

Partnerships West

A regular update on partnership developments in West Cheshire



WELCOME..... to our first edition of 2012 and a happy new year to partners! Following on from the exciting news that West Cheshire has secured pilot status for its whole-place Community Budget proposal “**Altogether Better**”, it’s now full steam ahead with preparatory work well underway prior to the formal launch of the programme on 1st March 2012.

As described previously, a Community Budget is basically a mechanism to better align the work of the public sector and re-define its relationship with communities. We already have some excellent examples of good practice in West Cheshire, such as the Ellesmere Port ‘Our Place’ Local Integrated Services pilot, localised Anti-Social Behaviour teams, multi-agency domestic abuse work etc, which we now need to scale up to cover all aspects of our business that can be delivered more effectively in partnership. More generally, we are being tasked with developing a radical new approach which responds to the five principles set out in the Open Public Services White Paper:-

- ⇒ *Fair access to services – for all*
- ⇒ *Increased choice – putting customers in control of services, through direct payments, personal budgets etc.*
- ⇒ *Power centralised to the lowest appropriate level*
- ⇒ *Public Services open to a diverse range of partners – high quality services delivered by the public, voluntary, community or private sectors*
- ⇒ *Accountable to users and taxpayers – held to account by citizens and their elected representatives*

We recognise that if we are to make the “Altogether Better” proposal a reality, all our partner groups and organisations need to be fully involved in delivering elements of the programme, with outcomes and successes being defined for each partner, and each partner taking an active and visible leadership role. An engagement programme is now being developed and rolled out which includes the establishment of:-

- **Co-ordination Team** – a core group of partners who will lead, manage and co-ordinate delivery of the programme
- **Outcomes workshops** – for senior and middle managers focusing on the five “Altogether Better” outcomes and how services can be re-engineered to deliver better on these
- **Champions Programme** – network of individuals who will adopt responsibility for making key projects happen

Whilst further details of the programme will be scoped out over the next month, at present it is envisaged that the programme will comprise 19 individual projects which focus on early prevention, better commissioning, maximisation of our joint asset base and doing better for less.

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The projects fall under the five themes and are as follows:-

- ⇒ **Thriving Neighbourhoods:** Community based commissioning; Service decentralisation; Community assets; Community safety review; Sustainable communities;
- ⇒ **Best Start in Life:** FCN Service redesign; Early help and prevention offer; Children centre redesign; Youth Support;
- ⇒ **Opportunity Economy:** Worklessness review; Social value procurement; Opportunity centres; Housing investment;
- ⇒ **Ageing Well:** Early intervention and prevention offer; Integrated pathways; Active ageing;
- ⇒ **Smarter Services:** Commissioning review (inc LIST); Integrated Asset Management; Customer insight

For further information and advice about how to get involved in the programme, please contact Alison Armstrong on 01244 973336 (alison.armstrong@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) or Jo Lappin on 07968 867113 (jo.lappin@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Living Well Together: Joint Strategy Consultation

You are invited to give your views on a strategy document which sets out a joint vision for the future wellbeing of everyone living, working and visiting West Cheshire.

“Living Well Together” has been produced in recognition of the fact that our wellbeing is affected by a wide range of social, economic and environmental factors and that creating a sustainable future is entirely compatible with activities to improve our wellbeing. It is in response to both:

- ⇒ the existing requirement to have a Sustainable Community Strategy which sets out the vision for the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area and its communities; and
- ⇒ the new requirement to have a Health and Wellbeing Strategy which aims to address health inequalities by identifying priorities for health and local authority commissioning and by focussing resources on improving health and wellbeing outcomes.

The priorities set out in the existing Sustainable Community Strategy have been updated using the intelligence from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, what people have said is important in the latest Community Survey and many other sources. Partners have worked together to consider those key challenges that need to be addressed to make a real difference to the wellbeing of our communities over the next five years. The approach focuses on tackling the **root causes**, as well as dealing with the symptoms, of poor wellbeing. We have sought to put communities at the heart of what we are trying to achieve and maximise the benefits of many of the **assets** we share in West Cheshire to give everyone a sense of wellbeing.

Your views are sought on whether the joint priorities identified for the future wellbeing of our communities are the right ones. The consultation period runs until 1st March 2012 and, during this time, it is hoped to gain feedback from a wide range of interests and organisations.

You can view the consultation documents on the West Cheshire Together website at: http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/news/living_well_together_consultat.aspx

The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board will also be planning to host a summit in spring to ensure all partners are engaged in understanding the process for developing the joint strategy and are able to debate the key challenges within it. We will advertise the event once details have been finalised.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this consultation document further, please contact Andrea Mageean on 01244 977561 (andrea.mageean@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) or Claire Wildgoose on 01244 650346 (claire.wildgoose@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk).

Consultation responses should be sent to Lyn Brown (lyn.brown@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) by 1st March.

Rural Support Funding – Deadline for Applications

Cheshire West and Chester Council's Rural Fund has awarded 28 applications for funding valued at £513,000, helping to deliver capital-based projects with a total value of just over £5.5m within the borough. Rural communities now have a limited time to apply for the final Rural Grant funding awards. There are two further deadlines for submissions this financial year: **31st January** and **31st March 2012**.

The Cheshire West and Chester Rural Support Fund accepts applications from community organisations, charitable groups and other constituted groups who are carrying out work for the benefit of their local community.

To be eligible, projects require match funding of 50% and can apply for between £5,000 and 50,000. Projects should be completed within a year after receiving funding. Over the past two years, successful applications have been made for village hall refurbishments, sports facilities, play area schemes and environmental improvements across West Cheshire.

For further information about the Rural Support Funding contact the Rural Agenda Market Towns team on 01244 977475 or e-mail: ruralsupport@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



Hackney Carriage Consultation

Cheshire West and Chester Council manages the licensing of both hackney carriages (taxis) and private hire vehicles across the borough. Following local government reorganisation in 2009, the Council inherited different policies from the areas of the borough relating to the previous local authority areas of Chester, Ellesmere Port & Neston and Vale Royal.



The Council wants to ensure residents and visitors to the borough have access to safe and reliable taxis and private hire vehicles. In order to do this, it wants to produce clear and consistent standards and guidelines for taxi and private hire licence holders by harmonising the way it regulates these services. To make passenger improvements and provide real benefits across the borough, the public's views are being sought about these possible changes via the completion of a short questionnaire.

Be part of making real benefits and improvements for passengers by completing the questionnaire at: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/taxiconsultation Alternatively, you can pick up a copy from your local library or main Council Offices. The deadline for completion is **16th April**.

For further information, e-mail: taxiconsultation@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or telephone 0300 123 8 123.

The National Grid will be carrying out essential gas mains replacement work between **Upper Northgate Street and Parkgate Road in Chester** from 9th January for 8 weeks.

Drivers travelling into the city centre will be unaffected and diversion signs will be in place for those leaving the city centre. Commuters are being warned to expect delays at peak times.

For more information, contact the National Grid Hotline on 0161 703 1000/1010.



No 10. Reception for Blacon Big Society Award Winners

Volunteers and staff members from Blacon Community Trust (BCT) and Sustainable Blacon Ltd (SBL) were entertained by Prime Minister David Cameron last month after winning the Big Society award (see Issue 33 front page article).

Clare Babbs (BCT Chair), Stephen Perry (SBL Chair), Tricia Jones (local volunteer) and Andy Collins (Kids Community Club) are pictured below meeting the PM who was very interested to hear about the valuable and valued work of BCT and SBL to those who use the services and engaging local people in making a sustainable difference to their local environment.



As part of a full day of activities, they received a hospitable welcome from Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society, and joined him in discussions at the HM Treasury Building in Horse Guards. This was followed by a reception at No. 10 with the PM and various dignitaries and celebrities.

The award was actually presented to BCT and SBL at the Blacon Sustainability Convention back in November by Andrew Stunnell, Parliamentary Under Secretary on behalf of the PM.

“It was a great opportunity to tell the Prime Minister about all of the wonderful work that BCT and SBL does in Blacon and beyond” said Clare Babbs, Chair of Blacon Community Trust. *“It was an amazing experience being entertained in the state rooms at No. 10 and meeting ministers and other famous people at the reception”*.

For more information, or to get involved with either Blacon Community Trust or Sustainable Blacon Ltd, visit their websites at: www.blacon.org.uk or <http://www.sustainableblacon.org.uk/>

Third Sector Assembly Events

The Third Sector Assembly is holding three **“Talking with People”** events this month aimed at voluntary and community organisations and groups with an adult social care and health focus in their work.



The events will examine Cheshire West and Chester Council’s proposals for adult health and social care in the future and put forward recommendations on how future services should develop and be commissioned to best meet needs. The events are being held across the borough and are a unique opportunity for groups and organisations to have a real say in the development of services. You can reserve places at any of the three events (details below) wherever your organisation is based, choosing a time and date that suits you.

<p>Ellesmere Port Tuesday 17th January 10am-1pm at <i>Ellesmere Port Civic Hall</i> (refreshments from 9.30am) Closing date for bookings 13th January</p>	<p>Chester Tuesday 24th January 2 - 5pm at <i>The Lighthouse</i> <i>Centre, Westminster Road, Hoole</i> (refreshments from 1.30pm) Closing date for bookings 19th January</p>	<p>Winsford Thursday 26th January 1 - 4pm at <i>Winsford</i> <i>Lifestyle Centre</i> (refreshments from 12.30pm) Closing date for bookings 23rd January</p>
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For further information or to book a place, contact Anne Lancaster, TSA Co-ordinator, on 07801 015261 / 01244 32352 or e-mail: anne.lancaster@chesterva.org.uk

Motivated community forms new Residents Board

Residents of Rudheath & Witton (in the Northwich & Rural North area) have been volunteering over the last 18 months as “community reps”. Each of the volunteers have undergone training and are already active on a number of projects within their communities including a community orchard, annual BIG Fun Day, fisheries project and Grozone (inter-generational community garden project).

Now the 21 dedicated community reps have taken another step forward, having formed a Community Board, so that they can be the voice of the community, working with partners and councillors to improve the area and develop a community plan. There are also over 40 other residents who want to volunteer to participate in activities within the area.

The community reps were recently praised by Council Leader Mike Jones for a presentation they made to around 150 partners at the West Cheshire Together LSP Networking event last November about the work that they are doing. Find out more at: www.rudheathandwitton.org.uk

Neighbourhood Action Plan for Lache

Cheshire West and Chester Council, in partnership with Chester and District Housing Trust (CDHT) and Lache Park Neighbourhood Management (LPNM) is developing a Neighbourhood Action Plan for Lache. The purpose of this Plan is to:

- re-write the rulebook for getting things done in Lache; and
- boost resident involvement in the decisions that affect their lives and the well-being of their neighbourhood.

Initially, the plan will focus on the issues that matter most to residents, such as activities for children and young people, establishing a one-stop shop for information/advice services and the future of the community centre. Over the coming months, detailed proposals will be developed to tackle the underlying causes of hardship and disadvantage on the estate, such as poor health and unemployment. The success will depend on the efforts of many individuals and agencies. An online programme management site has been established to help everyone involved to:

- ✓ stay in touch with what's happening;
- ✓ keep track of forthcoming activities and events; and
- ✓ contribute their own ideas and expertise.

The first phase of the plan was launched in December 2011 along with more detailed proposals for future action.

For further information, contact Sean Daley, Blacon Area Manager, on 07786 312771 or e-mail: sean.daley@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Dial-a-Ride Comes Home

Operating local *Dial-a-Ride* services became the responsibility of *Cheshire Community Development Trust (CCDT)* from 1st January 2012. *Community Partners Cheshire*, who have delivered the popular services in Northwich, Frodsham and Winsford for the last eleven years, have merged with CCDT and Cheshire West and Chester Council have extended the funding until September 2012.

CCDT Chief Executive, Arthur Neil, said “*In a way the services are coming home. We established them originally when we were known as Vale Royal CVS. Eleven years ago we transferred the transport and older people’s respite services to a restructured Community Partners Cheshire. Now, for a number of reasons, it has been decided to merge the organisations back together and we are delighted to have the opportunity to take the service forward*”.

In addition to Dial-a-Ride, CCDT will also be delivering the older people’s respite schemes, a companion scheme for adults with learning disabilities and the Women’s Safe Transport service.

For further information, contact Arthur Neil at CCDT via e-mail: aneil@cheshirecdt.org.uk

Helping residents access the right advice

For the first time, new national guidance for Councillors has been jointly produced by Citizens Advice and the Local Government Association entitled “*Help for Helping your Residents*” and was recently circulated to all Cheshire West and Chester ward Councillors by Cheshire West Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).

Cllr Jill Houlbrook (Upton ward) commented: “*Having received the Councillors’ guide, I felt there was a need for a leaflet that I could hand out to residents too. So, via the Chester Area Team, we approached Cheshire West CAB who responded by producing an easy to use leaflet informing residents about the range of advice that they provide and how to access it in the Chester area.*”

The leaflet is designed to help residents deal with and resolve the issues they face as well as where to get support and further advice. It complements the Councillors’ guide which also provides useful contacts and advice on following up issues.



Paul Nicholls, Chief Executive for Cheshire West CAB (pictured here with Cllr Jill Houlbrook) said “*We are keen to promote the free of charge support we provide to residents especially in these tough times. This leaflet will make our services more accessible to residents in Chester. From this partnership, we are starting to look at other initiatives that can be carried out to help residents in the area.*”

The free and confidential advice available from Cheshire West CAB covers a range of problems that residents are increasingly experiencing in areas such as housing, debt, employment, in-work benefits and tax credits, family welfare and discrimination.

The easy to use leaflet can be downloaded from the West Cheshire Together website at: http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/area_partnership_boards/chester_apb.aspx

For further information, contact Michelle Talgam, Chester Area Manager, on 01244 972859 or e-mail: michelle.talgam@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

“It’s a Goal!” now in its fourth season

Referrals are currently being sought for the fourth 11-week ‘season’ of the “*It’s a Goal!*” self development programme at Chester Football Club which starts this month.

The scheme, commissioned by NHS Western Cheshire and supported by the North West Mental Health Improvement Programme, uses the metaphor of football to primarily help men over the age of 18 who suffer from depression or low self-esteem. The football metaphor brings a fun element to very serious issues – the 11-week programme is called a ‘season’ and each session is a ‘match’ - all held at Chester FC. At the end of the programme there is a follow-up supporters group.



The process of referral is quite simple and convenient. Referrals can either be made directly by anyone interested in “*It’s a Goal!*” helping them become “the best that they can be” or, through a third party such as a relative, friend, colleague or professional source such as a GP, Social Worker etc. In either case, all that is required is a phone call, text message to Kieran Hatton on 07789 716479 or e-mail: kieran.hatton@nacro.org.uk outlining the name of the person being referred and a contact phone number.

You can visit the NACRO website at: <http://www.nacro.org.uk/services/merseyside/nacro-its-a-goal-programme-at-chester-fc/> for further information.

GGO Getters Go On-line!

A group aiming to make positive changes in their community have set up a Facebook page to spread the word. Charlotte Burkhill, 29, a member of the **GGO Getters Group** (which covers the *Greenfields, Glebe Green* and *Over* estates in Winsford) set up the page to spread the word about what they are doing in communities across West Winsford and encouraging others to get involved.

“Most people, young or old, have a Facebook page these days so I thought it would be a great way to let people know what’s going on in their areas and how they can get involved” said Charlotte, of Greenfields. *“This group gives people the chance to put ideas forward about what you want to see happening and actually helps to make those changes.”*

The project, led by *Weaver Vale Housing Trust* in partnership with *Cheshire West and Chester Council* and *Muir Group Housing Association*, is run by residents who are working to deliver an Action Plan created following consultation with more than 450 residents from the three estates. The Plan tackles the main priorities for residents living in that area and includes the environment, anti-social behaviour, unemployment and more educational and social activities for young people.



“The GGO Getters have really taken the project to heart and are working hard to make a positive impact in their community” said Georgia Winstanley, Neighbourhood Development Officer with Weaver Vale Housing Trust.

To find the Facebook page, search GGO. For further information, text or call the GGO Team on 07587135713 or pop into the Muir Office, Vauxhall Way, The Edge, Cheviot Square or Greenfields Community House, Finsbury Walk.

Telephone Warning System Test in Ellesmere Port

A trial is taking place with residents in the Ellesmere Port area on **1st February**. The Cheshire Local Resilience Forum (*LRF*) is working with colleagues in Central Government to test a new alerting system that involves a recorded telephone message being sent directly to home landline telephones. This new system will be tested to see if it will help the emergency services get in touch with residents if there was a major emergency in their area.

The pilot area for the test is the Public Information Zone (*PIZ*) of **Innospec Speciality Chemicals** based in Ellesmere Port; the *PIZ* is the area the company would warn via a siren if there was a major emergency on site.

Residents that live within the *PIZ* of Innospec Speciality Chemicals will receive a recorded message to their landline on 1st February between 10.00 and 11.00am (the same time as the usual monthly Innospec siren test) or between 6.00 and 7.00pm. If, for any reason, the test cannot be carried out on that date, it will be tried again on 8th February at the same times.

If you live within this *PIZ* area, this is just a test and not a real emergency. Please inform any other contacts you have in this area about the trial. The vital part of this project will be what residents tell the *LRF* following the trial. A sample of residents will be contacted in the weeks after the trial to ask them further questions about their thoughts on the telephone message to ensure it meets their needs. This information will then be used to decide if this telephone alert system should be used as part of the approach in warning and informing people about major emergencies in the area.

If you have any questions about this test, would like more information or would like to take part in the evaluation, please telephone 0300 123 7031 (charged at local rates) or e-mail:

lfq.queries@cheshire.pnn.police.uk



Forthcoming Community Forums

As we have previously reported, the Council's Locality Working Scrutiny Committee is continuing to review the Council's governance arrangements for locality working. Whilst this review is ongoing (due to conclude in March 2012), ward Councillors are discussing their own approach to Community Forums and re-establishing them across revised geographical areas to reflect the ward boundary changes introduced in April 2011.

As we go to print, the following Community Forums are scheduled as follows:-

Hoole, Upton and Newton	Monday 16th January , 6.30pm, Upton High School, Upton, Chester
Boughton Heath, Vicars Cross and Overleigh	Thursday 19th January , 5.30 for 6.00pm, Lache Community Centre - a meeting for Lache Park ward residents Wednesday 22nd February (time and venue to be confirmed) - a meeting for Handbridge Park ward residents
City	Monday 30th January , 7.00pm, University of Chester (Westminster Building)
Blacon	Tuesday 7th February , 5.30 for 6.00pm, Blacon High School (Community Wing)
Helsby	Thursday 9th February , 6.00pm Market Place, 6.30pm start, Helsby Community Centre – a meeting for Helsby ward residents
Weaver and Cuddington	Wednesday 15th February , 7.15pm, Sandiway and Cuddington Village Hall
Neston	Thursday 16th February (time to be confirmed), Neston Community & Youth Centre * A special Health & Wellbeing event
Ellesmere Port Town	Tuesday 28th February , 6.00pm, Ellesmere Port Civic Hall

N.B. The Frodsham Participatory Budgeting event originally planned for 28th January at Frodsham Community Centre has been postponed. Once a new date has been arranged, it will appear on the West Cheshire Together website (link below) and in a future edition of the bulletin.

Check the website at: http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/community_forums.aspx in case it has been necessary to make any changes to the information given above.

TSA News Online is a regular (twice monthly) bulletin giving information on a range of topics and interests relevant to the Third Sector, with links to further information.

The latest edition of TSA News Online (Issue 5: 9th January 2012) can be viewed on the West Cheshire Together website at: <http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/news.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