

Partnerships West

A regular update on partnership developments in West Cheshire



WELCOME.... to the latest edition of the Partnerships Bulletin, our last for 2009!

The results of an evaluation of life in West Cheshire, undertaken through the Comprehensive Area Assessment process, have recently been published. The Oneplace assessment gave West Cheshire a generally positive report with no red flags. Further details are given below.

In addition, our new website is currently being tested before its imminent launch after Christmas. Partners will be able to access it at www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk from 8th January 2010. Following launch, your feedback and comments on the site will help us to continue its development, both visually and in terms of building up the content.

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"West Cheshire Together" off to a great start!

An evaluation of life in West Cheshire has been undertaken through the new Comprehensive Area Assessment, which sets out how local public services are working together to tackle the major issues facing the people of the borough.

"Oneplace" is an independent overview of local public services using green and red flags to signal how well public bodies are tackling local issues. The results give residents an independent view of whether their public services are focusing on what matters for where they live. It assesses whether progress is being made in tackling the big local issues and whether things are likely to improve. The inspection was undertaken by the Audit Commission; Care Quality Commission; HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, Prisons and Probation; and Ofsted. Inspectors looked at important local issues such as crime, affordable housing and people's health to create a single snapshot of the area.

The results for West Cheshire were generally positive, with no red flags (significant concerns about performance and prospects for improvement), indicating that key issues for the borough have been identified through "West Cheshire Together" and robust plans are being put in place to address them.

The results of the assessment are now available to view at <http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/>

For further information, contact Jon Amos, Corporate Policy Manager, on 01244 973397 or e-mail: jonathan.amos@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

LSP Network Event: Feedback

Over 160 delegates from public, private, community, voluntary and faith sectors attended the second West Cheshire Together Network event held on 20th November at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall to give their views on three key consultations currently underway - the development a new **Sustainable Community Strategy**, the **Local Development Framework Core Strategy** and the **Local Transport Plan** for the borough.

Following a scene-setting introduction by Cllr Mike Jones, Chairman of West Cheshire Together, delegates worked in groups to identify issues, priorities and challenges relating to the three documents. Workshop feedback has been collated and circulated to conference attendees – contact Elaine Grant on 01244 973334 or e-mail: elaine.grant@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk for a copy.



In addition, delegates were able to network and view more than 20 displays promoting the work of partner organisations in an information sharing “market place”.

The consultation process continues until **13th January 2010** and you can use the hyperlink below to access all of the consultation paperwork:-

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/planning_for_the_future.aspx

The third LSP Network event, to be held in next spring, will be used to launch the new Sustainable Community Strategy for the borough.

For further information, contact Robbie Taylor, Partnership Manager, on 01244 972224 or e-mail: robbie.taylor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Review of Third Sector Grants and Contracts: Implications for 2010/11

Cheshire West and Chester Council is committed to working with its Third Sector partners and recognises their unique ability to support and compliment its work and help improve local public services and quality of life for local people.

Following the principles of the recently launched “Compact for Cheshire West and Chester” (reported in last month’s Edition 10), the Council has undertaken a systematic review of all grants and contracts inherited from the legacy authorities. Lead officers have been identified for each funded organisation and work is continuing to ensure robust contract and grant documentation is in place. Regular liaison meetings will also be held with each organisation to help strengthen the new working relationships and manage our shared objective of moving away from grant distribution to a commissioning relationship based on three year funding agreements, where appropriate.

Lead officers should already have been in contact with their relevant third sector organisation regarding funding arrangements for 2010/11. In most cases, funding will continue on the same basis (with an inflationary uplift). However, in line with Compact commitments, any potential change to current funding arrangements will be notified in writing by 31st December – including details of the proposed change, the consultation process and timescale for implementation.

For further information, contact Joanne Jones, Partnership Manager, on 01244 973129 or e-mail: joanne.jones@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Spotlight on Neighbourhood Renewal in Ellesmere Port

“Total Place” is a new way of working that is being piloted by the Government, looking at the total amount of public money being spent on a range of different service areas and examining how this money could be spent differently to avoid duplication, improve service delivery and achieve improved outcomes for people and their communities.

Maria O’Brien has recently joined Cheshire West and Chester Council as Interim Head of Neighbourhood Renewal and will be leading on the development of a “Total Place” approach to tackling child poverty in Ellesmere Port. The idea is to take a holistic approach to building a sustainable and vibrant community and Maria will be working with partners to tackle deprivation and improve service delivery and efficiency.

There are 13 councils who are "officially" piloting ‘Total Place’ across the country and it is hoped that the approach piloted in this project will help establish good practice within the authority, as well as achieving real results for the communities involved.

For further information, contact Maria O’Brien on 0151 356 6556 or e-mail:
maria.o'brien@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Feedback from the Thematic Leads

The Chairs and Vice Chairs of the five Thematic Partnerships met on 16th November. The group received a summary of the latest population forecasts for West Cheshire and considered which areas will be impacted the most by projected changes such as reductions in the number of children (0-15 years) and increases in those aged 85 and over.

A draft report summarising the developing roles, responsibilities, structures, memberships, resources and working relationships across the Partnerships Framework was discussed and an update on the development of professional groups to support the ongoing work of the Partnership received. Partners agreed to the establishment of a Finance Managers Group to more effectively map partner resources and mainstream spending; oversee the coordination of financial planning processes; explore opportunities for the pooling or alignment of resources; and deliver financial efficiencies.

For further information on ‘West Cheshire Together’ or the Thematic Leads, contact Alison Armstrong, LSP Director, on 01244 973336 or e-mail:
alison.armstrong@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

New “Talking Together” newspaper launched

Cheshire West and Chester Council has joined forces with its public sector partners - Cheshire Constabulary, Cheshire Police Authority, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and NHS Western Cheshire - to produce the first newspaper for residents across the borough.

“Talking Together” is a 16-page newspaper which contains topical news, features and articles. Delivered to every household across the borough and made available in all Council buildings, Talking Together will be produced every four months and the first edition “hit the streets” at the end of November.

For more information or to give any feedback on the publication, e-mail:
talkingtogether@westcheshiretogether.org.uk

Business, Enterprise and Culture Update

The Business, Enterprise and Culture Board held its second meeting on 27th November. The meeting provided the opportunity to review progress against:

- the Local Area Agreement indicators and targets for which it has responsibility;
- delivery of the Future Jobs Fund programme; and
- implementation of the Economic Recession Action Plan.

Work is ongoing to identify meaningful performance measures to better assess the local 'cultural' offer and findings will be available in the new year. The Future Jobs Fund programme is now underway with the first recruits appointed. A further 40 jobs will be available for recruitment from January 2010. The Economic Recession Action Plan is now in place. Implementation will be co-ordinated and managed by the Business, Enterprise and Culture Board with ongoing monitoring provided through the Council's Credit Crunch Committee.

The Board also considered the process for the development of a Local Economic Assessment for West Cheshire. An initial assessment is due for completion by early September 2010 and this will provide advanced local intelligence, analysis and evidence of need to support funding applications and plug gaps in knowledge relating to the different sectors of the local economy.

The Board will meet again in January. For more information, contact Robbie Taylor, Partnership Manager, on 01244 972224 or e-mail: robbie.taylor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Health and Wellbeing Update

"West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing" welcomed Councillor Reggie Jones (Blacon ward) to its meeting on 4th December to discuss the relationship between the Thematic Partnership, the Area Partnership Boards and the evolving partnership structure in Blacon.

The Group also received an overview of the Supporting People programme from Andy Meakin, Supporting People Manager for Cheshire West and Chester Council. In addition, the current consultation process on a new Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Local Transport Plan for the borough was highlighted.

The development of a partnership strategy for Walking for Health and Wellbeing in West Cheshire was endorsed. This will be led by Julia Hope, Strategic Commissioning Manager – Health and Wellbeing, NHS Western Cheshire and Cheshire West and Chester Council and progress will be reported at future meetings.

Sub-groups have also been created to address specific issues:-

- ⇒ The **Alcohol Strategy Group** is working with key stakeholders throughout December and January to develop a draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for West Cheshire which will significantly reduce alcohol related harm across local communities. A number of engagement events are being planned to capture the views of a wide range of people to help shape the final strategy, including focus groups, small deliberative events and a 'Big Drink Debate' which will explore key issues and challenge drinking culture.

For further information, contact Tony Sharples, Public Health Specialist, NHS Western Cheshire, on 01244 650372 or e-mail: tony.sharples@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk

- ⇒ The **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Steering Group** met in November and discussed their vision for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, a dynamic needs assessment hosted by NHS Western Cheshire at www.wcheshirepct.nhs.uk/JSNA which exists as the first port of call for anyone requiring health and wellbeing information for the West Cheshire area and is a valuable tool for commissioners and policy leads. An audit of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment should be undertaken in 2010 to capture where it has been used to evidence its impact on commissioning and decision making.
- ⇒ The **Mental Health Strategy Group** met in November, the first meeting since its adoption as a sub-group of West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing. The group received an overview of the recently published Western Cheshire Annual Public Health Report 2009 as well as an update on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for West Cheshire. It was agreed that the toolkit for mental health commissioners (<http://www.nmhd.org.uk/silo/files/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-and-mental-health-commissioning-toolkit-2009.doc>) be reviewed and the inclusion of mental health data and information explored.

For further information, contact Sarah Moores, Joint Commissioning Manager, NHS Western Cheshire, on 01244 650324 or e-mail: sarah.moores@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk.

For further information on the work of West Cheshire Together for Health and Wellbeing, contact Claire Wildgoose, Partnerships Manager, NHS Western Cheshire, on 01244 650588 or e-mail: claire.wildgoose@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk

Council Budget Consultation 2010/11

Cheshire West and Chester Council's 2010/11 budget proposals are now available to view on the Council's website. As well as reading the proposals, there is an on-line questionnaire to capture comments on what people think should be the Council's priorities and where they think the money should be spent.

The consultation period closes on **29th January 2010** and the information gathered will help inform the budget to be set by the Council on 25th February.

A number of consultation events with residents, local businesses and key partners will also take place during January. This will include discussions with the Third Sector Assembly and West Cheshire Together.

To view the council's budget proposals please go to:-

<http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/budgetconsultation> and follow the link from the homepage.

Following an election process undertaken by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Council, the following Local Councillors have been elected to represent Local (i.e. town and parish) Councils on the five Area Partnership Boards:-

Chester:	Sue Proctor (<i>from Great Boughton Parish Council</i>)
Ellesmere Port:	Ince Parish Council to be invited to APB meetings (<i>as the only Local Council within the area</i>)
Northwich & Rural North:	Terry O'Neill (<i>from Helsby Parish Council</i>)
Rural West:	Carol Weaver (<i>from Tattenhall Parish Council</i>)
Winsford & East:	Graham Stewart (<i>from Utkinton Parish Council</i>)

Faith Sector Audit

In 2009/2010, Link Up is undertaking a full audit of the faith sector across the Cheshire West and Chester Council area. The audit process will seek to capture community action by all faith groups across all communities.

Link Up is a relational network of Churches and Church leaders in and around 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.



Link Up is taking the lead in the Faith Sector Audit in partnership with Interfaith groups, Churches and public sector agencies. Research will take the form of a questionnaire being sent to all faith groups in spring 2010. Social and economic impact will be key outcomes of the Audit process. Based on the work and methodology of the Saltbox Christian Centre in Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire, preliminary reports are anticipated by summer 2010.

You can find out more by visiting www.linkup.uk.net or by contacting Hazel Gilbert on 01244 343464 or e-mail: office@linkup.uk.net

Forthcoming Community Forum dates

A full round up of recent Community Forum meetings will be given in our January bulletin. Below are the dates of forthcoming Community Forums in January and February 2010:-

Marbury, Northwich East and Shakerley	Wednesday 6th January 2010, 7.00pm, Byley Village Hall
Frodsham, Helsby & Weaver	Thursday 7th January 2010, 7.00pm, Helsby Community Centre
Broxton	Thursday 14th January 2010, 7.00pm, Farndon Village Memorial Hall
Mickle Trafford	Thursday 4th February 2010, 6.30pm, St Oswald's Primary School, Mollington
Neston, Parkgate, Ledsham & Willaston	Saturday 6th February 2010, 10.00am, Gladstone Village Hall, Burton

January Volunteer Fair

Cheshire West and Chester Council, in conjunction with EPNAVCO (Ellesmere Port and Neston Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations) will be holding a second Volunteer Fair:

Date: Tuesday 19th January 2010
Time: 3.00pm – 6.00pm
Venue: Ellesmere Port Civic Hall

If you are interested in attending, or would like further details, contact Fiona Dunning on 01606 867524 or e-mail: fiona.dunning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Our next edition will be in January 2010

FEEDBACK.....your views or news

Your comments on this bulletin, or any partnership news you would like to share, should be forwarded to either:-

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E-mail: alistair.jeffs@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

or

Ken Ivatt, Interim Director, Area & Community Services

E-mail: ken.ivatt@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

