a range of events, programmes and projects delivered, which include the official launch of Heart Town, the very successful white ribbon event and funding secured to deliver the much praised Winter Warmth campaign commencing w/c 12th December 2011.

In November the APB sponsored the Our Place Conference entitled 'Are we making a difference' which again was very well attended by over 100 delegates. The facilitators have reported residents do now feel the approach being adopted by the

partnership board is making a difference including very positive feedback from all of the neighbourhoods regarding local improvements in service delivery.

The residents were also asked whether the current priorities as identified in the neighbourhood plans were still relevant to their communities, in the main the overarching priorities remain the same and some additional issues were identified which are identified in Appendix A of this report.

The information from this event has influenced the submission EPNAVCO sponsored for the national neighbourhood budget pilot programme.

The refurbishment of Trinity Church is very much underway, with works actually being 3 weeks in advance of contract and also with BASEmoto Park now being fully operational and works commenced on the major re-development of Thornton Road into a much wanted Playbuilders play area.

Focusing on skills and confidence to improve worklessness, employability and culture enterprise:

Worklessness:

The authority has secured European Social Fund (ESF) to assist Complex Families. The Programme has been established by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and will introduce funding of £16million for the Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Warrington region to help tackle barriers to work for families and individuals who experience multiple facets of disadvantage that prevent them entering employment.

The funding will address worklessness, help to improve social inclusion and social mobility and ultimately help alleviate child poverty as the supported families' progress into work. The ESF Complex Families Programme must be aligned with the Local Authorities existing work with families with intergenerational, multiple problems and will provide a continuum of support that will complement and add value to the broader programme of DWP provision including the Work Programme.

On 18 October 2011 it was announced that the Prime Contractor - G4S - were successful in securing the contract package area for the Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Warrington region. This announcement signals the potential investment of £408,000 for Cheshire West and Chester Council to work with our most Troubled Families over the next three years and Ellesmere Port will be a key focus for this funding.

Wellbeing of children 0-5 adopting the Best Start in Life Principles

In September the APB held a special event to discuss the way forward for how services from the council and other public sector agencies can develop an integrated

Joint Needs Assessment Framework to deal with families who leave a chaotic lifestyle that is impacting on the health and well being of their children.

The APB are receiving a separate report to outline the work completed to date and the next steps in terms of developing the pooling of resources and co-design of interventions to reduce duplication and improve the outcomes for families with complex needs.

There is a substantial review taking place around the role of children's centre's including the range of services the community want to see being delivered. Key priorities emerging are around childhood obesity, breastfeeding and supporting single parents.

Reduction in under-age teenage pregnancies

Ellesmere Port now has the Family Nursing Partnership programme in place and this will operate over the next 3 years with a particular focus on reducing teenage pregnancies and improving the parental skills of new mothers and fathers. This is extremely good news as this is a very effective programme with proven success in helping families with complex needs.

Community Safety

Domestic Abuse:

The authority has approved a report that will see the redesign of the domestic abuse service and a working group has been established to develop the specification for how the new service will be delivered. The aim is for the new service to be in place by October 2012.

The service review included; reviewing current working practices; interviewing CWaC and partner service providers; and involving service users. The main findings and recommendations were reported to CMT and actions are now being implemented to improve service provision across Cheshire West, the main actions being:

- To move the domestic abuse family support unit into adults directorate under safeguarding
- A White Ribbon Authority
- Resources secured to continue to fund the gap in service provision until October 2011 for the temporary IDVAs
- A Joint Steering Group will be set up to take the service forward led by the Director of Adult Services and senior officers from the Cheshire Police Force

Our Place held an event on 25th November, White Ribbon Day, in the Civic Square which was a washing line for 588 white tee shirts, each one

representing a reported incident of domestic abuse in Ellesmere Port. The event has been successful in raising the profile of the need to involve 'men as positive role models'.

Anti-social behaviour Unit:

Service Review is very much work in progress, however there is now a dedicated 24 hour telephone number for residents of the Port to report ASB. The Community Safety Wards have increased by 25% which has enabled the wardens to provide cover over the weekends and split shifts in the day when analysis shows spikes in ASB happening.

The Wardens are also the first stage if evaluating the seriousness of the ASB incident and agreeing with the resident the course of action.

Loans, Savings and Debt Advice:

Following a service review into the provision of loans, savings and debt advice, instant access to independent and confidential money services and welfare advice is now available at new shared premises in Ellesmere Port Market.

The review highlighted the need for an improved Credit Union presence in the area that removed the customer confusion of having two Credit Unions and made the services more locally accessible. Additionally, a separate review in 2010 by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the service provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) recommended a number of actions, including the establishment of a 'strategy of joint working in the provision of advice'.

A working group was established to take forward the recommendations, with the result being the 'Advice & Money Link' that opened to customers on 10 October 2011, giving Cheshire's two main Credit Unions a high street presence in Ellesmere Port for the first time.

Currently the Cheshire Neighbourhoods Credit Union has over a 1000 new members however due to financial pressures the union is seeing an increase in defaults on loans. Further measures are being considered such as attachment of earnings.

Other Information:

Community Budgets:

The Community Budget concept was announced during the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review and centred around pooling and aligning central and local funding from a range of agencies around the needs of families with 'multiple problems'.

Ministers believe community budgets will help drive down overhead costs by removing the bureaucratic financial restrictions that created waste and duplication in public spending.

The ethos behind budgets is to redesign and integrate frontline services across organisations, share management functions to reduce running costs for the best local outcomes. Sixteen pilot areas across the country led on this initiative with mixed results. Government is asking for 50 more local authorities to participate in the next round of pilots and require an expression of interest by 9th September.

Cheshire West and Chester and its partners have submitted two expressions of interest:

Borough wide Community Budget Submission around 7 key themes agreed by partners

Neighbourhood Budget, focusing on Ellesmere Port

Officers and partners have attended meetings with DCLG and White Hall Directors on the submissions and in both submissions we are short listed, it is expected the announcements on who will be successful is likely to be towards the end of December 2011.

Community First

Community First consists of a £30m fund and two wards in Ellesmere Port have been allocated over £100,000 for communities to address their own priorities, these are Central Westminster Grange and Rossmore. In order to access the funding two community panels need to be established consisting of no more than 8 people including Ward Members.

If the partnership requires further information please contact Dave Tai Area Partnership Manager david.tai@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Housing Management Contract:

The authority has made the decision to out-source the housing management of the council stock in Ellesmere Port. Following a competitive tendering process there are now two short listed housing associations, and these are Plus Dane Housing Group and Liverpool Mutual Homes.

Whilst their primary focus will be to achieve a 3* housing service over the life of the five year contract the negotiations have included discussion around how they will add value to what the APB is trying to achieve through Local Integrated Services. It is clear that both housing associations have a strong approach to neighbourhood regeneration – the decision on who will be the housing management contractor is

expected in the early part of 2012 with the contract commencement date estimated 1st July 2012.

The contract involves the transfer of all housing staff and the DLO.

Kick start Programme:

Cheshire West and Chester have provided £250,000 to support locality commissioning and direct projects that will make a difference in the 10 neighbourhoods. Appendix C of this report provides an overview of how this element of the Our Place programme is performing. Overall the budget is on target and all partners are reporting positive out-comes for the projects they have been commissioned to deliver.

The key is how these localised projects influence mainstream funding in the future and how partners align their resources to projects that are successful in improving out-comes for local people.

David Tai
Area Partnership Manager
Our Place

Appendices

A – Update on Neighbourhood Activities

B – Update on Neighbourhood Plan Priorities

C – Kick-start Update