

Partnerships West

A regular update on partnership developments in West Cheshire



WELCOME....to this month's news and activity from the West Cheshire Together partnerships framework.

Thursday 5th May saw voting in the **local elections** and, in West Cheshire, the Conservatives were returned to power, though with a substantially reduced majority in the Cheshire West and Chester Council elections.

A total of 113,482 votes were cast (a turnout of 44.7%) in the election, which featured an increase of 22 wards as a result of Boundary Commission changes. A total of 231 candidates contested 75 seats – an increase of three on the former Council structure.

The new constitution of the Council is 42 Conservative, 32 Labour and one Liberal Democrat. Conservatives polled 45.37% of the vote, Labour 36.98% and Liberal Democrats 12.11% of the vote.

In addition, voters were also asked whether the “alternative vote” system should be used in place of the present “first past the post” system. In West Cheshire, 30,322 people said “yes” to the alternative vote system (27.88%) and 78,450 said “no” (72.12%). The turnout was 43.1%. A full breakdown of election results can be found on the Council's website at: <http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=12451>

Following his re-election to Cheshire West & Chester Council (in Tattenhall ward) continuing Chair of West Cheshire Together, Cllr Mike Jones said “*We have invested a lot of time and effort into building partnership working across the West Cheshire public, private, voluntary and community sectors over the past few years, and this has started to produce good outcomes. We now have a solid base for building on this and we are committed to taking forward collaborative activity for the benefit of all our communities*”.

Newly elected Councillors have already begun a series of Member induction sessions and will soon become familiar with the work of the Area Partnership Boards and their role within Community Forums (currently being realigned following Boundary Commission changes) which are important elements of our partnerships framework.

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WEST CHESHIRE TOGETHER L.S.P. STEERING GROUP

The quarterly meeting of the West Cheshire Together LSP Steering Group took place on 14th April. A **briefing note** and the **minutes** of the meeting can be viewed on the West Cheshire Together website at: http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/lsp/lsp_steering_group_14th_april.aspx

For further information, contact Andrea Mageean, Partnership Manager, on 01244 977561 or e-mail: andrea.mageean@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Releasing Community Potential

An important ingredient in successful Locality Working is the full involvement of local communities. Not only do we want them to tell us what their local needs and priorities are but we also need their involvement in making it all happen.



In Ellesmere Port, where Local Integrated Services are being rolled out, a significant amount of work is being done to encourage and support local groups by the Our Place team and the Council's Partnership Manager (Jo Jones) and other partners including:-

Volunteering: Work is ongoing to increase and improve opportunities for local people in Ellesmere Port to volunteer. Ellesmere Port and Neston Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations (EPNAVCO) in partnership with 'Our Place' have been working together to promote local volunteer opportunities and recruit new volunteers. This will be drawn together into a single campaign called 'Making The Difference' to coincide with Volunteers Week at the beginning of June.

Trinity Church: Funding has been provided for the redevelopment of Trinity Methodist Church. The church will become a multi-purpose facility in the centre of Ellesmere Port for the benefit of the whole community. This will provide a community facility in the middle of the town to encourage greater engagement.

Take Part Programme: This programme provided by EPNAVCO is aimed at building the skills, confidence and knowledge of local residents to enable them to play a part in their local communities.

If you would like any more information about any of these initiatives, or would like advice on ways of engaging and involving communities in the work of the Council, please contact Jo Jones on 01244 973129 or Dave Tai on 0151 356 6345.

Volunteer Fairs

Have you ever wanted to volunteer and do something for your community, especially in view of next year's Olympic Games? Volunteering is about giving up your time and in return you get the satisfaction of time and effort well spent. It can be a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and gain useful experience - it can also be fun! The range of opportunities is huge so whatever skills and experience you have, there is something that you can do.

A number of Volunteer Fairs have been organised to showcase local opportunities within Cheshire and Warrington. In West Cheshire, the first took place on 9th May at the Holiday Inn in Chester and the second is scheduled for **Saturday 21st May**, between **10.00am and 12 noon** at the **Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service HQ in Winsford**.

These free events have been organised through the continued hard work of various partners including Cheshire West & Chester Council, other local authorities, Community Service Providers, Volunteer Centres and Sport Cheshire. You are invited to come along and chat to stall holders and local community groups and find out about local opportunities including:-

- *Helping out at a sports club*
- *Helping out at Pre-Olympic and Paralympics training camps*
- *Helping to maintain Cheshire Gardens*
- *Being part of Sport England's 'Sport Maker' programme*
- *Handing out refreshments at large sporting events*



There will also be opportunities available for people who are less interested in sport, but still want to get involved, with organisations such as Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, Cheshire Constabulary and the Volunteer Centres all having stalls. For more information and to register for one of these events, please visit: <http://www.visitchesterandcheshire.co.uk/Embrace-the-Games>

Safer Stronger Event in Blacon

The Blacon area of Chester has been the latest community to experience Chester West & Chester Council's 'Safer Stronger Event' which highlights partnership working within local communities.

The event made benefits to the area by helping to tackle community concerns surrounding vehicles speeding, the Council's Community Safety Wardens alongside Cheshire Police, deployed a speed indicator device that measures the speed of cars and advises drivers if they are travelling above the speed limit. Throughout the event, the DVLA targeted areas alongside local PSCO's Jonathan Hurst and Geraint Jones.

The Impact Week is about listening to the concerns of local residents and then working with partner agencies to achieve positive and long term solutions to the problems identified. The focal day was 27th April and Blacon Community Arts Centre played host to number of agencies including the Credit Union, Chester Healthy Living Centre, Blacon Childrens Centre, Childhood weight management and the Council's Recycling team. Visitors to the event were able to engage with all of these agencies and gather information from each service. They were also treated to fantastic performances from Blacon Youth Theatre group who performed an array of talents from singing to dancing and acting. One performance highlighted the negative impact that anti-social behaviour can have upon a neighbourhood.



Young people were given the opportunity, through 'Catch 22' and Chester & District Housing Trust, to attend MTB pursuits, an outdoor bike track that provides a range of mountain biking experiences.

If you would like to request a Safer Stronger Event in your area, please contact Joanne Byrne on 01244 973941 or e-mail: joanne.byrne@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

New Health & Wellbeing Board: Latest developments

The shadow Health & Wellbeing Board comes into effect in April 2012. In the meantime, a Transition Group has started work in this area. A development session in April looked at the function, roles, responsibilities and governance of the new Health & Wellbeing Board and how it will work on the localism agenda. Its membership, relationships with the Council and other partners including GP Consortia is also being considered.

The Health & Wellbeing Board will be the focal point for the Council's health and wellbeing function and responsible for:

- ⇒ Assessing the health needs of the population and leading the statutory Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- ⇒ Promoting integration and partnership across areas, including through joined up commissioning plans across the NHS, social care and public health
- ⇒ Supporting local voices and the exercise of patient choice
- ⇒ Promoting joined up commissioning of local NHS, social care, and health improvement services and pooled budget arrangements
- ⇒ Leading on local health improvement and prevention activity

A transition programme with key actions has been developed with lead officers identified in accordance to the guidance in the Legal Framework issued by the Government following the consultation on NHS Transformation. The Health & Wellbeing Board was successful in applying to join the network of early implementers. Membership of the network will enable the Board to develop its approach with other local areas, share experiences and learn from each other.

For further information, contact Alison Paul, NHS Western Cheshire, on 01244 650430 or e-mail: alison.paul@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk

New 'Making Every Contact Count' Training Opportunity: Earlier this year, NHS Western Cheshire trained 40 people from 18 different public and voluntary organisations to delivery brief interventions to improve health and wellbeing. In response to demand, further training courses are being held on **20th and 24th June**. These free courses will run from 10.00 am – 4.00 pm and are taking place at **Cheshire View**, Christleton, Chester.

This new initiative, supported by NHS Western Cheshire, aims to build capacity and capability amongst the workforce to deliver brief interventions in relation to a range of concerns, including alcohol, smoking/cannabis use, mental health and wellbeing. A train-the-trainers approach will ensure that front-line staff from a range of partner organisations are confident and competent to deliver brief interventions. Staff will be given the know-how and materials to inform, engage and communicate effectively with service users and the wider public.

NHS Western Cheshire is seeking applications from partner organisations such as Registered Social Landlords, Social Care, Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Housing, Community workers, Third Sector etc. It is important that each applicant has the support of his/her manager and will be able to train their colleagues following the two-day course.

For further information, contact Tony Sharples, NHS Western Cheshire, on 01244 650372. For a booking form, e-mail: Janet.Hope@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk

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Ellesmere Port Lung Cancer Awareness and Early Detection Project: A '**Be Clear On Lung Cancer**' campaign will soon be launched in Ellesmere Port with the aim of making a really positive difference to local people and a big improvement to rates of lung cancer, which are currently far above the national average as many local people work in heavy industry, lots of them smoke and a large proportion live in deprived areas. But another significant factor is the reluctance of many people to go and see Health Care Professionals. We all know that early diagnosis is important and one of the aims of the campaign is to raise awareness of this amongst local people, encouraging them to visit their GP and get their cancer treated whilst still in its early stages.

Much research has been carried out to help identify barriers preventing local people from presenting their symptoms to primary care - and overcoming these barriers is what's driving this community focused approach. Ten Ellesmere Port Community Champions have been recruited and are being trained to give lung cancer information, advice and support to local residents. These Champions have no clinical training but are trusted voices within the community who can reach and reassure 'at risk' groups. From 20th May, marketing activity around the campaign will be launched and the team of Community Champions will be in the area talking to local people and Health Care Professionals.

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Smokefree Homes and Cars programme: This initiative was recently launched with tickets for a family of four to Chester Football Club vs Harrogate Railway Athletic offered to the first 125 families who pledged to 'Take 7 Steps Out' and make their homes smokefree. Over 100 pledges were received via health visitors, Healthy Living Centres, Childrens Centres and Public Health staff. The heartening news was that many families have already made the decision not to smoke in the home or car even if they are smokers not yet ready to quit.

For further information please contact Julie Rogers, Public Health Improvement Lead
Julie.rogers2@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk.

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Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: For the latest stakeholder update, go to:-

http://www.wcheshirepct.nhs.uk/default.asp?page=Joint_Strategic_Needs_Assessment/STAKEHOLDER%20BULLETINS.asp

Latest Infant Feeding & Early Years Nutrition newsletter: For the latest newsletter (Spring 2011) please go to:- http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/strategic_themes/health_and_wellbeing.aspx

'Safeguarding' is the term used to describe how the Council, Police, Health and a range of other partners work together to protect children in our borough from harm.



OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission raised concerns about the standards of practice in place and made 'safeguarding' in West Cheshire the subject of an improvement notice in March this year. Since then, staff and managers within the Council's Children and Young People's Directorate and across partnership agencies have been working with real determination to address the key issues. The implementation of an Improvement Plan is gaining real momentum and below are some of the main headlines:-

- Briefing events have been held with frontline staff to explain the improvement plan;
- Support is being established for newly qualified social workers. A training programme is also being developed and a competency appraisal process introduced, which builds on the corporate appraisal framework;
- A "Back to Basics" four day training programme is now in place for all social workers and managers to assist in child protection planning, evaluation and risk analysis;
- Training is being arranged for Child Protection Conference Chairs to improve Child Protection practice through greater challenge and support across agencies and to ensure more appropriate child protection plans are produced;
- The CWAC Safeguarding Unit is now co-ordinated with the Halton Council Safeguarding Unit and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is now independently chaired by Audrey Williamson, who is also the Chair of the Halton Board. The LSCB, which focuses on child protection where children are at serious risk of harm, was successfully re-launched at a major event on 1st April. A General Practitioner now sits on the Board;
- The Children's Trust Board (CTB) has also been strengthened and was re-launched on 6th April with an independent chair, Moira Swann. The CTB is also a multi-agency Board and its main focus is early intervention and prevention;
- A one year Children and Young People's Plan and Commissioning Framework is being developed;
- The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) has reduced the waiting time for a consultation to 15 weeks in line with national guidance. The aim is to further reduce this to 6 weeks;
- A 'Family Group Conferencing Service' is being established. This aims to identify safe family members with whom a child can live so that they do not have to come into Care. It looks at families safely supporting themselves where this is consistent with the needs of the child;
- A model for the delivery of locality services for Children and Young People is being developed for initial piloting in Ellesmere Port. This will ensure there are clear lines of accountability and linkage to the child protection system while working on the Council's new locality footprint.

For further information, contact Gerald Meehan, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, on 01244 972033 or e-mail: gerald.meehan@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

WELFARE BENEFIT SURGERIES IN CHESTER

Cheshire West & Chester Council will be holding Welfare Benefit Surgeries at the Cheshire Halton & Warrington Race & Equality Centre (CHAWREC) offices at 92 Watergate Street, Chester **every first Wednesday of the month** between 1.00pm and 3.00pm.

The Benefits Team will be offering essential advice and assistance and can also explain about new benefit changes from April 2011 as well as offering help accessing debt, mortgage or employment/training advice. This is a completely free service and is open to all. To book an appointment, please telephone 01244 400730.

Every Man Needs a Shed!

In August 2010 (edition 19) we reported that Age UK Cheshire had received funding from the Big Lottery fund to roll out its **Men In Sheds** (MIS) initiative from its original base in **Hartford** to now include **Chester** and **Ellesmere Port**!

The project came about from senior MIS Co-ordinator, Malcolm Bird, who spotted a gap where older men were joining some activities but not staying for anything more permanent. MIS is aimed at men aged over 55 who would like to meet up - it can be a haven, a meeting place, a learning experience or an opportunity to share skills with others. It can get you out of the house, meet with others and somewhere you can put the world to rights over a cup of tea!



The initiative has grown from 10 members to over 50 now! Locations are the Business Park in Hartford, off Sealand Road in Chester and in Dover Drive (just off Stanney Lane) in Ellesmere Port. Activities include metalwork, mechanics, artwork, gardening/allotments, antique restoration and woodwork.

To make a referral to the project, or just to find out more information, please call Malcolm Bird on 08456 18 28 58.

St George's Day celebrations in Grange Neighbourhood

Residents of the Grange neighbourhood in Ellesmere Port enjoyed a day of festivities to celebrate St George's Day last month. It started with a street parade led by the Sea Cadets Band and Escada Morris Dancers, from the corner of Atherton Road and continued down Regent Street to the field at William Stockton School, where they held a fun day with funfair rides and side stalls.

The event was organised by the Grange Community Group, who are a group of residents who want to improve facilities in their local neighbourhood. They also organised Halloween and Christmas parties last year and started a family club at Flatt Lane Community Centre on 6th May. The Group is being supported by the Our Place Management Team and it is hoped that they will be able to input into services being delivered in the area.



The Grange Family Club will be a way for people to come together and discuss local services, whilst also meeting new people. If you would like more information please contact Collette Linford on 0151 356 6691 or e-mail: collette.linford@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Consultation Reminder

A final reminder that Cheshire West & Chester Council is currently consulting on its **Rural Regeneration and Rural Housing Strategies**. The consultation began on 28th March and runs for 12 weeks until 20th June.

You can access the documents on the Council's website at:-

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news_and_events/council_consultations.aspx
and comments can be submitted to ruralsupport@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

You can also submit your comments in writing to:-

Rural Regeneration, Backford Hall, Chester, CH1 6PZ

For further information, contact Chris Capes, Team Manager – Special Projects, on 01244 973164 or e-mail: christopher.capes@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Team Northwich is currently promoting the Northwich & Rural North website which can be viewed at: www.talkingwestcheshire.org and are requesting information from partners to populate the site.

The team are developing the site so it becomes a community website, providing information and advice relating to all communities and support groups in the area. Partners can place information on the website in the following ways:-

- E-mail: ecomunications@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01244 973635
- Via the "Contact us" section of the website
- Or send any information direct to Team Northwich

There are several sections on the website that you can use for giving communities information:-

- ⇒ Home - hot news for the front page including RSS feeds
- ⇒ My News - anything which may be of interest to communities
- ⇒ Events - any event taking place no matter how big or small
- ⇒ Love to Live - activities and things to do
- ⇒ My Community - what's going on, including meetings
- ⇒ My Services - what your service is doing, you can also place a web link on this page to direct people to your own site
- ⇒ My Councillors - news from local Councillors and Parish Councils. Again you can place a link to your own website, own blog etc.

So now you know what to do and how to do it, let's make the website the hottest information site for Northwich & Rural North! Pass this on and inform everyone you know about the website.

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Highways Surgery: The Council's Area Highways Team, together with the Northwich & Rural North Area Team, held a Highways Surgery at the Tesco Store in Northwich on 14th March. The event was an opportunity to promote the Highways Team and encourage people to report local problems such as potholes, street lights not working and incidents of fly-tipping.

For further information, contact Fiona Dunning, Team Northwich, on 01606 353526.

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Big Fun Day: On Sunday 1st May the second annual Rudheath & Witton Big Fun Day event took place on the Rudheath Community High School playing fields, located behind Rudheath Leisure Centre, between 1pm and 9pm. A variety of activities were provided in order to bring some fun and entertainment to local residents and families across the neighbourhood.



A range of younger children's rides and inflatable activities were provided, with Zorb Balls, rodeo bull activities, live bands and stalls provided to meet older age groups. In addition, food, drinks and ice cream facilities were also available. Entry to the event was free and everyone attending was given free tickets into two prize draws which included £200 cash prizes, gift vouchers, drinks and a new 3DS game console.

Numbers exceeded 700 visitors between the hours of 1pm and 5pm with a further 100 attending the live music session, including local groups such as 'House of Caine', Jess and a 'Take That' and 'Boyzone' tribute band. The weather was hot, but the strong winds kept everyone cool....although it played havoc with stall holders paper work!

The event was a great success and thanks go out to those volunteers who helped on the day and to those partners and key sponsors who helped stage the event.

Rudheath & Witton Neighbourhood Training: Neighbourhood Manager, Steve Newson, has reported slow but steady progress in moving towards their target of 22 community representatives across the neighbourhood, with 16 so far who are keen and enthusiastic about developing and supporting community groups in readiness for adopting a community-owned neighbourhood.

The last two months have seen more focused attention in getting the reps through a series of training modules, two of these being funded from the 2010/11 Second Homes Taxation funding (via the LSP). These two half day modules, facilitated by Tim Moreton Associates, focused on developing skills and understanding of issues around local and central government, how councils work and the role of councillors. They also covered topics of communications, community needs, leadership and empowerment. A third module, focusing upon consultation techniques, was provided by Groundwork Cheshire. They explained the method of participatory appraisal, which the reps will be deploying as part of the Big Lottery consultation campaign, to gather residents views on how the Big Lottery's "Getting People Involved" £1m for Rudheath & Witton should be spent.

A fourth module is imminent and has been organised through Voluntary Action Vale Royal where tips and advice on setting up Social Enterprises will be shared.

If you live in the neighbourhood or are aware of anyone who may be interested in the role of a community representative, please contact Steve Newson, Neighbourhood Manager, on 01606 353536 / 07789032608 or e-mail: steve.newson@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Weaver Vale Housing Trust: Neighbourhood Strolls

Weaver Vale Housing Trust will be conducting neighbourhood strolls throughout the year with the purpose of helping to identify environmental issues which are causing concern e.g. graffiti, rubbish, external repairs and environmental improvement works which have a positive impact on our neighbourhoods. Residents are encouraged to join staff in the strolls to share their knowledge of the estates where they live. Each stroll will begin at 10.00am and will last between 1 and 2 hours. If you would like to take part, the following strolls are due to take place:-

| AREA | DATE | MEETING POINT |
|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Frodsham | Tues 17 th May | Meadow Court, Clifton Crescent |
| Barnton | Thurs 19 th May | British Legion, Meadow Drive |
| Grange | Tues 24 th May | Grange Court |
| Crook Lane | Tues 7 th June | Games area on Esk Road (Willow Wood) |
| Dene | Thurs 9 th June | Dene Drive Garage site, opposite Crossfield Avenue |
| Leftwich | Tues 21 st June | Wakefield Court, Clifton Drive |
| Rudheath | Tues 28 th June | Corner of Cotebrook Road / Malpas Road |
| Over | Tues 5 th July | The Edge, Cheviot Square |
| Wharton Gardens | Tues 12 th July | Entrance to Wharton Gardens |
| Greenfields Park | Tues 9 th Aug | Community House, Finsbury Walk |
| Greenbank | Thurs 11 th Aug | Shops, Greenbank Lane |
| Weaverham Lime | Tues 6 th Sept | Moretons Meade, Walnut Avenue |
| Weaverham Farm | Weds 7 th Sept | Front of Farm Close flats, Farm Road |
| Lostock Gralam | Tues 13 th Sept | Entrance to Park, corner of Townshend & Fryer Road |

For further information, contact Kirk Gannon-Hollis on 01606 813420 or e-mail: kirk.gannon-hollis@wvht.co.uk

Royal Wedding Parties across the borough

Various local community groups across the borough worked hard planning, preparing food, organising entertainment and decorating streets, parks and community halls with bunting to celebrate the recent Royal wedding! Here's just a flavour of one or two.....

No Royal wedding party would be complete without a Prince and Princess and a cake. Chester residents dressed up for fancy dress competitions and in some areas the crowning of a Prince and Princess was part of the day's activities. Games, maypole dancing and face painting along with lots to eat and drink was all part of the entertainment as communities came together to celebrate this special day.

Over in Winsford, a street party for 100 was organised by WINCAP – people of all ages watched the wedding on TV at 11.00am and children made crowns to wear for the party. There was live music from young people who attend BandEdge, as well as from resident music tutor Paul and Full Circle and a disco rounded off the day. Other entertainment included a bouncy castle, sumo wrestling, football, pick a duck from the paddling pool and arts & crafts relating to the Royal wedding.



The Big Lunch: 5th June

The Big Lunch is a very simple idea from the Eden Project. The aim is to get as many of the 61 million people in the UK as possible to get together with their neighbours on one day – this year **Sunday 5th June**. The idea has the main funding of £3.5m over three years from the Big Lottery Fund and has additional support from MasterCard and EDF Energy. Since starting in 2009, thousands of Big Lunches have taken place in all kinds of communities with the best part of a million people getting involved each year. The organisers of The Big Lunch have confirmed that they are expecting a record number to take part in this year's event.

A Big Lunch can be anything from a few neighbours getting together in the garden or on the street, to a full blown party with food, music and decoration that quite literally stops the traffic. Thousands of neighbourhoods in cities, towns and are all saying that they are closer, friendlier places to live thanks to having a Big Lunch.



“From small intimate affairs, to full blown street parties with bouncy castles and hog roasts. Lunches have been held right across the country and our research shows that they really work. People who've taken part feel closer to their neighbours and many find it's just the spark that their community needs to bring people together”.

Tim Smit, Head of the Eden Project

Fancy holding an event in your area? To receive your free Big Lunch Starter Pack, simply register your planned Big Lunch event online at www.thebiglunch.com or alternatively call 0845 850 8181 to speak to one of the team. The pack contains a step-by-step guide to help you get your event off the ground, plus invitations, posters, 'crowd cooking' recipe ideas, stickers and much more.

FEEDBACK.....your views or news

Your comments on this bulletin, or any partnership news you would like to share, should be forwarded to Lyn Brown, Partnership Information Officer, on 01244 972370 or e-mail: lyn.brown@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

What to look forward to in June's Edition 29:-

⇒ **Feedback from the May LSP Network Event**