

Partnerships West

A regular update on partnership developments in West Cheshire



WELCOME.....to this month's edition. We're almost there with a new **Sustainable Community Strategy** for West Cheshire! Throughout January and early February, work has been undertaken to analyse consultation responses and come up with a strategy which represents our vision for future partnership working. In terms of priority issues, the the top three priorities were:

- ⇒ **A thriving economy**
- ⇒ **Providing a safer environment, including on our roads and reducing fear of crime**
- ⇒ **Reducing our carbon footprint and responding to climate change**

Other key messages coming out of the consultation included the need to:-

- align the 'lifespan' of the Sustainable Community Strategy with that of the Local Transport Plan and the Local Development Framework Core Strategy, i.e. all running to 2026;
- be more ambitious, dynamic and entrepreneurial in our vision for the future, grasping the opportunities available to us and continuing to be a great place to live;
- focus on opportunities for early intervention/prevention rather than react to problems;
- raise the profile of:
 - Young peoples' training and development
 - Re-offending issues
 - Adapting to climate change
 - Raising the cultural profile of the borough
 - Health inequalities
- reinforce our aspirations to work with and empower our communities.

A revised document was discussed at a special meeting of West Cheshire Together held on 28th January and further amendments are currently being made prior to the document being presented to Cheshire West and Chester Council for agreement on 25th February. A public launch will follow at the next West Cheshire Together LSP Network Event sometime in late April – further details will follow in the next edition of the bulletin.

For further information, contact Andrea Mageean, Partnership Manager, on 01244 402400 or email: andrea.mageean@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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Innovative approach to Community Safety scoops National Award

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) recently scooped yet another national award for its innovative approach to community safety, its third in the past year. It won the “Innovation in strategy at a local level” category at the E-Government Excellence national awards for its **SPRINGBOARD (Starting Proactive Response, Introducing New Gains, Benefiting Older people and Reducing Dependency)** project, adopting a partnership approach to improving the safety and well being of older people living in the community.

This pioneering project centres on the delivery of Home Safety Assessments to the over 65s. Traditionally these visits would just check for and give advice about fire hazards, however the Service expanded this by joining forces with partner agencies to address other issues potentially putting older people at particular risk. Working alongside Age Concern as well as local health and social services, CFRS tapped into existing electronic databases which helped them identify and reach people who may require extra help. This resulted in visits to more than 47,000 people aged over 65 who were able to benefit from additional support with referral to other agencies and services. Not only has there been a reduction in the number of fire related injuries but also partner agencies have enjoyed a greater take up in the services they offer.

The awards were presented at the City of London's Guildhall on 19th January and Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, opened the ceremony via video link from 10 Downing Street.

For further information, contact John Salt, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, on 01244 322222 or e-mail: john.salt@cheshirefire.gov.uk

CDAP shortlisted for national award

Cheshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (CDAP) has been short-listed for an Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) Beacon Status award for “Partnership Innovations” for its work in developing a co-ordinated community response to incidents of domestic abuse. Partner representatives attended a Dragons’ Den style event in Birmingham last month alongside five other short-listed projects.



In addition, due to this achievement, CDAP representatives have been invited along to 10 Downing Street on 2nd March to meet Rosie Winterton MP, Minister of State for Local Government, where the winner of the prestigious national award will be announced.

For further information about the work of CDAP, contact Judith Gibson, CDAP Co-ordinator, on 01244 972915 or e-mail: judith.gibson@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Diversity Festival 2010

The University of Chester holds an annual Diversity Festival to celebrate diversity and raise awareness of equality issues amongst staff, students, visitors from other organisations and the community. Now in its fifth year, the programme for the 2010 Diversity Festival has just been released and promises to be one of the best yet comprising debates, workshops, films/ documentaries, food events, public lectures, theatre, roadshows, exhibitions, social experiments, faith/religion events and music.

The Festival runs from Monday 22nd February to Friday 5th March and events are open to all students, staff and members of the public (unless otherwise stated in the programme). Booking is essential for any of the events which are being held around the Chester and the Warrington campuses.

For further information on the programme, or to book an event, contact Darren Mooney on 01244 511138 or e-mail: d.mooney@chester.ac.uk

Launch of Young Persons Guarantee

The Prime Minister has recently launched the Young Persons Guarantee, which guarantees 18-24 year olds who have been unemployed for over six months an offer of a job, training or work experience.

This is a major part of the Government's Backing Young Britain initiative to support young people during the recession. The Guarantee will be supported by over 400,000 Government-funded training places, internships, work experience places and job opportunities.

All young people will get support from a named personal adviser who will advise them on the options available to help them into work. From April 2010, young people will be required to take up one of the offers by the ten month point of their claim. Offers include:-

- ⇒ Jobs options, supported by a £1,000 subsidy for the employer. We have also created thousands of extra jobs in the community through the Future Jobs Fund;
- ⇒ Training – from short courses to prepare for jobs in particular sectors up to full time courses lasting 3-6 months;
- ⇒ Work experience in the form of internships and places on the Community Task Force.

If you have further queries about Backing Young Britain and the Young Person's Guarantee, please contact Debra Washington on 07500881765 or e-mail:

debra.washington@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk or Nicky You on 07990 797208 or e-mail:

nicky.you@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk

Volunteer Fair success

Cheshire West and Chester Council, in partnership with Ellesmere Port and Neston Association of Voluntary and Community organisations (EPNAVCO) hosted a Volunteer Fair last month at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall.

The event was attended by 36 partner organisations and was successful in promoting volunteering across the third sector. Amongst the attendants were students looking for opportunities to support the Duke of Edinburgh award, retired professionals and those looking for employment skills. It was really encouraging to see such a positive response to volunteering opportunities and people wanting to get involved in their local community.

For further information on this event or volunteering opportunities, contact Fiona Dunning on 01606 867524 or e-mail: fiona.dunning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or Liz Ledsham on 0151 356 7358 or e-mail: liz@epnavco.org.uk



Pictured: Irene Preston (Volunteer Support Worker – EPNAVCO), Fiona Dunning (Community Engagement Officer – Cheshire West and Chester Council) and Liz Ledsham (Volunteer Development Worker – EPNAVCO).

As reported in last month's bulletin, **Robbie Taylor** has been appointed to the post of **Area Manager** for the **Northwich and Rural North** area. He is now based in Room 203, Wyvern House, Winsford and can be contacted on 01606 867490 or e-mail: robbie.taylor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Love Food Hate Waste Campaign

The “Love Food Hate Waste” campaign aims to raise awareness of the need to reduce food waste. The campaign shows that by doing some easy practical everyday things in the home, we can all waste less food which will ultimately benefit our purses and the environment too. It’s the “Waste Not Want Not” of the modern day, providing handy tips, advice and recipes for leftovers to help everyone waste less food.



The campaign is supported by WRAP, a government funded organisation working to encourage and enable businesses and consumers to be more efficient in their use of materials and recycle more things more often, helping to minimise landfill, reduce carbon emissions and improve our environment.

Around 30 interactive roadshows will take place across West Cheshire during February and March (see timetable below) where residents will be able to find out quick and easy ways to reduce their food waste and keep their food costs down. There will also be opportunities to win food saving prizes and some roadshows will feature a ‘Ready Steady Cook’ type event led by top TV celebrity chef Richard Fox (indicated with a * below). Events are 9.30am – 3.30pm unless shown otherwise:-

Monday 15th February	Grosvenor Garden Centre
Tuesday 16th February	Bridge Street, Chester – Cheese Rolling Day (11am – 4pm) *
Wednesday 17th February	Morrisons, Winsford (10.30am – 4pm) *
Thursday 18th February	Delamere Forest
Friday 19th February	Chester Zoo
Saturday 20th February	Northwich Town Centre - Leicester St / Adelaide Gardens (10am – 3pm) *
Sunday 21st February	Cheshire Ice Cream Farm, Burwardsley (11.30am – 4pm) *
Wednesday 24th February	Chester University
Thursday 25th February	George & Dragon, Tarvin (8am – 4pm)
Sunday 28th February	The Parade, Parkgate
Monday 1st March	Elton Shops (am) / Elton Community Centre (pm)
Tuesday 2nd March	Farndon Memorial Hall
Wednesday 3rd March	Beeston Market (7am - 3pm)
Thursday 4th March	Winsford Market (7am - 3pm)
Friday 5th March	Tattenhall Barbour Institute
Monday 8th March	Helsby Library / Community Centre
Tuesday 9th March	Morrisons, Frodsham
Wednesday 10th March	Kelsall Community Centre
Thursday 11th March	Frodsham Market (7am - 3pm)
Friday 12th March	Northwich Market (7am - 3pm)
Saturday 13th March	Morrisons, Winsford
Sunday 14th March	Marbury Country Park
Monday 15th March	Hartford Village Hall
Tuesday 16th March	Malpas High Street Car Park
Friday 19th March	Neston Market (7am - 3pm)
Saturday 20th March	Mill View Farmers Market, Upton (7am - 3pm)

Further information about the campaign, including top tips and recipes, can be found at www.lovefoodhatewaste.com or telephone the general enquiries helpline on 08081 002040.

Business, Enterprise and Culture Thematic Partnership – met on 12th January and considered:-

- ✓ the development of a new Business Enterprise Board as a sub-forum of the Thematic Partnership. Terms of Reference for this group would be produced and representation sought from the business community within Northwich, Winsford and rural areas;
- ✓ Local Area Agreement three quarter year performance;
- ✓ progress against the Economic Recession Action Plan;
- ✓ progress with development of the “culture” sector and theme, recognising that there is a need to integrate work on cultural outcomes and outputs to the overall objectives of the partnership to “secure future jobs”;
- ✓ Second Homes Taxation funding allocations to provide a breakfast meeting for Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service to brief local companies on the risks of arson to businesses and to research skills needs / gaps in the hospitality/catering and care sectors; and
- ✓ progress with the Future Jobs Fund programme. This has resulted in 72 young people accessing jobs to date, with more planned later in the year.

For further information, contact Andrea Mageean, Partnership Manager, on 01244 402400 or e-mail: andrea.mageean@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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Childrens' Trust – met on 14th January and considered future working arrangements in the light of new statutory guidance on Children's Trust Boards and the Children and Young People's Plan. The Board will primarily drive the production and monitoring of the Children and Young People's Plan to be prepared and published by 1st April 2011. The Board will have sub-groups to ensure each outcome area detailed in the future Plan is met, though discussions on how these will operate in practice are ongoing. The next Children's Trust Board meeting is scheduled for 11th March 2010.

For further information, contact Isabel Noonan, Policy Manager, on 01244 972372 or e-mail: noonan/blaylock@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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Safer and Stronger Communities Group – met on 15th January and agreed the following strategic priorities for the year: reducing adult re-offending; alcohol; and anti-social behaviour. Future commissioning for the partnership will focus around addressing these priorities.

In April, the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee will focus on the effectiveness of the Group in dealing collaboratively with anti-social behaviour. In addition, a mock emergency planning exercise involving all partners will be held.

The next meeting to be held on **Thursday 11th March** will be a public meeting allowing residents the opportunity to challenge members of the partnership over any concerns. The meeting will be held at **Lache Community Centre** from **6.00pm** and will also share best practice and learning from the Lache Neighbourhood Management scheme as well as information on tackling domestic abuse. In addition, the Community Safety Team will use the meeting to formally launch an anti-social behaviour hot-line – we'll have more on this in next month's bulletin.

Finally, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service has organised a “Community Safety Day” on Wednesday 17th February and members of the Community Safety Team will join staff from Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service to deliver 1000 Home Safety Assessments in one day.

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

West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing – met on 15th January and discussed the implications of the latest population forecasts on local plans. It was agreed that this be reflected in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to ensure consistency of reporting.

Areas of good practice and areas of improvement detailed in the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Area Assessment were considered, with Health Inequalities highlighted as an area of concern. In response, the partnership is in the process of developing a Health Inequalities Action Plan which will set out the actions required by West Cheshire Together to tackle this issue over the next five years.

In addition, the Supporting People Commissioning Body was formally adopted as a sub-group of the thematic partnership. This group will agree and monitor the delivery of a Supporting People vision, strategy and commissioning plan for the West Cheshire area.

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The **Tobacco Control Alliance** met on 22nd January and discussed:-

- ⇒ Parliamentary support for the new Health Bill to remove cigarettes and tobacco from display at point of sale and to remove all cigarette vending machines;
- ⇒ A key milestone in the 'Smoke and Mirrors' campaign saw film competition winners have their films produced and screened across cinemas in the North West. Further information can be found at <http://www.seethroughtheillusion.co.uk>
- ⇒ Development of tobacco control resource packs for secondary and special schools to supplement and maximise the resources from the 'Smoke and Mirrors' campaign. A new primary school pack is also being planned;
- ⇒ Work underway on providing updated information to magistrates around underage sales of tobacco; and
- ⇒ New national Tobacco Control Strategy to be published in February – more details to follow in next month's bulletin.

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Alcohol Sub-group: Engagement work around the draft Cheshire West and Chester Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy will take place throughout February and March in a number of ways:-

- The draft document is currently being circulated to partners for comments and can also be viewed on the West Cheshire Together website at http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/strategic_themes/health_and_wellbeing/alcohol.aspx together with a feedback form for comments – please submit your comments **by Friday 5th March**.
- Partner organisation focus groups and events will obtain the views of children and young people relating to alcohol.
- During the last two weeks of February, the public will be encouraged to join in the Western Cheshire Big Drink Debate by completing a questionnaire. Full page adverts will appear in the free local press across the area and a web-link to the questionnaire will shortly be available.

For further information on the work of West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing or any of the sub-groups, contact Claire Wildgoose, Partnerships Manager, NHS Western Cheshire, on 01244 650588 or e-mail: claire.wildgoose@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk

Feedback from the Thematic Leads

Under a new bi-monthly arrangement, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the five thematic partnerships met on 18th January with the Chairs of the five Area Partnership Boards. The meeting focused on progress with the development of the five Area Action Plans and identified opportunities for joint working on the delivery of local priorities and Local Area Agreement targets.

For further information, contact Alison Armstrong, LSP Director, on 01244 973336 or e-mail: alison.armstrong@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Forthcoming Community Forum Dates

City	<i>Monday 15th February, 6.00pm, Quaker Meeting House, Union Walk, off Frodsham Street, Chester</i>
Boughton Heath, Vicars Cross & Overleigh	<i>Tuesday 16th February, 5.30pm, Lache Community Centre</i>
Blacon	<i>Tuesday 2nd March, 5.30pm, Blacon High School (Community Wing)</i>
Northwich West & Abbey	<i>Thursday 4th March, 7.00pm, Whitegate Recreation Rooms</i>
Hoole, Upton & Newton	<i>Monday 8th March, 6.30pm, Upton Westlea Primary School</i>
Winsford	<i>Wednesday 10th March, 7.00pm, Winsford Library</i>
Gowy & Eddisbury	<i>Thursday 11th March, 7.00pm, Tarporley British Legion</i>
Broxton	<i>Wednesday 31st March, 7.00pm, Barbour Institute, Tattenhall</i>

Feedback from recent Community Forums

Mickle Trafford: 4th February, St Oswald's Primary School

Received an update on proposals by the Boundary Commission regarding proposed changes to ward boundaries. In addition, a lively workshop was held looking at the three key priorities for Rural West Area Partnership Board: young people; access to services; and transport. Participants discussed these priorities in terms of their neighbourhood and identified possible solutions. All views were captured and are being progressed by the Rural West Area Team and local Councillors.

Neston, Parkgate, Ledsham & Willaston: 6th February, Gladstone Village Hall, Burton

An informal "drop in" providing residents with an opportunity to discuss local issues and concerns with their ward Councillors. Officers from the Council's Highways and Parking Services attended the Forum, along with Community Safety Wardens and Police Community Support Officers – all were on hand to offer advice and information on local issues.

Joint Agency Driver Engagement Days: Altering Driver Behaviour

Driver Engagement Days are a joint venture by Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service and Cheshire Constabulary, also involving Council Road Safety Officers/Units.

These 'Days' are designed to educate members of the public over certain moving traffic offences rather than fines and/or points being placed on their driving licences. The Police stop offending motorists for any of the following:-

- Seat belt offences (drivers and/or passengers)
- Mobile phone offences
- Speed (only in 30 & 40mph speed zones)

After the motorist / passenger has been stopped by the Police and informed as to why they have been stopped, they are offered the opportunity to take part in a very powerful and thought-provoking road safety message delivered by Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service staff, Road Safety officers, Fire-fighters, advocates or volunteers, all of whom have received specific training for this type of initiative.

During 2009, 19 Driver Engagement Days were successfully delivered across the West Cheshire area and encouraging results are set out below:-

- Total number of vehicles stopped = **646**
- Total number of drivers indicating a change in driving behaviour after attending the Driver Engagement Day = **561**

The most affected age group for minor driving offences was 36-45 year olds, closely followed by the 26-35 year age group. Across the age ranges, 69% were male, 28% female and 3% declined to answer.

For further information, contact Celeste Holmes, Road Safety Unit Administrator, on 01606 868295 or e-mail: celeste.holmes@cheshirefire.gov.uk

Community Safety Warden Surgeries

Cheshire West and Chester Council's Community Safety Wardens have set a programme of local surgeries across the rural areas of Chester on a monthly basis as follows:-

- Christleton** - first Tuesday of every month at **Christleton Methodist Church** (6.30-7pm)
- Elton** - first Tuesday of every month at **Elton Community Centre** (2-3pm)
- Farndon** - first Weds of every month at **Farndon Church Village Hall** (8.30-9.30am)
- Kelsall** - second Monday of every month at **Kelsall Community Centre** (6.30-7pm)
- Neston** - first Friday of every month at the Country Market, **Neston Town Hall** (9.30-10am)
- Saughall** - first Thursday of every month at the **Vernon Institute** (2-3pm)
- Tattenhall** - first Tuesday of every month at the **Barbour Institute** (10.30-11.30am)
- Willaston** - fourth Friday of every month at **Willaston Memorial Hall** (9.30-10am)

These surgeries will give the opportunity for those in the rural area to report issues or discuss local matters of concern. For further information, contact Yvonne Goodwin on 0300 123 7033 or e-mail: yvonne.goodwin@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Community Safety Warden Activity



Pictured: Community Safety Wardens with the 1st Kelsall Brownies

Community Safety Wardens have been out and about offering cycle/road safety workshops to local schools and organisations. Key messages include teaching the importance of wearing the right safety equipment whilst cycling, safe road procedures and the importance of bike maintenance and checking equipment before setting off. The fun and informative sessions involved colouring competitions, “egg” helmet demonstrations and games based around road safety. Any organisations interested in holding a workshop can contact Rachel Bentham, Community Safety Officer, on 01244 402663.

Council Budget Consultation 2010/11

Consultation on the Council’s budget proposals for 2010/11 ended on 29th January and feedback is currently being collated into a report which will appear on the Council’s website shortly. The final budget will be set by the Council on 25th February.

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

Open Space Audit and Assessment of Need

Cheshire West and Chester Council is about to consult on the current and future needs of people living in, working in and visiting West Cheshire in relation to **Open Space, sport and recreational facilities**.

Around 10,000 household questionnaires will shortly be distributed (randomly selected from the electoral register) and there will be an on-line consultation as well as a small number of workshops/focus groups, including a specific event with Local Council representatives (details to be confirmed).

Further information will be available from 15th February on the Council’s website at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk under the ‘Hot Topic’ section on the homepage, where you can also take part in the on-line consultation.

FEEDBACK.....your views or news

Your comments on this bulletin, or any partnership news you would like to share, should be forwarded to either:-

Alistair Jeffs, Head of Policy, Performance, Partnerships & Transformation
E-mail: alistair.jeffs@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

or

Ken Ivatt, Interim Director, Area & Community Services
E-mail: ken.ivatt@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

What to look forward to in the **March** edition 14:-

- ⇒ *The latest on a new national Tobacco Control Strategy*
- ⇒ *Feedback from the February meeting of West Cheshire Together*
- ⇒ *Outcome of Cheshire Domestic Abuse Partnership’s visit to 10 Downing Street*
- ⇒ *April LSP Network event – further details*