

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

Date: Monday 12th April 2010
Time: 1.30pm
Venue: Committee Room 2, County Hall, Chester

Attending:**Representing:**

Steve Robinson (Chair)	Children & Young People
Jon Betts	Ellesmere Port APB
Craig Guildford	Safer & Stronger Communities
Chris Rowbottom	Northwich & Rural North APB
Alison Roylance-White	Rural West APB
John Salt	Winsford & Rural East APB
Charlie Seward	Business, Enterprise and Culture
Jane Staley	Environmental Sustainability
Julie Webster	Health & Wellbeing

Apologies: John Denny (Chester APB), Sara Mogel (Business, Enterprise & Culture), Cllr Lynn Riley (Safer & Stronger Communities), John Stephens (Children & Young People) and Stephen Wilds (Health & Wellbeing)

Visitors: Laurence Ainsworth, Jon Amos, Sean Daley, Ian Kirby and Jane Williamson (Cheshire West and Chester Council)
 Alison Paul (NHS Western Cheshire)

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	None required
Item No.2	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p><i>Partner budget proposals</i> – It was noted that a piece of work with the main public agencies, led by Julie Gill (CWAC, Head of Resources), had begun with a session earlier this year and another planned for July. Though it was still early days, the group was beginning to look at issues such as shared asset management / buildings / HR teams/ information sharing / the funding of other organisations etc. in addition to joint budget proposals.</p> <p><i>Next steps for SCS and LSP Network event</i> – The next LSP Network event was scheduled for 27th April and would publicly launch the new Sustainable</p>

	<p>Community Strategy in addition to celebrating recent partnership project successes. Keynote speaker, Dr Mike Grady, would focus on health inequalities and delegates would work in groups on delivery of the priorities within the strategy.</p> <p><i>Third Sector representation on Thematic Partnerships – An ongoing piece of work which would ultimately ensure appropriate coverage.</i></p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea Mageean to continue to ensure appropriate Third Sector representation on Thematic Partnerships.
Item No.3	<p>Area Asset Management Plans</p> <p>Jane Williamson (Property Strategy and Information Manager) shared early first drafts of the five Area Asset Management Plans prior to a more substantial consultation in due course. Written more for public consumption, further ideas were welcomed on how to make the plans more of a “good read”. The challenge was how to ensure public involvement in the consultation.</p> <p>The next step would be for each plan to be considered at the APBs to ensure wider stakeholder partner involvement in the content and to discuss appropriate consultation. It was suggested that the main themes for each area be highlighted to each APB in advance of it being an agenda item, to give them advance warning.</p> <p>Mention was made of aligning these plans with the ten year Capital Vision Plan which was currently being drafted for substantial consultation around June/July and this “joint” approach was welcomed.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Williamson to circulate the main themes for each area to the APBs prior to attending each APB meeting.
Item No.4	<p>Comprehensive Area Assessment update</p> <p>Laurence Ainsworth (Senior Policy Manager) updated on CAA for 2010/11, the process which provides an independent view (co-ordinated by the Audit Commission) of the progress partners have made in improving outcomes for local people. The Audit Commission will use last year’s CAA as a baseline and, though we narrowly avoided red flags, indications show that ‘Housing’ and ‘Health Inequalities’ will be red flags this year if evidence of improvement is not forthcoming. In addition, 15 prospective green flags were submitted last year and officers will continue to engage with officers/partners to build up initial submissions for green flags for this year. There was a plea for any additional contenders for green flags that may be missing from the list (3.6).</p> <p>In addition, progress on tackling areas for improvement will be collated and highlighted in our self assessment and it was suggested that progress around ‘area working’ and ‘Total Place’ be added to this list (4.1).</p>

	<p>Key milestones to note included submission of the self assessment (as the main evidence) in July, with September the cut off point where no new evidence could be submitted and final results due in December. Much discussion was ongoing with the various geographic and thematic partners involved in the partnerships framework to further gather evidence towards the process. It was felt partners would need to think more broadly and connect various workstreams i.e. health inequalities not just an issue for the Health & Wellbeing Thematic Group. The LSP Network event on 27th April would give a platform for partners to further engage and have productive discussions with real outcomes.</p>
Action – decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any further evidence from partners, either as part of the self assessment or around potential green/red flags, to be fed into the process via Laurence Ainsworth.
Item No.5	<p>Our Place Delivery Plan</p> <p>Sean Daley (Ellesmere Port Area Manager) updated on the Total Place programme which is looking at how services for deprived children and their families are planned, paid for and delivered in Ellesmere Port. ‘Our Place’ is the public brand of the Total Place programme which aims to rewrite the rulebook for tackling child poverty in Ellesmere Port.</p> <p>Following a stakeholder event on 10th March, a Development Plan was drawn up and received ‘in principle’ approval from the APB. The Plan will guide the programme and contains the following six strands:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Removing barriers to work ➤ Resident Empowerment ➤ Community Safety ➤ Housing and Neighbourhoods ➤ Health and Wellbeing ➤ Children and Young People <p>By July 2010, the Area Partnership Board is expecting all projects to have been scoped and a clear direction of travel identified on delivery for the next 12 months. As Total Place is the clear direction of travel nationally, there is much interest from areas further a field and it is hoped to be able to roll out best practice across other parts of the borough in due course.</p>
Action - decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed to have a further update, as appropriate, either in three or six month’s time.
Item No.6	<p>Local Area Agreement Designated and Non Designated Indicators</p> <p>Ian Kirby (Senior Performance Manager) outlined proposed changes*, agreed by the relevant thematic groups, to some designated and non-designated LAA performance indicators for 2010/11.</p> <p>Three of the LAA targets affected by the economic downturn had been renegotiated with GONW (<i>NI 153: Working People claiming out of work</i></p>

	<p><i>benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods; NI154: Net additional homes provided; and NI 171: New business registration rate</i>). Following a recommendation from its 'Stronger' sub-group, the Safer & Stronger Communities Thematic Group agreed to adopt two new non-designated national indicators to support the achievement of stronger communities (<i>NI 6: Percentage of people participating in regular volunteering; and NI 35: Building resilience to violent extremism</i>). Six non-designated indicators relating to 'looked after children' which do not provide evidence of positive change to the outcomes for looked after children were dropped; this will be considered again during the development of the new Children's Plan (by April 2011). The Environmental Sustainability Thematic Group also agreed to adopt <i>NI 188: Adapting to Climate Change</i> as a non-designated indicator for 2010/11.</p> <p>* confirmation has since been received from Government Office North West that the target refresh has been approved for indicators NI 153, 154 and 171, together with baseline changes for NIs 4 and 21.</p>
Action - Decision	N/A
Item No.7	<p>Community Cohesion Strategy</p> <p>Jon Amos (Corporate Policy Manager) presented a first draft Community Cohesion Strategy for West Cheshire for comment. The document outlines the local vision for a more cohesive community, sets out the aims for achieving a place where everybody feels comfortable and positive about living and working alongside one another and contains a detailed action plan.</p> <p>It was recognised that the action plan, which would be championed by the Safer and Stronger Thematic Group, was the most challenging section. It was felt there may be too many non-specific actions which needed to be made clearer, together with tightened timescales to give a focus. It was hoped the gaps in identifying lead officers would be addressed before the document was considered by the LSP at its April meeting.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any comments from partners on the content of the draft document to be fed in to Jon Amos. • Draft document to be revised as suggested above.
Item No.8	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Partnerships Policy</p> <p>Alison Armstrong (LSP Director) presented the Council's Partnerships Policy Framework and Toolkit for information and comment. It was recognised that partnership working brings with it benefits but also complexities and the documents provided guidance to underpin the Council's current and future approach to partnership working. They were also designed as drivers towards continuous partnership improvement and partner learning and development.</p>

Action – Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any comments from partners on the content of the Framework and Toolkit to be fed in to Alison Armstrong/Andrea Mageean.
Item No.9	<p>Sub-Regional Partnership Update</p> <p>Steve Robinson updated on recent meetings of a newly formed Sub-regional Partnership Group comprising the following representation:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East, Warrington and Halton Borough Councils (Political Leaders) Primary Care Trusts (Helen Bellairs and John Church) Cheshire Police (Chief Constable) Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service (Chief Officer) Homes and Communities Agency North West Development Agency Government Office North West <p>The agenda had so far focused on priorities for the sub-region and speaking with one voice. A business plan was in development which would be ready for consultation around July and seven commissions had been identified covering: Tourism; Health; Jobs & Skills; Prosperity; Community Safety; Environment; and Improvement & Efficiency. However, the number of commissions may reduce over time when the plethora of partnerships in place was better understood.</p> <p>The issue of how to keep partners informed of sub-regional activity was raised and mention was made of circulating meeting paperwork (possibly via the West Cheshire Together partnerships website) and the potential for a sub-regional bulletin for sharing information.</p>
Action – Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners to be updated on sub-regional activity as appropriate.
Item No.10	<p>Thematic Partnership and Area Partnership Board Updates</p> <p><i>Environmental Sustainability</i> – at its March meeting, the group focused on where it was ‘one year on’. In addition, the risk management issue was thoroughly discussed and the group was looking towards the imminent launch of the Sustainable Community Strategy.</p> <p><i>Safer and Stronger Communities</i> – some progress with integrated offender management (e.g. joined up IT); NI (red flag) was an issue as some of the processes meant the data was not helpful.</p> <p><i>West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing</i> – a draft Ageing Strategy for West Cheshire would be considered at a future LSP meeting; in Liverpool city region, 2010 is the year of health and wellbeing and, piggy-backing onto this, an awareness raising plan was being developed along with some high profile local activity.</p>

	<p><i>Business, Enterprise and Culture</i> – membership of the group had been strengthened, particularly around culture; the main areas of focus were around the Future Jobs Fund, Economic Recession Action Plan and training packages in hospitality and care. The potential impact on the region of the London 2012 Olympics was also highlighted.</p> <p><i>Ellesmere Port APB</i> – it was noted that the Total Place programme was the main focus of this APB.</p> <p><i>Rural West APB</i> – slow process but beginning to develop an evidence base of rural issues e.g. rural deprivation, fuel deprivation, access to services/ service cuts in rural areas, isolation; a participatory budgeting meeting was scheduled for 30th April; the Chair questioned constitutional arrangements as membership may need to be changed.</p> <p><i>Northwich and Rural North APB</i> – the Action Plan was currently being refined in order to condense and provide more focus; the issue of continuing lack of engagement with Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT still needed progressing; there was a need to understand how the APB fits in with and links with regeneration plans.</p> <p><i>Winsford and Rural East APB</i> – beginning to see some engagement with Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT; forthcoming redundancies at Middlewich (500) was an identified risk; incidents of RTAs and ASB had reduced; it was hoped some of the Total Place concepts were transferable.</p> <p><i>Children’s Trust</i> – no update.</p> <p><i>Chester APB</i> – no update.</p>
Action – Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APB constitutional arrangements to be revisited as Rural West membership may need to be changed. • Charlie Seward and Chris Rowbottom (Northwich and Rural North) to liaise over the issue of how the APB fits in with regeneration plans – note: this may be an issue for all APBs.
Item No.11	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>LSP Meeting: 29th April</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: 24th May</i> – again, any issues or potential agenda items to be raised with Andrea Mageean or Alison Armstrong.
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any potential agenda items/issues for the next meetings of the LSP and Thematic Leads to be fed in.

Details of next meeting: Monday 24th May 2010, 1.30 – 3.00pm,
Committee Room 2b, County Hall Chester.

Signed (Chair):

Date: