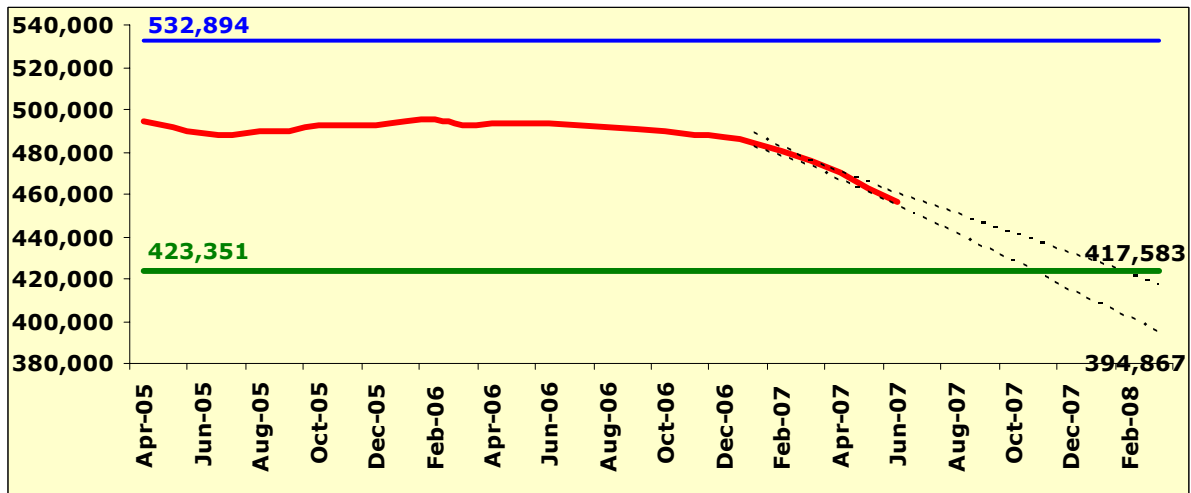


PARTNERSHIP: Safer, Stronger Cheshire Group	DATE: 27 July 2007
CONTACT OFFICER: Gavin Butler	TEL: 01244 616774 EMAIL: gavin.butler@cheshire.gov.uk

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:**Reduction in PSA1 crime**

Measured by the GONW British Crime Survey Comparator of ten key crime types, Cheshire is rated as having a GOOD chance of meeting the national PSA1 milestone of a 15% reduction in crime. This equates to a 16% reduction against last year's out-turn. Progress on last year's problematic volume crime of criminal damage is pronounced, although still a challenge against the 03-04 baseline.

Table One-BCS Comparator Crime in the Cheshire County Council Area

Source-BCS Tracker 27 July 2007

Establishment of Lache Neighbourhood Element (NE)

Lache Neighbourhood Element programme has established its governance arrangements and has robust finance and performance frameworks in place.

Transition for Blacon Neighbourhood Management Programme (NMP)

Blacon NMP has entered its penultimate year of central government funding. Partners are working together to develop potentially innovative sustainability plans.

New structures inc stronger

Previously problematic sub outcomes in the LAA for volunteering and community cohesion are being developed by a new 'Stronger' sub-group

Establishment of Domestic Violence Family Safety Units (DVFSUs)

Evidence based arrangements for managing high risk domestic violence cases are now firmly established in both Eastern and Western Basic Command Units. An interim review by the Home Office of the new Western BCU Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) arrangements has been positive. MARAC arrangements will begin in Eastern BCU on September 20th 2007.

Budget cuts

This financial year has seen CDRPs take pro rata cuts of £12k and then a further

14% cut from the Home Office allocations which come through the Local Area Agreement.

CURRENT ACTIVITY:

Strategic assessments

Cheshire CDRPs will be required to facilitate and deliver strategic assessments of crime and disorder in their areas from 2008. This replaces the duty to conduct three yearly audits and strategies. Future Home Office priorities are likely to include sexual violence, acquisitive crime and a focus on local priorities.

CWHIC project

This project will deliver a web based Geographical Information System (GIS) for sharing information on crime, disorder and demographics in the Police Force area in 2007-08. The project hopes to help practitioners, policy makers and analysts to target resources and use analysis more effectively.

PPO baseline

The baseline in the LAA for measuring reconviction rates of PPOs has been established. This will allow for consistent measurement of the effectiveness of PPO schemes across the County area.

FUTURE CHALLENGES:

Commissioning

Along with the other three LAA blocks, the SSCG will need to develop robust commissioning models for 08-10 if it is to make the best use of limited resources.

Governance

The new Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 require that partners form a County Community Safety Group, with involvement from Chairs and Portfolio holders from April 2008..

ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP:

Areas of common interest across the blocks would seem to include:

- Common approaches to commissioning
- Engagement with the third sector
- Tracking, managing and funding cross cutting areas of work such as domestic abuse

PARTNERSHIP: 4 th Block – Economic Development and Enterprise	DATE: 27 th July 2007
CONTACT OFFICER: Gill Williams	TEL: 01244 402405 EMAIL: g.williams@chester.gov.uk
<p>RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:</p> <p>The CWEA Strategy Group have submitted Concept Proposal Forms for Enterprise Generator (£1.6m) and People into Job (£700,000) funding until 31st March 2009. Funding should be available from the NWDA to implement the projects in November 2007. This will help to achieve some of the LAA targets in the Economy and Enterprise Block.</p> <p>The LSC funded “Workability” project (£511,500) in Chester and Ellesmere Port is currently recruiting staff for the projects which will start in August 2007.</p>	
<p>CURRENT ACTIVITY:</p> <p>A meeting took place regarding the Older People/Economy to discuss the sub-outcomes relating to bringing people over 50 back into the workplace. Chester City Council has agreed that the next “Return to Work” training course will be exclusively targeted at the over 50s (starting September 07 – December 07) to be held in the City Centre. “Jobsurf” training (how to apply for a job on-line) will be starting on 22nd August 2007 at the Learning & Enterprise Centre (University of Chester) in partnership with Jobcentreplus and targeted at applicants over 50.</p> <p>The CWEA refresh Sub-Regional Action Plan for existing or new programmes is to be submitted to the NWDA by 1st October 2007.</p>	
<p>FUTURE CHALLENGES:</p> <p>Maintaining momentum and high profile of target groups.</p>	
<p>ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP:</p> <p>We are currently recruiting for Simon Adderley’s replacement.</p>	

PARTNERSHIP: Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership	DATE: 23 July 2007
CONTACT OFFICER: Rick Howell	TEL: 01244 603 228 EMAIL: rick.howell@cheshire.gov.uk
<p>RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS: The Joint Area Review appraised the quality and impact of services for children in Cheshire – an overall grading of ‘good’ was achieved and it was noted that “Children and young people in Cheshire “are doing well...and that the services we provide are often better than those children and young people receive nationally”.</p> <p>The Annual review of Children and Young Peoples Plan is a substantial appraisal of the Partnerships Plan and activity and the majority is graded green or amber in terms of progress. 2006/07 Children's Plan review</p> <p>The Partnership has restructured and there is now a more inclusive and task focussed sub structure covering the 5 Outcomes with a ‘business unit’ planned to support the refreshed arrangements.</p>	
<p>CURRENT ACTIVITY: There is a requirement that (by April 2008) in each area a Children and Young Peoples Trust is developed that provides leadership and governance across children and young peoples services, to ensure;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services are outcome, child and family focussed • Integrated front line delivery: multi-agency working and co-location • Integrated processes: common assessment and information sharing • Integrated strategy: planning and commissioning with pooled resources • Inter-agency governance: leadership, partnerships and clear accountability <p>Governance documentation is being developed and there will be refreshed membership with a shadow Trust by October 2007 that is resourced by members. The District and City Councils will be joining the Trust and invitations have been sent out.</p> <p>In line with the CSR 2008 and LAA2 the Partnership are committed to developing a new 3 Year Plan and this process is beginning now. The Gov’t are starting advance CSR policy and Finance announcements already notably Aiming High for Children:Supporting Families and Aiming High for Disabled Children:Better Support for Families. £132m pa was announced to continue the Children’s Fund focus for the next 3 years which translates to around £1.2m pa for Cheshire.</p>	
<p>FUTURE CHALLENGES: The Development of the Partnership into a Children and Young Peoples Trust that has the governance and accountability to jointly commission <u>and</u> decommission services to deliver the core offer above.</p> <p>Managing CSR 2008 within the tight timescales and applying the necessary commissioning process to decision making.</p>	

ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP:

Establishing consensus of approach on cross cutting issues including, commissioning models and arrangements, planning timetables, needs assessment, third sector strategy and performance management of collaborative developments, particularly in the context of LAA2.

Establishing sufficient freedom and flexibilities for Trust members to get the delegated authority to make decisions.

PARTNERSHIP: Healthier Communities and Older People – Healthier Communities Executive specific Group	DATE: 30 July 2007
CONTACT OFFICER: Tim Mann	TEL: 01244 603208 EMAIL: tim.mann@cheshire.gov.uk
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS: <p>The Executive Commissioning Group (ECG) for Healthier Communities is a newly established partnership comprising Cheshire County Council, Cheshire District Councils, Cheshire PCT's, Cheshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), the Cheshire District LSP's and Cheshire Community Voice (representing the 3rd Sector). Terms of Reference have been agreed. There are currently 2 formal sub groups – one for the DAAT and one for Mental Health promotion. Further sub groups can be established as required. Partners have demonstrated a high level of commitment to the work.</p>	
CURRENT ACTIVITY: <p>Owners for all sub-outcomes have been identified and training on using the Excelsis system has taken place to ensure performance management of the LAA. There are plans to develop a common commissioning approach across all the LAA partnerships, including healthier communities.</p>	
FUTURE CHALLENGES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working across 2 PCTs to achieve County level reporting against targets. • Starting to change spending patterns to meet commissioning priorities and improve health outcomes for Cheshire citizens. • Begin the work for the Year 1 “refresh” to establish new targets. • Connecting the work of the ECG with the development of the new Local Involvement Networks (LINKs). • Engaging Adult Services (Learning Disabilities, Physical Disabilities) in the LAA process. 	
ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreeing a common commissioning approach. • Identifying cross-cutting issues and the impact across the LAA Block targets. 	

PARTNERSHIP: Healthier Communities and Older People - Older People specific Group	DATE: 23 rd July 2007
CONTACT OFFICER: Helen McCairn	TEL: 01244 603286 EMAIL: helen.mccairn@cheshire.gov.uk
<p>RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS: Executive Commissioning Group (OPEC) established with representation from Cheshire County Council, Cheshire PCTs, all District Councils, Supporting People, the Housing Alliance and LSP older people thematic groups.</p> <p>OPEC has agreed to adopt a common approach to commissioning. This will inform the LAA re-refresh.</p> <p>Work is underway to develop a strategic approach to prevention.</p>	
<p>CURRENT ACTIVITY: The following activities are underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance management of LAA sub outcomes • Development of a joint outcomes framework for older people • Planning for the development of a common commissioning approach including timescales, needs assessment and the development of commissioning priorities for change. 	
<p>FUTURE CHALLENGES: The development of robust governance arrangements to enable delegated decisions to be made on behalf of all organisations/partnerships represented at OPEC.</p> <p>The need for all organisations within OPEC to identify appropriate resources to undertake the commissioning process, for example information to support the strategic needs assessment.</p> <p>The development of robust commissioning arrangements across all the blocks of the LAA to ensure that cross cutting issues relating to older people are co-ordinated within a commissioning framework.</p>	
<p>ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP:</p> <p>Agreeing a common co-ordinated commissioning approach and the alignment of resources to deliver this approach. This will inform the LAA re-refresh.</p> <p>Delegated authority, within a robust governance arrangement, to enable members of OPEC to make decisions on behalf of their respective organisations/partnerships.</p> <p>The development of freedoms and flexibilities to support the implementation of planned commissioning arrangements, including the reduction of any duplication of reporting mechanisms.</p>	

PARTNERSHIP: Sustainable Cheshire Forum	DATE: 6 th August 2007
CONTACT OFFICER: Chris Mahon	TEL: 01948 820728 EMAIL: cmahon@cheshirewt.cix.co.uk
<p>CONTEXT:</p> <p>The Sustainable Cheshire Forum continues with its 2007 themed Year of Climate Change. Good progress is being made in a number of areas through the formation of the Cheshire and Warrington Climate Change Group.</p> <p>The sub-region of Cheshire & Warrington is committed to delivering ‘Rising to the Challenge’, A Climate Change Action Plan for England’s Northwest 2007-2009’ and the twin objectives of reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the effects of unavoidable climate change.</p> <p>Cheshire & Warrington Economic Alliance (CWEA) is supporting the formation of the Cheshire & Warrington Climate Change Group which represents organisations who will have a ‘lead’ responsibility for a minimum of one action within the Climate Change Action Plan. The Group will also ensure successful delivery through rigorous coordination and communication of sub-regional activities between organisations and partners while endeavouring to drive forward the implementation of the Cheshire & Warrington Climate Change Action Plan.</p>	
<p>BACKGROUND:</p> <p>Cheshire County Council and Cheshire & Warrington Economic Alliance and other members of the Cheshire & Warrington Climate Change Group are working with a wide range of partners to improve the sub-regions responsiveness to the climate change agenda, through developing a Cheshire & Warrington Climate Change Action Plan. The Action Plan will be produced by a ‘Climate Change Champion’ – yet to be appointed – using the findings from this study as a basis and through making contact with relevant organisations and people to ensure it addresses the needs of the sub-region, in relation to policy, investment, intervention and funding requirements.</p> <p>The Group will take an active role in the monitoring of Action Plan progress and delivery, implementation and evaluation of the outcomes and impact of tackling climate change issues across the sub-region.</p>	
<p>MAPPING & GAPPING PROJECT:</p> <p>To design a survey for completion by all partners and relevant organisations, to ascertain the information required, combined with a desktop review, telephone exercise and interviews as appropriate. The analysis should identify all organisations, posts, contacts and types and sources of information in order to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify ‘who’ has ‘what’ in place with regard to policy and posts and at what level, plus what activity and interventions are proposed or underway. 	

2. Provide an understanding of what stage each organisation has reached, if they contribute to or are members of any other partnership/ approaches and if so identifying those that appear to be having the most impact.
3. Produce a synopsis of current/ best practice in other North West sub-Regional areas which could be relevant as possible interventions in Cheshire and Warrington.
4. Identify successful policy and interventions and those proving difficult to delivered.
5. To identify baseline methodology and funding opportunities for Climate Change.
6. Provide a detailed report with an Executive Summary by 1st October 2007, including recommendations on starting the Action Plan process the coordination of sub-regional activity and liaison with the NWDA and all sub regional partners.

NORTHWEST DEVELOPEMNT AGENCY BID:

A submission has been made to the NWDA for funding climate change activity in Cheshire and Warrington over the next three years, with a value of £142k. This will fund:

- Recruitment of a sub-regional Climate Change Coordinator/champion
- Business and Community events
- Network meetings and other events
- Research, including monitoring impacts of climate change
- Other expenditure

A draft Climate Change Champion job description has been generated and a steering group set up to oversee the post.

LOCAL ACTIVITY:

There is much going on at all levels of the community from county, through district to parish, town, neighbourhood and individual, too much to list in this paper. Direct effects such as the recent record-breaking unseasonal weather and consequent flooding have heightened the public's awareness of the potential implications of climate change. Some examples are:

- The village of Ashton Hayes played a significant part in the globally televised Live Earth – see website www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk for more information
- Ashton Hayes also featured strongly in a visit by the Rural Advocate from the Commission for Rural Communities who came to see examples of local communities tackling sustainable development issues
- Nantwich Show cancelled this year due to ground conditions
- University of Chester adapting syllabus to include climate change
- Climate Change awareness-raising roadshows in Alsager, Sandbach, Holmes Chapel and Middlewich during August.

- Energy Projects Plus have launched their Wild Times DVD at Kingsmead Primary School on July 17th (a short film on how people can make a practical contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation)
- Vale Royal Borough Council climate change garden at RHS Tatton this year.
- Cheshire Wildlife Trust coordinated One Earth event at Grosvenor Park
- DEFRA investigating potential for farmers to become carbon managers
- LAA economy/culture/environment has had its first preliminary meeting

Communities of Cheshire Partnership: Developing the involvement of the Third Sector

At its meeting on 8 June 2007 the Partnership addressed the need to “[c]onsolidate arrangements for engagement with and integration of the third sector in the Cheshire Partnerships Framework, especially at countywide level”.

It was noted that a steering group to develop a Third Sector Hub had been meeting for some months. The Third Sector co-opted members of the Partnership (Mike Metcalfe and Paul Nicholls) were participants in this Hub, and were asked to take a lead in developing its engagement with the Partnership.

There has been general agreement at meetings of the Hub Steering Group that there was a systemic failure either to engage the Third Sector in the development of the current Local Area Agreement or to reflect adequately the contribution that can and should be made by the Third sector to achieving the goals of the LAA. There are key headline outcomes to which the Third Sector could have contributed by:

- providing baseline information;
- providing data on current levels of engagement;
- providing information on current issues and identified needs

Issues of particular concern to the Third Sector were inadequately addressed in the various drafts of the document. These include:

- Volunteering – both as an objective in its own right and as a means to a multiplicity of ends.
- Advice services – there seems no awareness that an informed and knowledgeable community is a stronger and safer one.
- Learning & Skills - community based responses to the skills agenda can raise aspirations, improve employability and reduce benefit dependency
- Equality and diversity – we seem to lack a strategic approach at a county level.

There is a concern that these failings will be replicated in the next LAA. The current agreement is perceived to have been written

“somewhere else” and then presented to the CICIP and local partnerships for rubber stamping. That is neither a satisfactory nor, in the long-term, an efficient way of working, because it narrows the scope of the creative contribution that can be made to producing an important working document.

At a meeting of the Hub Steering Group on 2 August, an interim action plan was agreed:

1. Existing district databases of voluntary and community groups will be integrated, to provide a more accurate picture of the Third Sector in Cheshire.
2. A briefing document about the Cheshire Partnership and the importance of Third Sector involvement will be circulated widely.
3. Organizations will be asked to indicate the level of involvement they would like in the Partnership, ranging from periodic information and updates through to opportunities for actively participating in thematic and working groups.
3. 2 and 3 will be followed up by discussion at the district Voluntary Sector Forum meetings to be held in the autumn.
4. We shall move towards election of a representative Steering Committee in the New Year, ensuring representation from smaller community groups as well as the larger cheshire-wide organizations and networks.

The Hub Steering Group can do much to inform and involve Third Sector groups, but this does not take away the onus that rests on the wider Partnership—especially the statutory bodies—to take active steps to engage with the Third Sector. In particular, this means acting urgently to open up opportunities for the Sector to be involved in formulating the new LAA.

Paul Nicholls
August 2007