

MINUTES



Date: 1 November 2007
Time: 2.00pm
Venue: Nantwich Football Club, Nantwich

PRESENT: Wendy Wright - Chair

LSP Representatives:

Chester:	Robin Norrie, Chair, Chester in Partnership and Chris Hardy, Managing Director, Chester City Council.
Congleton:	Glyn Chambers, Chief Executive, Congleton Borough Council
Crewe & Nantwich:	John Bowler, Chair, Crewe and Nantwich LSP and Kirstie Hercules, Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council (representing Paul Ancell)
Ellesmere Port & Neston:	
Macclesfield:	Vivienne Horton, Chief Executive Macclesfield Borough Council and Jacquie Grinham (representing John Wilbraham, Macclesfield LSP Chair).
Vale Royal:	John Jeffrey, Vale Royal Borough Council (representing Anne Bingham-Holmes, Chief Executive, Vale Royal Borough Council)

Other CCP Member Body Representatives:

Cheshire Safer Stronger Communities Partnership:	Gavin Butler, Cheshire County Council (representing Peter Fahy)
Cheshire Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership:	Joan Feenan, Vice Chair
Cheshire & Warrington Economic Alliance:	
Sustainable Cheshire Forum:	Chris Mahon, Chair
Cheshire Healthier Communities Group:	John Weeks, Chair
Cheshire & Warrington Cultural Consortium:	
Cheshire & Warrington Rural Partnership:	David Rowlands, Chair
Cheshire County Council	Jeremy Taylor, Chief Executive
Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service:	Mark Cashin, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Cheshire PCTs:	Roger Simpson
Cheshire CABx:	Paul Nicholls
Cheshire CVs:	

Support Staff:

Jan Burns, Lisa Green, Tim Mann, Sheelagh Connolly and Robbie Taylor (Cheshire County Council), Clare Babbs (Chester City Council); Sean Daley (Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council); Cathy Boyd (Vale Royal Borough Council), Craig Nicholson (Congleton Borough Council), Jenny Smith (Macclesfield Borough Council).

Visitors:

Greg Burke, Government Office for the North West.

27.0 WELCOME MESSAGE

John Bowler welcomed the Partnership to the new Football Club.

28.0 INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME

Wendy Wright welcomed partners to the meeting and introductions were made with Greg Burke visiting from GONW.

29.0 CHESHIRE LAA 2007-10: Mid Year Performance Report including LPSA2 Target Performance

The first half year Cheshire LAA performance report was presented to the Partnership: the Chairs of the countywide thematic partnerships were then invited to provide an overview of their areas of responsibility outlining the key issues for the CCP’s consideration.

Gavin Butler reported on behalf of the **Safer and Stronger Communities Group** and identified three sub-outcomes which are colour coded red at this stage of the year (1.4/2.1(iv), 2.2(i) and 2.3). In order to reduce the risk of under achievement at year end, a request to release financial resources from the Cheshire Second Homes Taxation reserve will be made. A number of sub-outcomes presently colour coded amber are dependent on the results of perception surveys and the evidence is currently unavailable. Good performance (green) was recorded for a number of sub-outcomes.

Joan Feenan reported on behalf of the **Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership**, stating that a number of sub-outcomes are termed as amber may not in fact be ‘exceptions’ to successful performance. At this stage, the data and examination results underpinning those performance indicators is not available. For example, the outcome surrounding children and young people’s participation levels: the Cheshire Youth Parliament has elections in January 2008 and we are unable to predict the numbers who will be involved presently.

Partners asked whether, in cases where data is not available, that it would still

be useful to have a sense of how performance is progressing and to report on mid-year milestones in that absence.

John Weeks reported as Chair of the **Healthier Communities and Older People's Countywide Thematic Partnership**. Many of the earlier points about data unavailability at the half-year mark was also true of many of the sub-outcomes in this Block, additionally a number of baseline figures are being established in year one of the LAA. An example was provided to demonstrate the difficulty in drilling down to see what is behind a performance indicator: currently the local smoking prevalence rate in Cheshire is approximately 25%, however, within newly arrived migrant communities the figure is over 60%.

Chris Hardy reported on behalf of the **Economic Development and Enterprise Thematic Partnership** and sought the Partnership's approval to Chair an expanded Group which would now include the co-ordination of environmental, cultural and housing issues. Chris Mahon stated how the incorporation of these themes in recent joint meetings and been helpful and accepted Chris' offer for further discussion to take this forward. Again, key points about data unavailability were commented upon. The NWDA investment in Cheshire's signature projects had been confirmed recently and will help to contribute to the overall delivery of LAA economic sub-outcomes.

Some general comments were made concerning the broader aspects of the performance report. Partners felt they would benefit for more detailed information on how the budgets are being spent, in order they may better understand how patterns of expenditure are related to service delivery. Both of the budgets (SSCF and CYPSP grants) are profiled against activities and this information is available.

John Weeks suggested that the thematic partnership Chairs and Co-ordinators Group which he chairs can lead on shared issues across the Blocks on behalf of the CCP (recommendation 2, consider and agree an approach to resolving emerging issues, where identified).

DECISIONS

- The Partnership agreed the overall performance reports would form the basis of subsequent reports to be made to Cheshire County Council's Performance and Overview Committee (as Accountable Body) and the Cheshire Governance Board.
- No issues were identified as arising from the performance reports to be referred to the Cheshire Governance Board for consideration and resolution.

ACTION

The Safer and Stronger Communities Group to represent detailed bidding to the Cheshire Chief Executives (8th November).

30.0 CSR2007, NEW MODEL LAAs, PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK, FUNDING IMPLICATIONS and TIMESCALES

The Partnership received a presentation from Greg Burke, Assistant Director for Children and Learners, Government Office North West.

At the previous meeting of the CCP (August) two key issues arose for GONW to address: the capacity within Cheshire to adopt the 'new' model on LAAs holistically and the demands of the outlined timescale given Cheshire's unique position at this moment. A number of additional points and questions were raised following Greg's presentation, including:

- A number of performance indicators are collected by more than one agency (e.g. numbers killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents), who will own those PIs under the new arrangements?
- We may only have the 2008 LAA in place for 9 months - what does GONW realistically expect us to achieve?
- There will not be enough time next year to deliver change.
- Real concern that other non local authority organisations may become disengaged with LAAs given the original complexity of developing the LAA and potential additional demands of producing a new LAA for less than one year.
- To change to new performance indicators will require a lot of work and there is not enough time to consult with all partners.
- What can we reasonably expect from GONW in terms of resources?
- The new LAA (2008) will need to be re-negotiated in 2009 with different people if LGR implemented.
- We risk losing credibility with our local communities if we continually change our outcomes.

Some of these questions issues were responded to by Greg Burke:

- The joint CLG/GONW roadshow (7th November) will address a number of concerns and will include a workshop on making an LAA work against the backdrop of LGR.
- CLG will not release grant funding unless the new model of LAA is adopted in 2008, so doing nothing is not an option.
- Central Depts. are also concerned by the new national indicators but using them does represent a significant opportunity to streamline your reporting responsibilities.
- The new performance indicators will be more workable as they may first appear, when you examine the detail.
- Greg will be spending far more time in Cheshire, working with us closely, over the negotiation period.
- Greg's has a dual role to act as a conduit from CLG when he is in Cheshire and an advocate/champion for Cheshire when he is GONW.

Greg also advised that Partners need to take stock following discussions with CLG at the roadshow before deciding how 'light a touch' we decide to take. There are legal reasons why we must implement the new LAA Arrangements;

but the changes required may mean less in real terms, we can negotiate this. He assured partners that GONW are sympathetic to the situation in Cheshire, but it will not be possible to simply roll-over the existing Agreement.

Moving to the new model does present the chance to simplify and streamline the existing LAA and ensure we are focussed on those issues important to Cheshire and lose those mandatory outcomes dictated in the existing LAA.

31.0 EVERY OLDER ADULT MATTERS – OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

Sheelagh Connolly presented the new Strategy on behalf of a number of organisations who have contributed to its development. The approach followed Every Child Matters (ECM) as it was a useful model to follow. Joan Feenan offered to ask the officers responsible for ECM to contact Sheelagh to share their experiences in enacting a new strategy. Partners agreed it was an important and valuable piece of work and the Chair congratulated and thanked all those involved for their work on the project.

DECISIONS

- The Communities of Cheshire Partnerships accepted the ‘Every Older Adult Matters’ outcomes framework as key strategic document and recommended it to be endorsed by the broader Cheshire framework.
- A formal launch of the Strategy was supported by the Communities of Cheshire Partnership.
- The Communities of Cheshire Partnership recommended the report and final version of the Strategy be presented to Cheshire Chief Executives.

32.0 CHESHIRE LIFELEONG LEARNING STRATEGY

Tim Mann introduced the report on behalf of Hazel Manning, who originally approached the CCP for advice on further developing the Cheshire Lifelong Learning Strategy. That advice and comments had been received and the document was further refined and endorsed through consultation with District LSP thematic groups.

John Weeks suggested there was a lot of detail in the Strategy and there was a need for a more concise statement to be produced to underpin the key messages within the Strategy. This statement could include instructions about how the Strategy may be implemented by partners. Joan Feenan commented upon how the Strategy will provide an important bridge to cover learning needs of all age groups. Partners also commented on how the Strategy links into the economic theme of the building skills attainment and the health agenda by encouraging people to participate in learning activities.

DECISION

The Communities of Cheshire Partnership formally approved the final draft Lifelong Learning Strategy for Cheshire and agreed to adopt it as a key

strategic document throughout the broader Partnership Framework.

ACTION

An accompanying concise implementation statement be prepared and returned to the Partnership.

33.0 CHESHIRE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY (interim): The Big Issues

Robbie Taylor presented the report outlining the need for and initial process to develop a new sustainable community strategy. The key issues that have emerged to date were drawn together for general agreement, they are not rooted geographically. Joan Feenan reported that the CYPSP had invested considerable time and effort with Partners to identify their key issues and the other Chairs of the thematic partnerships had done the same.

The draft strategy will be now be circulated more widely for broader consultation. The consultation process will be handled electronically over the coming weeks and further iterations of the new strategy will be available over the web as contributions are received and refinements made.

DECISIONS

- The Communities of Cheshire Partnership acknowledged the draft Sustainable Community Strategy as the first step to produce an interim document to cover the forthcoming negotiation period toward the new model LAA.
- The Communities of Cheshire Partnership and broader communities of interest will encourage discussion and contributions to the new Strategy as part of the forthcoming consultation process.
- The big issues are recognised and endorsed by the Communities of Cheshire Partnership: and provide the focus for the development of a whole system commissioning approach by the Cheshire family of partnerships.

34.0 NOTES OF LAST MEETING AND ARISING MATTERS (09/08/2007)

The minutes of the meeting August were accepted as an accurate record of the session. The Improvement Sub Group of the Partnership had not met.

35.0 PARTNERSHIP REPORTS – Issues for the CCP

The reports received were welcomed by the Chair as a helpful way of sharing news and developments. Two points were raised with the Partnership: Kirstie Hercules commented on how the Crewe and Nantwich LSP is having a challenging time in securing funding to support posts. Chris Mahon reported that the new Climate Change Programme Manager is likely to be in post in

January 2008.

NOTE:

Date of the next meeting, **Wednesday 9th January, 2.00pm, Chester district**
(venue to be arranged).

Signed (Chair):

Date: