



### Local Integrated Services Up-date

This is an up-date on the work so far Cheshire West and Chester, its key partners and community have done to develop an integrated service model linked to commissioning to address local needs and demands. The partners have adopted the Our Place Brand to avoid confusion and create a single team approach to issues

#### Governance:

The model the authority is adopting for governance will operate at three levels, Borough, locality and neighbourhood and will include the following:-

- A reformed Area Partnership Board (APB) with a core membership with the ability to escalate and de-escalate issues for resolution identified by the community through the neighbourhood action groups and neighbourhood plans
- A newly established APB Strategy and Commissioning Board that is multi-agency
- The Local authority is proposing to centralise commissioning, procurement and strategy development to reduce duplication and achieve better value for money across its directorates
- A 'Member Led' Scrutiny forum for the locality and Borough
- Neighbourhood Action Groups and neighbourhood plans

#### Service Scope

The scope of the LIS is based on four service areas with a focus on improving the outcomes, addressing gaps in provision and creating efficiencies by using existing staff and resources to create a tailored service to address the needs of the Ellesmere Port residents:

- **Children and Young People** is restructuring to a locality model using the principles of best start in life and addressing the key findings from the recent Frank Field Report on Child Poverty and the recommendations from the Munro report.
- **Worklessness:** The authority along with partners has developed the HHEET Model, (Housing, Health, Employment, Enterprise and Training). This is a multi-agency approach to addressing the barriers community face in improving their economic circumstances and the impact of the Welfare Reform Bill. The approach has recently won a national award for the contribution to employment development in local communities from the National Journal of Neighbourhood Renewal.
- **Community Safety:** redesigning services around Anti-social behaviour, Domestic Abuse and Illegal money lending – CW&C has the fastest growing Credit Union with over 700 members since starting in June 2010 and a newly formed holistic Domestic Abuse Team
- **Teenage Pregnancies:** aim of improving aspiration and reducing second time pregnancies using a newly health and wellbeing framework supported by the Education, PCT and the GP Consortium

**Financing LIS:** The authority has allocated £250,000 to the APB who are now in the process of commissioning projects/programmes linked to neighbourhood plans.

**Communities in Control:** By July 2011 the aim is to have 10 neighbourhood action groups all up and running and the APB have allocated £2000 per neighbourhood to enable them to influence and develop their own approaches for their community

**Out-comes:** Reduce health and economic inequalities and create 15% efficiencies to enable re-investment in those services that will make the difference

**Barriers to Delivery:** Political power shift across the authority, financial constraints linked to procurement and embryonic community groups meeting the authority's financial regulations and affordable child care for single parents accessing employment.

## **The role of Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations involved in LIS**

The previous Ellesmere Port Town Council did not have a focus on community empowerment but since LGR and the establishment of Cheshire West and Chester there is a commitment to encourage communities to become more self sufficient and take control rather than waiting for the authority to respond.

There are three key groups involved in LIS, these are, Ellesmere Port Voluntary and Community Organisations (EPVCO), the Faith Sector and grass roots community groups.

The main partner is EPVCO who have been commissioned by the authority to work with the Our Place Team to establish constituted groups in each of the 10 neighbourhoods, provide training and create opportunities for communities to meet with organisations who can make a difference in their community. There is also a big emphasis on volunteering and mentoring and engaging young people in a range of activities to reduce ASB and encourage social responsibility in their neighbourhood.

The Faith Group delivers a range of programmes, from Street Pastors engaging young people to reduce binge drinking and encourage community based projects. They also provide money management training and the authority has recently invested £200,000 (matched with funding raised by the faith group of £600,000) to develop a multi-functional community facility addressing affordable childcare, healthy eating, mentoring for young mothers, accessing training and employment and intergenerational projects.

These organisations are members of the Area Partnership Board and have been integral in supporting the Our Place team in developing the 10 neighbourhood action groups.

The 10 neighbourhoods groups are at varying degrees of development but the Stanney Community Forum, Rossmore Resident Groups and Westminster Residents Groups have taken forward Environmental Action Plans that has reduce fly tipping, graffiti in their neighbourhoods, took control of play builder resources to establish a multi- centre sports and community play area, established a Talking Food Programme aiming to open up a co-operative food shop in one of the most deprived communities in the Port. Influenced investment in their estates from main stream resources to address fencing and create estate signage.

Each ward member has a £10k budget which they have discretion to allocate that can address issues in their Ward or complement activities in the Neighbourhood Plans. The Ward Members and the community along with key partners are involved in a programme of Neighbourhood Inspections who then hold the authority and partners to account on the issues identified through the inspection.

The Area Partnership Board has allocated £2000 to each neighbourhood action group, included in this figure is £250 community chest. In July EPVCO is hosting a working group of residents coming together to establish a commissioning framework for the £2000 and parameters for allocating the community chest resources. The allocation of resources will be paid directly to those organisations that are constituted and have a bank account. A number of residents have been trained in participatory appraisals to identify local issues and then come up solutions and use their resources to fix the problem or as an incentive to attract other sources of funding.

The groups are not yet at a stage to co-design services or have the confidence to take on delivery of services, but this is the aim of the authority and therefore a lot of work is being focused on building the skills within the 10 neighbourhood groups. However in each of the service reviews the community and services users have been involved in redesigning the service improvements.