

## **Winsford and Rural East Area Partnership Board**

**Tuesday 23rd June 2009**

### **Present**

Cathy Boyd –	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Jane Branson –	Central and East Cheshire Primary Care Trust
Judith Burbidge –	Weaver Vale Housing Trust
Councillor Brian Clarke –	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Dr Jonathan Griffiths –	Vale Royal Practice Based Commission Board
Councillor Nick Harris –	CHALC (Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils)
Ewan McHenry –	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Inspector Mark McLoughlin –	Cheshire Police
Sue Milne –	Central & Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust
Lynda Risk –	Associate Director of Contracting, CECPT
Inspector David Snasdell –	Winsford Police Inspector, Cheshire Police
John Stephens –	Cheshire West and Chester Council.
Debbie Washington –	Job Centre Plus
Barry Williams –	Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
Nicky You –	Job Centre Plus (JCP)
Jane Binyon	Cheshire West and Chester Council

Apologies –

Martin Howlett –	Winsford Schools Federation
Wendy Meredith –	Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust
Cllr Keith Musgrave –	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Paul Nichols –	Citizens Advice Bureau
Graham Roberts –	Weaver Vale Housing Trust
Ian West –	Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service

### **1. Chairman**

The meeting was chaired by John Stephens, pending the appointment of a Chairman (see item 4 below).

### **2. Local Area Agreement Priorities in Area (copies attached)**

Cathy Boyd circulated a list of the priorities which had been identified in the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and been allocated to the five Thematic Groups and/or the Area Programme Board.

The LAA contained both strategic and area based priorities, and it was the intention that it should reflect the specific priorities identified within the local area.

Concern was expressed about how few indicators related specifically to children. However, it was pointed out that many of the indicators were inter-related and touched on such issues, directly or indirectly.

Comment was made on lack of reference to alcohol, substance misuse, smoking etc, as important cross-cutting and underlying factors in many of these priority issues.

Cathy Boyd responded that, although alcohol was indeed acknowledged as a major cross-cutting factor, it was not contained within the LAA, and was currently the subject of debate as to how it should be measured, eg domestic violence, crime figures, health indicators ? John Stephens suggested that the issue of alcohol as an underlying factor in many of these indicators could be the subject of a local area working whereby agencies could adopt an additional project at Area Partnership Board level to tackle alcohol misuse both in young people and the wider binge drinking agenda.

The priorities submitted were agreed, subject to Regeneration and Culture priorities for net additional homes provided and number of affordable homes delivered, to be allocated to the APB as well as the thematic group.

### **3. Winsford and Rural East Area Partnership Board – Background and Area Priorities (Presentation attached)**

Ewan McHenry outlined the headline statistics and following priorities which had been identified for the Winsford and Rural East Area –

#### **(1) Children and Young People**

- Activities for Young children
- Underage conception rates
- Educational attainment/ not in education, employment or training)NEET
- Parenting
- First time entrants into criminal justice system

#### **(2) Safer and Stronger Communities**

- Reducing harm caused by drug/alcohol misuse
- Reducing number of first time offenders into criminal justice system
- Promoting community reassurance and confidence
- Reducing number of primary and secondary fires in Winsford

#### **(3) Jobs and Enterprise**

- Worklessness
- Skills Levels
- NEET
- Regeneration

#### (4) Adult Health and Wellbeing

- Obesity
- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Mental Health
- Older People

#### (5) Environmental Sustainability

- Litter
- Public Transport
- Clean and Green
- Energy Consumption
- Maintenance of Footpaths/Highways

John Stephens asked members to what extent they considered the above priorities a true reflection of the issues affecting the Winsford and Rural East. Members were in agreement that the priorities were an accurate reflection of the local situation, and the priorities submitted were agreed.

However, it was pointed out that the majority of the anti-social behaviour and other issues related to a small number of families in only a few specific areas, where there was a generational history of such problems. This sector of the community had the benefit of many support services, but nonetheless continued to be difficult to engage. The behaviour of this minority was having an adverse effect on the statistics for the area, which would not improve significantly unless effective action was taken in this respect.

John Stephens highlighted the need to do something different to address these problems, referring to the '£1m families' approach taken by Knowsley Council, where investment was re-worked and applied in a new way. A dual approach, targeting both individual families and the general population, was needed. It was also stressed that any projects should make a permanent change, so that when an intervention ceased, the benefits did not, and this needed to be built in as interventions were designed.

Reference was made to obesity/healthy eating agenda as an important cross-cutting priority issue affecting both adults and children.

The perceived lack of activities for young people was also highlighted as a factor underpinning many of the above priority issues. Ewan McHenry pointed out that there were, in fact, now plenty of activities available – the question was, were they what was wanted, did the youngsters know about them, and could they be accessed?

The APB went on to discuss how these priorities could be developed into actions/targets with measurable outcomes.

Inspector Dave Snasdell referred to a project run by volunteers in Winsford, providing a boxing club for young people, a valuable service in much need of additional support, and one which addressed many of the priority issues identified for the Winsford and Rural East. He suggested this project as a suitable initiative on which the APB could focus its efforts to develop priority issues and targets into specific actions with measurable outcomes.

Next steps for the APB – to consider how to convert priority issues and targets into specific actions with measurable outcomes that make a permanent and positive difference to the community.

### **Action**

Ewan McHenry to arrange an APB ‘away day’ in August/first week of September, for the purpose of

- Giving further consideration to the development of an Action Plan, by way of the conversion of priority issues and targets into specific actions with measurable outcomes, and
- Delivery of a performance management framework and structure for the five thematic groups.

Lead/co-ordinating roles on the respective thematic groups were agreed as follows –

- Safer and Stronger Communities – Inspector Dave Snasdell
- Environmental Sustainability– Councillor Brian Clarke
- Children and Young People – Councillor Nick Harris
- Adult Health and Wellbeing – Sue Milne
- Jobs and Enterprise – Debbie Washington

### **4. Chairman**

Councillor Brian Clarke agreed to take on the role of Chairman of the APB.

### **5. Date of next meeting**

To be arranged following the ‘Away Day’.