

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.

As you know we are currently focusing on the launch of our new Sustainable Community Strategy for West Cheshire: "Together we can aim high" at the forthcoming LSP Network event scheduled for Tuesday 27th April. We are almost at full capacity for the event so if you have registered to attend and find you now cannot, please contact Lyn Raynor on 01244 972370 (or e-mail: lyn.raynor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) so that we can re-allocate your place.

There is also much positive activity and progress in Ellesmere Port around the "Total Place" concept and you can read more about this on pages 2 and 3.

In addition, we hope you will take time to complete the short questionnaire at the end of the bulletin in order to give us your views on the effectiveness of the newsletter as a communications tool across the partnerships framework.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ⇒ *The latest on **Comprehensive Area Assessment***
- ⇒ *Further **Area Partnership Board** updates*
- ⇒ *Funding for **Frodsham Youth Association***
- ⇒ ***Rural West Health Promotion Days***
- ⇒ *Feedback from **Thematic Leads and individual Thematic Partnerships***

Comprehensive Area Assessment: Latest News

The Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) for 2010/11 is well underway with evidence being gathered from key partners. Further evidence gathering will take place with Area Partnership Boards, Thematic Groups, Third Sector organisations and key partner officer workshops.

This process, co-ordinated by the Audit Commission, provides an independent view of the progress partners have made in improving outcomes for local people. In terms of highlighting key issues, "Green flags" may be allocated against instances of outstanding practice and "Red flags" may be issued for areas of poor performance.

Final results will be made available to partners in December 2010, although an ongoing dialogue will be maintained with the Audit Commission to ensure a fair reflection of our progress is captured.

Local evidence of our progress will be collected on behalf of the West Cheshire Together partnership by Cheshire West and Chester Council's Policy Team. Over the next few months, they will continue to liaise with partners to build up initial submissions for "Green flags". This evidence will also be used to collate a self-assessment of partnership working by July which will outline our collective achievements and how we are tackling our areas for improvement.

For further information please contact Jon Amos, Corporate Policy Manager, on 01244 973397 or e-mail: jonathan.amos@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Ellesmere Port: At its meeting in March, Ellesmere Port Area Partnership Board (APB) hosted a major event to re-write the rulebook for tackling and reversing child poverty in Ellesmere Port. The **'Total Place'** conference brought together a wide range of organisations and individuals to:

- ⇒ develop a delivery plan to address the symptoms and causes of child poverty in the town and achieve real and lasting improvements; and
- ⇒ change the culture for tackling child poverty in Ellesmere Port so that services are joined up around the needs of children and their families.

Less than a fortnight after the Total Place event, the APB agreed the Delivery Plan for taking forward the new approach to achieve better outcomes for children and families in our most deprived neighbourhoods. A new branding was also agreed for partnership working in Ellesmere Port - **'Our Place'**. The delivery plan encompasses six main strands:-

- ✓ **Removing the barriers to work:** by aligning childcare provision to demand and delivering more targeted employment support for ex-offenders;
- ✓ **Empowering residents:** through the preparation of a series of Good Neighbourhood Agreements and new ways of giving residents a say in how their communities are run;
- ✓ **A new community safety offer:** including the formation of a dedicated Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, better support for the victims of domestic abuse and the creation of a voluntary perpetrator initiative;
- ✓ **Health and well-being:** by forming a support group for single mothers' support and improving access to adult learning;
- ✓ **Housing and neighbourhoods:** through a targeted programme to improve open spaces, improving energy efficiency and revitalising the approach to neighbourhood inspections;
- ✓ **Children and young people:** with a more targeted intervention against teenage pregnancy and a renewed focus on reducing under-age drinking-related anti-social behaviour.

Provisional action plans have also been agreed for all these activities, including the identification of key milestones, named project leads and supporting partners. These plans are currently being refined through further discussion with partners and project leads.

As part of the **'Connecting Communities'** programme for Stanney, the APB has commissioned Groundwork Cheshire to work with residents to identify ways to improve the quality of life in their neighbourhood. Part of this work will involve reviewing the design of the estate and addressing local priorities for improvement. In addition, work has begun on preparing the first Good Neighbourhood Agreement for the estate. Two community dinners are being hosted by the local primary schools (St Bernard's and The Oaks) in April so that a broad cross-section of the community can have their say about the issues that should feature in the agreement.

Under the **Zero Tolerance: Westminster project**, the APB has commissioned Cheshire Police to deliver an integrated community safety offer in the Westminster area which includes:-

- £10,000 (from Cheshire West and Chester Council) for 'hardening', i.e. making properties more secure against crime and anti-social behavior;
- supplying 450 homes with Smart Water kits (co-financed by the Area Partnership Board);
- the development of a Good Neighbour Agreement linked to the RESPECT plan which is being prepared for the management of the Council's housing stock;

- the launch of a Homewatch Scheme; and
- carrying out a survey of residents to identify local issues and opportunities for local people to take more responsibility for their neighbourhood and improve their quality of life.

At a Confidence Day held at the end of February in Westminster attended by 60 residents, the first edition of “The Wezzie” was launched – a local newsletter addressing the issues that matter to local people. Sue Finch, Westminster Community School Headteacher said the following about the Confidence Day:-

“I was very pleased to have been able to spend time with members of the community outside of the normal school day. This has opened up communications with key members of my school community and is another way forward for me to engage with children and families. I am pleased to report that whilst talking to a parent, I was able to expand on my newsletter request for a new Mid-day Assistant and since then the parent in question has had a taster session in the school in this role. Sometimes it’s the small things like this from which bigger things grow if you know what I mean..... It is good to be part of a proactive initiative which is truly community-orientated. Many thanks for your energy, commitment and co-ordination.”

A “big lunch” is being held in Westminster on 29th April to bring together the community and discuss what they want to see featured in the Good Neighbour Agreement. Feedback from the lunch will be shared with Cheshire Police, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service and Cheshire West and Chester Council’s Housing Services so that they can respond to the community’s priorities and concerns.

Impact Week: 1st – 6th June: Ellesmere Port Area Partnership Board is currently organising a programme of community events across the area during the first week in June to help make the area a better and safe place to live and encourage residents to work together and take responsibility for their neighbourhoods. The main themes to be covered during the Impact Week are:-

- ⇒ health and wellbeing
- ⇒ children and young people
- ⇒ lifelong learning
- ⇒ environment
- ⇒ community safety
- ⇒ worklessness

Cheshire West and Chester Council and its partners will be staging a range of informative and eye-catching two-hour sessions in Rother Drive, Stanney Grange, Wolverham, Westminster, Parklands, Overpool, Grange and the town centre.

These activities will generally take place between 11am and 4pm at the community centres, Healthy Living Centre, Civic Square, Ellesmere Port Port Market, Whitby Park and recognised play areas. Where there is no suitable community venue (such as Rother Drive) a marquee will be provided.

Publicity for Impact Week will commence during late May - leaflets will be delivered to schools and homes across the areas and the programme will be advertised in the local press.

For further information on any of the Ellesmere Port activity mentioned above, contact Sean Daley, Ellesmere Port Area Manager, on 0151 356 6345 or e-mail: sean.daley@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Northwich & Rural North: Following a partnership workshop held in December 2009, a draft project map was presented for APB endorsement and is being used to scope the range and cross-cutting nature of local working to ensure opportunities are maximised. The map outlines the headline ongoing projects – such as Grozone and Neighbourhood Management - and a greater number of task and finish project ideas.

The Board was also presented with a simple project management planning template to capture the essential information required to deliver successful and well managed pieces of result orientated work. The document is a consistent plan for all partners to help ensure the quality of work undertaken in partnership is captured for audit, performance management and external evaluation purposes. The completion of the project plan will assist the APB in evaluating what resources are required to invest in pieces of work to achieve its objectives, whilst maximising value for money and time spent on the task and finish projects.

For further information, contact Robbie Taylor, Northwich & Rural North Area Manager, on 01606 867490 or e-mail: robbie.taylor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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Winsford & Rural East: Partners in Winsford & Rural East have been shaken into action to deliver an innovative approach to reduce residents' salt intake and deliver health promotion messages. Analysis of good practice by Central & Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust found that residents' salt intake could be reduced by working with Take Away outlets to change the design of salt cellars on their counters. The new designs of salt cellars have fewer holes, therefore the volume of salt placed on food purchased is less.

The scope of the project will involve visiting a number of take away outlets throughout Winsford & Rural East and working with the proprietors to use the new salt cellars. Funding from a number of sources has been identified to assist with the delivery of the project and it is anticipated that the scheme will be supported further through promotion of health messages.

This initiative is part of the Area Partnership Board's delivery of local actions to tackle priorities within the community. Key priorities identified include tackling health inequalities within the most deprived wards and the promotion of healthy living.

It is planned over the coming months to deliver further projects around the promotion of the growing of fruit and vegetables and healthy eating schemes.

For further information, contact Ewan McHenry, Winsford & Rural East Area Manager, on 01606 867774 or e-mail: ewan.mchenry@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Calling all partners!

The **Rural West** Area Team are promoting three forthcoming "*Health Promotion Days*" in conjunction with NHS Western Cheshire as follows:-

- **Saturday 26th June at the High Street Church, Malpas**
- **Friday 9th July at Neston Town Hall**
- **A third event in September in Elton (date and venue to be confirmed)**

If you would like to participate in these events by running a display stand to promote your service area, please contact the Rural West Team on 01244 973334 or e-mail:

ruralwest@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Latest from the Thematic Leads meeting

Continuing the new bi-monthly arrangement, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the five thematic partnerships met on 12th April with the Chairs of the five Area Partnership Boards.

The meeting focused on the forthcoming **Comprehensive Area Assessment** (see front page); the role and impact of **Area Asset Management Plans** which are currently being drafted for forthcoming consultation; an update on recent changes to **Local Area Agreement non-designated indicators**; and the latest with a **Community Cohesion Strategy**. Sean Daley, Ellesmere Port Area Manager, gave an update on the 'Total Place' project within Ellesmere Port which has been re-branded "Our Place". Partners were made aware of the Delivery Plan which is now in place and will guide the programme.

In addition, there was a round-up of activity within each of the thematic and geographic partnerships which helpfully assists with understanding priorities and identifying opportunities for joint working.

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

Feedback from individual Thematic Partnerships

Children's Trust – met on 11th March and agreed a way forward for the writing of the Children and Young People's Plan for 2011. The Plan will be a joint strategy of Children's Trust partners to cover the vision and aspirations for children and young people in the area. It will show how partners will co-operate and improve the well-being of children and young people. The publication deadline for the Plan is 1st April 2011.

The Children's Trust is due to next meet on 15th July.

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

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West Cheshire Together for Health & Wellbeing – met on 18th March and received presentations relating to 'Total Place' (see page 2) and Cheshire West and Chester Council's Homelessness Strategy. The group agreed that progress and how key partners can contribute to this agenda should be reported at future meetings.

The group also received a presentation on the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population and highlighted the need to develop a strategic plan for the ageing population in West Cheshire. It was stressed that all partner organisations needed to contribute to this agenda and that the strategic plan needed to be owned by West Cheshire Together LSP. The importance of engaging older people in the development of the plan was also emphasised.

In addition, the following reports were highlighted:-

- ⇒ *Improving Health and Supporting Justice: The National Delivery Plan of the Health and Criminal Justice Board*; and
- ⇒ *Improving Health and Supporting Justice: Draft North West Strategy for Justice, Health and Social Care November 2009*.

The importance of the 'Safer and Stronger Communities Group' and 'West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing' working together on this agenda was emphasised.

Business, Enterprise and Culture – At its meeting on 18th March, this group had a full and varied agenda. Partners considered progress with the **Future Jobs Fund**, which seeks to place individuals into new employment opportunities. Pleasing progress has been made to date, though this is beginning to tail off and there is some concern that jobs have been mainly in the Third and Public sectors. There are plans to re-launch the programme and to target geographic areas of need over the next few weeks.

The **Weaver Valley Regeneration Board** has recently been established to promote the re-vitalisation of the Weaver towns (Winsford, Northwich and Middlewich) and a business plan has been developed. This is a new joint partnership with Cheshire East Council and aims to promote sustainable tourism across the area.

A new **Enterprise Committee** has been established as a sub-group of the BEC thematic partnership and met for the first time in March. This sub-group aims to look at ways of supporting existing and new enterprises and, at its first meeting, considered a range of issues including opportunities to introduce new Business Improvement Districts, the need for an Enterprise Champion in Ellesmere Port and what Cheshire West and Chester Council needs to be doing to support enterprise.

For further information contact Fil Prevc, Policy Manager, on 01244 972885 or e-mail: fil.prevc@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership – met on 24th March and undertook a detailed risk analysis of the activities of the group, which included consideration of the issues associated with the groups' interaction across the wider partnerships framework. Further consideration will be given to these matters at a future meeting. In addition, a "challenge" session of the actions assigned to the group within the Local Area Agreement Delivery Plan was also undertaken. Finally, the group also considered its role in the delivery of the 15 commitments in the new Sustainable Community Strategy, identifying where partners would like to take a "lead" or "contributory" role.

For further information, contact Peter Bulmer, Climate Change Manager, on 01244 402286 or e-mail: peter.bulmer@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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Safer and Stronger Communities Group – met on 25th March. The group is beginning to work towards its three identified strategic priorities: *reducing adult re-offending; anti-social behaviour; and alcohol*. With regard to adult re-offending, the group is working towards a model of Integrated Offender Management which will deliver a comprehensive support package for repeat offenders, including education opportunities and housing and employment support.

A non-designated indicator has been adopted, measuring the number of new volunteers in the area. Led by Third Sector representatives who will work closely with the Probation Service and Cheshire Police, this indicator will incorporate volunteering opportunities for known offenders. Community and Peer Mentoring will also be developed as part of this initiative.

The group also formally adopted NI 35 (Preventing Violent Extremism) as a non-designated indicator, recognising the importance of people from different backgrounds getting on well together. A self-assessment tool has recently been completed by the "Stronger" group and, although there has been improvement on last year, the group still has a way to go with the engagement process. The group is also working towards developing its own personalised information sharing agreement, ensuring data requirements from individual partners are met, ensuring joined up services in the future.

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

Election 2010

A parliamentary election will be held on Thursday 6th May. In order to vote in the forthcoming elections, you need to make sure that you're registered with Cheshire West and Chester Council. If you don't, you won't be able to have your say at the polls. The deadline for electoral registration and to apply for a postal vote is **5pm on 20th April**. If you need a postal vote or more information about voting, contact the election helpline on 0300 123 7032 or visit:

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/democracy_and_elections/elections/election_2010.aspx



Frodsham Youth Association: Successful funding bid

A small but important local charity, Frodsham Youth Association, is celebrating a successful bid to Connexions Cheshire & Warrington for £40,000 to upgrade and modernise its premises on Fluin Lane in Frodsham. The building is open four nights a week and offers a vital service to children and young people in Frodsham and the surrounding areas, with over 100 youngsters a week using the building for youth club sessions and Judo.



In addition, the centre has Wii Games, pool table, full IT suite, coffee bar, with support from Connexions Youth Workers for projects, camping, Duke of Edinburgh Award and a wide range of experiences to aid the development of young people.

However, in order for this resource to continue, adults from the local community are being encouraged to come forward to give the project sustainability, as recent attempts by the Management Committee to recruit more adults to become involved have sadly been unsuccessful. Adults are being asked to sit on the Committee and help out behind the scenes for one or two hours per week.

The next Management Committee meeting is on 12th May at 7.00pm and it is hoped that new Committee Members will be forthcoming. For further information, call Frodsham Youth Association on 01928 731440.

Feedback from recent Community Forums

Northwich West & Abbey – met on 4th March at Whitegate Recreation Rooms and received an update from Weaver Valley Partnership Board spotlighting on the Northwich Vision. The forum was also made aware of the Northwich Town Centre Action Plan which aims to address environmental concerns in the town centre. The communities of Northwich West and Abbey raised concerns over speed limits, road safety and rural roads and the next forum, scheduled for 3rd June, will focus on how Local (Town & Parish) Councils can work together with partners to improve road safety.

Winsford – met on 10th March at Winsford Library and received an update on Winsford regeneration projects including Winsford Town Centre. The forum also heard of an exciting initiative to develop a canoe trail on the River Weaver. A key priority within Winsford is in relation to educational attainment and the forum was informed of the consultation process currently underway to investigate the feasibility of the establishment of an Academy in Winsford. The next forum is scheduled for 9th June.

Gowy & Eddisbury – met on 11th March at Tarporley British Legion and, following a request at the previous forum, a Planning representative attended to discuss how communities and Local Councils can become involved in the planning process. Areas covered included the timescales relating to planning applications, what grounds can be considered regarding objections to applications and the role of Cheshire West and Chester Council’s Planning Committee. As reported in the last bulletin (March Edition 14), a recommendation to split this forum is going to full Council on 22nd April and further details will follow in a future bulletin.

Groves, Whitby, Sutton and Manor – met on 25th March at Meadow Community Primary School and the main issues raised included calls for more alley-gating schemes to tackle anti-social behaviour ‘hotspots’; and the need for greater enforcement of traffic and parking regulations, especially around schools during the ‘school-run’. The next forum is scheduled for 30th June.

Central, Westminster, Grange & Rossmore – met on 29th March at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall and raised similar issues to the Groves, Whitby, Sutton and Manor Forum around alley-gating and traffic/parking regulations. The next forum is scheduled for 21st June.

Broxton – met on 31st March at The Barbour Institute, Tattenhall and had a lively and well attended meeting with representatives from the emergency services attending regarding service delivery in the rural areas. In addition, there was a lively discussion about the proposed re-design of Age Concern Day Centre services across the local area. The Community Forum agreed to support local residents in their request to Age Concern to preserve their day centre based services. The next forum is scheduled for 10th June.

Mickle Trafford – met on 8th April at Barrow Village Hall in a workshop-style focusing on planning processes and the criteria used to assess planning applications. Residents and Local Council representatives had the opportunity to raise questions about local and national planning policy and the considerations used to agree or refuse planning applications. Residents were also introduced to David Palmer who is one of the two newly elected members of the UK Youth Parliament for the West Cheshire constituency.

The next forum is scheduled for 21st July.

FEEDBACK.....your views or news

*** PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE AT THE END OF THIS BULLETIN TO GIVE US YOUR VIEWS ON ITS EFFECTIVENESS! ***

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

Julie Gill, Head of Resources

E-mail: julie.gill@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

What to look forward to in **May’s** edition 16:-

- ⇒ *Feedback from the LSP Network Event*
- ⇒ *Forthcoming Community Forum dates*
- ⇒ *Neighbourhood Management in Northwich: latest update*
- ⇒ *Local Councils attaining Quality Council status*

PARTNERSHIPS BULLETIN: QUESTIONNAIRE

The Partnerships Bulletin was first introduced in January 2009 as a regular update on partnership developments during local government re-organisation and associated partnership restructuring towards the introduction of the new unitary council and the evolving West Cheshire Together partnerships framework from 1st April 2009.

Now into its 15th edition, we thought it timely to review the bulletin and would welcome your views in order to ensure we are producing a worthwhile publication and an effective communications tool.

If you can spare a few moments, please answer the following questions:-

(1) **Do you find the publication helpful in updating you on partnership activity?**

Yes No

(2) **What, if anything, do you find good about the publication?**

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(3) **What, if anything, do you find unhelpful about the publication?**

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(4) **What, if anything, would you like to see more of in the publication?**

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(5) **What, if anything, would you like to see less of in the publication?**

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(6) **Do you have any suggestions for improvements to the publication or any other specific comments?**

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(7) **Is there any other information you would like to receive on any aspect of the West Cheshire Together partnerships framework?**

Please return by e-mail to lyn.raynor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or by paper-mail to:
Lyn Raynor, Partnerships & Area Working Team, Fourth Floor, HQ Building, Chester, CH1 2NP
by 7th May 2010.

Many thanks.