

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

Date: Monday 5th July 2010
Time: 1.30pm
Venue: Room G1, HQ Building, Chester

Attending:**Representing:**

Steve Robinson (Chair)	Children & Young People
Jon Betts	Ellesmere Port APB
Sara Mogel	Business, Enterprise & Culture
Robin Norrie	Chester APB
Cllr Lynn Riley	Safer & Stronger Communities
John Salt	Winsford & Rural East APB
Jane Staley	Environmental Sustainability
John Stephens	Children & Young People
Julie Webster	Health & Wellbeing

Apologies: John Denny (Chester APB), Chris Rowbottom (Northwich & Rural North APB), Alison Roylance-White (Rural West APB), Charlie Seward (Business, Enterprise & Culture) and Stephen Wilds (Health & Wellbeing)

Visitors: Ian Horton (Government Office North West)
 Rebecca Mead (University of Chester)
 Laurence Ainsworth, Gavin Butler, Denise Hitchin (observer),
 Alistair Jeffs, Helen Pickin and Beverley Wilson (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

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 everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.</p>
Action - Decision	N/A
Item No.2	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting held on 24th May were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p><i>Health Inequalities Plan:</i> It was noted that the approach had been reviewed since discussions at the April LSP meeting with further work undertaken with the APBs and with help from Dr Mike Grady. Further work was still required, particularly with Thematic Leads, with a revised document due to be presented to the LSP in the Autumn.</p>

	<p><i>Comprehensive Area Assessment:</i> It was noted that CAA had recently been abolished by the new coalition Government.</p> <p><i>Local Area Agreement:</i> It was noted that there were 11 LAA delivery plans still outstanding to be signed off.</p> <p><i>Student Research Project:</i> Rebecca Mead (PhD Student) attended to observe the meeting as part of her research project “Exploring local delivery to improve health and reduce inequalities” focusing on West Cheshire. Those present signed consent forms agreeing to take part in the project and it was noted that Rebecca would also be attending forthcoming Thematic Partnership and APB meetings.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further work required around the Health Inequalities Action Plan before presentation to the LSP in the Autumn. • Ensure outstanding LAA Delivery Plans are signed off.
Item No.3	<p>National Budget / Policy Update</p> <p>Ian Horton, GONW, updated on the current national policy and budget situation, though it was recognised that the picture was changing daily.</p> <p>It was noted that the withdrawal of the national “Tell Us” survey would impact on our means of consulting and measuring, in particular, indicators which we have no current means of measuring locally unless we put something in place, which would require funding.</p> <p>Mention was made of local government making a contribution of £1.166bn towards the overall saving of £6.2bn across Government in 2010-11. An indication of in-year savings was circulated, with Area Based Grant taking the biggest hit. The Council is currently reviewing the impact reductions will have on service delivery and any potential impact on partner organisations. Further briefings will be given at future meetings of the Thematic Leads (August or September).</p> <p>N.B. Since this meeting, the new coalition Government has announced its intention, in principle, to abolish the remaining eight Government Offices for the Regions across England, subject to using the Spending Review to resolve consequential issues.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further briefing on impact / implications to future Thematic Leads/APB Chairs meeting (August or September).
Item No.4	<p>Community Safety and Criminal Justice Sub-Regional Commission: developing a co-ordinated and sustainable funding regime</p> <p>Gavin Butler, Community Safety Manager, briefed partners on a valuable sub-regional exercise recently carried out across the four authority areas of Halton, Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester to consider the sustainability of funding which supports community safety and</p>

	<p>criminal justice activity. This had sought to quantify the risk to funding and continuity of activity across this area, identifying a number of areas of vulnerability, particularly around the reduction in Area Based Grant.</p> <p>Partners discussed the need to undertake similar assessments across other areas and the challenge was to find smarter ways, as a sub-region, to respond to the high level actions currently coming out from the new coalition Government. There was a need to explore potential areas for collaborative working and sharing of resources, particularly at the sub-regional level.</p>
Action – decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions required at future Sub-regional Leaders meetings around exploring potential areas for collaborative working and sharing of resources.
Item No.5	<p>“Our Community” survey results</p> <p>Beverley Wilson and Helen Pickin from the Council’s Research, Intelligence and Consultation team presented the findings of the “Our Community” survey undertaken during January and February 2010. This was an interim measure as the Place Survey, conducted every two years, was last undertaken in 2008 before local government re-organisation and the Local Area Agreement (LAA) needs to be monitored annually. The survey helps to track changes in public attitudes on a variety of topics used to monitor the LAA.</p> <p>A random sample of local residents were asked about a range of issues affecting their local area and quality of life. The findings of the survey will be used as evidence for a whole raft of future policies, plans and strategies. The survey results have been analysed by topic, by Area Partnership Board as well as by age, gender and there are also “spotlights” such as areas of disadvantage. Results can be viewed at: http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/community/research_and_intelligence/publications_information.aspx</p> <p>In the ensuing discussion, it was felt that the withdrawal of the Tell Us survey and uncertainty over the future of the Place Survey reinforced the importance of the Thematic Partnerships and the need for a more manageable basket of locally meaningful indicators. Concern was expressed that external challenge would be lost and it was felt the sub-region would be important in terms of comparators.</p> <p>John Stephens suggested that it might be useful to revisit the work done by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit and the Social Exclusion Unit on monitoring and managing performance, as we could learn from the user-friendly approach.</p>
Action - decision	N/A
Item No.6	<p>Partnership Self Assessment</p> <p>Laurence Ainsworth, Senior Policy Manager, briefed partners on the</p>

	<p>outcome of this review exercise. It was noted that, with the demise of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), the self assessment was about using local evidence to drive local improvement and to understand progress against our priorities. The format of the self assessment was three key questions: (1) Are we listening to local needs and translating these into our priorities? (2) Are we delivering against these priorities? and (3) What gaps need to be addressed for future improvement?</p> <p>Laurence highlighted ‘excellent practice’ and ‘areas for further improvement’ within each of the five thematic areas. In taking this forward, the challenge was to ensure these were owned by all partners. The next stage would be a Peer Review approach, looking beyond national indicators and to start the debate on joining up resources across the partnership.</p>
Action - Decision	N/A
Item No.7	<p>Capital Investment Strategy Consultation</p> <p>Laurence Ainsworth outlined the forthcoming process planned for this major consultation on the Council’s capital investment priorities for the next ten years. Three consultation phases were planned over the next six months, beginning with a stakeholder launch event on 21st July. This would be followed by focus groups and specific targeted events in August/September. Finally a more detailed consultation document would be published in October/November, containing early proposals where schemes can be ranked on a scale of one to three.</p> <p>It was noted that there would be a consultation event during phase three specifically for the wider LSP network to consider the more detailed document and proposed schemes. During November and December, the results will be collated and fed into the finalisation of the capital vision.</p>
Action - Decision	N/A
Item No.8	<p>Five Ways to Wellbeing</p> <p>Julie Webster, Interim Director of Public Health, presented a briefing paper to introduce work being developed by the New Economics Foundation around the Five Ways to Wellbeing. These are: Connect; Give; Be Active; Take Notice; and Keep Learning. By building these into daily routines people could add 7.5 years to their lives.</p> <p>It was noted that Rob Faulkner, Liverpool PCT, had been invited to give a more detailed presentation to the LSP at its July meeting.</p>
Action – Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more detailed presentation be given to the LSP at its meeting in July.

<p>Item No.9</p>	<p>Updated Risk Register</p> <p>Alison Armstrong updated partners on the development of a risk register for the partnerships framework which is due to be considered by the LSP at its July meeting. Risk reference 7: “Failure to use limited resources effectively” was highlighted as the highest scoring risk and the associated actions to address this were noted. Risk reference 4: “Ineffective Indicators” and 5: “Community Needs vs National Indicators driving us – Concentration on National Indicators” was also highlighted, linked to the uncertainty over the future of national surveys and the need to develop appropriate measures / local indicators.</p> <p>It was noted that risk registers for the Thematic Partnerships were at varying degrees of completion and the Environmental Sustainability Thematic Group’s risk register was circulated for information.</p>
<p>Action – Decision</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Item No.10</p>	<p>Thematic Partnership and Area Partnership Board Updates</p> <p><i>Safer and Stronger Communities</i> – Good work around reducing re-offending and anti-social behaviour (ASB) with three area-based ASB units now established across the borough.</p> <p><i>West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing</i> – Work ongoing on an Active Ageing Strategy in order to respond to the challenges of an ageing population.</p> <p><i>Business, Enterprise and Culture</i> – Research has begun on skills gaps in the carers and hospitality service areas.</p> <p><i>Environmental Sustainability</i> – Nothing to report.</p> <p><i>Children’s Trust</i> – Nothing to report.</p> <p><i>Ellesmere Port APB</i> – Much local activity currently underway as part of ‘Total Place’ and some very positive messages emerging.</p> <p><i>Rural West APB</i> – Nothing to report.</p> <p><i>Northwich and Rural North APB</i> – Nothing to report.</p> <p><i>Winsford and Rural East APB</i> – Staffing support within the Winsford & Rural East Area team was an issue which should shortly be resolved.</p> <p><i>Chester APB</i> – Nothing to report.</p>
<p>Action – Decision</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Item No.11	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>LSP Meeting: 29th July</i> – the agenda was starting to take shape and there was a plea for any potential agenda items to be raised with Andrea Mageean or Alison Armstrong. ▪ <i>Issues for next Thematic Leads Meeting: 16th August</i> – it was felt that with so much happening nationally and regionally that the APB Chairs be invited to join the Thematic Leads for this meeting. Again, any issues or potential agenda items to be raised with Andrea Mageean or Alison Armstrong. ▪ <i>Significant Partnerships review</i> – this piece of work was currently being undertaken and it was agreed that this also needed to dovetail with the sub-regional dimension.
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The APB Chairs be invited to join the Thematic Leads at the August meeting. • Any potential agenda items/issues for the next meetings of the LSP and Thematic Leads/APB Chairs to be fed in.

Details of next meeting: Monday 16th August 2010, 1.30 – 3.00pm, G1, HQ Building, Chester.

Signed (Chair): Date: