

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> May 2008  
**Time:** 9.30am  
**Venue:** Capesthorne Room, Macclesfield Town Hall, Macclesfield.

**PRESENT:** Wendy Wright - Chair

**District and District LSP Representatives:**

<b>Chester:</b>	Robin Norrie, Chair, Chester in Partnership
<b>Congleton:</b>	Ian Simpson Congleton Borough Council (representing Glyn Chambers)
<b>Crewe &amp; Nantwich:</b>	
<b>Ellesmere Port &amp; Neston:</b>	
<b>Macclesfield:</b>	John Wilbraham, Chair, Macclesfield LSP and Helen Rowley, Macclesfield Borough Council (representing Vivienne Horton)
<b>Vale Royal:</b>	Richard Hallows, Vale Royal LSP (representing Tim Jackson)

**Other CCP Member Body Representatives:**

<b>Cheshire Safer Stronger Communities Partnership:</b>	Gavin Butler, Cheshire County Council (representing Peter Fahy, Cheshire Police)
<b>Cheshire Children &amp; Young People's Strategic Partnership:</b>	Sue Egersdorff, Cheshire County Council (representing Joan Feenan, Vice Chair)
<b>Cheshire &amp; Warrington Economic Alliance:</b>	
<b>Sustainable Cheshire Forum:</b>	Chris Mahon, Chair
<b>Cheshire Healthier Communities Group:</b>	John Weeks, Chair
<b>Cheshire &amp; Warrington Cultural Consortium:</b>	
<b>Cheshire &amp; Warrington Rural Partnership:</b>	David Rowlands, Chair
<b>Cheshire County Council</b>	Jeremy Taylor, Chief Executive
<b>Cheshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service:</b>	Mark Cashin, Deputy Chief Fire Officer
<b>Health / PCTs</b>	Helen Bellairs, Chief Executive Western Cheshire PCT
<b>Cheshire CABx:</b>	

<b>Cheshire CVSs:</b>	
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**Support Staff:**

Alison Armstrong, Lisa Green and Robbie Taylor (Cheshire County Council) and Clare Babbs (Chester City Council).

**Visitors:**

Greg Burke, Government Office for the North West.  
Professor Richard Tomlins, Coventry University.

**Apologies:**

Chris Hardy, Michael Metcalfe, Tim Jackson, Anne Bingham-Holmes  
Cathy Boyd, Joan Feenan, John Bowler, Paul Ancell, Kirstie Hercules, Sue Turner, Martin Lee, Brenda Harvey, Glyn Chambers, David Brown, Vivienne Horton and Steve McGuirk.

**53.0 WELCOME MESSAGE**

John Wilbraham welcomed the Partnership to Macclesfield as the Chair of Macclesfield LSP.

**54.0 INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME**

Wendy Wright welcomed partners to the meeting and introductions were made.

**55.0 Cheshire LAA (2007/10): Interim Outturn Performance Report, including LPSA2 Target Performance**

The initial outturn performance report for the Cheshire LAA (2007/10) was presented to Partners for consideration and comment. Appendices 1 and 2 of the report outlined the current position on end of year performance, while recognising much data is unavailable to provide a complete statement on performance. Of the 54 sub-outcomes underpinning the 15 high level LAA outcomes: 7 were recorded as 'red', 21 were recorded as 'amber' and 26 were reported as 'green'. However, the large number of amber indicators, reflect an inability to assess position at this stage, as data is unavailable.

Partners were alerted to the fact that only two of the LPSA 2 (Local Public Service Agreement) had been fully audited at this time. With regard to LAA finance reports: there was a higher than projected under-spend of £ 229,761 (£ 200,179 revenue and £ 29,582 capital). The under-spend will be brought forward to the first quarter of 2008/09 and all of it will be committed against LAA priorities.

The Chairs of the thematic partnerships, or their representatives, added

further context to those outcomes currently identified as 'amber' or 'red'. The outcomes concerning anti-social behaviour and fear of crime are likely to be returned as red and will be reviewed and reported to the Police Authority as such. Fear of crime in west Cheshire has increased significantly despite an overall reduction of 15.5% in crime in Cheshire. There will be no loss of funding to the Lache Neighbourhood Management Programme and finances (£ 73k) have been forwarded to Chester City Council.

The Children and Young People's Trust reported that a number of successful outcomes were recorded against the overall results. In particular, these include the increasing number of young people engaged in Cheshire Youth Parliament activities, consistently high levels of overall attainment in Cheshire's schools and MARACs (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Councils). A number of indicators had over ambitious targets set against them at the outset of the LAA, however, Cheshire still compares favourably against its peer group of other counties and this context needs consideration when looking at indicators in isolation from other benchmarks. It was reported that we now have an additional number of nurseries in Cheshire which have affected successful performance reporting and that some issues have been especially stubborn to reduce significantly, for example, the rate of teenage conception and attainment levels of looked after children. However, these will remain as priorities in the CYP Plan up to 2009/10.

It was reported the PCT 'vital signs' targets and indicators are now embedded in the new draft LAA and that the new partnership and local authority structures will continue to prioritise the reduction in health inequalities. With regard to some health indicators, it was reported that premature mortality rates have showed some signs of improvement, but again rates of cancer affect overall performance. Recent smoking cessation programme successes would not affect the overall rate of mortality for a number of years.

Partners then discussed some of the broader issues concerning the performance management of the original Cheshire LAA and what lessons can be learnt from the experience. Suggestions and comments included:

- Learn more from the PMF (performance management framework) to monitor risks on what we do not know (e.g. ambers);
- Use more helpful and illuminating milestones in the absence of data to report;
- We need to understand more about the 'spirit' of the indicator and not the 'letter' of the technical definition of the indicators!
- What is the change in culture being affected by the prioritisation of the LAA, how are we working differently?
- We need to monitor things that make a difference, not just the statistics;
- we need better clarity about the words 'pass' and 'fail'; for example,

- to record distance travelled and/or how far short of the target;
- 'amber' does not trigger or escalate actions, but 'red' should;
- we need to ensure the performance management of the new LAA is mainstreamed with the performance management work of the new local authorities, they both need to be effectively integrated;
- LAA targets need to be part of the whole-scale system and not 'bolted on';
- The priority outcomes outlined in LAAs contain some very stubborn local (teenage pregnancy), national (worklessness) and global (climate Change) improvement targets: we need more realism in tackling these problems –
  - What are we attempting to tackle?
  - And, are we going about it correctly?
- Benchmarking is important and how we compare with others;
- We need to better explain to Partners what we are trying to achieve and how activities and projects deliver against the performance indicators;
- Explain the technical definition of the indicators more to delivery partners;
- The outturn report should feature examples of the LAA 'success stories' and celebrate the success of the first year of partnership delivery; it should not just be about figures!

In order to complete the overall picture on year one LAA performance, a further outturn report would be presented to the CCP and Governance Board later in the year, especially to take account of the missing data.

Two combined performance management review and equality and diversity planning workshops are due to take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June; further feedback on the earlier PMF will be sought at both sessions.

#### **ACTION**

- 1.) The Communities of Cheshire Partnership to receive an evaluation report on the performance management of the Cheshire LAA (2007/10) at the next meeting in September.
- 2.) The Communities of Cheshire Partnership to receive a further complete performance outturn report.

### **56.0 Cheshire LAA (2008/11): Update and Approval**

The Partnership was provided with the latest version of the developing new LAA for their consideration and approval. Partners were advised of a limited number of outstanding indicators which had not been agreed with colleagues in the GONW. The indicators reporting against worklessness in worst performing neighbourhoods (NI 153) and NI 117 concerning NEETS were yet to be finalised in the setting of three year

targets on an east and west Cheshire basis.

Further imminent work would be undertaken to identify the specific neighbourhoods to be the focus of the 'narrowing the gap' indicators, so they have a high profile when performance reporting is carried out. The local or 'non-designated' indicators would have completed baselines and targets by the end of June. An additional local indicator (NI 39) had been included in the latest iteration of the draft Agreement, to ensure the health profile of alcohol related harm was covered. The proxy measure details concerning Cheshire's looked after children would be completed shortly.

The Chairs of the thematic partnerships, or their representatives, added some comments concerning the development of the new Agreement and highlighted a number of particular issues. With regard to the outcomes for the Safer and Stronger Communities Group, it was reported that the LAA was increasingly seen as the core business of a number of the leading partners, such as the Police and Fire and Rescue Services. NI 4 was primarily included in the new Agreement to record progress in local satisfaction at the neighbourhood level and may not be too informative when marking trends in the east and west of Cheshire.

*The Chair asked why the targets and trend for NI 30 (Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders) appeared to be increasing: the indicator definition captures the number of convictions of these individuals.*

The local indicators capturing the focus of delivery on looked after children reflect the intention of the Children and Young Peoples Plan.

## **DECISIONS**

- 1.) The Communities of Cheshire Partnership approved the latest draft version of the new Cheshire LAA (2008/11) for onward submission to GONW and CLG (Communities and Local Government Department).
- 2.) The Communities of Cheshire Partnership delegated approval for final amendments to the new Agreement to the countywide thematic partnerships following comment from CLG.

## **57.0 Notes of the last meeting and matters arising**

Helen Bellairs apologies need to be added to the record. The notes report of the appointment of Kate Radford and not Kate Bradford as captured.

The letter from Congleton Borough Council concerning the future of Jodrell Bank is anticipated shortly. The CCP has already expressed its

support against the suggested reduction of financial support to the site.

## **58.0 Community Cohesion in Cheshire: Professor Richard Tomlins**

Prof. Richard Tomlins presented the key findings from his research to the Partnership. Three key points arose from his research:

- ONS (Office for National Statistics) data is inadequate in providing a true and contemporary picture of local minority communities;
- Migrant workers are the fastest growing minority community within Cheshire: what is their current size and do we know what their issues are?
- How will we mainstream intelligence and monitoring better through our partnerships?

A number of related actions were further suggested, including developing a set of common definitions of local populations for ease of understanding and ensuring resources are in place to 'drill down' to neighbourhoods and minority communities when delivering against Place Survey indicators e.g. NI 4 in the LAA.

Following the presentation, the Partnership discussion focused on a number of matters arising; the Professor was asked to comment upon local rural community concerns and the needs of travelling communities. Bristol City Council had undertaken some work to evaluate the costs of enforcing unauthorised camps against the costs of producing authorised sites. When asked for an example of LSP good practice, the Professor stated he had worked on a specific race and diversity thematic partnership as part of the Coventry LSP, which then split into an unworkable number of sub-groups. When asked if the VLI (Vulnerable Locality Index) would help to identify equality groups and safer community issues when combined with other analyses, the problem of ONS and national insurance records not drilling below District or town arose.

Finally, it was suggested that social identity models need to be developed for the new authorities and new LSPs in order that we better understand our communities in the light of inadequate national evidence. What we understand by community cohesion can mean different things to different people in different areas and a single locally agreed understanding would be beneficial to all partners. Further, some partners suggested we need better engagement of the business sector to learn of their recruitment needs and how that intelligence affects broader equality community needs. The Professor suggested a representative from the local Chamber of Commerce may provide an effective bridge between private and public sector organisations.

## **59.0 Local Government Re-organisation: issues for the CCP**

The Partnership was provided with a verbal update on both the Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Cheshire Partnership Work Programmes. The work programmes compromise the same elements: review and design both area and neighbourhood working models, LSP frameworks, sustainable community strategies and LAAs, community engagement practices and research and intelligence resources. Partners will be engaged in the process in addition to the work being undertaken in the People and Places Work Programmes over the coming months, especially to establish the priority outcomes and objectives for new Sustainable Community Strategies.

Partners were advised that the Strategic Health Authority is likely to roll out a public consultation exercise concerning the re-structuring of the current PCT boundaries to re-align them with the new local authority boundaries. It is unlikely all boundaries will be co-terminus before 2010.

**60.0 Partnership reports: issues for the CCP**

There were no matters arising.

**NOTE:**

Date of the next meeting: **9.30am on Friday 5th September, Vale Royal.**

Signed (Chair): .....

Date: .....