

Stronger Communities Group

Date: 19th October 2011
Time: 10.00am – 12 noon
Venue: Chester & District Housing Trust Offices

In Attendance:

Moira Chapman (<i>in the Chair</i>)	Cheshire Police Authority
Lyn Brown	CW&C
Angela Doe	CW&C
Pat Johnson	NHS Western Cheshire
Joanne Jones	CW&C
Rob Jones	CW&C
Anne Lancaster	Third Sector Assembly
Andrea Mageean	CW&C
Jane Makin	CW&C
Julia Nundy	CDHT


Apologies: Carol Berry (*CVA*), Emma Coxon (*CFRS*), Jenny Ford (*Police*), Neil Ryder (*NHS Western Cheshire*)

Visitors: Gemma Darlington (*Jets Foundation*)
Trevor Beckett (*Street Pastors*)


Item No. 1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>Moira welcomed all to the meeting, in particular the two visitors for agenda item 4.</p>
Item No. 2	<p>Minutes/Actions from last meeting</p> <p>The minutes of 22nd August were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Volunteering Policies</i> – not all had been collated and it was agreed to request these again in order to share with the group for information – would be particularly helpful for CDHT who are about to refresh their policy.</p>
Decision/ Action:	<p>ACTION: Moira to obtain Police volunteering policy via Jenny Ford.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Pat to forward the PCT volunteering policy.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Jo to liaise with Carol Berry over any additional ones e.g. a separate one for the Countess of Chester Hospital?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Lyn to circulate all policies to the group once collated.</p>

Item No. 3	<p>Progress against the Action Plan</p> <p>Progress against actions will be noted on a revised Action Plan to be circulated with this note.</p>
Decision/ Action:	All to note progress on revised Action Plan.
Item No. 4	<p>Community Action Against Crime: Innovation Fund</p> <p>Following mention of this new Home Office grant fund at the last meeting, the group heard about the following two bids which were hoping to be successful and receive funding:-</p> <p><i>Jets Foundation:</i> Gemma Darlington outlined the work of this charitable arm of the Cheshire Jets Basketball team which aims to use sport to engage young people (including NEETs) by providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacity and capabilities to enable them to participate in society. Projects such as “Dunk the Junk” and “Blacon Jets Community Club” were highlighted where young people can undergo coaching, mentoring and work experience, hopefully leading to future local employment opportunities.</p> <p>They have applied for £50k over two years and, as well as the Blacon projects, there are plans to extend similar work underway in Winsford. In the ensuing discussion, it was hoped that links were being made with other partner agencies such as BTCV and CFRS Cadet’s scheme as well as BYPP in Blacon. Evaluation of success was also raised, both qualitative and quantitative, in terms of Police stats (numbers of crimes/reports of ASB), improved school attendance and parents’ perception of behavioural changes.</p> <p><i>West Cheshire Street Pastors:</i> Trevor Beckett circulated a leaflet summarising the Street Pastors scheme in Chester and Ellesmere Port to engage with people on the streets and in night-time venues to care, listen and offer practical support and help. There are some 9,000 Street Pastors in around 200 towns and cities across the country, 57 in Chester and Ellesmere Port, with plans to increase this to 90 (vision in the Business Plan 2012-15). They have applied for £15k over two years (£4½k secured from Safer Stronger Communities Group) to extend activities such as supporting Monday night student night with gentle guardianship; mentoring those who struggle in secondary school; and they also hope to employ a part-time Pastor from next January.</p> <p>It was noted that the Police support this initiative and it was felt it could extend to other parts of the borough if there was a groundswell of local support and if it was locally led through local churches. Evaluation of success and performance management were again discussed in terms of being able to demonstrate success when applying for future funding. Whilst it was easier to gather quantitative data such as the number of</p>

	bottles removed from the street, it was harder to measure the qualitative data around diversionary work undertaken on e.g. Chester Race day.
Decision/ Action:	<p>ACTION: Jane Makin to undertake further work on Performance Management.</p> <p>Pat Johnson to follow up suggestion to nominate the Street Pastors for the Queens Award for Voluntary Service (<i>decision made after representative had left the meeting</i>).</p>
Item No. 5	<p>Compact Update</p> <p>It was noted that there were no plans for a specific event as part of Compact Week (7th-11th November) but there would be more general awareness raising. It was agreed to map those organisations with Compact champions as a way of promoting the Compact. Work was underway on a simple 2-page guide to the Compact and it was suggested that this be included in the delegate packs for the forthcoming LSP Network event on 15th November, if available by then.</p> <p>It was noted that BME representation on the Compact Implementation Group needed addressing. Appropriate Health representation was also discussed (including representation from GP Commissioning Group in the East of CW&C borough).</p>
Decision/ Action:	<p>ACTION: Anne to liaise with Lyn over Compact guide for the LSP Network event delegate packs.</p> <p>Compact Implementation Group to ensure that members of equality groups have the opportunity to input into the development of the new Equality Code.</p> <p>Appropriate BME and Health representation on the Compact Implementation Group to be addressed.</p>
Item No. 6	<p>Third Sector Survey latest</p> <p>Anne Lancaster outlined the interim headline findings of the recent TSA survey undertaken which were reported to the TSA Management Group in September, although the survey continued into early October.</p> <p>A range of organisations responded and displayed, as expected, differing needs on information dissemination resulting in a balance needing to be struck between large, small and specialist groups as well as infrastructure groups with networks. Of the responses:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 98% had attended a network meeting ▪ 83% had heard of TSA (those who hadn't have since had info) ▪ 52% get regular TSA info, 28% occasional and 20% none ▪ 63% of those who receive info (83% of respondents) thought the info useful and timely, 10% thought it either not very useful or timely

	<p>In terms of amount of info:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 61% thought volume was just right ▪ 22% thought there was too much info (these tended to be the larger more well connected groups – often receiving duplicate info from a number of sources) ▪ 90% want to continue to receive info from TSA <p>There were also specific questions around communication from the public sector (came out of the Stronger Group Action Plan):-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 69% felt they received enough info (again, mainly larger groups) ▪ 20% felt they didn't receive enough info (mainly smaller, local groups) ▪ In response to the question "What (other) info would you like to have from the public sector?" interestingly, most wanted info on activities and policies – NOT services. <p>A Communications Plan will still be produced later in the year, despite already responding to some of the interim findings, for example, the introduction of a new e-mail newsletter with alerts (Issue 1 attached below) to address the issue of too many e-mails being circulated.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>TSA News Online - October 2420...</p> </div>
Decision/ Action:	N/A
Item No. 7	<p>Commissioning and Procurement: Progress with an event</p> <p>Jo Jones reported that CWAC commissioners will support a commissioning and procurement training event(s) in the new year around <i>"Getting Your Organisation Ready"</i> which will include tools and techniques.</p> <p>Pat Johnson was keen to involve her equivalent colleagues from Wirral and Warrington PCTs around commissioning structures and would meet separately with Jo and Anne Lancaster.</p>
Decision/ Action:	<p>ACTION: Jo to have dates and a draft programme for the next Stronger Group meeting.</p> <p>Pat to progress a meeting around commissioning structures with Jo and Anne (to also involve Wirral and Warrington PCT colleagues).</p>
Item No. 8	<p>Stronger Funding: Update</p> <p>It was noted that at its meeting on 9th September, the Safer Stronger Communities Group had agreed to support the four funding bids submitted by the Stronger Group totalling £15k (<i>£6.5k for the capacity building mapping project; £4.5k towards Cheshire West Street Pastors;</i></p>

	<p><i>£3k for the SkillShare project; and £1k towards hosting a volunteering celebration event</i>). These projects were identified from the Action Plan formulated from the original Stronger event in March 2011. The challenge now would be to deliver against all the projects and it was agreed to provide ongoing updates to this group as appropriate.</p> <p>In relation to the “Capacity Building mapping project”, it was noted that there was some slippage, with research findings expected around the end of January and a full report in March. It was suggested the Safer Stronger Communities Group receive feedback on this project at its June meeting. A helpful definition around “community capacity building” was circulated with a draft template which will go to providers of identified provision (e.g. housing associations, public sector bodies and via contacts in the Stronger Group). It was suggested that “activity” be added to the template i.e. “type of course/activity.....”.</p> <p>Regarding “SkillShare” it was noted that the CWAC secondment had now finished, Bank of America’s secondment would finish on 31st December and M&S Money would be approached for a next secondee. The Celebrate Cheshire event on 16th/17th September went well with 20+ new businesses expressing an interest in taking part in SkillShare. A number of “matches” are now being progressed.</p>
Decision/ Action:	<p>ACTION: Jo to amend the template as discussed.</p> <p>Project updates to be provided to the Stronger Group as appropriate.</p> <p>Jane to ensure Capacity Building Mapping project feedback is an agenda item for the June 2012 SSCG meeting.</p>
Item No. 9	<p>Volunteering Event early 2012: Progress</p> <p>Feedback was received from a meeting on 30th September around arrangements for this proposed event. It was noted CFRS did not want to take part. It was suggested the event be a “celebration” rather than a “recognition” of volunteering i.e. no awards. Dignitaries could include Mike Jones as Chair of West Cheshire Together and the Lord Mayor and Sheriff of Cheshire West and Chester.</p> <p>Eaton Hall was agreed as a prestigious venue as there was no cost for CVA to hire and there was much availability throughout March 2012. That would leave £1k to cover catering costs. Event capacity would be approx. 150 cabaret style (15 tables of 10) with a 2½ hour maximum time limit. Each organisation would be asked to nominate 15/20 people to attend and recognition would be through a “roll of honour”. There would be another meeting of the event planning group on 28th October to further progress ideas.</p>
Decision/ Action:	<p>ACTION: All to think about potential inspirational speakers and entertainment for the evening.</p>

Item No. 10	<p>Feedback from Safer Stronger Communities Group: 9th September</p> <p>Moira and Jane reported that the majority of Safer Stronger targets were green, with the exception of re-offending, MARAC referrals and KSI's.</p> <p>Jane highlighted "community-led restorative justice" and it was noted that the Ministry of Justice was asking for expressions of interest around "Testing Neighbourhood Resolution Panels" (see attached below) as a second pilot. Jane felt this idea would be taken forward.</p>  <p>neighbourhood-res olution-panel...</p>
Decision/ Action:	ACTION: Neighbourhood Resolution Panels to be a standing agenda item for the Stronger Group.
Item No. 11	<p>Partner Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was noted that there were a number of local nominations as part of the <i>NatWest Community Force</i> initiative, though on-line voting would close on 24th October. ▪ The launch of the new '<i>Unity Centre</i>' (multicultural centre) would take place on 29th October with an Open Day from 11am – 4pm at Cuppin Street, Chester. ▪ A new "<i>Advice and Money Link</i>" opened in Ellesmere Port Market on 10th October, where customers could obtain confidential and independent money advice from Credit Union and Citizens Advice Bureau staff.
Decision/ Action:	N/A
Item No. 12	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Queens Diamond Jubilee 2012</i> – it was agreed to invite Nicky Waters to the next meeting (CWAC officer co-ordinating and promoting activities). A Council Scrutiny Review was currently underway on the barriers to communities hosting an event. ▪ It was noted that Chester Giants had received £60k from the <i>Queens Jubilee Millions</i> for 60 "giants".
Decision/ Action:	ACTION: Nicky Waters to be invited to the next meeting re. Queens Diamond Jubilee.

Details of next meeting: Wednesday 14th December 2011, 2.00 – 4.00pm,
Chester Health Living Centre, Plas Dinas, Blacon Point
Road, Blacon, Chester (*venue to be confirmed*)
(<http://healthylivingcentre.wordpress.com/location/>)