

# **West Cheshire Together**

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

# 2

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009.  
**Time:** 2.00pm  
**Venue:** Darnhall Village Hall, Darnhall, near Winsford.

**Attending:**

Cllr Mike Jones - Chair	Leader, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Steve Robinson	Chief Executive, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Tim Jackson	Cheshire Constabulary
Moira Chapman	Cheshire Police Authority
Steve Jennings	Cheshire Housing Alliance
Arthur Neil	Chair – Third Sector Assembly
John Davidson	Cheshire Probation Service
Stuart Hulse	ChALC
Alison Roylance-White	Chair - Rural West Area Partnership Board and Cheshire Community Action
Jane Staley	Environmental Sustainability Partnership Chair
Ricardo Gomez	Visit Chester and Cheshire
Chris Koral	North West Development Agency
John Barber	Learning and Skills Council
Eric Bowers	CHAWREC
Ann Moore	Children and Young People's Trust - Cheshire West and Chester Council
Mark Wilson	Job Centre Plus
Julie Webster	NHS Western Cheshire
John Reilly	Further Education Colleges
Ian Horton	GONW
Chris Ramsbottom	Chair – Northwich and Rural North Area Partnership Board
John Denny	Chair – Chester Area Partnership Board
Cllr Lynn Riley	Vice Chair – Safer and Stronger Communities Group
John Salt	Chair – Winsford and Rural East Area Partnership Board

**Apologies:** Helen Bellairs, Steve Hoy, Mark Cashin, Tim Wheeler, Jon Betts, Jackie Weaver, Chris Brown and Andrew Jones.

**Support Staff:** Alistair Jeffs and Robbie Taylor (Cheshire West and Chester Council).

**Visitor:** Peter Bulmer (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

Item No. 1	<b>Welcome, introductions and apologies.</b>
	After the Chair had welcomed the Partnership to Darnhall, he thanked Tim Jackson for his contribution to the LSP and as retiring Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Group. Tim has been reassigned after 5 years as West Cheshire BCU Commander to a position within the Force, Uniform Operation Dept. and will be replaced by Craig Guildford from 1 <sup>st</sup> November.
Item No. 2	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.</b></p> <p>Arthur Neil shared two documents concerning the recruitment of a community sector representative to the LSP; the first concerned the principles of representation and the second concerned the process of selection. The appointed representative will be inducted ahead of the next LSP meeting in January 2010.</p> <p>LSP members were reminded of the need to identify their Deputies to the LSP and to advise Robbie Taylor of those names, where not previously named.</p> <p>Partners will shortly receive the technical guidance on using the LSP logo and brand and were asked to approve the use of the respective Thematic Partnerships or Area Partnership Boards names as the strap-line under 'West Cheshire Together' logo.</p> <p>The latest Audit Commission draft evaluation report had been circulated in advance of the meeting, stating the West Cheshire new area had neither 'red', nor 'green' tags as part of the first CAA inspection. Further work will need to be done in improving the housing stock in Ellesmere Port and tackling health inequalities. The Chair thanked all partners for contributing their time, expertise and evidence to respond to the external assessment and how pleased the LSP should be in its achievement within the first 9 months of its existence. This is a significant and excellent result for the new borough.</p> <p>The CAA final results will be published on the 'One Place' website in mid December.</p> <p>Julie Webster advised that the draft West Cheshire Alcohol Strategy was nearly complete and that a period of consultation will commence shortly; the Strategy will be presented to the LSP in January for approval and implementation.</p>
Decision:	The minutes were agreed to be an accurate account of the meeting on Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> July.
Actions:	<p>Third Sector Assembly to advise of the new community sector delegate when selected.</p> <p>The branding protocol was approved and branding guidance and examples will be issued to all Partnerships shortly.</p> <p>Partners will be forwarded the list of LSP members and deputies for</p>

	completion.
Item No. 3	<p><b>Implementation status of the Local Area Agreement delivery plans.</b></p> <p>The latest performance position of the LAA was shared and discussed with the Partnership. Alistair Jeffs advised partners that good progress had been made with improving the quality of the delivery plans and there were no 'red' outcomes identified at the mid-year stage (if there were 'reds', exception reports to the LSP would be triggered). However, data was currently missing for four outcomes and will have a better idea of their status when we can review in January. The local indicator concerning 'alcohol arrest related referrals for treatment' was removed from the Agreement as funding is no longer available to support this outcome.</p> <p>Partners enquired whether the risk and ENIA (Equality Needs Impact Assessment) sections of the delivery plans had been completed yet; It was reported in the July meeting they would be completed during September. Alistair confirmed a risk policy and strategy would be prepared by the Performance Group for the LSP by the next meeting in January and that progress would be made on completing the ENIAs. GONW reported that the annual LAA 'review and refresh' process needed to produce a revised draft Agreement to be submitted to CLG (Dept Communities and Local Government) by the end of January 2010. VCC to review the STEAM local indicator data ahead of January meeting to find more useful data to measure in-year performance.</p>
Decision:	The Partnership accepted the report and the mid-year LAA performance position.
Action:	<p>The alcohol arrest referral local indicator will be removed from the non-designated LAA indicators.</p> <p>Missing performance positions, risk and ENIAs to be completed for each LAA outcome and STEAM indicator to be reviewed; to be reported back at LSP meeting in January.</p> <p>The annual LAA 'Review and Refresh' process will be covered at the next meeting.</p> <p>A risk policy and strategy (or action Plan) is presented to the LSP for approval and adoption at the meeting in January.</p>
Item No. 4	<p><b>Sustainable Community Strategy development: progress report.</b></p> <p>A paper outlining the key consultation material, timescale and process of combining the three major consultation exercises was presented to partners. The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) will be consulted upon with elements of the consultation process to produce a new Local Transport Plan (LTP) and Local Development Framework (LDF) simultaneously. Although, final versions of the LTP and LDF will be published after the SCS.</p> <p>A number of partners commented that the period of consultation appeared</p>

	<p>especially short given the breadth, scale and importance of the policies that it will advise. For example, small parish councils only meet quarterly and would miss the opportunity to become involved. 'Making it local' meant that we need to ensure as much dialogue and input into the consultation is achieved. The three simultaneous consultations will be burdensome for a number of local organisations and partnerships especially in the Third Sector, therefore a clear and concise briefing paper should be circulated along with the consultation documents to support the exercise. However, there was still limited time for partners to shape the consultation documents and it was agreed to have special LSP meeting to agree and approve the results of the consultation in early February 2010.</p>
Decision:	<p>The Partnership agreed to the process of consultation in principle, but requested more time be made available to enable small organisations the time capacity to get involved. The additional time needs to be accounted for in the consultation timetable and partners must be advised of the extra time to comment.</p>
Actions:	<p>Partner organisations send any final comments about the consultation documents to Robbie Taylor on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p>An additional meeting of the LSP is scheduled to discuss the new Sustainable Community Strategy in more detail.</p> <p>LSP partners to extend consultation exercise throughout their own organisations and networks.</p>
Item No. 5	<p><b>Thematic Partnership Spotlight – Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership (ESTP).</b></p> <p>The ESTP has established a steering group and plans to set up a number of working groups whose focus will be on the delivery of the LAA NIs. To date, a working group for Climate Change has been set up and involves a number of statutory partners, delivery organisations (e.g. Energy Projects Plus and Groundwork) and community groups (e.g. 'Sustainable Blacon'). A working group for Waste will be established in the new year. It is envisaged that further working groups will be established once the Sustainable Community Strategy is finalised.</p> <p>The main focus for the ESTP is Climate Change as this is the area in which it feels it can add significant value. To date, progress has been made on a public sector partnership aimed at reducing their carbon emissions, with the work funded through CWEIP.</p> <p>Jane Staley and Peter Bulmer presented on the work to address climate change locally and highlighted the need for all organisations responsibility and need to satisfy themselves they are addressing the issues and making necessary changes to reduce emissions. A research project with the University of Chester is progressing well and will be used to demonstrate predicted changes to the local environment if current emission levels continue along with global warming. The Partnerships next step is engaging the five APBs to help the adaptation to climate change and to implement local</p>

	<p>projects. The Thematic Partnership and APBs need to help each other to gain the right outcomes, although concern was expressed over the clarity of the commissioning of APBs to deliver on behalf of the LSP and Thematic Partnerships. The LSP was asked to support a grassroots £0.5 million bid by Blacon Community Trust bid to become a national low carbon community.</p> <p>Support and advice is available to all partnerships and organisations upon request, to support energy efficiency work already underway and that partners need to identify their climate change officers to the Partnership, in order to support the implementation of local projects. Partners can learn from Cheshire West and Chester Councils 'Statement of Intent' on climate change.</p>
<p>Decision:</p> <p>Action:</p>	<p>West Cheshire Together supports the bid by Blacon Community Trust.</p> <p>Partners agreed to share the contact details of their climate change adaptation officers to ensure the LSP organisations are maximising their opportunities to reduce CO2 emissions.</p> <p>A summary report explaining the 'Statement of Intent' is circulated along with the Statement to LSP members.</p>
<p>Item No. 6</p>	<p><b>Annual Public Health Report.</b></p> <p>The LSP was informed that Wendy Meredith has been seconded to the GONW for a 12 month period and that Julie Webster will be then acting Director of Public Health in the meantime and so introduced the West Cheshire Annual Public Health Report 2009. The report findings are based on the footprint of Cheshire West and Chester Council and residents in parts of the Winsford area still need to engage with CECPCCT for their report.</p> <p>The key findings of the report concentrated on the effects and impact the economic recession has had on local public health and well-being. Following increased numbers of local job-seekers over the last 4 years, increases in local people experiencing mental health problems (e.g. at least 25,000 people experience depression and/or anxiety at any given time) have be found. There are less people consuming fruit and vegetables and renewing gym memberships and more people are consuming tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs. The report identified how the recession had led to increases in the numbers of people experiencing fuel poverty, overcrowding and homelessness.</p> <p>An outline concerning the principles for decision-making was included for 2010. A number of recommendations were made in the report concerning specific responses to the recession and broader issues, most notably:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NHS Western Cheshire and Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council should develop a health and housing strategy which focuses on the quality of accommodation, fitness for purpose, the needs of the homeless and those struggling to pay rent or mortgage.</li> <li>2. Cheshire West and Chester Council should proactively seek elderly and vulnerable people who might be eligible for a range of housing or other benefits.</li> </ol>

	<p>3. There is a need for a central co-ordination role to establish what schemes are running and to identify where there are gaps in service provision. The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) is ideally placed to lead the development of a local strategy in response to the economic downturn.</p> <p>Following the presentation, a number of comments were made by partners on the report, which included a suggestion to raise the profile of domestic violence as a key indicator. A reference to a report by DEFRA on fuel poverty experiences in rural areas may point to older, vulnerable people needing more attention locally. By supporting people experiencing mental health problems to remain in employment: this will help maintain levels of employment and employee continuity for local employers and help make significant savings in sick leave costs and health care. The Third Sector Assembly has a sub-group which looks at domestic violence and mental health problems and would report on their progress at the next meeting; as it may contribute to the Mental Health Strategy under the ownership of the Health and Well-being Thematic Group.</p> <p>Partners found the prioritisation chapter especially helpful as it outlined how communities fed into the analysis: Julie reported that about 1500 local people are involved as local consultants with the PCT (coordinated by Cheshire Community Voice). Finally, a couple of questions were raised concerning the introduction of the 'Green Doctor' scheme which operates in Cheshire East by CECPT and how more self-help and reliance can be fostered through SP (Supporting People) services, NHS Western Cheshire picks up SP services through the Health and Well-being Partnership.</p>
<p>Decision:</p> <p>Action:</p>	<p>The report was received by the LSP and its content approved.</p> <p>The report recommendations to be implemented by the LSP and its various groups and partnerships.</p> <p>The Third Sector Assembly report on the work of its specialist sub-groups and their contributions to the outcomes of the Thematic Partnerships, especially health and well-being.</p>
<p>Item No. 7</p>	<p><b>Tobacco Alliance Control Report.</b></p> <p>Julie Webster reported that a good start had been made with the new Alliance, but there was room for a number of additional organisations to join the Alliance. All Partners are needed to implement the Action Plan and some organisations had responded already with their contributing activities. Similarly, more agencies need to take up and participate in the Charter programme to ensure its implementation is balanced throughout home-visiting sectors.</p> <p>There is a significant amendment concerning legislation passing through the House of Lords at present (the underage sale of tobacco via vending machines in public places) which partners are asked to support. The Partnership also discussed the need to reinforce the links and intelligence sharing between the Alliance and those agencies working on the illegal tobacco trafficking.</p>

Decisions:	Partners to forward examples of their organisations actions to support the delivery of the Action Plan and to sign up to the Charter. Please respond to Alison Paul ( <b>Alison.Paul@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk and Tel: 01244 650430</b> ) by 30 <sup>th</sup> November.
Item No. 8	<p><b>Economic Recession Action Plan.</b></p> <p>The Partnership received a paper outlining the process of developing an Economic Recession Action Plan for the Council’s ‘Credit Crunch’ Committee and as part of the West Cheshire CAA response and how that Action Plan needs to be mainstreamed throughout the LSP framework.</p> <p>Sara Mogel introduced the paper and noted there are a necessary number of caveats concerning the economic information covered in the report, for example job gains and losses are volatile at the present. There are increasing numbers of NEETS, approximately 400 in West Cheshire: which prompts a question of targeting SEETS (Seekers of .....). The report did neither account for the announcement of 250 jobs for ‘Marks and Spencer’, Ellesmere Port, nor for the reprieve for Vauxhalls up to 2013. Sara pointed to the close alignment with a number of the recommendations made in the Annual Public Health report.</p> <p>Much of the content of the Action Plan is very Cheshire West and Chester Council orientated at the moment, though there are examples of partners activities which need to included in the Plan (e.g. from West Cheshire CABx). This is the opportunity for the broader LSP also to contribute to the Plan and to approve and endorse the suggested approach to monitor current activities, so we baseline position to monitor and review as the economy moves away from recession into recovery. The Plan had also been shared with the Business, Enterprise and Culture ‘virtual network’ of over 100 organisations who have supported the approach.</p>
Decision:	The Economic Recession Action Plan was endorsed by the LSP and further contributions to the agreed actions be forwarded to Robbie.
Action:	The LSP to receive quarterly progress reports at future meetings on the implementation of the Action Plan.
Item No. 9	<p><b>‘Hidden Power Report’ and Third Sector Commissioning Conference.</b></p> <p>Arthur Neil briefed the Partnership on a previous piece of local research looking at the size, scope and resources within the local voluntary, community and faith sectors across Cheshire. The study helped to reveal the extent of the sector’s contribution to the local economy in value, numbers of volunteers and hours contributed. It is hoped the Change Up Consortium (Cheshire and Warrington) will undertake a new ‘Hidden Power’ report, to produce baseline information on the Third Sector and its work. The LSP will be kept appraised on future developments.</p> <p>A flyer for a Commissioning Conference was shared with Partners and local public sector organisations were encouraged to attend the forthcoming event from 9.30am, on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at The Venue @ Connexions,</p>

	<p>Rudheath. The event aims to develop greater understanding between sectors on the commissioning process between suppliers and providers of services: the event will be run by the Change Up Consortium. More information can be obtained from <a href="mailto:enquiries@cheshireaction.org.uk">enquiries@cheshireaction.org.uk</a> or call 01244 323602.</p>
Decision:	N/A
Item No. 10	<p><b>Community Cohesion Strategy.</b></p> <p>The Partnership received a short paper outlining a suggested approach for the LSP to develop an implement a Community Cohesion Strategy for West Cheshire. Partners will be engaged in the development of the Strategy throughout the same period of consultation on the SCS, LTP and LDF production before the LSP receives a completed strategy and action plan early in the new year. Much existing good practice will need to be accounted for and included in the production of a draft strategy. Part of the work will be to audit existing practices to develop a high level Community Cohesion Strategy, but with an equally important accompanying action plan to deliver targets.</p> <p>Some partners were keen the draft strategy on community cohesion includes all six equality strands and also urban, white work class communities, who are vulnerable to a number of risks too. This related to news of a successful local bid to the 'Connecting Communities' initiative: an area of Ellesmere Port has been named as one of four national pilot projects. Much of the information about the project was still unavailable and a summary report will be provided to update Partners, in advance of a full agenda item at the next meeting.</p>
Decision:	<p>The LSP endorsed the work programme and agreed to identify any lead officers that LSP members may wish to be closely involved in this activity.</p> <p>An agenda item on the 'Connecting Communities' project is presented at the next meeting of the Partnership in January.</p>
Action:	<p>Contact details of partners wishing to join a development group are sent to Robbie as the first step.</p>
Item No. 11	<p><b>Migrant Impact Fund: quarterly report</b></p> <p>John Salt reported that West Cheshire will receive two advocates to implement the programme locally, which will target legal migrant workers homes and the issues of domestic abuse. A Governance Board has been established to manage the project, complete with terms of reference and news of an interim decision on funding the second year of the project from GONW is expected.</p>
Decision:	N/A
Item No. 12	<p><b>Any other business.</b></p> <p>All Partners are invited to attend the AGM of CHAWREC at 7.00pm on</p>

	<p>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November at the Ellesmere Port Civic Hall: further information from Eric Bowers</p> <p>Partners were reminded of the second LSP Network Conference planned for November 20<sup>th</sup> at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall and encouraged to attend and contribute to the joint consultation on the SCS, LTP and LDF and network with colleagues from across the partnership framework.</p> <p>The Partnership were advised of a couple of recent submissions to the Local Innovation Award scheme and asked to support those applications. The first related to a Council 'Taking Control of Care' application drawing together good practice on direct payments and personal budgets, support for carers and independent living centres. The second application covering some of the partnership projects the Fire and Rescue Service have been involved in recently.</p>
Decision:	N/A

**Details of next meeting:** 2.00pm, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010. venue to be confirmed.

Signed (Chair): .....

Date: .....