

**Date:** 12 September 2006  
**Time:** 9.30am  
**Venue:** Chester Town Hall

**PRESENT:** Wendy Wright, Chair

**LSP Representatives:**

<b>Chester:</b>	Robin Wendt, Chair Paul Durham, Chief Executive, Chester City Council
<b>Congleton:</b>	Bill Owen, Chair Glyn Chambers, Chief Executive, Congleton Borough Council
<b>Crewe &amp; Nantwich:</b>	John Bowler, Chair Bernadette Hurst, Assistant Chief Executive, Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council (representing Alan Wenham)
<b>Ellesmere Port &amp; Neston:</b>	Gordon McGuinness, Chair Stephen Ewbank, Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council
<b>Macclesfield:</b>	Dick Macaulay, Chair Vivienne Horton, Chief Executive, Macclesfield Borough Council
<b>Vale Royal:</b>	Anne Bingham-Holmes, Chief Executive, Vale Royal Borough Council

**Other CCP Member Body Representatives:**

<b>Cheshire Safer Stronger Communities Partnership:</b>	Peter Fahy, Chair
<b>Cheshire Children &amp; Young People's Strategic Partnership:</b>	Maxine Bretherton-Budd (representing Joan Feenan, Vice Chair)
<b>Cheshire &amp; Warrington Economic Alliance:</b>	Martin Lee, Chief Executive
<b>Sustainable Cheshire Forum:</b>	Chris Mahon, Chair
<b>Cheshire Healthier Communities Group:</b>	Tim Mann (representing John Weeks, Chair)
<b>Cheshire &amp; Warrington Cultural Consortium:</b>	Malcolm Brown, Chair
<b>Cheshire &amp; Warrington Rural Partnership:</b>	Chris Shaw (representing David Rowlands, Chair)

<b>Cheshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service:</b>	Chris Turnock (representing Steve McGuirk)
<b>Cheshire PCTs:</b>	Roger Simpson
<b>Cheshire CABx:</b>	Paul Nicholls
<b>Cheshire CVs:</b>	Michael Metcalfe

### **Support Staff**

Alison Armstrong, Linda Bennett, Gerry Budd and Marion Kennerley (CCC); Cathy Boyd (VRBC); Sean Daley (EPNBC); Clare Babbs (Chester); Cedric Knipe (MBC); Craig Nicholson (CBC); Kirstie Hercules (CNBC)

Keith Evans (CCC) attended for item 30.

### **24.0 WELCOME**

Robin Wendt, Chair of the host District LSP Chester in Partnership, welcomed partners to the third meeting of the CCP and re-iterated both his and Chester in Partnership's commitment to the success of the CCP.

### **25.0 INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME TO NEW CCP MEMBERS**

Wendy Wright welcomed the new members to the partnership and all CCP members introduced themselves.

### **26.0 NOTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2006 were approved as a correct record. There were no matters arising not covered within the agenda.

### **27.0 CHESHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT FIRST DRAFT - PROGRESS REPORT & NEXT STEPS**

Gerry Budd, CCC, introduced this item. Specific reference was made to the:

- cross-agency Finance Officers Group to explore and agree protocols for dealing with the financial aspects of the LAA;
- suggested Peer Challenge of the LAA to be undertaken by the thematic partnerships;
- imminent Governance Board meeting and its relationship with the CCP;
- performance management framework including the performance workshop held on 8 August, the offer of assistance from the Cheshire Performance Practitioners Group to the thematic partnerships and the use of the County Council's IT-based performance management system, Excelcis, for LAA performance monitoring;
- work of the Neighbourhood Renewal Adviser, Martin Honeywell, appointed by GONW to support the CCP in the development of the Statement of Community Involvement; and
- the ongoing weekly meetings of the Cheshire LAA Officer Group to drive the process forward, though partners were reminded to consider their own required approvals processes for securing commitment to LAA delivery.

Attention was also drawn to the recommendations within the progress report, particularly the suggested process for CCP sign off of the first draft prior to submission at the end of the month.

It was felt that the document needed considerable refinement before submission. Further prioritisation of sub-outcomes to reduce the number of actions and activities proposed was required. SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound) targets for delivery also needed developing. A significant amount of information on current activity could potentially be incorporated within the contextual statements for each block. It was suggested that a reduction in the number of sub-outcomes might inevitably happen as a consequence of the ongoing development of the LAA, e.g. if baseline data was unavailable or it was impossible to set targets and trajectories within the timescale. The annual refresh would provide an opportunity to re-visit outcomes and targets and incorporate new and emerging issues. At this stage it was felt important to focus on the “added value” to be achieved through the LAA. Whilst there was no new money attached to LAAs, they provided an opportunity to do things differently and more effectively.

The Chairmen (or their representatives) of the five core thematic partnerships were invited to comment on the development of their respective blocks and the following key points were made:

### ***Safer & Stronger Communities***

- Development of the block is building on current activity and history of strong partnership working, e.g. reducing road casualties, domestic abuse, etc.
- Need to weave in the new RESPECT agenda and associated targets though some conflicting targets exist, e.g. keeping young people out of the criminal justice system whilst increasing the number of those in it.
- Current pressures on the Courts and Crown Prosecution Service are resulting in long waiting times.
- More difficult to move forward the diverse ‘stronger communities’ aspects of this block covering neighbourhood management, volunteering, community empowerment, social inclusion, diversity, cleaner and greener environments, etc.
- Nature of our community is changing (e.g. increasing numbers of migrant workers, fewer children and young people, more older people, etc.). This will require stronger community leadership and focus if we are to guard against potential discrimination.
- Increasing need to streamline priorities and target our collective resources towards areas of greatest need with more realistic and achievable targets for delivery. Further work is needed in this area to define and identify Cheshire’s ‘communities of need’.
- Need to more effectively reflect the cross-cutting nature of the “stronger communities” agenda and the focus on disadvantaged communities across all blocks, e.g. educational attainment, health inequalities, etc.

### ***Children & Young People***

- This block has been easier to progress due to the recent work on the Cheshire Children & Young People's Plan.
- The Cheshire Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership has considered which aspects of the new Plan would be best pursued through the LAA, particularly those with a cross-cutting dimension. Two multi-agency "challenge" sessions had been held to agree these areas.
- Currently developing SMART targets, including any appropriate geographic targeting, which progress current action and activities. It was suggested that more challenging 'stretch' targets should be set in some areas though recognised that these may be pursued through the broader CYP rather than the LAA and that the LAA may focus more on cross-cutting outcomes.
- Recognised the need to look at the wider 0-19 age range, not just 11+.

### ***The Environment***

- The LAA has provided an opportunity for the Sustainable Cheshire Forum (SCF), a long-standing partnership which arose out of Local Agenda 21, to refocus and realign its activity. The Forum is currently structured around the Task Groups responsible for the delivery of the Environmental Action Plan but will need to change to pick up other emerging priorities, e.g. housing, waste and transport, etc. Capacity is an issue but the SCF is committed to fulfilling this role and is looking to the County Council for support.
- 2007 Year of Climate Change will be launched at the SCF Annual Conference in December. This follows the 2006 Year of Waste.
- District LSPs have sent their environmental priorities to the SCF to provide some focus for ongoing activity.
- Availability of environmental data is a problem.
- Planning to engage more effectively in the LAA process at year one refresh stage.

### ***Economic Development and Enterprise***

- This block reflects the current sub-regional economic strategy – "Investing in Success" – which was subject to extensive consultation and contains high level outcomes and targets.
- A sub-group, chaired by Paul Durham, has been convened to drive forward this block though wider partner engagement is needed.
- An additional headline outcome to tackle worklessness has been suggested.

### ***Healthier Communities and Older People***

- Possibly the least developed in terms of partnership working though tremendous progress has been made due to the commitment of the PCTs, despite severe organisational disruption, and the local authorities.
- Strong partnership desire to focus on alcohol issues within the LAA.
- Positive feedback received from GONW on LAA block development to date though further guidance is expected on this theme.

- Older People's dimension has focused on the benefits of partnership working in achieving positive outcomes for older people in general rather than the LAA specifically.

**AGREED:**

- (1) That Anne Bingham-Holmes convene a sub-group to explore the issue of targeting and agree the definition. Sub-group to include Vivienne Horton, Stephen Ewbank, Gordon McGuinness, Gerry Budd and a VCS representative;
- (2) That an additional high level outcome in relation to worklessness be included under the Economic Development & Enterprise block;
- (3) That the offer of a named 'performance specialist' to support each of the Cheshire-wide thematic groups as proposed by the Cheshire Performance Practitioners Group be accepted; and
- (4) That a sub-group of the Communities of Cheshire Partnership meet immediately prior to the submission of the draft Agreement to agree and endorse its content as the basis for the negotiation stage, the sub-group to comprise: Vivienne Horton (Chief Executive, MBC), Anne Bingham-Holmes (Chief Executive, VRBC), Stephen Ewbank (Chief Executive, EPNBC), Chris Mahon (Sustainable Cheshire Forum) and Gerry Budd (CCC) with appropriate support from the Cheshire LAA Group.

**28.0 CHESHIRE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY – PROGRESS REPORT & NEXT STEPS**

Alison Armstrong, CCC, updated partners on the on-going development of the new Cheshire Sustainable Community Strategy. Partners were reminded that the LAA will be the delivery and resources plan of the new Strategy. As such, the two documents needed to be developed in parallel and owned by the respective thematic partnerships within the Cheshire Partnerships Framework. It was also suggested that the two documents needed to follow the same partner and partnership approvals processes.

**29.0 COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION NETWORK**

Chris Turnock, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, explained that CCN was an initiative to provide large TV screens in strategic locations where people gather within the community to deliver instant community safety or other associated community messages. It was noted that the issue had been considered elsewhere in the past but was a potentially costly and unproved solution. Other options and technologies needed to be explored.

**AGREED:**

- (1) That a letter be sent to the BBC on behalf of the Communities of Cheshire Partnership requesting consideration of future BBC radio

coverage for Cheshire; and

- (2) That the CCN issue be referred to the Cheshire & Warrington Information Consortium for consideration.

### **30.0 CHESHIRE DRAFT MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY**

Keith Evans (Senior Manager – Mental Health, Cheshire County Council) presented the draft Mental Health Strategy for Cheshire, the result of collaborative working between the Cheshire PCTs and the County Council. It was now appropriate to explore how the Strategy and focus on mental health could be embedded across the Cheshire Partnerships Framework and potentially progressed through the LAA. The discussion highlighted that:

- One in four people will experience mental ill-health at some time in their lives – mental ill-health is probably the biggest social illness in the country today.
- Mental ill-health is an all embracing concept which cuts across all four LAA themes.
- Suicide rates are highest amongst doctors and agricultural workers – reference was made to the success of a Stress Consultant working within the agricultural sector in Cheshire and the support provided to the Farm Crisis Network.
- The ability to share information across a range of partners on vulnerable people is vital.
- There was potentially a significant positive cost-benefit impact to exploring this issue more.

#### **AGREED:**

- (1) That the Environment be included as a fifth block within the Mental Health Framework to reflect its causal and amelioration role; and
- (2) That the mental health / ill-health agenda be driven through the Healthier Communities and Older People's Partnership at this stage though reflected through the other core thematic partnerships, where appropriate.

### **31.0 INNOVATION & NEW WAYS OF WORKING SUB GROUP FEEDBACK**

Vivienne Horton, MBC, reported back on the first meeting of the Innovations and New Ways of Working Sub Group.

#### **AGREED:**

- (1) That the work programmes of the groups identified within the accompanying report and the Innovation & New Ways of Working section of the new Cheshire Sustainable Community Strategy be submitted for consideration at a future meeting;

- (2) That more detailed draft protocols for the operation of these groups and draft guiding principles for innovative working be submitted for consideration at a future meeting; and
- (3) That a feasibility study be undertaken by the Cheshire LAA Group on the creation of a collective Secretariat for the Cheshire Partnerships Framework beyond April 2007.

### **32.0 COMMUNICATIONS SUB GROUP FEEDBACK**

Glyn Chambers, CBC, reported back on the Communications Sub Group.

#### **AGREED:**

- (1) That the presented logo be adopted by the Communities of Cheshire Partnership for use by all partners within the Cheshire Partnership Framework, with a phased implementation aimed at reducing additional costs;
- (2) That Partners demonstrate support for the Cheshire Partnership Framework by reproducing the logo on supporting documentation prepared within their organisations; and
- (3) That a Branding & Identity Guide be prepared and presented at the next CCP meeting in December 2006

### **33.0 INAUGURAL / SHADOW CHESHIRE GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING – 22 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Clare Babbs, Chester, updated partners on preparations for the first meeting of the Cheshire Governance Board to be held on 22 September 2006. Partners were reminded that the Governance Board is a further component of the Cheshire Partnerships Framework providing leadership and political accountability of the key public agencies in the delivery of the LAA and the CSCS. Wendy Wright as Chair of the CCP would provide a link between the two groups.

### **34.0 COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE – 27 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Anne Bingham-Holmes, VRBC, updated partners on the preparations for the joint CCP / CWIP Stakeholder Conference to be held on 27 September 2006. This was intended to be an inclusive event and was an important part of the LAA development process with a wider range of partners. The event was being funded through the Cheshire & Warrington Improvement Partnership and was a good example of securing two partnership outcomes with one source of funding. All partners were asked to publicise the event across their own networks and encourage attendance.

**35.0 2007 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

**AGREED:**

That the proposed 2007 schedule of meetings for the CCP be adopted.

**36.0 PARTNERSHIP ISSUES:**

**(i) COMMUNITY EVENT POLICING POLICIES**

Congleton LSP raised the issue of the Police's charging policy for attendance at community events. Since raising the issue, a prompt and positive response had been received and the charging policy would be reviewed.

**(ii) CHESHIRE-WIDE HEALTH SCRUTINY PROCESS**

Congleton LSP expressed concern at the County Council's proposals regarding the future health scrutiny process across the county and the potential loss of local focus as a result. The proposals would replace the current arrangement of one Cheshire-wide Health Scrutiny Committee incorporating representation for the four Sub-Committees based on PCT boundaries with a new single Scrutiny Committee underpinned by locality based task and finish groups. This concern was supported by Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council and LSP.

It was noted that the new arrangements reflected advice provided by the Office of Public Scrutiny.

**AGREED:**

That a letter be sent to the County Council on behalf of the CCP expressing concern at the approach adopted and requesting that representation be made to the full Council meeting on 12 October.

**NOTE: DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6 DECEMBER 2006 (2.00pm, venue to be confirmed)**

Signed (Chair): ..... Date: .....