

West Cheshire Together

Working in partnership for local people

Report title	Risk Management arrangements for the LSP
Description	Proposed risk management strategy and first cut risk register for the West Cheshire Together LSP together with a report recommending how the register will be progressed and managed in the future.
Document purpose	To consider and adopt the Risk Management Strategy. To discuss and comment upon the content of the risk register. To consider the recommendations as to how the register will be refined and managed.
Circulation list	West Cheshire Together LSP
Decision/Action required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Thematic Groups are asked to develop the risk registers, incorporating assigned actions, by the end of June 2010 (ii) Discuss and comment upon the content of the first cut LSP Risk Register (iii) Thematic Leads Group is asked to refine the content of the LSP Risk Register with scores and actions for consideration at the July meeting. (iv) The Risk Management Strategy and Policy is adopted.
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Target audience	West Cheshire Together LSP
Cross reference	

Report narrative

1. Introduction

On 25th February 2010 the LSP Steering Group agreed that a Partnership Risk Register and framework for managing the risks needs to be considered at the April meeting. It was agreed that the partners Risk Managers would work with the individual Thematic Groups to develop

this register and establish a practical process for managing the risks. This report outlines the progress that has been made to date and recommends the next stage in its development.

2. Progress to date

Risks were identified as part of the process for preparing delivery plans but these tended to be operational risks that affected the specific area of activity and what was missing was a process to manage the more strategic risks that would impact on the whole of the partnership.

The work was approached in three strands:

- (i) Work with the Thematic Partnerships to develop Risk Registers and a process for managing those risks.
- (ii) Prepare a first cut West Cheshire Together Partnership Risk Register for consideration by the LSP Steering Group.
- (iii) Develop a Risk Management Strategy for the LSP to adopt.

(i) Thematic Partnership Risk Registers

The Thematic Partnership Risk Registers include the strategic risks that impact on the objectives of that partnership. Some risks may have a significant impact on the whole LSP and therefore would elevate up to the Partnership Risk Register

A Risk Manager from one of the partner organisations has been assigned to each Thematic Partnership to provide advice and support to the risk process. Work on all of these risk registers has commenced and each one is at a different stage of development.

Children & YP - Nicola Samuels & Helen Turner (CWaC Council)
Safer and Stronger - Malcolm Gerry (Cheshire Police)
Health and Wellbeing - Andy Meadows (West Cheshire PCT)
Business Enterprise & Culture - Virginia Peet (JobCentre Plus)
Environment - Nicola Samuels & Helen Turner (CWaC Council)

The majority of groups have undertaken the initial identification and evaluation of risks but further work is required to identify risk owners and actions to mitigate. Wherever possible this has been carried out in the Thematic meetings but if this proved impractical it has initially been carried out with one of the key partners and will be debated at the next meeting.

It is recommended that continued effort is put in by the Thematic Groups and the risk managers get risk registers with actions in place by the next LSP meeting in July.

(ii) West Cheshire Together Partnership Risk Register

This register includes strategic risks that have an impact on the whole partnership objectives either because of the significant impact or the fact that they feature across a number of Thematic Partnerships.

An initial analysis of the delivery plan risks was undertaken to establish whether this would be a good starting point for the register, however, most of these risks proved to be very operational and specific to certain areas.

It was decided that a more appropriate starting point would be to take the risks identified by the Thematic Partnerships as needing to elevate up to the higher level. This has been carried out by four of the five Thematic Groups. A copy of this risk register is provided at **Appendix 1**.

It is recommended that the LSP consider the content of the first cut risk register and provide any comments.

To date it has been very much a bottom up approach so to complement this, a top down exercise also needs to be undertaken to identify risks for the whole partnership. All the risks will need to be scored and assigned to risk owners to identify actions and timescales to complete. These actions must be monitored and reported on to ensure the risks are being mitigated and no further work is required.

A risk would be assigned to a partner organisation to take responsibility for managing it, or co-ordinating actions across a number of organisations and reporting on progress. They would then feature on the risk registers of the individual organisations.

As the LSP is a very large group an exercise to identify and evaluate risks would require a specific workshop to try and get some agreement as to what the risks were and how they should be scored. An alternative approach would be to ask a smaller number of people to perform this exercise and make recommendations for the LSP to consider.

It is recommended that this exercise is undertaken by the Thematic Leads Group on behalf of the LSP with a view to bringing a revised version back to the next meeting.

(iii) Risk Management Strategy

A Risk Management Strategy and Policy has been developed for the West Cheshire Together LSP and is attached at **Appendix 2** for consideration. A draft was produced as a starting point but throughout the process it has been amended to reflect how things operate on a practical level.

The strategy includes a diagrammatic framework at Appendix A, roles and responsibilities at Appendix B, an explanation of the overall process at Appendix C and a detailed methodology (how to complete the risk register) at Appendix D.

It is recommended that the Risk Management Strategy and Policy is adopted.

3. Conclusion

Progress has been made towards establishing an effective framework for managing risks within the LSP. A strategy has been established and a framework is starting to emerge which is designed to fit in with the processes already established in the partner organisations.

Within this framework the LSP has produced some first cut risk registers which has sparked some interesting debate. However, there is still some way to go in order to get the documents fully operational and adding value to decision making. The risk registers at both the LSP level and the Thematic Partnership level need refining ensuring all the risks are evaluated and actions identified and assigned. The process will then be one of monitoring and review with risks being elevated as necessary. T

Consideration also needs to be given to the risks managed by the Area Partnership Boards (APB) and how this is incorporated into the process.