

<p>“West Cheshire Together” Thematic Leads meeting</p>

Date: Monday 1st March 2010
Time: 1.30pm
Venue: Committee Room 2B, County Hall, Chester

Attending:**Representing:**

Steve Robinson (in the Chair)	Children’s Trust
Chris Cook	Business, Enterprise & Culture
Cllr Lynn Riley	Safer & Stronger Communities
John Salt	Environmental Sustainability
Jane Staley	Environmental Sustainability
Julie Webster	Health & Wellbeing
Julie Westgate	Safer & Stronger Communities

Apologies: Sara Mogel and Charlie Seward (Business, Enterprise & Culture)
 Craig Guildford (Safer & Stronger Communities)

Visitors: Nicola Samuels (Cheshire West and Chester Council) and
 Virginia Peet (Jobcentre Plus) for Item 4
 Peter Bulmer (Environmental Sustainability) for Item 6

Support: Alison Armstrong, Andrea Mageean and Lyn Raynor (Cheshire
 West and Chester Council)

Item No.1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>Steve welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted.</p>
Action - Decision	None required
Item No.2	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting (Joint Thematic Leads / APB Chairs held on 18th January) were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p><i>Partner Budget proposals and decisions</i> – It was felt it would be helpful to understand the larger public sector partners’ budgets and spending priorities well in advance of the budget setting process (i.e. June/July) to explore opportunities for efficiencies and collaborative working which would benefit all. Potential for a Policy/Finance Officer Support Group (comprising representation from CWAC, Police, Fire and PCT) to pull together relevant information for a discussion either at Thematic Leads or with individual Thematic Partnerships.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alison Armstrong to explore and present options for a way forward at a future meeting.

<p>Item No.3</p>	<p>Feedback from the LSP meeting held on 25th February 2010</p> <p>The Group noted actions from the meeting and the following was raised:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ LAA performance review – any actions from the LSP or issues relating to LAA performance/non-performance should be aired with Thematic Leads; ➤ Connecting Communities (Stanney, Ellesmere Port) – partners felt this presentation was well received and suggested that each LSP meeting receive a similar presentation on a partner project (e.g. Green Doctor) which would bring issues to life. Relevant key stakeholders should ensure they are involved in the Connecting Communities conference scheduled for 10th March; ➤ CAA – activity will soon begin on the next CAA round which will focus less on process and more on outcomes and deliverables. We need to push hard on where we feel there are green flag areas (could be 15 potentially) and be mindful of any potential red flags (health?). Thematic Partnership Performance officers to look at green flags of other areas.
<p>Action - Decision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LAA performance review to be a standing agenda item at Thematic Leads; ▪ Relevant partners/organisations who should be involved in the Connecting Communities stakeholder event scheduled for 10th March to ensure they are appropriately represented; ▪ Each LSP meeting to include a partner project presentation which will help bring issues to life.
<p>Item No.4</p>	<p>Partnership Risk Policy, Strategy and Action Plan - proposal</p> <p>Nicola Samuels, Insurance and Risk Manager, outlined the approach and timescales for developing a risk management process for the LSP and Thematic Partnerships. This had received LSP approval at its meeting on 25th February and it was agreed that a first draft risk management framework be presented to the LSP at its April meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that Risk Managers had been appointed to each Thematic Partnership and that the risk register would comprise three levels, with some risks being elevated up to LSP level. The next stage was to begin preparatory work on collating individual risk registers for the Thematic Partnerships using the template provided.</p> <p>It was noted that this exercise would also need to be completed for the five Area Partnership Boards in due course, recognising that this was an iterative process which will develop throughout the year.</p>
<p>Action - Decision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the ongoing work with individual Thematic Partnerships and a first draft risk register and strategy be presented to the LSP at its April meeting. • Roll out the exercise to Area Partnership Boards in due course.

<p>Item No.5</p>	<p>Sustainable Community Strategy: Next steps including consideration of role and purpose of the next LSP Network event on 27th April 2010</p> <p>Andrea Mageean, Partnership Manager, confirmed that partners had endorsed the final SCS document at the LSP meeting on 25th February, shortly followed by adoption at Council the same day. It was noted that the SCS would be publicly launched at the next LSP Network event scheduled for 27th April. Work would commence with Thematic Partnerships on translating the vision and priorities into deliverables for the next 12 months and taking ownership of the 15 commitments which were more cross-cutting than aligned to the five themes.</p> <p>It was felt a matrix would help capture current information on where partnerships/organisations were leading on/contributing to delivery. The SCS would also inform the next generation Local Area Agreement and there was mention of a potential move towards more non-designated “local” indicators.</p> <p>Suggestions for the focus and format of the LSP Network event were discussed, including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ workshops either around the five themes or the 15 commitments for partners to consider how they can contribute to delivery; ➤ five minute “spotlights” on good examples of project successes e.g. Princes Trust, Green Doctor, Lache project; ➤ a “suggestion box” or “talking wall” to encourage partners to share innovative ideas; ➤ an enthusiastic key note speaker.
<p>Action - decision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A matrix be created to capture information on partnerships / organisations delivering on priorities, including a column to identify those partners “leading” and those “contributing”; • Any additional ideas for the format and focus of the LSP Network event to be fed in.
<p>Item No.6</p>	<p>Local Area Agreement: inclusion of additional indicators in 2010/11 refresh.</p> <p>The Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership was seeking consideration of the inclusion of additional indicators as part of the 2010/11 refresh of the Local Area Agreement as follows:-</p> <p>(i) NI 188 Adaptation to Climate Change</p> <p>A report was received asking for support for the inclusion of an additional indicator specifically relating to “adaptation” to climate change, recognising that “mitigation” is included in NI 186 <i>Per capita reduction in CO² emissions in the Local Authority area</i>. The report outlined how this was a big issue for the Partnership and how it was connected to and will impact on all Thematic Groups. It was recognised that a clear path would need mapping in terms of a baseline figure and future targets if this were to be adopted as an additional indicator. Mention was made of the delivery of a Climate Change</p>

	<p>Workshop within the next three months which will be structured around meeting specific criteria within the NI 188 Adapting to Climate Change reporting framework.</p> <p>(ii) Condition of local roads</p> <p>A short report was received asking for support for the inclusion of an additional local indicator looking at the condition of local roads, an issue which generates much public concern. However, it was suggested that this be deferred until the autumn, pending further discussion within the Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to adopt <i>NI 188: Adapting to Climate Change</i> as an additional local indicator, recognising that baseline data and future targets would need to be clearly mapped out; • “Adaptation to Climate Change” to appear on the risk register when in place; • Defer the request for an additional indicator around the condition of local roads, pending further discussion at the Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership.
Item No.7	<p>Third Sector representation on Thematic Partnerships</p> <p>Partners were reminded of a commitment to ensure third sector representation “as equal partners” on each of the Thematic groups. It was recognised that this was currently inconsistent across the piece, though a lack of voting rights was understood in the context of the Children’s Trust and the Safer & Stronger Communities Group (Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership) who have additional responsibilities as statutory groups. It was noted that a Stronger sub-group of the Safer & Stronger Communities Group had recently been set up which would strengthen this element.</p> <p>Andrea Mageean would pursue any instances of non-representation with the Third Sector Assembly. Mention was made of a Third Sector Assembly Strategy Working Group scheduled for 5th March which may be a helpful arena for discussion.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea Mageean to pursue this issue with the Third Sector Assembly and those individual Thematic Partnerships where the sector was currently not represented.
Item No.8	<p>Thematic Partnership Plan and Strategy updates</p> <p><i>West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing</i> – currently developing a “Health Inequalities Action Plan” to address issues raised through the CAA process. The “Big Drink Debate” was underway with press adverts, e-mails and face to face interviews capturing intelligence around this issue. Further information would be circulated to partners on the forthcoming employment of a PhD student via Chester University for a three year period.</p>

	<p>The “Older People Strategy” was queried and it was confirmed that Helen McCairn, Head of Commissioning, was leading on its development and would be giving an update to the March meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Thematic Partnership.</p> <p><i>Safer and Stronger Communities</i> – to hold a public meeting on 11th March in Lache to give residents the opportunity to challenge members of the Thematic Partnership over any issues and concerns (links to NI 4: Percentage of People who feel they can influence decisions in the locality). Confirmed the setting up of a “Stronger” sub-group of the Thematic Partnership to strengthen this element and focus on specific NI’s. Slight concern around “re-offending” indicator which was currently showing as amber.</p> <p><i>Environmental Sustainability</i> – eagerly awaiting the launch of the Sustainable Community Strategy to give the group a focus and turn commitments into action. The loss of administrative support was noted.</p> <p><i>Business, Enterprise and Culture</i> – reported the setting up of a Business Enterprise Board, with 8 of the 12 representatives now appointed – improved representation from Winsford and Northwich to be addressed. It was evident the group had to date focused more on ‘business’ and ‘enterprise’ and not so much on ‘culture’ which was also being addressed. There had been much recent debate on the accuracy of data and baselining of NIs which had also been raised at the recent LSP meeting.</p> <p><i>Children’s Trust</i> – nothing to report, next meeting scheduled for 11th March.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie Webster to circulate further details relating to NHS Western Cheshire’s three-year appointment of a PhD student via Chester University.
Item No.9	<p>Any Other Business and issues for the next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-regional agenda – any sub-regional mechanisms the partnership needs to be plugged into to be a standing agenda item for this group.
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alison Armstrong to liaise with the Chief Executives office regarding links with the sub-regional agenda and related mechanisms.

Details of next meeting: Monday 12th April 2010, 1.30pm – 3.00pm,
Committee Room 2, County Hall, Chester
(Joint Thematic Leads / APB Chairs meeting)

Signed (Chair):

Date: