

# **West Cheshire Together**

***Working in partnership for local people***

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
**Time:** 2.00pm  
**Venue:** The Guildhall, Chester

**In Attendance:**

Mike Jones - Chair	Leader, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Mike Anderson	Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
Colin Billingsley	Jobcentre Plus
Judith Burbidge	Cheshire Housing Alliance
John Church	NHS Western Cheshire
Avril Coady	Urban Communities Representative
Craig Guildford	Cheshire Constabulary/ Safer Stronger Thematic Group
Andrew Jones	Further Education representative
Paul Knight	Chester and District Housing Trust
Chris Koral	North West Development Agency
Sara Mogel	Business, Enterprise and Culture Partnership
Arthur Neil	Third Sector Assembly representative
Marie Orrell	Cheshire Probation Area
Steve Robinson	Children's Trust
Jane Staley	Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership
Damon Taylor	Cheshire Police Authority
Paul Watts	Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
Julie Webster	Health and Wellbeing Thematic Partnership
Helen Woollacott	Learning and Skills Council

**Apologies:** Helen Bellairs, John Barber, Jon Betts, Mark Cashin, Moira Chapman, Brian Crowe, John Davidson, John Denny, Ricardo Gomez, Steve Jennings, Janet O'Connor, Chris Rowbottom, Phil Royle, John Salt, John Stephens and Jackie Weaver

**Support Staff:** Alistair Jeffs, Alison Armstrong, Andrea Mageean and Lyn Raynor (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

**Visitors:** Val Edmonds and David Wilson (Audit Commission)  
 Liz Weston (UK Border Agency)  
 Jon Amos, Mike Armstrong, Sean Daley and Nicola Samuels (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

Item No. 1	<b>Welcome, introductions and apologies</b>
	Mike Jones welcomed partners to the meeting, in particular Audit Commission colleagues, and apologies were noted.

Item No. 2	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.</b></p> <p>The Chair thanked partners for additional comments made on the re-drafted Sustainable Community Strategy.</p>
Decision:	The minutes of the meeting held on 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2010 were agreed as an accurate record and there were no matters arising.
Action:	n/a
Item No. 3	<p><b>Local Area Agreement – ¾ Year Performance Review</b></p> <p>Mike Armstrong, Senior Performance Manager, gave an update on progress towards achieving LAA delivery targets at the three quarter year stage and the impact this will have on the projected performance reward grant.</p> <p>Based on the Red/Amber/Green (RAG) assessment of performance, four designated indicators and one non-designated indicator delivery plan were assessed as red and partners were asked to support the proposed actions to address this under-performance. In addition, it was noted that the Safer and Stronger Communities Group and the Health and Wellbeing Thematic Group sought to remove two non-designated indicators from the LAA (LAA Priority 35: reported incidents of anti-social behaviour and LAA Priority 47: healthy life expectancy at age 65) and partners were asked to endorse this proposal.</p> <p>In the ensuing discussion, concern was expressed over how specific data was gathered and potential under-counting in relation to NI 163 and NI 164 (proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to Level 2 or higher / Level 3 or higher) and mention was made of re-wording LAA Priority 51 (Enterprise development new social enterprises demonstrating growth after 12 months) to incorporate “supporting existing and new social enterprises”.</p>
Decision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The current implementation status of LAA delivery plans and projected performance reward grant was noted;</li> <li>▪ The proposed actions to address performance issues relating to LAA Priority indicators assessed as Red were approved;</li> <li>▪ Removal of two non-designated indicators from the LAA was endorsed.</li> </ul>
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Performance officers to investigate concerns over data gathering / potential under-counting re. NI 163 and 164.</li> <li>▪ Performance officers to explore re-wording LAA Priority 51.</li> </ul>
Item No. 4	<p><b>Local Area Agreement – 2009/10 Annual Review</b></p> <p>Mike Armstrong also updated on the LAA 2009/10 Annual Review, the last to occur within the lifespan of the current LAA with a specific focus on delivery issues and addressing risks identified by Comprehensive</p>

	<p>Area Assessment.</p> <p>Partners were asked to approve proposed changes to the following designated targets prior to agreement by Cheshire West and Chester Council (via Executive on 10<sup>th</sup> March) and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NI 153: working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods</li> <li>▪ NI 154: net additional homes provided</li> <li>▪ NI 171: new business rate registration</li> </ul>
Decision:	Proposed changes to the designated targets listed above were endorsed.
Action:	n/a
Item No. 5	<p><b>Sustainable Community Strategy – Final Endorsement, Next Steps and Launch</b></p> <p>Andrea Mageean, Partnership Manager, sought LSP endorsement of the final draft SCS document prior to its presentation to Cheshire West and Chester Council that evening. Additional comments from partners around health inequalities and crime and community safety had been incorporated into the final draft.</p> <p>It was noted that the SCS would be publicly launched at the next LSP Network event scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> April and suggestions were sought on the format for this event. Work would commence with Thematic Partnerships on translating the vision and priorities into deliverables for the next 12 months and taking ownership of the 15 cross-cutting commitments.</p> <p>In addition to the full SCS document, it was noted that a more digestible summary SCS document would also be produced in time for the public launch.</p>
Decision:	The final draft SCS document was endorsed.
Action:	n/a
Item No. 6	<p><b>Connecting Communities (Ellesmere Port) – Presentation and Progress Report</b></p> <p>Sean Daley, Ellesmere Port Area Manager, gave a presentation to partners which covered the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ what we think we know about Stanney and what the residents think;</li> <li>▪ why, as a result, a bid was made to include Stanney in the Government’s Connecting Communities programme;</li> <li>▪ the main elements of the successful bid – the recruitment of local community health workers, the establishment of a Residents’</li> </ul>

	<p>Advisory Panel, the development of a Good Neighbour Agreement, the Participatory Budgeting exercise and the worklessness study;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the contribution of the work in Stanney to delivering the LAA and shaping the Total Place approach to tackling child poverty in the town.</li> </ul> <p>This generated much enthusiasm amongst partners who were encouraged at the innovation, though expressed concern at a potential duplication or overlap in services offered and hoped that partnership discussions such as this would help to address this.</p>
Decision:	n/a
Action:	Partners requested an update on this project at the July LSP meeting.
Item No. 7	<p><b>Risk Policy, Strategy and Action Plan – Proposal and Timescales</b></p> <p>Nicola Samuels, Insurance and Risk Manager, outlined the approach and timescales for developing a risk management process for the LSP and Thematic Partnerships.</p> <p>It was noted that Risk Managers had been appointed to each Thematic Partnership and that the risk register would comprise three levels, with some risks being elevated up to LSP level. The next stage was to begin preparatory work on collating individual risk registers for the Thematic Partnerships using the template provided. This would be progressed at the next Thematic Leads meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March.</p>
Decision:	The proposed Risk Management process received LSP approval.
Action:	A first draft risk management framework be presented to the LSP at its April meeting.
Item No. 8	<p><b>Thematic Partnership Spotlight: “West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing” Thematic Group</b></p> <p>Julie Webster, Chair of ‘West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing’ updated partners on recent progress and activity within the thematic partnership, specifically highlighting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</i> – a shared statement on the health and social care needs of people living in West Cheshire which the Council and Primary Care Trust have a legal duty to undertake and which is used to develop and improve services. Partners were encouraged to have a look at this web-based approach and feedback any gaps in data;</li> <li>▪ <i>Health Inequalities</i> – the group was currently working towards developing a “Health Inequalities Action Plan” to address issues raised through Comprehensive Area Assessment around health inequalities which were widening locally. It was noted it would be helpful to capture intelligence and activities from other thematic</li> </ul>

	<p>partnerships which could contribute to this work;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Tobacco Control</i> – the National Tobacco Control Strategy published in February 2010 was highlighted. Partners were also encouraged to sign up to achieving Cheshire Charter status. This was launched in September 2009 and provides a standard for supporting community staff who work in people’s homes. Further details were requested;</li> <li>▪ <i>Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy</i> – a draft document was currently being shared with partners for comment. In addition, much engagement activity was underway during February to understand views relating to alcohol, including the launch of the “Big Drink Debate” which partners were encouraged to promote and take part in.</li> </ul> <p>The “Older People Strategy” was queried and it was confirmed that Helen McCairn, Head of Commissioning, was leading on its development and would be giving an update to the March meeting of the Health &amp; Wellbeing Thematic Partnership.</p> <p>The difficulties of the PCT and Council boundaries not being co-terminus, impacting on the areas of Northwich and Winsford, were highlighted.</p> <p>Mention was also made of the forthcoming employment of a PhD student via the University of Chester for a three year period and further details would be shared with partners.</p>
<p>Decision:</p> <p>Action:</p>	<p>n/a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Further details be circulated on Cheshire Charter status.</li> <li>▪ Further details be circulated on the work to be undertaken by a PhD student via the University of Chester.</li> </ul>
<p>Item No. 9</p>	<p><b>Comprehensive Area Assessment</b></p> <p>David Wilson and Val Edmonds (Audit Commission) gave a brief introduction to the next round of CAA which will focus less on process and more strongly on outcomes and deliverables i.e. what difference we are making? They confirmed that there will still be green and red flags, much dialogue with partners and, where there are areas of concern (usually alerted by poor outcomes and targets not being met) assurances will be sought that partners have the appropriate activities in place to achieve the best they can.</p>
<p>Decision:</p> <p>Action:</p>	<p>Partners noted the focus of the next round of the CAA process.</p> <p>n/a</p>

Item No. 10	<p><b>West Cheshire Immigration Team work</b></p> <p>Liz Weston (Home Office Cheshire Immigration Team Director) gave a brief presentation on the work of local immigration teams. The importance of partnership working in order to share information and increase awareness of local issues was emphasised. Links were made with the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and Liz will make further contact with individual relevant partners.</p>
Decision:	Partners noted the work of the local immigration teams.
Action:	Liz Weston to make further contact with individual relevant partners/ organisations as appropriate.
Item No. 11	<p><b>Economic Recession Action Plan – update</b></p> <p>Due to time constraints this item was not considered.</p>
Decision:	Deferred.
Action:	Update to be provided for the next edition of the Partnerships bulletin.
Item No. 12	<p><b>Future Jobs Fund – update</b></p> <p>Due to time constraints this item was not considered.</p>
Decision:	Deferred.
Action:	Update to be provided for the next edition of the Partnerships bulletin.
	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Community Forums</b> – Governance issue raised by Arthur Neil (Third Sector Assembly representative) would be considered separately with the Chairman as these were a Cheshire West and Chester Council mechanism, therefore ultimately for Council Members’ discussion/decision.</li> <li>▪ <b>Third Sector Assembly update</b> – Due to time constraints, it was agreed that a briefing note giving an update would be circulated after the meeting.</li> </ul>

**Details of next meeting:** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010, 1.30 – 3.30pm, Chester and District Housing Trust Offices, Centurion House, Northgate Street, Chester

Signed (Chair): .....

Date: .....