

District LSP & Thematic Partnership Reports

Introduction

Attached in the following Appendices are the district Local Strategic Partnership and Cheshire-wide Thematic Partnership reports of recent achievements, current activity and future challenges.

This information is provided for information only though the issues identified for consideration by the Communities of Cheshire Partnership are extracted below:

Safer, Stronger Cheshire Group

- There is emerging consensus that NI4 (the '% of people who feel they can influence decisions in the locality') is a potentially useful benchmark for neighbourhood management, an approach which a range of agencies and partnerships are embarking on across Cheshire. Establishing this as a common measure, with standard wording and survey methodology, may facilitate the performance management and comparison of NM programmes. The CCP may wish to consider supporting enhancements to the new Place Survey (which replaces the Local Government User Satisfaction Survey in 08-09) in key areas such as the high deprivation wards identified by the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Children's Trust

- Noting the comments in the minutes of the last CCP that there would be the need to ensure that local authorities would not be held to account for performance outside their responsibility, then CCP may wish to support the need for separate Children's Trusts for East and West.

Healthier Communities & Older People Economic Development & Environment Cultivate

- The need for all organisations to continue to ensure resources are targeted at delivering the current and new LAA.
- Visitor Chester and Cheshire (VCC) are concerned about LGR and the Visitor Economy being lost in everything that is going on.
- Raised awareness of Cultivate and potential links with other sub-regional strategic developments.
- Potential of cultural activity to add value to other's aims and objectives.

Cheshire &

- Bluetongue Disease - The impact that Bluetongue is

Warrington Rural Partnership

having on the County has not being highly publicised and as such people and possibly Government at all levels are largely unaware of the additional challenges this poses for rural communities. The Strategic Board of the Rural Partnership has a clear role and in terms of both direct action on its part as well as helping to coordinate and broker action in conjunction with partners and stakeholders. The Communities of Cheshire Partnership also has a broader strategic role in engaging other partners to:

- brief local MPs and MEPs and secure their engagement;
 - request data on stress related cases from the “Farm Crises Network”
 - canvas the views of Cheshire farmers, using local business contacts such as local livestock auctioneers within the BT area and the Business and Country Land Owners Association, and
 - prompt the Cheshire Rural Trust to seek out farmers in need and offer financial assistance.
- **Community Planning** - A Business Case has been developed by the Cheshire and Warrington Rural Community & Parish Planning Group (RCPPG). It reflects on the outcomes of the Defra funded, Rural Social and Community Programme in Cheshire and Warrington since it started in April 2006. The RSCP will have invested £352,000 into rural community capacity building activities since April 2006. The RSCP has been delivered through commissioned projects to key rural delivery partners in the sub-region and the distribution of community grants to front line / grass roots, voluntary and community groups and larger organisations delivering services to rural communities. This Business Case highlights the projects commissioned and the resulting benefits to rural communities across the County and makes the case for continuing this support. The Communities of Cheshire partnership needs to give its support to the business case to help secure commitment and resources for rural areas of Cheshire.

PARTNERSHIP: Chester in Partnership	DATE: 20.3.08
CONTACT OFFICER: Clare Babbs	TEL: 01244 402358 EMAIL: c.babbs@chester.gov.uk
<p>CURRENT ACTIVITY: Chester in Partnership has met twice since the last CCP, on 25.1.08 and 7.3.08. In addition to that an emergency planning exercise was undertaken by the partnership on 4.3.08 at the St Marys Centre in Chester to look at a partnership response to disaster planning.</p> <p>Briefing notes from the two full meetings are attached below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHESTER IN PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP BRIEFING NOTE 25 January 2008</p> <p><u>Partner Matters</u> The Voluntary and Community Sector representatives reported concern about funding arrangements for 2008/9 due to uncertainty over LGR, and there was concern about whether this process has been compact compliant. The ‘Smiles’ project has been re-launched due to local difficulty: an exhibition will take place in May. The ‘Playing Out’ project encouraging children to take part in traditional playground games will be launched shortly.</p> <p><u>Items for Decision</u> <u>Local Area Agreement for Cheshire 2008/9</u> Partners received the latest version of the suggested performance indicators to be included in the LAA. Considerable representations have been received and the list is being adapted to reflect this. The final indicators must be measurable within 2008/9 with milestones during this period, with potential for measurable improvement. The indicators must also be priorities within the County Sustainable Community Strategy, and be currently resourced so that rapid progress can be made. It was noted that indicator N4 had been included following representations from Blacon Neighbourhood Partnership.</p> <p><u>Responding to current consultation and guidance documents</u> Partners looked at draft responses to a number of current government consultation papers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. CAA Guidance and Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Guidance These documents are central to the delivery of the new settlement between central government, local government and citizens. It looks at how local authorities can engage citizens, lead their communities, and find more effective ways to deliver high quality services with partners. ii. Streamlining Local Development Frameworks This consultation includes a number of proposals to streamline the production of LDFs, the planning and development frameworks prepared by local authorities. This guidance stresses the critical relationship between LDFs and sustainable community strategies. iii. A Framework for Third Sector Representations in LSPs This document outlines seven principles by which the third sector can organise itself and maximise its voice on an LSP: the aspiration is to strengthen the voice of the sector. 	

There was concern by partners about the apparent assumption that the Third Sector is a homogeneous group of organisations.

Draft responses from Chester in Partnership to Government on each of these documents were discussed.

Presentations

Chester Festivals Partnership

Partners received a presentation from Rosa Corbishley, Manager of the Chester Festivals Partnership, an umbrella organisation which aims to guide and manage the growth of the festivals and events sector in Chester. The partnership aims initially to consolidate existing festivals, with an ambition to create a structure which can support innovation, internationalism and inclusion in the future.

Items for Information

Local Government Review Update

Following the Government's decision to implement two unitary councils in Cheshire, partners received an update on progress and emerging issues. The implementation order is expected to be approved by Parliament over the next few weeks. An Interim Joint Committee and a series of implementation teams are currently being established to prepare for the shadow council to be elected in May 2008. The new Unitary Councils will formally be established on 1 April 2009.

PCT Prospectus and Commissioning Strategy

Western Cheshire PCT has produced the first iteration of the PCT's 10 year Commissioning Strategy. This is a 'direction of travel' document, which will adapt and change to respond to emerging issues. There will be an annual operational plan to support this document. The Partnership welcomed the comprehensive strategy although more explicit links to the LSP would have helped to highlight the nature of the relationship between PCT and LSP.

Blacon Neighbourhood Management Succession Planning

Partners received an update on work being undertaken by CDHT and Blacon Community Trust working with Blacon NMP. A sustainable business plan is being developed which will focus on securing an asset management company to support community engagement in the future of key capital assets in Blacon.

Partnership Improvement Plans

A substantial amount of work has been undertaken in reviewing the performance of thematic partnerships involved in Chester in Partnership. Key groups (Health, Housing and Community Safety Partnerships) have been invited to bring their improvement plans to the next meeting.

Transforming Learning Communities Update

Partners received a briefing note summarising the outcome of the Chester and Rural Chester TLC review.

CHESTER IN PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP BRIEFING NOTE FROM MEETING - 7 March 2008

Partner Matters

Partners learnt of the success of the BME media training, arranged by the Chester Stronger Communities Group. Further concerns were raised about the continuity of community and voluntary sector funding, particularly in the context of local government review. Partners learnt

that a 'Third Sector Assembly' comprised of voluntary and community sector interests in West Cheshire has been formed to address such concerns. A visit from Margaret Hodge MP was reported where discussion about the future of culture in Chester was discussed: further discussions are due to take place as part of our 'story of place'. Partners also learnt that two Chester based facilities have been selected as training camps for the 2012 Olympics, and that Chester district has been successful in securing funding of £5.4 million towards Affordable Housing Schemes over 3 years.

Items for Decision

Local Government Review in Cheshire

Local Government review in Cheshire has now formally received the green light, following a decision in the House of Lords 2 March 2008. Chris Hardy gave a full update on the timetable to 1 April 2009 when the new authorities in East and West Cheshire are in place. He also described the working arrangements to develop the arrangements for the new Councils. Chris is currently leading on a cross-cutting workstrand to develop a new partnership framework: efforts will be made to ensure that all partners are involved in these discussions. The Partnership felt that it was important that these discussions should listen to the Partnership and Community views and build visions and structures from the bottom up rather than top down. Partners also supported the ongoing work of Robin Norrie in representing the interests of Chester in Partnership in detailed discussions.

Local Area Agreement for Cheshire

Current discussions are centering around a 3 year 'severable' LAA for Cheshire, which would allow a Cheshire-wide LAA to be put in place initially, followed by a severance into two LAAs East and West, at a time in the future to be determined. Views are currently being sought as to whether or not this is feasible given the very tight timescales. Partners agreed that, subject to Partners having opportunities to make amendments/additions to indicators up to at least the point of sign off in June 2008, a three year severable LAA be pursued.

Partnership Improvement Plans

Updates on improvement plans being taken forward by the Chester Community Safety Partnership and Health Partnership were received. Further work to benchmark the current activities of all Chester in partnership thematic groups to identify recent progress, key achievements and key tasks, was agreed

Presentations

Homes for Everyone in Chester

Kate Ingram from Muir Housing presented works being undertaken to secure affordable/shared ownership housing in Chester District. The value of shared ownership opportunities in enabling buyers to part-purchase properties in partnership with housing associations in order to meet local need was discussed. Currently demand far outstrips supply, so the focus has to be on those with the greatest need. Land acquisition can be a barrier, and it was suggested that this could be addressed through greater advertisement of 'exception sites'.

Items for Information

Feedback from Emergency Planning Exercise

Feedback from this exercise was very positive, and has encouraged partners to give greater consideration to potential emergency situations.

Feedback from Community Cohesion Training

TK Al-Jorani reported back on some Community Cohesion Training. It was suggested that partners should commit to learning more about the concept of community cohesion and what it means for partnership working. TK Al-Jorani agreed to provide written guidance for Partnerships.

Partnership Project and Programme Management Training

Partners received an update on the roll out of project and programme management training across Chester in Partnership.

Charity Walk

Nigel Bruce informed partners of a Charity Walk organised by Chester Business Club taking place on Sunday 27th April 2008, (registration from 10am) starting at the bandstands on the Groves, along Dukes Drive towards Eccleston and back.

PARTNERSHIP: Vale Royal LSP	DATE: March 2008
CONTACT OFFICER: Cathy Boyd	TEL: 01606 867532 EMAIL: cboyd@valeroyal.gov.uk
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:	
Initial meeting of LSP Emergency Planning Group held.	
CURRENT ACTIVITY:	
<p>Draft Voluntary Sector Compact action plan produced and agreed at Vale Royal Voluntary Sector Forum.</p> <p>Community Safety – Strategic assessment completed.</p> <p>VR Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership – Action Plan produced.</p> <p>LSP Equality and Diversity group produced a draft action plan for 2008/09.</p> <p>Draft Community Cohesion Strategy produced in line with LAA targets.</p> <p>Winning Winsford – Consultation on Winsford Town Park and Waterfront areas.</p> <p>Climate Change pledge and Support pack – draft being produced</p> <p>Caring for the Environment Board – LSP Parish Plan Protocol draft produced.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Management Pilots in East Northwich and Winsford – action plans being developed.</p>	
FUTURE CHALLENGES:	
LGR – Partnership Framework.	
ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP:	

PARTNERSHIP: Crewe & Nantwich LSP	DATE: 20 th March 2008
CONTACT OFFICER: Kirstie Hercules	TEL: 01270 537283 EMAIL: Kirstie.herclues@crewe-nantwich.gov.uk
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The separation of the Older Peoples Partnership into the Older Peoples Partnership Agency Group and the Older People’s Voice Group. The Voice Group are currently looking at becoming constituted •LLL Widening Participation Pilot Programme and Community Capacity Building Project now both completed. •Secured funding to deliver MEND family weight management programme. Due to commence in May 2008. Sub-group of the Health Partnership established to oversee this and other child obesity work. •Adult obesity and weight management course delivered in November, and a multi-agency sub-group established to identify gaps in current provision, identify resources and agree key messages. Partnerships established via the group have also led to the instigation of a number of initiatives locally for people with learning disabilities. These include the distribution of 50 low-energy light bulb packs, establishment of weekly exercise classes for LD clients and agreement on a new health improvement assessment tool. •Secured funding from Sport England for 3 physical activity projects in the areas of family obesity, older people’s activity and learning disabilities. Work is now underway to initiate the programmes. •Supporting the Wishing Well healthy Living Programme to make the transition from Lottery Project to self-sustaining independent company. They have won the contract to operate the community café at the new Eagle Bridge Health and Wellbeing Centre, and has been successful in securing additional funding to maintain many of its activities. •CYPP’s celebration of ‘Year of the Family’ in St Barnabas Ward, now intended to extend across all Crewe wards. 	
CURRENT ACTIVITY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Older People’s Partnership Group are reviewing old delivery plan, introducing balance score cards and supporting the Voice group on resolving public transport issues at Eagle Bridge Health and Well-being Centre in Crewe. •Older People’s Voice Group working in Partnership with CCC’s Transport Coordination to survey the quality of the local bus service in C&N, supporting CCC’s Locality Manager, modernisation to improve the Information Strategy for Older People, running an Information & Consultation Stall at the Ableworld Road-Show in Nantwich and developing and distributing Voice Group Information Sheets on issues concerning this generation. •LLL Community Learning Champions Programme, Directory of adult learning opportunities, linked with directory of activities for children and young people, NWIN Project, Skills for Life Project, evaluation of Widening Participation and Community Capacity Building Projects and planning for future projects. •Health Partnership in the process of replacing their delivery plan with the Balance Scorecard system. The group is currently seeking to recruit new members to ensure appropriate representation and input from relevant agencies. •The Culture Group is going to be the focus of, and lead, the next Borough Forum in May 08. •The May Neighbourhood Renewal Panel meeting themed to take forward the West End Regeneration Plan and Neighbourhood Charters. 	
FUTURE CHALLENGES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively utilize the knowledge and resources which partners bring to the Older People’s Partnership Group. •Link effectively with other groups to address the wider issues affecting older people. •Make links from the Older People’s Voice Group to Macclesfield Senior Voice and Congleton Older People’s Forum •To develop a shadow East Cheshire Senior Voice Group. •Implementation of Cheshire Lifelong Learning Strategy alongside LAA •Ensuring all relevant areas of health improvement are represented on the Health Partnership. Identify relevant health data to ensure validity of planned interventions and look at how interventions are monitored and evaluated. •Explore potential for activity across the County using LAA network. •Public Art development in line with the Town Centre redevelopment and specific areas sited in the West End. •Support for the development of an Arts & Heritage centre in Crewe. •Draw in a wider range of minority ethnic partners - arts project (“Ticket to Crewe”) attempts to address this. •Local Government Reorganisation 	
ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP:	

PARTNERSHIP: Macclesfield LSP	DATE: 17 March 2008
CONTACT OFFICER: Helen Ward	TEL: 01625 504238 EMAIL: h.ward@macclesfield.gov.uk
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS / ACTIVITIES:	
<p>Merger of Environment & Economic development sub-themes. Cedric Knipe stepped down as Chair to be replaced by Jane Staley.</p> <p><i>Environment Q3 key achievements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual target for the number of affordable housing units occupied achieved in Q3. ▪ Recycling rates on target for 2008/09 ▪ Action plan for Cheshire Year of the Garden on schedule. ▪ Ahead of target on production of Conservation appraisals <p><i>Economic Q3 key achievements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Bentley showroom is due to open in early 2008 and the 27,00sq ft Pavilions office development on the plot to the rear, is due to be completed in February 2008. ▪ Bollington Parish Plan work ongoing focusing on tourism, street furniture and parking issues. New focus on role of commerce and business in sustaining the local community. <p><i>Safer & Stronger Q3 key achievements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Target relating to the British Crime Survey crime categories is on target to be met. Crime figures have been particularly encouraging of late – domestic burglary has reduced dramatically in 2007/08 following a significant upward “spike” in the early part of 2007 ▪ After a difficult Q2, there were far fewer serious or fatal casualties on our roads in Q3 and we are now back on target. <p><i>Children & Young People Q3 key achievements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Police have initiated the Arch Angel project as well as focussing on the selling of alcohol to underage young people. ▪ The fire service are working with schools on the Brake project related to drink/driving and other work is taking place through the Healthy Schools initiative. ▪ School attendance rates across the borough have improved and the development of the 14-19 agenda is progressing effectively. ▪ The voluntary sector has been commissioned to deliver anti-bullying sessions in targeted schools. Kooth on-line is now available in all secondary schools and a high street counselling service has been established in four centres at the weekends 	

CURRENT ACTIVITY:

- 1ST year Macclesfield SCS action plan full year reporting.
- 2nd year Macclesfield Sustainable Community Strategy Action planning and target setting
- Review of a possible “Sustainability Pledge” for LSP members to sign up to and report back on.

FUTURE CHALLENGES:

- Appropriate target setting for monitoring during 08/09 as final year of current LSP Framework with a view to the continuing work under Cheshire East.

ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP:

PARTNERSHIP: Congleton LSP	DATE: 25 March 2008
CONTACT OFFICER: Craig Nicholson	TEL: 01270 529610 EMAIL: craig.nicholson@congleton.gov.uk
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Safety Partnership is working with residents of Bromley Farm to establish a Neighbourhood Management Team encouraging youth activities and community engagement 2. The Children and Young People partnership have recently produced a handbook setting out opportunities for young people to participate in leisure, culture and sport. 3. The Stronger Communities have achieved in partnership a third national commendation for their work as part of the Compact Development. 4. The Lifelong Learning Partnership has been awarded Northwest Improvement Network (NWIN) funding to carry out research into targeting learning solutions. 5. The Older People partnership has recently restructured to form a local commissioning group with the aim of implementing the "Ageing well in Cheshire" agenda, in order to promote and maintain health and independence, and developing an Outcomes Framework, concentrating around seven key factors. 6. The Environment Partnership is working with the Weaver Valley Park and Mersey Basin Campaign to undertake a mapping exercise on climate change using the themes of Transport and congestion, Waste recycling levels, and Parks and open spaces. 7. The Economy Partnership is supporting the Market Town Initiatives as a focal point for regeneration and community involvement. 8. The Health Partnership is developing the active living agenda through the establishment of a Project for Life initiative 	
CURRENT ACTIVITY:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road Safety and Bike awareness courses have continued across the borough 2. CBC is encouraging children and young people engage in leisure and recreation. 3. The Local Compact is currently being reviewed and will be re-launched shortly, having recently received national commendation 4. Dane Housing are currently carrying out research into local services for older people services to best target resources locally 5. Encouraging partners to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration on climate change. 6. The new CBC Economic & Tourism Strategy Congleton Renaissance" has recently been launched, and the MTI are seen as essential to its successful delivery 7. Health Partnership is currently identifying actions to tackle the rise in overweight and obesity amongst children and young people, through joint working with local schools. 	
FUTURE CHALLENGES:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New partnership structures for unitary authority • Building capacity within the partnership and developing the support mechanisms 	
ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The future partnership arrangements for Cheshire, building on the current good practices across partner organisation in light of Local Government Review 	

PARTNERSHIP: Safer, Stronger Cheshire Group	DATE: 28 March 2008
CONTACT OFFICER: Gavin Butler	TEL: 01244 976774 EMAIL: gavin.butler@cheshire.gov.uk
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crime Reduction: measured from April 07 to January 08, volume crime in Cheshire is down by 16.8%. This includes reductions in theft, burglary, vehicle crime and common assault. 2. All Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) have had a specific focus on criminal damage since April 07, led by Cheshire FRS. In the period April 2007 to January 2008, 9,723 criminal damage offences have been committed which is 2,500 crimes less compared with the same period the previous year. This gives a reduction of 20.5%. 3. Domestic Abuse: Domestic Abuse Family Safety Units (DAFSUs) are now in place in East and West Cheshire, delivering Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences to the highest risk victims of domestic abuse in Cheshire. Targets on raised reporting, reduced repeat incidents and increased criminal justice outcomes have all been exceeded in 07-08. 4. Indications are that the LAA funding for CDRPs, Neighbourhood Management Areas, the Cheshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team and the Waste Performance Efficiency Grant will be spent within the carry forward tolerances specified by GONW. 5. Waste Management: forecasts indicate that Cheshire Waste Partnership will exceed its LAA target for recycling and composting in 07-08 (36%) by at least 2 percentage points (38%). 	
CURRENT ACTIVITY:	
At the end of Q3 the following sub-outcome were rated red and should move to amber:	
<p>1.4 Greater understanding of cultural diversity and needs</p> <p>2.1.iv Percentage of people who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds can get on well together</p> <p>GONW have funded Prof. Richard Tomlins (a Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor) to develop work on 1.4 and this work is underway. Therefore, the £5k allocated by Cheshire Chief Executives will not be required in 07-08. No community cohesion indicator is proposed for the new LAA. Cheshire Police have purchased MOSAIC Origins software, which will be made available to partners via the new CO-STAR web based GIS in May 08. This will allow the indicative mapping of nationalities in Cheshire in order to target research, marketing and services.</p>	
At the end of Q3 the following sub-outcome was rated amber and should move to green	
<p>2.2.1 Empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public service delivery (Volunteering)</p> <p>The £5k allocated by Cheshire Chief Executives has been used in 07-08, the surveys have been completed and a final report is due in April 08. This will inform a locally developed third sector indicator based on the CLG Third Sector Strategy will be proposed in the 08-onwards Cheshire LAA.</p>	

Performance information on 3.1 (Cleaner, Greener and Safer Public Spaces) and 4.3 (Reassure the public, reduce the fear of crime) will not be available until mid-April 2008, but there are strong indications that the previously amber 4.3 will improve substantially.

CDRP funding

CDRP funding for 08-09 has been allocated by the SSCG as in the previous financial year. All CDRP Managers and Chairs, and the Drug and Alcohol Action Team Manager and Chair, have been notified of their allocations for 08-09. Neighbourhood Management funds for the Blacon and Lache programmes go into the Chester City Council area based grant for 08-09 and will not be paid through the LAA grant.

FUTURE CHALLENGES:

1. The new LAA for 08 onwards as submitted to GONW in March 08 includes the following safer, stronger priorities: neighbourhood management; reducing re-offending; reducing more serious assaults; dealing with antisocial behaviour; addressing domestic abuse; addressing arson; reducing the numbers of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents. These priorities are informed by the strategic assessments developed by partnership analysts in the six CDRPs.
2. Work is underway to set baselines and targets for the specific national indicators linked to those priorities.
3. The implications of LGR in Cheshire for addressing crime and disorder, domestic abuse and neighbourhood management.

ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP:

There is emerging consensus that NI4 (the '% of people who feel they can influence decisions in the locality') is a potentially useful benchmark for neighbourhood management, an approach which a range of agencies and partnerships are embarking on across Cheshire. Establishing this as a common measure, with standard wording and survey methodology, may facilitate the performance management and comparison of NM programmes. The CCP may wish to consider supporting enhancements to the new Place Survey (which replaces the Local Government User Satisfaction Survey in 08-09) in key areas such as the high deprivation wards identified by the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

PARTNERSHIP: Children's Trust	DATE: 17.03.08
CONTACT OFFICER: Rick Howell	TEL:01244 603 228 EMAIL:rick.howell@cheshire.gov.uk
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:	
<p>The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has now formally become the Children's Trust and membership has expanded to reflect this. Governance arrangements have been agreed. There are 5 outcome sub groups for each Every Child Matters outcome, as well as a number of key issue and project working groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contactpoint and Common assessment workshops across the County have been attended by 500+ participants so far. • NEET numbers have been reduced. • VCFS Hub developing positively. • UK Youth Parliament elections involvement increased to 20% of total population. • Recommissioning process for the ABG funded activity on track and done largely in context of Trust, Nat indicators and LAA/Children's Plan priorities 	
CURRENT ACTIVITY:	
<p>In the process of developing the new Children's Plan via a commissioning approach. The Trust Act as overall commissioners of the developments via the Outcome Sub groups. Currently 20 Specifications being written to reflect the current priorities and what needs to be achieved – the next step is a joint response regarding action to be taken. This incorporates the 6 LAA target areas.</p> <p>New Website launch imminent.</p> <p>Advising the Shadow Authorities (and JITs) on the practicalities of having one or two Trusts in future (East and West), and subsequently implementing whatever is decided. Trust meeting on 20 March unanimously recommended moving towards two Trusts as soon as safely possible, while retaining collaborative working arrangements where practicable.</p>	
FUTURE CHALLENGES:	
<p>Developing the new Plan to reflect the changing context for Cheshire and Children's Services. A 3 year direction setting approach with targets for 1 year only offering the new Authorities the scope to refresh, refine and localise, but not necessarily renew.</p> <p>About 29,000 people working with children will at least need to be aware of CAF and ContactPoint. Approximately 5,500 will need training as users. This is a big project - funded and staffed from within Children's Services existing resources at with help from partners and volunteers.</p>	
ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP:	
<p>Noting the comments in the minutes of the last CCP that there would be the need to ensure that local authorities would not be held to account for performance outside their responsibility, then CCP may wish to support the need for separate Children's Trusts for East and West.</p>	

PARTNERSHIP: Healthier Communities and Older People	DATE: 26 March 2008
CONTACT OFFICER: Helen McCairn	TEL: 01244 603286 EMAIL: helen.mccairn@cheshire.gov.uk
<p>RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS: Strategic Needs Assessment Steering Group established, chaired by Wendy Meredith. The Group will report to CCP in Autumn 2008.</p> <p>An additional £47.8m has been secured for Extra Care Housing in Cheshire.</p> <p>Health and Social Care Sub Group of the Executive Commissioning Group (OPEC) established with representation from Cheshire County Council and Cheshire PCTs. Joint Commissioning programme being developed.</p> <p>Second Older People's Reference Group event held in March 2008, with Older People's representatives, public, private and third sector agencies.</p> <p>The objectives for the workshop were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To update the Reference Group on progress from the October 2007 workshop; To review contextual changes since the first workshop; To explore current and emerging arrangements for the involvement of older people, carers and citizens in commissioning mechanisms; To undertake an appraisal of the prevention agenda in order to agree priorities for action by partner agencies. 	
<p>CURRENT ACTIVITY: The following activities are underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance management of 2007/08 LAA sub outcomes • Development of a new transitional LAA, including setting baselines and targets and lead organisations/individuals. The transitional LAA with a longer term planning horizon has enabled an increased focus on Older People. • Development of Health and Social Care Joint Commissioning Programme. 	
<p>FUTURE CHALLENGES:</p> <p>The new LAA provides an opportunity to work across current organisational boundaries and focus on adults of all ages. A pragmatic approach to delivering this objective will be undertaken across the current HCOP structure.</p>	
<p>ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP:</p> <p>The need for all organisations to continue to ensure resources are targeted at delivering the current and new LAA.</p>	

PARTNERSHIP: Economic Development & Enterprise (January – March 2008)	DATE: 28 March 2008
CONTACT OFFICER: Gill Williams	TEL: 01244 402405 EMAIL: g.williams@chester.gov.uk
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Chester and Cheshire (VCC) – have just issued a refreshed strategy “Growing our Visitor Economy – refreshed framework for Cheshire & Warrington to 2015”. • Appointment of CWEA Employment & Skills Manager (Andrew Heydeman) February 2008. • Appointment of Climate Change Programme Manager (Kate Radford) February 2008. Reporting to the Cheshire and Warrington Climate Change Group and working closely with the Climate Change Unit at the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), Kate’s key responsibility will be to facilitate the delivery of the Northwest Climate Change Action Plan in Cheshire and Warrington. • Liz Davis, as a member of the CWEA Board, is to chair the Cheshire and Warrington Employment and Skills Board. Liz will bring together the key business and public sector organisations in this field to develop new business-led initiatives. • NWDA funding of £1.6 million was approved in February 2008 for the Enterprise Generator programme. The programme will operate over 3 years to support enterprise development in Cheshire and Warrington including enterprise coaching in targeted geographical areas, innovation support targeted at rural food and drink businesses and developing enterprise in schools. • NWDA funding of £700k was approved in February 2008 for 2 years for the People & Jobs programme which will assist local people to access job opportunities in West Cheshire and Warrington • Outline planning permission granted for development on Basford West site. • Planning application approved January 2008 for £11million Winsford Learning Zone development. • OJEC notice issued for road scheme on Midpoint 18, Middlewich. • Winsford 1 -5 linking employment opportunities to local people in IMD Wards have established a strategy to take the proposal forward throughout 2008. • Industry Days in Vale Royal have taken place, with two further events planned in June 2008. • Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) - The Implementation Plan for Cheshire and Warrington was endorsed by the Strategic Board of the Rural Partnership last year. Grants to businesses should become available in July 2008 for Business Support, Skills and Training Advice, Processing and Marketing, and for Tourism. • Made in Cheshire – Has received funding for a further three months. The future of the Made-In brands has always been uncertain as funding is under constant reviewed. Food Northwest has commissioned an evaluation of the Made-In brands across the Region. The outcome of the evaluation will influence the future of the branding initiative that has been developed over the last five years. 	

CURRENT ACTIVITY:

- NWDA has formally launched the **Northwest Region's ERDF Operational Programme for 2007-13**. All of Cheshire & Warrington is now eligible for funding. CWEA has been working closely with NWDA and partners on the key investment priorities, many of which provide a significant opportunity for new economic development initiatives in this area.
- Development agreement signed for **Crewe Town Centre** and compulsory purchase order advertised. Estimated start late summer 2008.
- Feasibility study under way commissioned by Network Rail on relocating **Crewe Station** to the Basford site. Findings expected in April. CWEA studies also commissioned on economic impacts of this on the town centre and Basford.
- NWDA/CWEA study under way to identify focus for future **market towns** investment.
- Detailed development proposals for **Weaver Valley Regional Park** to be submitted to NWDA in September 2008.
- CWEA study under way on **migrant workers** being carried by MMU Cheshire. Results expected June 2008.
- Jobcentreplus **Deprived Area Fund- Horizons** referral profile has improved as a result of recovery plan was put in place. Job outcomes are increasing.
- Blacon and Lache Economy and Enterprise Groups are now well established and a **jobs fair** is planned on 9th April 2008.
- Vale Royal Borough Council Neighbourhood Renewal Project in Greenfields and Rudheath areas are promoting a new activity working with **15 most disadvantaged families** in each area, using multi agency approaches.
- **Rural Funding Opportunities** - The North West Development Agency is considering how best to allocate investment to meet the needs of rural areas in Cheshire and Warrington. Building on the projects identified in the Sub-Regional Action Plan, the sub-region is hoping to receive support for a Market Towns programme, a Rural Enterprise Hub, an Enterprise Centres feasibility study and the Cholmondley Mill food park.
- **Cheshire Year of the Gardens** was launched in January 2008. This will be a year long activity starting with press coverage of Snowdrops in Ness Gardens.
- Endorsement from Cheshire & Warrington Social Enterprise (CWSEP) members for the proposal from the Executive for **incorporation** of CWSEP and work underway to achieve this.

FUTURE CHALLENGES:

- **Common Agriculture Health check** - The European Commission launched last November its blueprint for streamlining and further modernising the European Unions Common Agricultural Policy. The CAP Health Check now intends to build on the experienced gathered since 2003 to take the policy review further. The intention now is to seek a Regional view in order to influence the Health Check and to take up the offer from the NW MEP Brian Simpson to provide him with a NW Regional perspective. Issues that the Region might wish to consider include the move towards mainstreaming and how this has impacted on agriculture

ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP:

- Visitor Chester and Cheshire (VCC) are concerned about LGR and the Visitor Economy being lost in everything that is going on.

PARTNERSHIP: Cheshire Waste Partnership	DATE: 25 March 2008
CONTACT OFFICER: Helen de Lemos Strategic Manager - Waste Strategy	TEL: 01244 973502 EMAIL: Helen.delemos@cheshire.gov.uk
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS: <p>Forecasts indicate that the Cheshire Waste Partnership will exceed its LAA target for recycling and composting in 2007/08 (36%) by at least 2 percent points to 38%.</p> <p>The Partnership has successfully completed the key activities its LAA Action Plan.</p>	
CURRENT ACTIVITY: <p>The Partnership is continuing to improve its waste reduction, recycling and composting performance through additional recycling infrastructure, new performance based contracts at the Household Waste Recycling Centres and through its programme of waste minimisation and awareness schemes.</p>	
FUTURE CHALLENGES: <p>Compliance with statutory allowances under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme. Continuing to improve waste growth performance – addressing Cheshire’s high BVPI 84a (Kg household waste per person) and NI 191 - Kg of waste not reused, recycled or composted, per household). Changes in legislation or interpretation of legislation which impact on total waste arisings. Local Government Review.</p>	
ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP: 	

PARTNERSHIP: Cheshire & Warrington Rural Partnership	DATE: 17/03/08
CONTACT OFFICER: Fil Prevc	TEL: 01244 602885 EMAIL: Filip.prevc@cheshire.gov.uk
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS: <p>Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) - The Implementation Plan for Cheshire and Warrington was endorsed by the Strategic Board of the Rural Partnership last year; since then the NWDA has requested that the Strategic Board as authors and owners of the Implementation Plan complete a series of “Programme and Development Appraisal Forms” to cover the delivery measures outlined in the Plan. Four tenders will be issued by the NWDA to release funding in the region of £700,000 p.a. between 2008 – 2013 for Business Support, Skills and Training Advice, Processing and Marketing, and for Tourism.</p> <p>The Strategic Board agreed to support the Northern Marches Partnership in its bid to the NWDA to deliver elements of Axis 1 and 3 of the RDPE within the LEADER+ area to the south of the County.</p> <p>Rural Funding Opportunities - The North West Development Agency is considering how best to allocate investment to meet the needs of rural areas in Cheshire and Warrington. Building on the projects identified in the Sub-Regional Action Plan, the sub-region is hoping to receive support for a Market Towns programme, a Rural Enterprise Hub, an Enterprise Centres feasibility study and the Cholmondley Mill food park.</p>	
CURRENT ACTIVITY: <p>Matthew Taylor review - The Prime Minister has asked Matthew Taylor, MP for Truro & St Austell, to conduct an independent review into how land use and planning can better assist rural businesses and deliver affordable housing to support sustainable rural communities. The review seeks to examine ways to tackle these issues more effectively, building on the work and evidence of previous reviews, such as the Affordable Rural Housing Commission, and to look at rural economies and affordable housing together and the impact of planning policies on maintaining sustainable, inclusive and mixed rural communities.</p> <p>The review also includes a number of fact finding visits by Matthew Taylor. He is scheduled to visit Cheshire on the 6th May. An itinerary has been pulled together that includes visits to Reaseheath College and the Bolesworth Estate. It is hoped that the visit will highlight some of the good practice examples as well as the issues facing rural communities in Cheshire.</p>	

FUTURE CHALLENGES:

Food and Drink Sector - Growth in the Food and Drink sector and the aspirations that the sub-region holds to sharpen its focus in this sector from key partners such as Reaseheath College and Visit Chester and Cheshire, places some urgency on the need for a better understanding of how this sector is supported by the Region. One of the central support mechanisms for local food and drink in the North West are the Made-In brands. The future of the Made-In brands has always been uncertain as funding is under constant reviewed. Food Northwest has commissioned an evaluation of the Made-In brands across the Region. The outcome of the evaluation will influence the future of the branding initiative that has been developed over the last five years.

Common Agriculture Health check - The European Commission launched last November its blueprint for streamlining and further modernising the European Unions Common Agricultural Policy. The CAP Health Check now intends to build on the experienced gathered since 2003 to take the policy review further.

The intention now is to seek a Regional view in order to influence the Health Check and to take up the offer from the NW MEP Brian Simpson to provide him with a NW Regional perspective. Issues that the Region might wish to consider include the move towards mainstreaming and how this has impacted on agriculture

ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP:

Bluetongue Disease - The impact that Bluetongue is having on the County has not being highly publicised and as such people and possibly Government at all levels are largely unaware of the additional challenges this poses for rural communities. The Strategic Board of the Rural Partnership has a clear role and in terms of both direct action on its part as well as helping to coordinate and broker action in conjunction with partners and stakeholders. The Communities of Cheshire Partnership also has a broader strategic role in engaging other partners to

- briefing local MPs and MEPs and securing their engagement;
- Request data on stress related cases from the “Farm Crises Network”
- Canvas the views of Cheshire farmers, using local business contacts such as local livestock auctioneers within the BT area and the Business and Country Land Owners Association, and
- prompting the Cheshire Rural Trust to seek out farmers in need and offer financial assistance.

Community Planning - A Business Case has been developed by the Cheshire and Warrington Rural Community & Parish Planning Group (RCPPG). It reflects on the outcomes of the Defra funded, Rural Social and Community Programme in Cheshire and Warrington since it started in April 2006. The RSCP will have invested £352,000 into rural community capacity building activities since April 2006.

The RSCP has been delivered through commissioned projects to key rural delivery partners in the sub-region and the distribution of community grants to front line /

grass roots, voluntary and community groups and larger organisations delivering services to rural communities.

This Business Case highlights the projects commissioned and the resulting benefits to rural communities across the County and makes the case for continuing this support.

The Community of Cheshire partnership needs to give its support to the business case to help secure commitment and resources for rural areas of Cheshire.

PARTNERSHIP: Cultivate – the Cultural Consortium for Cheshire and Warrington	DATE: March 2008
CONTACT OFFICER: Guy Kilminster	TEL: 01244 976020 EMAIL: guy.kilminster@cheshire.gov.uk
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS: Finalisation of Cultivate Update for partners and agreement regarding priorities: Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention and creation of new jobs • Enhancing quality of life, reducing inequality and disadvantage and improving health • Raising the level of creative ambition and creative potential • Enhancing the image and reputation of the sub-region 	
CURRENT ACTIVITY: Overseeing the drafting of a Cultural Heritage Investment Strategy Agreeing the Cultural programmes in the sub-region that are priorities for 2008-2012, including the Cultural Olympiad. Agreeing a sub-regional approach to supporting creative industries Mapping exercise to identify links between different strategic programmes and cultural organisations in the sub-region and their relationship with Cultivate.	
FUTURE CHALLENGES: Establishing the strategic linkages between the new Unitary Authorities and Cultivate as a sub-regional organisation. Ensuring the current and future programmes of key cultural activity are aligned with the priorities of strategic bodies, funders and delivery partners. Promoting the economic and social benefits of cultural activity and demonstrating outcomes and impacts to influence the Community Strategy and future Local Area Agreements. To engage and involve the private sector	
ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP: Raised awareness of Cultivate and potential links with other sub-regional strategic developments. Potential of cultural activity to add value to other's aims and objectives.	

PARTNERSHIP: Sustainable Cheshire Forum	DATE: 2 nd April 2008
CONTACT OFFICER: Chris Mahon (Chair) Michel Burrow (CCC)	TEL: 01270 569562 01244 603125 EMAIL: mahon276@btinternet.com
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Programme Manager in post to coordinate/ enable/ support organisations across Cheshire & Warrington to tackle climate change issues • SCF Member consultation on future direction 	
CURRENT ACTIVITY:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheshire & Warrington Climate Change Group continues to meet regularly to develop & co-ordinate sub regional information and activity. • Support for Chester City Council Climate Change Scrutiny review • Ongoing support to “lower carbon” community groups including Bollington, Bosley, Tattenhall, Ashton, Congleton, Westminster Park plus additional support to other similar community development events. • There is a growing interest in the Transition Towns movement in Cheshire with the latest activities developing in Chester. Transition Towns is about encouraging and supporting community resilience as the impacts of Peak Oil and Climate Change take effect. • Consultation with SCF members on future of SCF under local govt review. Majority support for continued pan-Cheshire or sub regional forum in future. • Seeking responses/support to this consultation from shadow members/JIT officers in run up to elections to establish how sustainable development issues will be championed in future. • Kingsmead Primary School Tours continue until April 2008. • Agreements with Energy Projects Plus to deliver School Energy and Eco Audits in schools in 2008. • Agreements with Cheshire Development Education Centre & Mo Morrison for delivery of Education for Sustainable Development programme to school clusters in 2008. • 	
FUTURE CHALLENGES:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> LPSA2 performance reward grant and succession programme <input type="checkbox"/> Future of SCF with CCC reorganisation 	
ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability of SCF in LGR. Voluntary forum with wide membership but relies on staff at CCC currently to provide support. • Pace of change in sustainability issues – the need for awareness-raising being overtaken by the need for community capacity building 	