

Partnerships West

A regular update on partnership developments in West Cheshire



WELCOME....to a combined July / August edition of news and activity from the West Cheshire Together partnerships framework.

We are continuing to review the partnerships framework during this transition period through a small working group comprising partners from West Cheshire Together. This will continue throughout the Autumn and the transitional arrangements currently in place will be fully reviewed in Spring 2012.

In addition, Cheshire West & Chester Council's new Locality Working Scrutiny Committee has chosen to look at Locality Governance – specifically Area Partnership Boards and Community Forums – as one of its key work strands over the coming year. At its first meeting at the end of July, the scope of the review was agreed which is *“to assess the suitability and ‘fitness for purpose’ of current formalised locality governance arrangements against the national context for enhanced locality working and the emerging direction of travel for the borough”*.

It is likely that partners will be invited to give evidence as part of this review and any recommendations from the review will inform the development of a new governance model for locality working across the borough, in line with the national context and local vision and aspirations for the future.

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Funding Opportunity for partners!

West Cheshire Together recently promoted an opportunity for partners to apply for funding to support the delivery of strategic priorities. The Partnership has received £30k from Cheshire West & Chester Council's Second Homes Taxation revenue stream and, at its meeting on 21st July, the LSP agreed the criteria and application process.

The intention is that this funding be used to support a number of **innovative projects** which individually and collectively take forward a range of **strategic priorities**.

The deadline for applications is **5.00pm on Friday 30th September 2011**.

Full details and an application form can be obtained at:-

http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/news/west_cheshire_together_funding.aspx

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



Community Force: Win Money for a Local Project

NatWest is offering three community projects the chance to win awards of £6,000 each as part of its **CommunityForce** initiative. They are keen to hear from local groups and local people who are keen to make a difference in their community or ward.

CommunityForce is more than just financial support, it's about connecting people to projects. Groups can also ask for help in the shape of volunteering time and expertise from local people via the *NatWest* website.

And it will not be *NatWest* deciding the winners, but local people, residents who know the projects and what will most benefit local areas.

If you know a local charity, organisation or group which you think would benefit, please ask them to register at: <http://www.natwest.com/communityforce> **by 4th September**.

For further details, visit the website or contact Krystal Miller, NatWest by e-mail:

RBS.Public.Affairs@rbs.co.uk

Feedback from the West Cheshire Together LSP

The quarterly meeting of the West Cheshire Together LSP Steering Group took place on 21st July at West Cheshire College in Handbridge, Chester. Partners were given a pre-meeting tour of the new Technologies Campus (phase 1 of the College's new £65m 'Building a Difference' project which was completed in March). The Campus provides excellent facilities for delivering the very best in vocational education, training and support.

At the meeting, partners considered the following:-

- The latest on the work of the Cheshire & Warrington **Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)**;
- Approval of a proposal to produce a **Health & Wellbeing Strategy** alongside a light-touch review of the **Sustainable Community Strategy** "*Together we can Aim High*". This will be carried out over the next six months, with the intention of presenting a draft document to the next LSP Network event in November (*date/venue to be arranged*);
- A report on the five projects funded from **Second Homes Taxation funding 2010/11** in advance of agreeing criteria and the process for **allocation of 2011/12 funding** (*see front page*);
- A proposal for a **Community Survey** to be conducted by the Council in the second half of 2011, focusing on public perceptions and satisfaction around public services and quality of life issues. There is an opportunity for partners to fund extensions to the survey into particular neighbourhoods and/or wards;
- An update from the **Stronger Group**, where considerable progress has been made by this task-orientated group who have produced an Action Plan following identification of a series of priorities and are looking to deliver quick wins on 'no cost/low cost' actions (*see article on page 4*);
- An update on the setting up of an **Environmental Commission** which would focus on taking a lower carbon approach to delivering services and activities across the borough. Further information will be reported in the Partnerships Bulletin as this initiative develops.

A **briefing note** and the **minutes** of the LSP meeting can be viewed on the West Cheshire Together website at: http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/lsp/lsp_events/lsp_21st_july_2011.aspx

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

Our wellbeing is affected by a wide range of influences outside of what happens in our health and social care services. The social, economic and environmental fabric of our community helps to determine our sense of wellbeing. Consequently, the benefits of improving health are social and environmental, as well as economic. Creating a sustainable future is entirely compatible with activities to improve wellbeing.

For this reason, the first **Health & Wellbeing Strategy** will be produced jointly by 'West Cheshire Together' as part of its refresh of the **Sustainable Community Strategy** "Together We Can Aim High" and by the new shadow **Health & Wellbeing Board** for Cheshire West & Chester. The huge synergies between the vision for 2026 set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy (launched in 2010) and the six key policy objectives recommended in Sir Michael Marmot's recent review of health inequalities have been used to identify the following eight strategic priorities:-

- *Give every child the best start in life;*
- *Enable all to feel safe and secure and maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives;*
- *Have a thriving and strong economy and create good work for all;*
- *Support all to have a healthy standard of living and strengthen ill health prevention;*
- *Create sustainable places and communities;*
- *Enable older people to lead healthier and fulfilling lives;*
- *Create a strong sense of civic pride in our area; and*
- *Have sustainable public services that are delivered at the right place and the right time.*

A draft document will be available for partners to review and discuss at the next West Cheshire Together Network event in November (*date and time to be confirmed*) and it is hoped that the Strategy will be published in early spring 2012.

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The Health & Wellbeing web pages on the West Cheshire Together website have recently been developed and now include information about the NHS Reforms and the transfer of the Public Health function to the Local Authority. The web pages will be used to keep partners up to date with the development of the shadow Health & Wellbeing Board and news from the local Public Health Team in Western Cheshire.

http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/strategic_themes/health_and_wellbeing.aspx

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The fourth edition of the **Early Years Infant Feeding & Nutrition Newsletter** has recently been issued and is available at:-

http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/strategic_themes/health_and_wellbeing/healthy_weight.aspx

In this issue, you will find national research findings which include early results from the 2010 Infant Feeding Survey and the latest physical activity guidelines for early years.

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Coming soon.....The Annual Public Health Report 2011: an independent assessment of the health needs and issues of the local population. This year the report is in two parts:-

- **Part One:** looks at health and wellbeing across the localities, focussing on the five Area Partnership Board areas and highlighting the challenges that people in different areas face and celebrating the successes; and
- **Part Two:** will be in the form of a technical report for commissioners and decision makers, providing a summary of avoidable and preventable deaths within West Cheshire.

For further information, contact Claire Wildgoose, NHS Western Cheshire Partnerships Manager, on 01244 650346 or e-mail: Claire.wildgoose@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk

Safer Stronger Thematic Partnership: One of the priorities of the Partnership is around **integrated offender management** and the Reducing Re-offending sub-group has awarded a £70k to Chester & District Housing Trust as start-up costs for a social enterprise aimed at employing ex-offenders. The enterprise will deliver contracts from cleaning and catering to grounds maintenance and will offer offenders six months paid employment with training. Evidence tells us that unemployment is a key trigger for re-offending. The Partnership has also worked with Choice Based Lettings to provide six units of accommodation for offenders with adequate floating support to allow offenders the optimum opportunity to desist from criminal behaviour.

Continuing the pledge to hold **Safer Stronger events** across the borough, a successful event was recently held in the Leftwich area of Northwich (see *article on page 8*).

In further news, Chester became a **“Responsible Drinking Zone”** from 8th August, one of the first in the country. Backed by law as well as Cheshire West & Chester Council and Cheshire Police, it aims to tackle alcohol-related crime in and around the Chester area – the defined boundaries for the blanket coverage are the same as those marked out for the Chester Area Partnership Board.

The Responsible Drinking Zone means that residents, visitors and businesses can rely on Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers and Community Safety Wardens having the power to remove alcohol from people who are causing a nuisance or are suspected of being likely to cause a nuisance whilst drinking alcohol in public. The power will not make it a criminal offence to drink in these designated areas, it will however make it an offence if someone refuses to comply with a request to stop drinking. This enforcement illustrates an innovative approach to challenge alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour instances.

The Responsible Drinking Zone comes after Chester experienced an increase in alcohol-related crime and disorder last year.

Chief Superintendent Craig Guilford, Safer Stronger Thematic Partnership Chairman said: *“The adoption of a Responsible Drinking Zone is a good step forward in eradicating issues in the area caused by alcohol. It enables Officers to remove alcohol if they suspect a nuisance will be caused. The adoption of the power across the area is powerful and provides all officers in Chester with an extra tool for combating alcohol related crime and disorder”.*

Advisory signs throughout the designated zones will inform everyone of their responsibilities to comply with the new order.

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The Stronger Communities Group: Ably chaired by Moira Chapman, this sub-group of the Safer Stronger Thematic Partnership has been making great progress with the Action Plan developed following the Stakeholder event in March 2011. This has focused on ‘no cost/low cost’ actions which make a real difference to community engagement and empowerment across all our communities.

In particular, progress has been made through Chester Voluntary Action in developing a Skill Share project, aiming to promote and strengthen the links between local businesses and the community/voluntary sector to help create more efficient, successful and sustainable organisations. A range of local organisations, including Bank of America and the marketing company Blue Orchid have seconded time to help support activity to assess the needs of local groups and then match them with suitable local professionals. The Group will also be leading on work to launch a celebration event this autumn to recognise local volunteers.

This progress was reported to the West Cheshire Together LSP Steering Group meeting in July where the success of this group was noted and it was agreed to give consideration to how this task orientated approach could be rolled out over other aspects of the partnership working agenda.

For further information, contact Jane Makin, Safer Stronger Partnerships Team Leader, on 01244 973464 or e-mail: jane.makin@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Third Sector Assembly Communications Survey 2011

The Third Sector Assembly (TSA) is an independent voice for all voluntary, community, faith, social enterprises and other not for profit groups and organisations in the Cheshire West & Chester Council area. It represents large and small organisations at the strategic level and is a channel for consultation with national Government, with the Public Sector (nationally and locally) and within the third sector (also nationally and locally).



The TSA also has an important role in ensuring information on policy, practice and service development and delivery on both the national and local level is communicated as widely as possible across the sector and the borough.

The TSA is undertaking a survey to get your views on the information you currently receive from TSA and what sort of information you would like to receive - and how often - in the future. Please still complete the form if you are not on the TSA mailing list or if you get information on the TSA from a local network or via another organisation or route, as this information is also important to us.

Please take a few minutes to complete our survey. It will help us to ensure that we do the best job we can to meet your information needs. You can access the survey at:-
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TSAComsurvey>

Please pass this survey onto any groups and organisations you know of that deliver services or are based in the area so that we can have the widest range of views to ensure the TSA is as responsive as possible to local needs for information.

The closing date for the survey is **Friday 30th September**.

If you have any questions or issues with the survey, or for further information about the TSA, contact Anne Lancaster, TSA Co-ordinator, on 07801 015261 or e-mail:
anne.lancaster@chesterva.org.uk

You Choose – We Listen!

Cheshire West and Chester Council would like to hear your views on the best way to save £38m over the next 3 years. Therefore, as part of the first phase of consultation on its 2012/13 budget, the Council has re-launched *YouChoose*.

YouChoose is an online budget simulator developed by Redbridge Council that has been made available at no cost to all local authorities. It was used by the Council as part of last year's budget consultation and received very positive feedback. In addition to providing the Council with valuable information on residents' priorities, users said that it gave them a better appreciation of the challenges faced by the Council in making savings.

It only takes a few minutes to complete *YouChoose*, which allows you to reduce or increase expenditure on services and see the potential consequences of your decisions. The feedback the Council receives from *YouChoose* will help inform the development of draft budget proposals which will then be published for consultation in the autumn. A number of consultation events are also being planned for the autumn involving a wide range of stakeholders including local residents.

YouChoose will run until **30th September** and can be accessed via the Council's website at:-
www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/budgetconsultation



Residents and community groups who would like to make a difference in their communities or join together to tackle local issues are being encouraged to seek help from Cheshire West & Chester Council's new Innovation Unit.

The virtual unit, which brings together expertise from the Council and its partners, aims to give people advice and information about how to make their idea a reality, breaking down barriers that communities might be facing. People can submit their idea to the Innovation Unit, **which will be launched on 26th September**, via the Council's website (web link will also 'go live' on that date) at: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/innovationunit or by picking up a leaflet from any council venue, library, leisure centre or community centre.

The unit will look into whether the idea submitted could be implemented and, where appropriate, put communities in touch with local experts who can guide them through getting their project off the ground. There are many examples of motivated communities taking the bull by the horns in West Cheshire, especially in Ellesmere Port where 'Our Place' is well established such as:-

- **BASE Moto Park:** Local bike enthusiasts and residents decided that the best way to end anti-social behaviour and illegal riding was to provide a facility for young people to use. The Council provided the land, plus an industrial unit to be used as a membership and enquiry office, first aid and health & safety centre; the BASE team developed an in-school reward scheme and school engagement programme, providing incentives to children who worked well in school – with points to be used on the track, helping to tackle truancy.
- **Mums 2 Mums:** A peer mentoring project which trains young mums to provide support and advice to other young people on teenage pregnancy. The two-year project provides support for younger mums around life skills, running a home on a budget or simply coping with the added pressure of having a child. The hope is that once the mentored mums grow in confidence and skills, they can become mentors themselves.
- **Community Choir:** Giving people aged from 10 to 70 of all singing abilities the chance to grow in confidence and build friendships as they sing as part of a group. There are no auditions, joining fees or subs. The choir is open to absolutely everyone. It provides escapism and removes inter-generational barriers.

The Innovation Unit is confident that there are many people in West Cheshire who have very clear ideas about what is needed to improve life in their area and are motivated enough to mobilise their communities to turn ideas into reality. The Unit will be a source of information and guidance for these people, making sure blockages are removed, bureaucracy avoided and great ideas allowed to flourish.

For further information, contact Ian Kirby, Senior Performance Manager, on 01244 976959 or e-mail ian.kirby@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

MASTERCLASS: "CHANGING BEHAVIOURS – UNDERSTANDING WHAT WORKS?"

(part of the Cheshire & Warrington Collaborative Leadership Programme)

Wednesday 7th September (10.00am – 3.00pm)

The Tytherington Club, Tytherington, Macclesfield

How to achieve more effective and efficient public services through getting people to change their behaviour.

Booking essential! There are some limited places available for this Masterclass which will be allocated on a first come first served basis to those who contact:-

Lyn Brown, Partnership Officer, on 01244 972370 or
e-mail: lyn.brown@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Talking Together: Summer edition "hits the streets"



The summer 2011 edition of **Talking Together** – the partnership newspaper produced by the large public agencies in West Cheshire – was recently published with copies being delivered to every household across the borough.

This, and previous editions, can be viewed on the West Cheshire Together website at: <http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/news.aspx>

Speak Out: The voice of young people

Cheshire Police Authority and Constabulary held a consultation event for their joint children and young people's 'Speak Out Group' in July.

The young people, who came from a broad range of socio-demographic areas, were consulted about policing services and their priorities for policing from a young person's perspective.

Their top priorities for the Police were to:-

- ⇒ Listen to the views of children and young people when forming new policy and working practices, and consult with children and young people, their families and the community;
- ⇒ Make sure the Police know if someone is in danger or vulnerable and protect them;
- ⇒ Make sure that everyone who works for Cheshire Police knows that protecting children is a very important part of everything the Police do;
- ⇒ Help young people who are at the highest risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour or crime;
- ⇒ Make sure that there is support in place for children and young people who are likely to get into trouble to stop them getting involved in crime, or becoming victims;
- ⇒ Work with victims and offenders to get them to talk to each other about crimes that have taken place, so both understand why the criminal did what they did and how much it upset the victim. By learning about this and where crimes are committed, the Police can get to children before they get involved in crime.

Moira Chapman, Cheshire Police Authority's lead Member for children & young people said: *"It is vitally important that we listen and act upon the views of children and young people. Unfortunately, young people are often victims or witnesses of crime and all too often offenders. Whether we are trying to ensure that keep them safe or prevent them from re-offending, the ways in which we involve and treat them now will affect the way policing is delivered long into the future. Therefore, I was delighted to see so many enthusiastic and committed young people who had volunteered to become members of the 'Speak Out' Panel and tell us what they think about policing in Cheshire."*



Now that they have heard what is important to young people, the next stage is to use what they said in decision-making processes and in the actions that the Constabulary takes.

For further information, contact PC Liz Stanton, Safer Schools & Young Persons Officer, on 01606 364565 or e-mail: Elizabeth.Stanton@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

The **Area Partnership Board** held a **Visioning Day** on 7th June in order to become more focused as a group. Thirteen people from eight organisations took part and gave an overview of their history working with the APB and how they saw the Board moving forward. From here the group worked on the vision, with the opportunity to share views on Northwich and the surrounding villages. The result was the following vision for Northwich & Rural North APB:-



Northwich and Rural North
The Hidden Gem of Cheshire
Advancing in History, Life and Opportunity

This event will be built on throughout the year, with more opportunity for APB members to work together outside of the structured APB meetings.

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Marbury event a great success! Cheshire West and Chester LINK, in partnership with Cheshire West & Chester Council, Marbury Park, Roberts Bakery and the Co-operative Store (Northwich branch) held a Family, Fun and Fitness Health event on 26th June at Marbury Park. Over 1,000 people attended and enjoyed a variety of activities including *Orienteering; Healthy Food demonstrations; Buggy Fit; Seed Planting; Leader-led Walking; Arts activities for children; Swimming Gala in the Outdoor Pool; Cycling Projects and Smoothie Bike; and Arts-based Health consultation*. Due to its success, another event is being organised for next year.

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Leftwich Safer Stronger Event: Local residents from the Leftwich area of Northwich were recently involved in a special four day event aimed at addressing localised recognised crime and anti-social behaviour issues. Organised by Cheshire West & Chester Council, the project also involved Cheshire Police, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service and Weaver Vale Housing Trust.

Throughout the week, the DVLA operated within the area, clamping and removing untaxed vehicles. The area also benefited from environmental improvements through the work of Streetscene's 'Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team' and 'Respect Action Programme Team' who effectively removed graffiti from the local play area and replaced a non-functioning bin. Fire & Rescue Service officers completed Home Safety checks at many properties throughout the area, offering fire safety and prevention advice and installing smoke and fire detectors where required.

Local Councillors and Council officers completed a walk throughout the area with residents, discussing the positives and negatives of being a member of Leftwich community and identifying areas for improvement which have been recorded and will be responded to by key partners.

A community event was held at The Emmanuel Church with many partner agencies in attendance including *Carers Federation; Benefits Advice; Connexions; Groundwork; Healthy Living Centre; DAN Arts; Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service and Cheshire Police*. Residents could access an array of localised information on services within their local area. Young people who attended the event were offered free access to interactive road safety gaming devices provided by Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, with DAN Arts providing MC-ing opportunities which could be downloaded directly to mobile phones. In addition, Crimestoppers promoted their anonymous reporting line 0800 555 111 and gave out information through door-to-door visits, supported by local PCSOs and Community Safety Wardens.

For further information on how to bring a similar event to your area, contact Joanne Byrne, Safer Stronger Partnership Officer, on 01244 973941 or e-mail: joanne.byrne@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

For further information on any of the above, contact Mark Simmons, Area Manager, on 01606 353537 or e-mail: mark.simmons@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Huge resident turn-out at recent Community Forum

The 'community power' of a Chester neighbourhood is being harnessed under new rights giving local people more influence to shape development in their area.

More than 300 residents attended *Huntington and Great Boughton Community Forum* on 21st July to hear updates on the Saighton Camp development. Cheshire West & Chester Council is now building on this enthusiasm for local planning issues by inviting residents to become involved in creating a 'Neighbourhood Plan'.

Part of the Government's Localism Bill, Neighbourhood Plans are a vision for an area created by the community and all planning applications must take them into account. The authority is one of 17 nationwide selected to trial the new powers, which are designed to give local people a strong voice in deciding the look and feel of developments.

The Council is working with Local (Town & Parish) Councils across the borough to develop Neighbourhood Plans - and Huntington and Great Boughton could emerge as one of the first. The Community Forum, which was attended by Local Councillors and Stephen Mosley MP, heard from Saighton Camp developer CEG which gained approval for 375 houses on appeal after their planning application was rejected by the Council. The company's representatives gave updates on the development, including the works underway on the A55 'Sainsbury's' roundabout, and responded to residents' questions.

Concerns were raised about the possibility of 500 further homes being built in the future. CEG responded to say that no application had been submitted and assured residents that any plans would be subject to full public consultation.

Local Councillor Mark Williams said: *"I am delighted that so many residents took the opportunity to attend this meeting – the turnout was fantastic. We are keen to build upon this community involvement to develop a Neighbourhood Plan, which can be seen as a real practical example of Localism at work. It will give local people the opportunity to outline their priorities, from determining the location of shops, offices and schools, to setting standards of design for new housing. These are exciting new rights for communities, giving them real power over planning applications and the future development of their neighbourhood"*.

Local residents are being invited to find out more about developing a Neighbourhood Plan at a joint public meeting of the two local Parish Councils, *Great Boughton and Huntington*, on **Monday 19th September** (time and venue to be confirmed).

Supporting paperwork from the Community Forum meeting on 21st July can be viewed at: http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/community_forums/community_forums_list/boughton_huntington_community_forum.aspx

For further information, contact Jan Walters, Community Engagement Officer, on 01244 973225 or e-mail: janet.walters@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Making Recovery Reality in Employment Services

Richmond Fellowship (a registered charity and specialist provider of mental health services) has recently launched a service to help people with mental health problems back into work.

Employment Services support people who have or are recovering from mental health problems and wish to return to paid employment, voluntary work or training.

For more information, contact Colin Allen, Employment Adviser, on 01244 320070 or visit the website at: www.richmondfellowship.org.uk

A new and exciting newspaper has been published for residents and young people of Winsford. **'Talkabout!'** is a new community newspaper providing the people of Winsford with good news stories from the area and an up to date 'what's on guide' for a whole host of positive activities and events in and around the Winsford area.

'Talkabout!' has been developed by WINCAP and volunteers with support from the Winsford & Rural East Area Team and funding from the Winsford & Rural East Area Partnership Board.

Mark Baker, Volunteer Co-ordinator at WINCAP said "We're very proud of the great work put in by all the volunteers who are currently working on the next edition which will be out in October. We want residents of Winsford to be totally involved in this community newspaper so the more positive stories and activities, the better!"

Copies of 'Talkabout!' will be posted on the West Cheshire Together website at:

http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/area_partnership_boards/winsford_and_rural_east_apb.aspx

If you would like to receive a copy of 'Talkabout!', find out more or are interested in getting involved, please contact 01606 551766 or talkabout@wincap.co.uk. You can also visit the newspaper shop at 7 Queen's Parade, Winsford Cross Shopping Centre.

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New Dementia service launched: Local Winsford residents with dementia and carers will benefit from a new Dementia Café at Hazelmere Extra Care Housing, Hambleton Way, Winsford. The café opened on 28th July and the new service will take place on every fourth Thursday from 10.00am to 12noon.

This is the second Dementia Café for the borough, with one already being offered at Hollymere Extra Care Housing, Grosvenor Road, Ellesmere Port, which takes place every fourth Monday from 10.00am to 12 noon.

For more information, contact Carolyn Rowberry, Support Services Manager, on 01244 851351 or e-mail: carolyn.rowberry@alzheimers.org.uk

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GGO Junior Warden Scheme: Greenfields, Glebe and Over (GGO) Junior Warden Scheme celebrated its first meeting on 3rd June at Reaseheath College. It was a chance for wardens to meet each other and learn new skills that will help them work together as a team.

Run by the West Winsford Team (comprising Muir Housing, the Council, Weaver Vale Housing Trust and WINCAP) the scheme consists of around 20 young people aged between 8 and 11 years who meet up once or twice a month to improve their neighbourhood and help the local community. They are now looking forward to an exciting future with lots of activities lined up including street environmental checks, neighbourhood clean ups and a new neighbourhood allotment project.

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Funding for "Dig It": A community kitchen garden, orchard and wildlife area is springing to life after Weaver Vale Housing Trust residents secured £30,000 in a "Dragon's Den" style contest. The "Dig It" team (Design It, Implement It and Grow It) which also includes partner agencies Cheshire West & Chester Council and the Enterprise & Education Alliance, landed £30,000 to establish a large kitchen garden in Greenfields Park with two further kitchen gardens also planned.

The large community kitchen garden on Greenfields Park includes raised planting beds, an orchard for growing and selling organic fruit and vegetables and an area to help nurture wildlife. Planting in the kitchen garden is now well under way and it is hoped the first fruit and vegetables being grown will be ready to sell later this year. To get involved, contact Georgia on 01606 813413.



For further information on any of the above, contact Ewan McHenry, Winsford & Rural East Area Manager, on 01606 288766 or e-mail: ewan.mchenry@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

MBE Congratulations! Dr Shirley Cooke who runs the Swimming Club at the EPIC Leisure Centre in Ellesmere Port has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Shirley has been involved in swimming in the town for over 40 years and still runs the club and assists at school swimming as a volunteer.

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National recognition: Cheshire West & Chester Council was mentioned in a recent speech by Eric Pickles MP (Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government) on Faith and Social Action as showing good practice, saying "Some local authorities recognise the amazing potential of faith groups – giving them grants, or commissioning them to provide services. Places such as Chester, Trafford and Stoke-on-Trent have developed a proper, mature relationship. In other places, Councils are reluctant. They fight shy". The full speech can be viewed at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/faithsocialaction>

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Community Food Worker: NHS Western Cheshire has funded **Mark Gleave** to work two days a month in the Northwich and Winsford areas. Keep an eye out for Mark's blog (coming soon) on the Northwich & Rural North website (address below) where he will be giving advice on healthy eating and menus, as well as information on events and demonstrations on hot healthy eating tips!

http://talkingwestcheshire.org/talking_northwich_and_rural_no.aspx

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Equality & Diversity achievement: Cheshire West & Chester Council has been externally reviewed to understand the progress being made with Equality & Diversity. The Authority set itself the target of reaching the "Achieving" level against the equality framework, which requires evidence of improving outcomes for all our residents and is a status which many established Local Authorities have struggled to achieve. Following a two day visit, the Council **comfortably reached the "Achieving" level** which is great news and provides reassurance that significant progress is being made in the right areas.

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'One City Plan' consultation: In the last edition, we reported on a 12-week consultation on the draft 'One City Plan' - a comprehensive strategy to recreate Chester as a world class city by 2027.

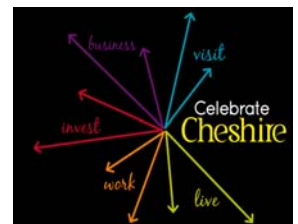
There's still time to get your comments in before the deadline date of **Thursday 8th September**.

To download a copy of the draft OCP, visit the Chester Renaissance website at:-

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/microsites/chester_renaissance/a_changing_city/one_city_plan/next_stage_of_consultation.aspx

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'Celebrate Cheshire' - 16th/17th September: This free two-day event at Chester Racecourse, to be opened by His Royal Highness the Duke of York, will profile and celebrate Cheshire's existing businesses and highlight the many national and international companies who are based or work in Cheshire. Cheshire West & Chester, Cheshire East and Warrington Councils have worked closely with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and private sector partners to market Cheshire as a great place to do business. The event will show potential opportunities for further investment and economic growth as well as showcasing Cheshire's employment and educational opportunities. It will also give an opportunity to 'Celebrate Cheshire' as a great place to work, live, visit and enjoy. For full details, visit the website at: www.celebratecheshire.co.uk



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"Open Public Services" White Paper: Published on 11th July, this White Paper looks at new approaches to delivering public services. It states that opening up public services will give people more control over the public services they receive and open up the delivery of those services to new providers in order to provide people with the best possible services for the money spent. The White Paper can be viewed at:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/open-public-services-white-paper.pdf>

Outstanding work and achievement recognised

Three members of Chester Adult PHAB's committee, **Sarah Jones** (*Treasurer*), **Janette Marsland** (*Secretary*) and **Lynda Hesketh** (*Chairperson*) have been nominated for the Paul Hope Award 2011 in recognition of outstanding work and achievement in fulfilling PHAB's aims. PHAB is a social inclusive club for people with and without disabilities.

The award is presented to person(s) deemed to have excelled in fulfilling PHAB's aim to promote and encourage people of all abilities to come together on equal terms, to achieve complete inclusion within the wider community.

On 16th May, the award was presented at a reception at the House of Lords in London and the recipients had the opportunity to meet PHAB's President, Ed Stewart and Vice President, John Corless OBE.

A great achievement and experience for committee members in recognition of their hard work.

For further information, contact Lynda Hesketh on 01244 678809 or e-mail: lynda.hesketh@sky.com



Quality Councils in West Cheshire

Congratulations to the following Local Councils who have recently been awarded Quality Status:-

- ✓ *Guilden Sutton Parish Council*
- ✓ *Hartford Parish Council*
- ✓ *Huntington Parish Council*

In addition, congratulations to *Antrobus Parish Council* who were recently re-accredited with Quality status (Local Councils are required to re-apply every four years to keep their Quality status).

There are now 11 Local Councils within West Cheshire who are currently accredited with Quality Council status. In addition to the four listed above, the remaining are:- *Helsby, Kingsley, No Mans Heath & District, Tarporley, Upton-by-Chester & District Parish Councils* and *Northwich* and *Winsford Town Councils*.

The Quality Council status is a government initiative to encourage capacity building within Local Councils, bringing with it an enhanced role and agreed delegated responsibilities from the principal Authority.

Further information about Quality Status can be found at the following website address:- http://www.nalc.gov.uk/Toolkits/Quality_Status.aspx



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

News coming next month.....

- *Update on the Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)*
- *The latest on the formation of an Environmental Commission for the borough*