

<p>'West Cheshire Together' Thematic Leads meeting</p>

Date: Monday 14th December 2009
Time: 1.30pm
Venue: Committee Room 2B, County Hall, Chester

Attending:**Representing:**

Keith Evans	Health & Wellbeing
Craig Guildford	Safer & Stronger Communities
Cllr Lynn Riley	Safer & Stronger Communities
Jane Staley	Environmental Sustainability
John Stephens	Children & Young People
Steve Robinson (Chair)	Children & Young People
Sara Mogel	Business, Enterprise and Culture

Apologies: Julie Webster and Ian Whitehead (Health & Wellbeing), Charlie Seward (Business, Enterprise & Culture) and John Salt (Environmental Sustainability).

Visitors: Maria O'Brien (Cheshire West and Chester Council), Gary Atkins and Andy Glover (Link Up).

Support: Alison Armstrong and Robbie Taylor (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

Item No.1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>Steve welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the visitors from Link Up, 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>Second Homes Taxation</i> - The Group had received electronic copies of all the bids submitted. As the total sum of the bids was within the allocated budget, all were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership - £10,000 for the 'Green Doctor' project in Winsford. • West Cheshire Together for Health and Well-being - £38,400 for the 'Doctor Foster' segmentation project. • Business, Enterprise and Culture - £40,000 for the 'Skills for Care and Hospitality' research project and £250 for an Arson Prevention breakfast seminar for local businesses.

	<p>It was noted, however, that some additional funding may be available subject to final spend against the previously agreed Bonfire Initiative. A grant monitoring process will be developed and shared with recipients to ensure the effective use of resources and promote accountability.</p> <p><i>Budget Consultation</i> - As part of the ongoing consultation on the development of the new Sustainable Community Strategy and in preparation of the single agenda item discussion planned for special LSP meeting (28/01/2010), each Thematic Partnership will be encouraged to comment upon the Council's draft budget proposals for 2010/11. Following previous discussions, partner organisations are encouraged to participate in this process and share their own budget proposals for the next financial year, where available.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance and documentation to support the monitoring of grants awarded from Second Homes Taxation be developed and shared with grant recipients as soon as possible. • Thematic Partnerships receive details of Cheshire West and Chester Council budget proposals for 2010/11 for discussion and comment. • All partners be encouraged to share their budget proposals for 2010/11, when available.
Item No.3	<p>West Cheshire Faith Action Audit</p> <p>Andy Glover and Gary Atkins from the sub-regional 'Link Up' network attended the meeting and delivered a presentation outlining the planned faith action audit to be undertaken in 2010.</p> <p>'Link Up' is a relational network of Churches and Church leaders in and around Chester, West Cheshire and into North Wales. Drawn from across denominations and traditions, Link Up seeks to support and extend partnership working for personal and community transformation.</p> <p>The planned audit of local faith communities will also contribute to the new 'Hidden Power' report, evidencing the contribution and scale of Third Sector contributions to service delivery. Partners also heard of the benefits of a similar audit carried out in Stoke. The planned timescale for the audit is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn 2009 engage sponsors, raise the audit profile and assemble mailing list; • Spring 2010 mail out the follow-up and receive questionnaires; and • Summer 2010 analyse and report results with launch meeting for sponsors. <p>West Cheshire Together LSP was asked to formally sponsor and support the planned audit. As the LSP next meets in late January, the Thematic Partnership Leads were asked to endorse the project on behalf of the LSP.</p>

	<p>This would involve promoting and supporting the audit; allowing brand and logo to be attached to audit paperwork; and communicating within its organisation that the audit is coming and asking for people to participate.</p> <p>The Chairs and Vice Chairs agreed to support the audit in principle and to promote and contribute to the work, where possible.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Faith Action Audit be supported and sponsored by the LSP (via the Thematic Partnership Leads). • The LSP / Thematic Partnership Leads receive a future report on the findings of the project.
Item No.4	<p>‘Total Place’ Pilot – Ellesmere Port</p> <p>Maria O’Brien, Interim Head of Neighbourhood Renewal for Cheshire West and Chester Council, presented a paper outlining the ‘Total Place’ pilot project in Ellesmere Port and requested the support of the Thematic Partnerships to ensure success. The ‘Total Place’ concept will address child poverty as a cross-cutting issue.</p> <p>The Ellesmere Port Area Partnership Board (APB) was due to meet on 18th January to scope out an action plan. This would be followed in February by the development of ‘virtual teams’, composed of APB and LSP members, to support and further develop the action plan. The completed action plan would be ready for partners to approve and begin to implement by the end of March. The action plan will include projects to target and improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety • Remove the barriers to work • Decent Home and neighbourhood for every family • Health • Physical Transformation • Resident Empowerment: <p>The project will also dovetail with the Government funded Connecting Communities programme. Some initial links with the Thematic Partnerships to the Total Place approach were clear, for example the West Cheshire College site in the Grange ward and the CORA (Cheshire Oaks Retail Academy) in the Stanney ward would be key contributors to the project.</p> <p>The project represents the first major opportunity for the LSP, and particularly the APBs and Thematic Partnerships, to make a significant difference to long-term problems. It will be the role of the Thematic Partnerships and the ‘virtual team’ to use their influence and resources to remove any barriers that may slow progress, for example, by improving access to childcare services to enable parents to return to training, employment or learning.</p>
Action - decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Partnerships to consider how they may contribute and support the Total Place project in Ellesmere Port and liaise with Maria

	O'Brien (Tel: 0151 356 6556; Email: maria.o'brien@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)
Item No.5	<p>Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy: progress report</p> <p>Partners received a progress report on the development of the Strategy, co-ordinated by the West Cheshire Together for Health and Well-being Partnership. The Strategy contains four key objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To reduce the impact of alcohol on ill-health and life expectancy; 2. To ensure that those who drink alcohol in Cheshire West and Chester are able to do so safely and responsibly; 3. To reduce alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour; and 4. To reduce the harm caused to children and young people by alcohol use. <p>Progress on the implementation of the Strategy and its action plan will be evaluated by monitoring the national performance indicators: NI 39 alcohol harm related hospital admission rates, NI 41 perceptions of drunk and rowdy behaviour as a problem and NI 115 substance misuse by young people. The Alcohol Strategy Group has been formed with partners across the LSP and their terms of reference and mission statements have been agreed. The implementation of the strategy will need support and input from the Thematic Partnerships to ensure the cross-cutting actions are successful. There are clear strategic inputs from the public health perspective and Safer and Stronger Communities Group, however additional contributions will be required. Partners agreed that the Area Partnership Boards would also be key to implementing the Strategy.</p>
Action - decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Partnerships to contact Tony Sharples with contributions and actions to support the consultation, development and implementation of the Strategy across West Cheshire (Tel: 01244 650372; Email: tony.sharples@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk)
Item No.6	<p>Local Area Agreement Annual Review (2009/10): emerging issues</p> <p>Alison Armstrong circulated an advice and guidance paper concerning the annual review process for the LAA, prepared by GONW. It was noted that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The focus of this review will be firmly on delivery, avoiding any separate assessments of local performance and utilising the results of the CAA process, and resolving any outstanding issues arising from the last review. 2. The review process will also provide an opportunity to refresh targets on an exception basis. This would be restricted to the nine economic targets exempted from Reward lockdown in April 2009; the teenage conception target (in nine areas only); and the Place Survey targets where baseline data had been changed following national re-

	<p>calculation.</p> <p>Partners discussed a potential request to reduce the final year target for NI 154, an outcome especially affected by the recession, and the contribution of the CONFIDENCE programme to the achievement of safer and stronger LAA outcomes. In some areas, such as worklessness and NEETs, it was felt that more intelligence was required to underpin the targeting of resources. The Thematic Partnerships will need to consider their response to the CAA report narrative, particularly in terms of areas for improvement and potential future 'green flag' initiatives, in delivery planning for the next financial year.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LAA annual review guidance document be circulated to the co-ordinating officers of the five Thematic Partnerships as background to support discussion on possible changes to LAA performance indicator targets.
Item No.7	<p>Partnership Governance – Additional Comments</p> <p>Colleagues were asked at their last meeting to comment upon the draft Partnership Governance paper which sets out the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the LSP, Thematic Partnerships, Area Partnership Boards and Community Forums.</p> <p>No additional comments or amendments had been made.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The West Cheshire Partnership Governance report be presented to the next meeting of the LSP for endorsement.
Item No.8	<p>Thematic Partnerships – Progress, Work Programme and Emerging Issues</p> <p><i>Children & Young People</i> - The Trust are currently looking at their commissioning role in the light of the new national guidance and how timescales and minor problems can be better managed and co-ordinated.</p> <p><i>Business, Enterprise and Culture</i> – The Board have met for a second time and considered the statutory responsibility to produce an economic assessment next year. The Board is also drawing together a report to help advise partners, especially local businesses, on the support and funding available to facilitate the creation of more employment opportunities. The Board now has two representatives from the local business community.</p> <p><i>Health & Well Being</i> – Keith Evans reported that the new Dementia Strategy had received national acclaim as an exemplary model of good practice. The Council's occupational therapy unit has significantly reduced the time to assess and advise employees seeking support and the profile of the service has increased, drawing much higher numbers of people asking for help. Significant increases in demand for community sports equipment are impacting upon Council resources; the equipment provides greater</p>

	<p>opportunities for residents to self-heal at home and reduces reliance on the Council and other public health service provider services.</p> <p><i>Safer and Stronger Communities</i> – Cheshire Police are working to embed more of their key services to Ellesmere Port in support of the Total Place project.</p> <p><i>Environmental Sustainability</i> – The Thematic Partnership is continuing to contribute to the consultation on the new SCS, LTP and LDF and will formally feed back in January. Alan Slater, Head of Strategic Housing & Spatial Planning with the Council, will visit each Thematic Partnership and share a paper concerning affordable housing issues and their impacts upon all the thematic areas. Government funding to support investment in new housing development is due to finish and this will impact upon the availability of affordable housing. A new waste management contract will be awarded in the new year. This will take into account how services can be closer tailored to APB footprints and action plan priorities.</p>
Action - Decision	N/A
Item No.9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Partners were advised of sub-regional partnership developments covering the four Council areas. The new structure includes a Board (comprised of the respective political leaders) and an Executive (comprised of local authority Chief Executives, Chief Fire and Police Officers and other public sector senior representatives). The partnership is working on seven commissions with Cheshire West and Chester leading on jobs and skills and culture and tourism. Documentation from the seven Commissions will be shared with the Thematic Partnerships for information. Further consideration will need to be given to the relationship between West Cheshire Together and the sub-regional partnership and potential opportunities for collaboration. Partners discussed their future timetable of meetings for 2010, including joint meetings with the Chairs of the Area Partnership Boards.
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A revised calendar of meeting dates be prepared and circulated. Sub-regional partnership meeting agendas and reports be shared with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Thematic Partnerships.

Details of next meeting: Monday 18th January 2010, 1.30pm – 3.00pm,
Committee Room 1, County Hall Chester.

Signed (Chair):

Date: