



Cheshire (interim) Sustainable Community Strategy – consultation progress.



“The starting point for negotiating the LAA is through the creation of strong partner relationships and alignment of views around the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The SCS provides visions, values and aspirations, and is rooted in the evidence base and analysis that tells the “story of the place” providing a rationale for the area’s “up to 35” improvement targets”

***“Negotiating New Local Area Agreements”, CLG
(September 2007)***



Communities of Cheshire Partnership (09/01/2008)

- Reflect success and high quality of life for most people.
- Central theme to be around narrowing the gap / reducing inequalities between those experiencing/achieving success and those that have yet to benefit.
- Reflect rural issues as well as urban inequalities
- Incorporate mental health into revised inequalities section.
- Add two priorities on road safety and anti-social behaviour (arson focus).



Comments to date:

- too many priority proposals, danger in trying to address too much – e.g. there are 9 community safety priorities.
- need to reflect the role of culture and leisure activities in improving local quality of life.
- wide support to increase effective action to reduce alcohol dependency and associated poor health issues.
- need recognition of the Local Transport Plan: additional section covering “Delivering transport improvements” has been suggested.
- include reference to the ‘Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy’ and the production of renewable energy from waste.
- reflect the West Cheshire ‘New Growth Point’ status expression of interest.

Gypsies and Travellers:

- Some of the targeted actions are at odds with their lifestyles with family ties being strong. None of the high school aged children went to school (they were home tutored), teenage marriages and pregnancies were common.
- Making our communities even safer – respondents had experienced anti-social behaviour and while things had improved for some, others felt more needed to be done.
- Tackling the adverse impact of alcohol – nearly all respondents were strongly opposed to the easy accessibility of alcohol.
- An additional priority area was their version of ‘access’ to appropriate housing, to increase the availability of land to provide pitches for themselves and extended family.

BME Participants:

- Children and young people – this group valued education highly and thought it would be a good way to tackle child poverty and reduce teenage pregnancies.
- Participants identified reducing anti-social behaviour as the most important priority for action. The concern was for overall behaviour not any particular behaviour aimed at the BME community.
- All the group agreed that the easy accessibility of cheap alcohol for young people was part of the problem. Suggestions for action included dealing with local shops who sold alcohol to underage drinkers, educating young people and providing activities for them that kept them off the streets.
- Reducing worklessness and improving skills - the whole group considered education and improving skills to be very important. They were all educated and agreed that this would be the best way to reduce worklessness. A few participants stated that their colour made it harder for them to get a job in Cheshire.



Consultation closes: **Monday 28th April**

- Consultation Website:
 - **http://www.cpframework.org.uk/cscs_consultation.htm**
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