

## ‘West Cheshire Together’ Thematic Leads / Area Partnership Board Chairs Joint Meeting

**Date:** Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011  
**Time:** 1.30pm  
**Venue:** Boardroom, Chester & District Housing Trust Offices

**Attending:****Representing:**

Steve Robinson ( <i>in the Chair</i> )	Children & Young People
Chris Rowbottom	Northwich & Rural North APB
Alison Roylance-White	Rural West APB
John Salt	Winsford & Rural East APB
Jane Staley	Environmental Sustainability

**Apologies:** Jon Betts, John Denny, Craig Guildford, Sara Mogel, Mark Palethorpe, Charlie Seward, John Stephens and Julie Webster

**Visitors:** Rebecca Mead (University of Chester)

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

Item No.1	<p><b>Welcome, introductions and apologies</b></p> <p>Steve Robinson welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.</p>
Action - Decision	N/A
Item No.2	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2010 were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p><i>Typologies Project:</i> It was noted that this project had not progressed beyond publishing the data which is then almost immediately out of date and with the establishment of DORIC, giving access to information sources at: <a href="http://www.doriconline.org.uk/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.doriconline.org.uk/Pages/default.aspx</a></p>
Action - Decision	N/A
Item No.3	<p><b>Sub-regional Update</b></p> <p>Steve Robinson updated partners on the ongoing move towards three sub-regional commissions: (i) the <i>Local Enterprise Partnership</i>; (ii) <i>Community Safety &amp; Justice</i>; and (iii) <i>Health &amp; Wellbeing</i>.</p> <p>Discussions were still ongoing around support arrangements for the LEP and an announcement was imminent on appointments to the LEP Board. Similarly, discussions around the continuation of road safety (including</p>

	<p>speed cameras) across Cheshire and the Crime &amp; Disorder Reduction Partnership were progressing well.</p> <p>Steve highlighted the good working relationship currently in place across the sub-region between local authorities and partners and it was hoped this optimism would not be affected by any potential changes in leadership which the local elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May could bring.</p> <p>In the ensuing discussion, the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A Cheshire &amp; Warrington Sub-regional Conference event was scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Tatton Park around the development of a stronger and sustainable sub-region which might give more clarity to the direction of travel regarding.</li> <li>➤ Whilst funding had ceased to support the Change Up Consortium, this group would continue to meet and feed into the LEP;</li> <li>➤ Local (Town &amp; Parish) Councils were currently lobbying for a presence on the LEP Board as a tier of local government.</li> </ul> <p>Steve emphasised the ongoing need to look at efficiencies and savings, collaborative working and joint delivery opportunities.</p>
Action - Decision	N/A
Item No.4	<p><b>Locality Working Update</b></p> <p>Alison Armstrong updated on the rapid pace of activity with locality working within the Council and with our partnership arrangements. With the emphasis on Ellesmere Port and the Local Integrated Services (LIS) model, all involved were working to a tight Government imposed timetable, as one of nine national vanguards. A mid-term progress report was currently being collated for GONW.</p> <p>In Ellesmere Port, the emphasis was on identifying “neighbourhoods” of which ten had been identified (across a smaller area than the APB). Residents Advisory Panels (RAPs) were in the process of being set up in each area and, to date, six had met, though one (Netherpool) failed to attract any attendance. The schedule is for all ten to have met by April.</p> <p>In addition to this, ten neighbourhood plans had been produced which give a pen picture of the area and high level priorities established by residents (to be circulated for information).</p> <p>A series of service reviews was also underway around identified priorities e.g. anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, teenage pregnancy and debt/loans. This was still early days but some were moving forward faster than others – a new commissioning model would then fall out of this work.</p> <p>A new model of governance would be required for the partnerships</p>

	<p>framework and the five APBs had considered this at their last round of meetings, though the initial focus was on Ellesmere Port with plans for wider roll-out.</p> <p>Alongside this, there was also ongoing work around a single resource plan and budget in order to draw together all the funding within the area, including assets and manpower.</p> <p>Partners noted that all this work was being taken forward by a multi-agency Strategic Board which meets fortnightly, along with an Operational Board which meets weekly.</p> <p>Whilst it was all systems go alongside a very tight Government timescale, particularly with Ellesmere Port, it was recognised that everything cannot be achieved overnight, particularly with community engagement and community capacity which takes time to encourage. However, Government were expecting quick wins from us. It was recognised that Ellesmere Port was potentially the hardest area to start with in terms of its lack of residents' groups already in place, compared to e.g. Chester.</p> <p>Mention was also made of the Council's evolving relationship with Local (Town &amp; Parish) Councils and the changing role of elected members following publication of the Localism Bill. The forthcoming local elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May could bring about pressure to change APBs and Community Forums. One idea was to give members a themed responsibility to steer them away from their ward geography.</p> <p>It was unclear how all these different strands would join together, though Alison would be attending a meeting of the Strategic Board shortly and may glean some clarity. It was noted that there would soon be a half-day task and finish workshop in Ellesmere Port to consider the role and governance of the APB.</p>
Action – decision	<p><b>ACTION:</b> The ten neighbourhood plans be circulated to the group for information. To revisit this item as progress is made.</p>
Item No.5	<p><b>Developing the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board in Cheshire West and Chester</b></p> <p>Partners considered a report outlining Cheshire West and Chester Council's wish to join the network of early implementers for Health and Wellbeing Boards in order to develop our approach with other local areas, share our experiences and learn from each other.</p> <p>The rapidly changing landscape around health and wellbeing was highlighted and the local context was outlined. Partners noted that the two GP Consortia (Western Cheshire and Vale Royal) both have pathfinder status and were in agreement to this proposal to become an early implementer. A Transition Group would soon become the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board and it was suggested that notes of this group be shared for information.</p>

	<p>It was noted that the Rural West APB has GPs and the faith sector on its radar for future APB involvement. In addition, Northwich &amp; Rural North reported improving relationships with Central &amp; Eastern Cheshire PCT. Partners noted that PCTs were clustering until their demise.</p>
Action - decision	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Notes of meetings of the Transition Group be shared.</p>
Item No.6	<p><b>Reshaping the Partnerships Landscape: Next steps for West Cheshire Together</b></p> <p>Following discussions with partners at a small working group in January, partners considered a report from Andrea Mageean which set out the changing context for partnership working and proposals to adapt our partnership framework and refocus the purpose and working arrangements of key groups. With national, sub-regional and local neighbourhood activity, there was a need to address the borough-wide dimension which sat between the strategic and the local levels.</p> <p>The principles underpinning the design of future arrangements were highlighted as well as a number of suggested changes to our current partnerships framework. These changes would require amendments to the existing agreement and protocols.</p> <p>In the ensuing discussion, partners suggested the proposed <i>West Cheshire Together Commissioning Board</i> (which would be formed from the merging of the existing West Cheshire Together LSP Steering Group and the Thematic Leads / APB Chairs) be called the <i>West Cheshire Together Board</i>.</p> <p>Partners generally agreed with the direction of travel set out in the report and noted that further work would be undertaken on refining the agreement and protocols and terms of reference of various elements of the framework to make it fit for future purpose.</p>
Action - Decision	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Andrea to continue to refine the agreement and protocols and terms of reference of various elements of the framework and take an update report with recommendations to the next meeting of the LSP in April.</p>
Item No.7	<p><b>Thematic Partnership and Area Partnership Board Updates</b></p> <p>As previously, these were given on an exception basis as follows:-</p> <p><i>Environmental Sustainability</i> – With the demise of this thematic group, it was recognised that there could be a need for task and finish groups to deliver some of the priorities within the Sustainable Community Strategy around this theme and former Chair, Jane Staley, would liaise with Andrea Mageean.</p> <p><i>Northwich &amp; Rural North APB</i> – The reconstituted APB, with a tighter membership, was due to meet this week. Various sub-groups had been created and their memberships were currently being addressed. It is hoped</p>

	<p>to have a visioning day in the near future.</p> <p><i>Rural West APB</i> – Aligning themselves with the principles of the Local Integrated Services (LIS) model being piloted in Ellesmere Port and are looking at potential ‘clustering’ of their Local Councils. It was reported that much community-based activity was coming through.</p> <p><i>Winsford &amp; Rural East APB</i> – With the imminent retirement of John Salt from Cheshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service, the issue of a replacement APB chair was still to be addressed.</p>
Action - Decision	N/A
Item No.8	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><i>Elections:</i> Partners noted that local elections were scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> May and that the Council would be entering a period of purdah on 18<sup>th</sup> March. It was noted that there were no Community Forum meetings during this time and the advice was to not hold any APB meetings until after the election.</p> <p><i>John Salt:</i> The Chair formally recorded his thanks to retiring John Salt for his input and contribution since the formation of the West Cheshire Together partnerships framework.</p>
Action – Decision	N/A

**Details of next meeting:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011, 1.30 – 3.00pm (Room G2, HQ Building, Chester).

Signed (Chair): .....

Date: .....