

“West Cheshire Together” Thematic Leads meeting

Date: Monday 24th May 2010
Time: 1.30pm
Venue: Meeting Room 4.8, HQ Building, 58 Nicolas Street, Chester

Attending:

Representing:

Steve Robinson	Children’s Trust
Charlie Seward (in the Chair)	Business, Enterprise and Culture
John Salt	Environment and Sustainability
Jane Staley	Environment and Sustainability
Jon Betts	Safer and Stronger Communities
Julie Webster	Health and Wellbeing
Cllr Lynn Riley	Safer and Stronger Communities
John Stephens	Children’s Trust
Cllr Mike Jones	LSP Steering Group Chair

Apologies: Sara Mogel (Business, Enterprise & Culture)
 Craig Guildford (Safer & Stronger Communities)
 Stephen Wilds (Health and Wellbeing)

Visitors: Ian Horton (Government Office North West)
 Nicola Samuels, Laurence Ainsworth and Ian Kirby (Cheshire West and Chester Council)
 Rebecca Mead (University of Chester)

Support: Alison Armstrong, Alistair Jeffs and Andrea Mageean (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

Item No.1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>Charlie agreed to Chair the meeting as Steve was delayed. Charlie 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 meeting were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p><i>Thematic Partnership and Area Partnership Board Updates:</i> Further discussion would be required about the relationship between the work of the APB’s and regeneration plans at the next joint APB/Thematic leads meeting.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link between APBs and regeneration plans to be included on the agenda for 5th July meeting.
Item No.3	<p>Briefing on new Political Arrangements</p> <p>Ian Horton attended to brief partners on the likely implications of the new political arrangements for partnerships and area working. Key points were made as follows:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget savings of £6.2bn in 2010-11 includes reduction in individual grants to Local Authorities, though the intention to de-ringfence other grants to LAs in order to give councils maximum flexibility to focus on priority areas and deliver efficiencies. Further cuts will be announced in the Spending Review later in the year. • The intention to abolish the Government Office for London has been announced and the case for abolishing the rest is being discussed. • There is likely to be a reduction in RDA spending in less effective areas. • The Local Area Agreement is a legal entity and therefore will run until the end of the current contract (31st March 2011). In the meantime, the emphasis will be less on performance and more on delivery and local accountability. The implications for PRG are uncertain. <p>Ian will provide regular updates as they are available.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N/A
Item No.4	<p>Health Inequalities Plan: Next Steps</p> <p>Julie Webster presented current thinking around the Health Inequalities Plan. Following the publication of the Marmot Review and discussions at the LSP Network Event on 27th April 2010 where Dr Mike Grady presented details of the six recommended action areas from the Marmot Review, the Health Inequalities Plan has been re-drafted to consider the wider determinants of ill health. Key headings are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Empowering individuals and communities - Income Inequality and Health - Healthy Places - Health, Work and Wellbeing - Equitable access to high quality health and social care <p>The intention is to share this with all the LSP Thematic Partnerships in order to raise awareness of how a wide range of actions support the health and wellbeing of our communities. Work will also be undertaken with the Area Partnership Boards to encourage them to identify an issue which would contribute to this. For example, Ellesmere Port has already identified child poverty and Rural West has a focus on fuel poverty. The intention is then to link this work to the performance and monitoring mechanisms being developed for the Sustainable Community Strategy and the LSP.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Julie will circulate the re-drafted Health Inequalities Plan for comment by Friday 2nd July. ▪ Final draft to be presented to the LSP on 29th July 2010.
Item No.5	<p>Strategic Risks: taking forward the high level risks for the for the LSP</p> <p>Nicola Samuels led the discussion on this item which followed the decision at the last meeting of the LSP Steering Group to adopt the West Cheshire Together Risk Management Strategy and Policy. A first cut of the strategic risk register for the LSP was reviewed. This included risks which have an impact across the whole partnership objectives either because of the significant impact or the fact that they feature across a number of Thematic</p>

	<p>Partnerships. The Steering Group asked the Thematic Leads to refine the risk register to a fully working document.</p> <p>A discussion took place whereby 'owners' and a current risk score for each of the risks were identified. The possibility of rationalising the number of strategic risks was also discussed. Further work will now be undertaken by the risk owners in order to complete the register, specifically by reviewing the score the risks have been given for likelihood and impact from 1 – 4 for the current position (net), and set the target for the next 12 months. Risk owners will also identify any existing controls and identify actions to reduce the risk to the target score.</p>
Action - decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nicola to update the Risk Register with a reduced number of strategic risks, current scores and risk owners. ▪ Risk owners to complete the register with target scores and actions to reduce the risk.
Item No.6	<p>Comprehensive Area Assessment Update</p> <p>Laurence Ainsworth gave an update on the Comprehensive Area Assessment for 2010/2011. Whilst there is some uncertainty about the future of CAA, the Council will continue with the process unless instructed otherwise. Laurence focused on three things:</p> <p><i>i. Our response to the 'Initial Areas of Focus' document from the Audit Commission.</i> On 28th April, the Audit Commission produced this document which listed 15 areas of focus they wished to find more information on. Unfortunately a lot of this assessment was based on performance data that was out of date. Following comments received from partners, a response document has been produced which has been shared with the Audit Commission. This includes the latest results from the 2009/10 Place Survey and presents a story of positive progress.</p> <p><i>ii. Progress with flags.</i> There is a renewed emphasis on submitting Green Flags early on in the process. Suggestions have been sought from each Thematic Lead and APB Chair as to the strongest contenders for green flags. At present the list is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tackling domestic abuse 2. Road Safety 3. Reducing Arson 4. RESPECT youth activity 5. Homelessness 6. Personalisation and Independence for Older People 7. Reducing Waste <p>Evidence for each of these areas will be presented to the Audit Commission by the end of May 2010.</p> <p>Key risks for red flags are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health Inequalities: This issue received a large number of red flags on a national basis. The Audit Commission are concerned that we are still at the planning stage in addressing this issue. To avoid a red flag, evidence is being provided that we are implementing our plans in a

	<p>joined-up way, making reference to the priority areas identified in the Marmot Review and demonstrating impact on the ground.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing: There is likely to be a separate inspection for housing management in Ellesmere Port in 2010/11. Specific evidence will be required that demonstrates that, as a result of our actions, there have been significant short-term improvements and a clear direction of travel for the future. The AC has made contact with Housing Management to understand progress with the service improvement plan and the future of the service. <p><i>iii. Progress with Self Assessment:</i> The CAA Self Assessment will be completed during May/June with a view to reporting the final document to Thematic Leads on 5th July and the LSP on 29th July.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laurence to send further details of the 2009/10 Place Survey results to Partners by early June. ▪ Partners to continue to feed in comments that address the 15 issues identified by the Audit Commission. ▪ Regular updates on CAA will be provided on the West Cheshire Together website.
Item No.7	<p>LAA Year 2 Outturns</p> <p>Ian Kirby presented an initial 'snapshot' outturn performance for the designated LAA performance indicators for the year 2009/10. Outturn data for 22 of the 34 designated indicators was presented. A complete set of published data will not be available until February 2011. An initial assessment has been made in relation to:</p> <p>i. <i>Target attainment:</i> this shows a mixed picture with 9 indicators performing at a lower level than that achieved in 2008/9.</p> <p>ii. <i>Direction of Travel:</i> year on year and whole life LAA performance presents a much more positive picture for the LAA. The average percentage improvement between 2008/9 and 2009/10 is 12%. Four indicators not improving over the last 12 months are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adult participation in sport - young peoples participation in positive activities - carers receiving needs assessment - working age people claiming out of work benefits <p>From 2007/8 baseline year, the average percentage improvement is 28%. The four indicators not improving over the life of the LAA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - young peoples participation in positive activities - 16-18 year olds not in education, training or employment - carers receiving needs assessment - working age people claiming out of work benefits <p>Further work is being undertaken to compare known results and future targets with those of other authorities to determine how we are faring in relation to our comparators. This will be reported to a future meeting of Thematic Leads.</p>

Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further updates will be presented in due course.
Item No.8	<p>Sub-regional Partnership updates</p> <p>A Sub-Regional Newsletter had been circulated with the agenda. Steve presented further information, including reference to the Sub-Regional Business Plan which will be available in draft form by the end of June 2010. This will set out those areas where greater result and impact can be achieved by tackling issues in partnership.</p> <p>West Cheshire is currently represented on each of the seven thematic commissions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Enterprise</i>: Steve Robinson and Charlie Seward <i>Climate Change and Sustainability</i>: Jane Staley <i>Culture and Visitor Economy</i>: Chris Cook <i>Community Safety and Justice</i>: Lynn Riley <i>Learning and Skills</i>: Charlie Seward <i>Health and Wellbeing</i>: Julie Webster <i>Improvement and Efficiency</i>: Alistair Jeffs <p>Cllr Jones also referred to discussion at the last Sub-Regional Leaders meeting where key decisions had been made about agreeing to start joint budgeting processes and the pooling of staff resources where it makes sense to work collectively, for example around inward investment and economic development.</p> <p>Partners commented that with the current uncertainty around regional government, it was particularly important to make progress at the sub-regional level.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a
Item No. 9	<p>Thematic Partnership Updates</p> <p><i>Children and Young People</i> – Work is progressing on a new Children and Young Peoples Plan. Following a recent meeting of Outcome Leads, a decision had been made to have a major focus on hearing the voice of young people.</p> <p><i>Safer Stronger Communities</i> – Work with the Stronger Sub-Group is progressing well. The Prevent Action Plan has been drafted and will be signed off at the next Safer Stronger meeting on 11th June before being shared more widely. Focused work is being undertaken around NI 18 (adult re-offending rates for those under probationary supervision) looking at integrated offender management – these individuals are felt to hurt our communities the most. Work is also being undertaken around anti-social behaviour, with three co-located team in Chester, Ellesmere Port and Northwich focusing on joint tasking and the ability to gather neighbourhood evidence.</p> <p><i>Environment and Sustainability</i> – have been focusing on the new SCS, turning the commitments made into a delivery plan.</p> <p><i>Health and Wellbeing</i> – have been focusing on reviewing the approach to the Health Inequalities Action Plan. At the last meeting, a presentation on</p>

	<p>the DWP self-assessment toolkit for promoting independence, prevention and early intervention for older people generated a lot of interest and a workshop will follow. The REVIVE bid for land at the Countess was also looked at in terms of promoting positive health and wellbeing in the hospital and surrounding areas including Blacon.</p> <p><i>Business, Enterprise and Culture</i> – the Group has moved away from process issues to consider targeted action around particular issues. At the last meeting, enterprise development was considered, looking at where the Group could make the most impact: this was felt to be Ellesmere Port due to the lack of an enterprise culture. A pack of targeted support will be produced.</p>
Action-Decision	n/a
Item No.10	<p>Any Other Business and issues for the next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Rebecca Mead, PhD Student, University of Chester/PCT</i> Introduced her research project 'Exploring local delivery to improve health and reduce inequalities' focusing on West Cheshire. - <i>Issues for next Thematic Leads meeting (5th July) and LSP (29th July)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First cut of the CAA Self Assessment ➤ Interim Place Survey Results ➤ CWaC Capital Investment Plan ➤ CWaC Enforcement Project ➤ Total Place Approach - Update ➤ LAA Performance ➤ Approach to commissioning (ABG, Total Place, Third Sector) ➤ Links Between ABP's and Regeneration Plans ➤ Health Inequalities Action Plan ➤ Update on Connecting Communities - <i>Links between APB's and Thematic Partnerships:</i> Alison suggested that in order to improve connectivity across the partnership structure, Area Managers should each be asked to attend a Thematic Partnership. Partners felt that this could over burden Area Managers and that strengthening the links between the Area Managers and their Directors could have a similar impact. This would be discussed further at the July meeting.
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further discussion of the links between APBs and Thematic Groups at the July meeting.

Details of next meeting: Monday 5th July 2010, 1.30-3.00pm, venue tbc

Signed (Chair):

Date: