

Date: 6 December 2006
Time: 2.00pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Chester

PRESENT: Wendy Wright, Chair

LSP Representatives:

Chester:	Peter Bingham, Vice Chair Paul Durham, Chief Executive, Chester City Council
Congleton:	Glyn Chambers, Chief Executive, Congleton Borough Council
Crewe & Nantwich:	John Bowler, Chair Paul Ancell, Chief Executive, Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council
Ellesmere Port & Neston:	Cllr Pat Merrick (representing Gordon McGuinness, Chair) Stephen Ewbank, Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council
Macclesfield:	Dick Macaulay, Chair Vivienne Horton, Chief Executive, Macclesfield Borough Council
Vale Royal:	Cathy Boyd (representing Anne Bingham-Holmes, Chief Executive, Vale Royal Borough Council)

Other CCP Member Body Representatives:

Cheshire Safer Stronger Communities Partnership:	David Baines (representing Peter Fahy, Chair)
Cheshire Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership:	Joan Feenan, Vice Chair
Cheshire & Warrington Economic Alliance:	David Horstead (representing Martin Lee, Chief Executive)
Sustainable Cheshire Forum:	Chris Mahon, Chair
Cheshire Healthier Communities Group:	John Weeks, Chair
Cheshire & Warrington Cultural Consortium:	Helen Battersby (representing Malcolm Brown, Chair)
Cheshire & Warrington Rural Partnership:	Cllr David Rowlands, Chair

Cheshire County Council	Jeremy Taylor
Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service:	Chris Turnock (representing Steve McGuirk)
Cheshire PCTs:	Roger Simpson
Cheshire CABx:	Paul Nicholls
Cheshire CVs:	Michael Metcalfe

Support Staff

Alison Armstrong, Linda Bennett, Gerry Budd, Peter Bulmer, Marion Kennerley, Fil Prevc and Robbie Taylor (CCC); Sean Daley (EPNBC); Andrea Mageean (Chester); Cedric Knipe (MBC); Craig Nicholson (CBC); Su Turner (CNBC)

Observers

Alison Stathers-Tracey (GONW)

Visitors

Vivien Ellis (Cheshire Community Council); Arthur Neil (Vale Royal Voluntary Action; and Martin Honeywell (NRU Adviser) attended for item 41.

Jane Stanley-McCrave (CCC) attended for item 44.

37.0 WELCOME

Wendy Wright, Chairman, welcomed partners to the fourth meeting of the CCP and all CCP members introduced themselves.

38.0 NOTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2006 were approved as a correct record. The use of the new logo agreed at the September meeting was welcomed. The Branding and Identity Guide would be presented to the February meeting for consideration.

39.0 DRAFT CHESHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT – PROGRESS REPORT & NEXT STEPS

Gerry Budd, CCC, updated on progress. Specific reference was made to the:

- proposed removal and separate tabulation of the funding column which would create more space for the written detail within the Agreement;
- removal of the “Power of Well-Being” Enabling Measure. It was felt that this could be addressed under the recently published Local Government White Paper and subsequent Bill;
- proposed approval of the draft Agreement by the Cheshire Governance Board on Friday 8 December;
- revised Statement of Community Involvement to be included in the final draft;
- suggested recommendations for geographical targeting; and
- the proposals for performance management of the LAA.

Despite ongoing refinements, partners had begun to take the draft through

their formal decision making and approvals processes. It was suggested that the sub-group of the CCP previously convened to oversee and agree the submission of the initial outcomes framework and first draft be re-convened to approve the final draft prior to submission to GONW on 20 December. In conclusion, personal thanks were extended to all those involved in the development of the LAA to date.

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

- The changing emphasis and subsequent re-allocation of funding previously allocated to the development of PCSOs towards counter terrorism, organised crime, prisoners, probation services and asylum issues was creating some difficulties.
- A tension between local and national priorities continued to exist and this needed to be addressed through the CDRPs.
- Work was continuing on the changing nature of Cheshire's communities and emerging new challenges, e.g. vulnerable groups, migrant workers, etc.
- Despite a decline in crime, detection rates were increasing leading to a backlog in the criminal justice system.
- Concern was expressed at apparent underspending by the CDRPs. It was noted that most CDRP funding had now been committed though the ring-fencing of certain budgets prevented more flexible use of the resources available. Reporting lines for the CDRPs, particularly in the context of the delivery of the LAA, needed clarification though it was suggested that the Chairs of the respective district LSPs should be represented on the CDRPs to strengthen links locally.

Children & Young People

- As previously reported, work on this block of the LAA had been informed by the Children & Young People's Plan. There was a good chance of delivering against the Plan and, subsequently, the Agreement.
- Though no formal feedback had been received, the outcomes of the Joint Area Review were looking positive.

Healthier Communities and Older People

- The Healthier Communities & Older People's thematic partnership was continuing to evolve and develop. A recent partnership meeting had provided an opportunity for reflection and agreement on future direction, i.e. to commission, co-ordinate and influence.
- Whilst a significant amount had been achieved within a relatively short period of time, some aspects of this block of the LAA needed completion.
- The County Council were keen to develop an over-arching strategy in

response to the ageing population but wanted this to be a 'partnership' rather than CCC strategy. It was agreed that this be considered at the next meeting of the CCP.

- Like mental health, lifelong learning was another cross-cutting issue that needed to be acknowledged and handled through the Cheshire Partnerships Framework. It was agreed that options for how this might be progressed should be developed and presented to a future meeting.
- It was suggested that the County Council share its thoughts and ideas on these areas with the Cheshire Local Government Association.

Economic Development and Enterprise

- As previously reported, this block reflects the current sub-regional economic strategy – “Investing in Success” – to which all Cheshire local authorities and the Cheshire & Warrington Economic Alliance are working. The Strategy was well embedded and progress was being made.

The Environment

- The annual meeting of the Sustainable Cheshire Forum held that morning had elected Chris Mahon as Chair and Sam Alston as Vice Chair of the partnership.
- The event had provided an opportunity to review the achievements of the 2006 Year of Waste and agree Climate Change as the focus for 2007. This reflected the rapid rise of this issue on political, environmental and social agendas. It was also featured within the SSC block of the LAA.
- More work was needed to develop the cross-cutting environmental issues within the LAA over the coming year and beyond.

In conclusion it was noted that the development of the Agreement was ongoing 'work in progress' and that there would continue to be opportunity after the 20 December submission deadline for further refinement. This was reiterated by GONW who congratulated those involved on the efforts and extent of partnership working demonstrated to date.

AGREED:

- (1) That the proposal in relation to geographical targeting as highlighted within the report be adopted;
- (2) That the actions and proposals for the LAA performance management framework as highlighted in Appendix B of the report be endorsed;
- (3) That the sub-group of the Communities of Cheshire Partnership be reconvened and extended to other interested partners to finalise the negotiations and endorse the content of the LAA prior to final submission;
- (4) That the outstanding issues raised through the thematic partnerships be addressed through the annual review and refresh of the LAA;
- (5) That the suggestion of a Cheshire Strategy for Older People be considered at the next meeting of the CCP; and
- (6) That options for the integration of Lifelong Learning within the Cheshire

Partnerships Framework be presented to a future meeting of the CCP.

40.0 DRAFT CHESHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT – INTEGRATED APPRAISAL EXERCISE

In discussion groups, partners began to examine the potential positive and negative aspects of the draft LAA and undertake a peer review of the detailed content of the blocks. It was recognised that this was an important exercise to be further developed and refined over the coming months as a basis for informing and challenging future versions of the Agreement.

41.0 DRAFT CHESHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT – STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY AND NEXT STEPS

Martin Honeywell (NRU Adviser), Arthur Neil (Vale Royal Voluntary Action) and Vivien Ellis (Cheshire Community Council) presented an update on the development of the SCI within the LAA and a strategy for the future engagement and involvement of the third (community, voluntary and faith) sector in the Cheshire Partnerships Framework and its activities.

Detailed approaches and solutions would be consulted upon over January and February with a view to implementation during March. At this stage, ideas were focusing on the development of a “Hub”, working regionally and sub-regionally alongside the Cheshire & Warrington Change Up Consortium. A ‘shadow’ Hub would meet on 20 December to ratify the proposals and plan a compact compliant consultation process with the wider sector. The new model would ensure more effective engagement in preparation for the LAA annual refresh and more direct involvement with the Cheshire LAA officer group. It was also hoped to secure more third sector involvement across the thematic blocks. Specific reference was made to a similar piece of work undertaken in relation to third sector involvement in the Cheshire Children & Young People’s Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) and the need to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.

42.0 CHESHIRE-WIDE / LOCAL THEMATIC PARTNERSHIP MAPPING

In response to concerns raised previously concerning the relationship between the five core Cheshire-wide thematic partnerships and similar partnerships and work programmes being delivered at a more local level, partners considered a report highlighting membership arrangements. Specific concern was expressed at the apparent lack of connection between the (CYPSP) and the Children & Young People’s partnerships operating through the district LSPs.

It was noted that the CYPSP is a ‘statutory’ partnership with membership largely pre-determined. It was important to establish a balance between inclusivity and the size of the partnership to ensure its effective strategic operation. However, the need to strengthen the links with district based arrangements, ideally a representative from each, was acknowledged.

The need to include representation from the third sector across all of the thematic partnerships was also highlighted.

Cultivate, the sub-regional cultural partnership, was currently reviewing and updating its membership with a view to connecting into the thematic partnerships to support wider consideration of this important cross-cutting topic.

AGREED:

- (1) That the views and concerns of the Communities of Cheshire Partnership be reported to the next meeting of the CYPSP with a view to identifying a satisfactory solution; and
- (2) That the Cheshire-wide and local thematic partnerships operating within the Cheshire Partnerships Framework be asked to review their memberships as soon as possible to ensure that appropriate and effective representation from the district thematic groups is achieved.

43.0 PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE UPDATES - SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND / SECOND GENERATION LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT

Partners received written updates on the performance of the Safer & Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) and Second Generation Local Public Service Agreement. Alternative reporting formats for SSCF were under consideration. The anticipated underspend was now less than earlier predicted. This would be considered by the Safer Stronger Communities Group in February.

44.0 PARTNERSHIP ISSUES

- i) Disability Equality Schemes – Jane Stanley McCrave referred to the recent launch of the ten Disability Equality Schemes across Cheshire. This was the result of twelve months work by 25 agencies and heralded the start of continued work towards consultation with disabled groups in the future. Cheshire was also one of only twelve areas across the country selected by the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) as a model of good practice.
- ii) 2007 Work Programme – Partners received a report highlighting the key activities and decisions to be taken by the Partnership over the coming year.

AGREED: That a refined work programme with target dates for action be presented for agreement at the next meeting of the CCP.

NOTE: DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 8 FEBRUARY 2007, 9.30AM, SANDHOLE FARM, CONGLETON)

Signed (Chair):

Date: