

Date: 9th August 2007
Time: 9.30am
Venue: Vauxhall Motors Sports & Social Club, Ellesmere Port

PRESENT: Chris Mahon, Vice Chair (on behalf of Wendy Wright)

LSP Representatives:

Chester:	Robin Norrie, Chair Neil Ritchie, Councillor (representing Cllr Margaret Parker)
Congleton:	David Brown, Deputy Chair (representing Bill Owen, Chair) Glyn Chambers, Chief Executive, Congleton Borough Council
Crewe & Nantwich:	Paul Ancell, Chief Executive, Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council
Ellesmere Port & Neston:	Gordon McGuinness, Chair Stephen Ewbank, Chief Executive, Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council
Macclesfield:	John Wilbraham, Chair Helen Rowley, Macclesfield Borough Council (representing Vivienne Horton, Chief Executive, Macclesfield Borough Council)
Vale Royal:	Richard Hallows, Vale Royal Borough Council (representing Anne Bingham-Holmes, Chief Executive, Vale Royal Borough Council)

Other CCP Member Body Representatives:

Cheshire Safer Stronger Communities Partnership:	Peter Fahy, Chair
Cheshire Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership:	Joan Feenan, Vice Chair
Cheshire & Warrington Economic Alliance:	Martin Lee, Chief Executive CWEA
Sustainable Cheshire Forum:	Chris Mahon, Chair
Cheshire Healthier Communities Group:	John Weeks, Chair
Cheshire & Warrington Cultural Consortium:	
Cheshire & Warrington Rural	David Rowlands, Chair

Partnership:	
Cheshire County Council	Jeremy Taylor, Chief Executive
Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service:	Steve McGuirk, Chief Fire Officer Mark Cashin, Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Cheshire PCTs:	Helen Bellairs, Western Cheshire PCT
Cheshire CABx:	Paul Nicholls
Cheshire CVSs:	Michael Metcalfe

Support Staff:

Jan Burns, Lisa Green, Robbie Taylor and Lyn Raynor (CCC); Clare Babbs (Chester); Sean Daley (EPN); Cathy Boyd (VRBC).

Visitors:

Denise Brown, Cheshire County Council, attended for item 3.

18.0 WELCOME MESSAGE

Rev. Gordon McGuinness as Chair of the host LSP (Ellesmere Port & Neston) welcomed partners to the meeting.

19.0 INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME

Chris Mahon, Vice Chair, welcomed partners to the meeting and introductions were made. A statement outlining the recent Government announcement regarding local government reorganisation in Cheshire was provided. See Appendix below.

20.0 NOTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2007 were approved as a correct record. The following matters arising were discussed:

Item 13.0 – Assurance was sought that, despite the uncertain future due to Local Government Reorganisation, work would continue to set up a Children’s Trust. This was confirmed, as there is a legal obligation to develop the Trust unless Government decides otherwise.

Item 13.0 – The template has been circulated and was now in use for thematic partnerships and District LSPs to provide partnership updates.

Item 15.0 – (4) Paul Nicholls corrected the previous meeting minutes and stated the Hub will be leading on the work programme on behalf of the CCP, but would liaise with other Partners to progress the work (e.g. the Change Up Consortium).

21.0 CHILDREN’S TRUSTS

Joan Feenan delivered a presentation on the formation of a Children’s Trust in Cheshire. (A summary paper will be distributed with the minutes and posted

on the web pages for additional information).

Following the presentation and Partnership discussion, additional points were to be noted:

- The Business Unit will provide the shared services to support the operation of the Trust and will be expected to be resourced by all Partners.
- The Children and Young People's Plan will identify the resources necessary to develop and support the new Business Unit.
- The Government requires formal qualifications from all agencies employing staff to work with children, young people and families.
- The experience Third Sector specialist providers currently have will need to be supplemented by formal training.
- The CYPSP Hub will be closely involved in the development of training for small Third Sector provider organisations.

John Weeks commented that Government guidance provided in the "Our health, our choice, our say" document, identifies the local Director of Adult Services to be responsible for local communities in transition from child to adult services. Those transitional arrangements will be included in the strategic work programme of the Trust.

AGREED: Progress towards a Cheshire CYP Trust was recognised by all Partners. The slide presentation is circulated to partners and available on the Cheshire Partnerships Framework website.

22.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IN CHESHIRE

Chris Mahon (as Chair of the Sustainable Cheshire Forum) delivered a presentation on the effects of climate change and the challenges ahead for all communities and organisations in Cheshire.

The presentation outlined how it was the responsibility of the Communities of Cheshire Partnership and its constituent elements to take a strategic lead in adopting actions to reduce the effects of climate change and adapt to the inevitable consequences and encourage others to do the same. Each of the countywide Thematic Partnerships were presented with examples of how their work is affected and challenged to how they could respond to those issues. Partners also recognised that immediate actions were required to respond to the challenges of climate change consequences, which are constantly accelerating.

A Climate Change Programme Manager for Cheshire is expected to be recruited in the near future, to co-ordinate services and activities to be provided by the investment from the NWDA.

Chris Mahon concluded the discussion by emphasising climate change issues are the responsibility of all Partners and suggested a future CCP conference could concentrate on the subject as a special subject with cross-cutting themes.

AGREED: The slide presentation will be circulated to all Partners for further dissemination and available on the Cheshire Partnerships Framework website.

23.0 DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO COMMISSIONING

John Weeks introduced the agenda item, which related to an earlier identified action for the countywide Thematic Partnerships to undertake on behalf of the Cheshire Partnership framework. The need to develop a common understanding of the commissioning methodology, the terminology and timescales has already been outlined as part of the immediate developmental work towards to establishment of the CYP Trust. The development of joint commissioning approach between health and social care providers, is also at the heart of the “Our health, our choice, our say” guidance.

Denise Brown (Cheshire County Council) delivered a presentation on the commissioning process and cycle and how it is the result of shared work between health, social care and children’s service sectors. This was followed by a practical example of how the commissioning approach and its four key stages (analyse, plan, do and review) were applicable to a current service delivery issue involving community support centres in Cheshire.

AGREED: That the Communities of Cheshire Partnership endorse and adopt the approach and ensure the approach is communicated to all associated partners and partnerships.

24.0 CHESHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT – PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT & REPORTING

Robbie Taylor presented an updated report on the performance management protocols and associated timescales, ahead of the half-year performance reports of the LAA. The process of collating information by individual sub-outcome owners and how that information will be channeled via the countywide Thematic Partnerships to the CCP, Governance Board and GONW was explained.

A couple of Partners had indicated that the Excelcis software had not been as ‘user friendly’ as anticipated. Those Partners will be invited to forward detailed examples of their difficulties to Robbie Taylor, so all issues can be shared with County Council officers responsible for the software to ensure problems are resolved. A review of the performance management process will be undertaken at the end of the financial year, following the completion of the first Cheshire LAA performance report.

AGREED:

Partners agreed the steps and timetable outlined in the paper to produce the first half-year Cheshire LAA performance report.

25.0 CHESHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008/09 PROJECT PLANNING

Sean Daley presented a project plan to the Partnership. The paper included

details of the key milestones and tasks required to produce a revised LAA ahead of the new financial year.

A number of Partners expressed serious concern about the capacity of Partners to undertake effectively the key tasks outlined in the project plan, against the uncertainty around LGR in Cheshire and current workloads across all the partner agencies.

AGREED:

Partners, with the following additional request, approved the outline project plan presented.

ACTION:

The CCP and Governance Board both write to the GONW inviting a senior officer to attend future meetings of both partnerships, with a view to discussing Government expectations of a revised Cheshire LAA for 2008/09.

26.0 CHESHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT: EQUALITY NEEDS IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNITY COHESION SUB-OUTCOME

The Partnership was provided with an executive summary of the Equality Needs Impact Assessment of the Cheshire LAA. Robbie Taylor highlighted two key elements of the assessment. Firstly, those communities and groups potentially at risk of the negative consequences of outcomes in the LAA. Secondly, the actions indicated in the full report that will provide the Thematic Partnerships with increased intelligence to support the LAA review process.

Clare Babbs requested Partners agreement to definition of “vulnerable” communities in the Cheshire LAA (sub-outcome 1.4 (i)) to be targeted in those disadvantaged wards identified in the LAA. A number of Partners suggested this approach might not identify all vulnerable people and communities. For example, people living in rural communities who have trouble in accessing services or people with disabilities. Gypsy and Traveller communities would however, be included in the BME category. It was suggested that those groups covered by organisations’ diversity / equality strategies might be a useful starting point.

AGREED:

The executive summary was approved by the Partnership as part of the full Assessment and the actions outlined were accepted as the next steps to be undertaken.

ACTION:

The CCP Improvement Group receive a progress report outlining which groups and communities will be covered in the data collection and mapping exercises of this sub-outcome, on behalf of the Partnership.

27.0 PARTNERSHIP REPORTS – ISSUES FOR THE CCP

Partners were provided with reports from the countywide Thematic

Partnerships and District LSPs in advance of the meeting. Additional reports were received concerning the progress of the development of a Lifelong Learning Strategy for Cheshire and the development of an Older People's Strategy. Partners were encouraged to accept the progress reports and return to the subjects at a later meeting for further review.

The following points were identified from the partnership reports for particular attention:

- The Cheshire and Warrington Climate Change Group has made a bid for £270k to the NWDA to develop a climate change programme for Cheshire.
- The Cheshire Rural Strategic Partnership requested all Partners to contribute to the promotion and to participate in the Cheshire Year of the Gardens.
- Congleton LSP indicated the challenge of delivery agencies to map existing services provided in Bromley Farm as part of the LAA work.
- Chester in Partnership questioned the role of GONW in advising clearly on the expectations of the LAA review for 2008/09, against the challenges of possible local government re-structuring.
- Vale Royal LSP indicated the challenge of providing accessible transport for local rural communities as part of the current review of community transport.

Paul Nicholls (Vale Royal CAB) provided a report on behalf of the Hub on the development of the CCP third sector work programme. Robbie Taylor drew Partners attention to a complementary piece of research currently underway as part off the Change Up Programme. The work is co-ordinated by an independent consultant, Alison Navarro, who provided the analysis to develop the CYPSP Hub model.

ACTION:

The CCP Improvement Group is provided with more details of both approaches and project plans from the Hub and Change Up Programme research in this area, ahead of the next CCP meeting.

NOTE:

Date of the next meeting, **1st NOVEMBER 2007, 2.00PM, CREWE & NANTWICH DISTRICT** (venue to be arranged).

Signed (Chair):

Date:

APPENDIX:

CCP – 9 August 2007 – LGR: Chairman’s statement.

On 25 July, the Government announced that it was minded to replace the existing county council and six district councils in Cheshire with two new Unitary Authorities covering west and east Cheshire. It is not a final decision.

Consequently, over the next couple of months, the Government will be asking for additional information from the four District Councils supporting the two unitary bid (Chester, Ellesmere Port & Neston, Vale Royal and Macclesfield) on one element of that proposal – some aspects of cost/affordability. That evidence will need to be provided by the end of September.

Following that submission, there will be a further period of consultation with partners and stakeholders to allow us all to comment on the proposal and any further information that has been provided, before a final decision is taken to co-incide with the enactment of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill in November.

In the meantime, I would suggest it is important that we do not let this prolonged period of uncertainty deflect us from the priorities of partnership working at district and county level and, particularly the implementation and delivery of the current Local Area Agreement and preparation for LAA 2008.

I certainly see one of the main advantages of a wide-ranging partnership such as this is that it can help us weather the storms associated with continual re-organisations within a particular sector and to ensure we remain focused on delivering improved outcomes for the people and communities of Cheshire.

I hope you agree that the most appropriate response we can make at the moment, is to continue to progress the challenging agenda we have set ourselves and to keep the situation under review as matters unfold over the next few months.