

MINUTES



Date: 7 November 2008
Time: 9.30am
Venue: Ellesmere Port Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire

PRESENT: Wendy Wright - Chair

District and District LSP Representatives:

Chester:	
Congleton:	David Brown, Chair
Crewe & Nantwich:	
Ellesmere Port & Neston:	Phil Purvis on behalf of Gordon McGuiness
Macclesfield:	Helen Rowley on behalf of John Wilbraham
Vale Royal:	Tim Jackson, Chair

Other CCP Member Body Representatives:

Cheshire Safer Stronger Communities Partnership:	David Baines, on behalf of the Chief Constable appointee
Cheshire Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership:	Linda Brown representing Joan Feenan, Chair
Cheshire & Warrington Economic Alliance:	
Sustainable Cheshire Forum:	Chris Mahon, Chair
Cheshire Healthier Communities Group:	Sheelagh Connolly, representing 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
Health / PCTs	Wendy Meredith, Joint Director of Public Health, Western Cheshire PCT
Cheshire CABx:	
Cheshire CVSs:	Wendy Gjerstad, Chief Executive, Crewe and Nantwich Voluntary Action

Support Staff:

Alison Armstrong, Lisa Green, Gavin Butler, Peter Bulmer and Robbie Taylor (Cheshire County Council), Sean Daly (Ellesmere Port and Neston), Clare Babbs (Chester City Council) and Fiona Dunning (Vale Royal).

Visitors:

Ian Horton, Government Office for the North West.

Jon Amos, Cheshire County Council.

Apologies:

Helen Bellairs, Jan Burns, Brenda Harvey, Gordon McGuinness, Robin Norrie, Vivienne Horton, John Weeks and John Wilbraham.

70.0 WELCOME MESSAGE

Phil Purvis welcomed the Partnership to Ellesmere Port as the representative of the Chair of Ellesmere Port and Neston LSP.

71.0 INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME

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

72.0 CHESHIRE LAA MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

Partners were introduced to the mid year LAA performance out turn position based on the data and information available at the end of October. In addition to the full report an additional brief summary paper was circulated to provide a snap shot of the current position.

Commentaries were provided from each of the Thematic Partnerships, providing details concerning emerging performance issues. The Safer and Stronger Communities Group reported that the development of two new CDRPs (Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships) for the new local authority areas will help partners to work more locally and effectively on ASB (anti-social behaviour) outcomes. The QUEST system is helping to manage public complaints on ASB and confidence is increasing to response times and actions. ASB has been previously strongly correlated to criminal damage, but now more so with youth nuisance issues and there is good confidence to get performance back on track.

The Children and Young People's Trust reported that information is still not available from OFSTED to set a baseline for NI 111 and mid-year data is not available for NIs 112 and 115. With regard to NI 117, data was being collated for both and West and East baselines, however, the data has not been filtered and cleaned yet, but performance is anticipated to be on track. Concerning the LAA outcomes for Healthier Communities and Older People, colleagues were advised that further clarity is needed concerning the technical definition for NI 137 in order to complete the delivery plan. The data underpinning the mortality

indicators NIs 120 and 121 is only available on an annual basis and mid year performance positions are expected to be on track. A new action plan to address underperformance for NI 123 is being produced and new computer software is yet to produce reports concerning individual carer's assessments for NI 135.

Partners heard how the underpinning data for NI 171 will shortly be available and a baseline figure will be produced during the review process, however, there are ongoing concerns with named partners in the LAA. Performance for NIs 163 and 164 were on course, however, the economic downturn had impacted on the numbers of local people experiencing worklessness, measured through NI 153. The local economic climate is expected to have negative consequences and increased risks for the local housing market and supporting people outcomes and will be reviewed closely throughout the coming months. Concern was expressed with the lack of engagement with the business sector in assisting with identified actions to deliver improvement targets for NI 186 and the CWEA, as the most appropriate CCP member, should be able to better facilitate the engagement needed.

Partners were reminded that particular local blockages to successful LAA outcome delivery can be escalated to the Cheshire Governance Board for action. Progress on delivery was noted by the Partnership.

ACTIONS

The Communities of Cheshire Partnership agreed to:

- 1. Individual Partnership organisations not yet signed up to the Mindful Employers Charter encouraged better practices to mental health and well-being, to do so.*
- 2. Continue to work on the existing and incomplete LAA delivery plans for each indicator and provide approval from each of the respective Chairs of each thematic partnership on their satisfactory completion.*

73.0 CHESHIRE LAA – REVIEW AND REFRESH PROCESS & TIMETABLE

An information report for the Partnership outlining the forthcoming review and refresh process for the LAA was shared with Partners. The report briefed on the scope of the review process and the Government expectations of the results of the process.

The first action of the review process will be to formally submit the mid year performance out turn report to Communities and Local Government and in doing so, account for four key issues:

- delivery arrangements for designated LAA targets;
- where possible, an assessment of the risks to the achievement

of designated LAA targets, together with brief explanations of mitigating actions and residual risks;

- exception reporting on progress against designated targets or other national indicators; and
- where appropriate, information on baseline data not available at the time of sign off.

Partners were alerted to the key mile stone tasks and time line (the action for 16th February 2009 is no longer applicable) for completion and an additional quality assurance document which the Government Office (GONW) requires to be completed – the LAA Annual Review Report 2008/09.

The review process will need to take special account of the current economic climate and economic forecasts when projected targets are revisited along with previously identified risks. Additional contributory impacts for consideration will include: predicted disaggregated budgets post LGR, staff capacity and re-location post LGR and the different geographical and population sizes within the new Council boundaries. A joint (and individual) officer meeting(s) of the thematic partnership co-ordinators has been scheduled for 14th November as the first local step in response to the submission requirements.

Ian Horton, as the Cheshire Locality Manager for GONW, offered his advice and support throughout the review and refresh process and recognised the additional challenges that LGR impacts will have on the work ahead in Cheshire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Communities of Cheshire Partnership recognised the key issues and requirements outlined in the report and while noting the stretching capacity issues facing local government officers:

1. *delegated the initial mid year Cheshire LAA (2008) Performance Report for completion and submission to GONW by Tuesday 25th November and to be followed by the GONW Annual LAA review Report 2008/09 to the co-ordinating officers of the thematic partnerships (to be supported by additional officers).*

74.0 WESTERN CHESHIRE ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT AND EARLY BIRD JSNA REPORT (CW&C AND CE)

A verbal overview was provided concerning the two early versions of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA) for public local health and well-being which had been recently published. Additionally, the western Cheshire Annual Public Report content was highlighted. The JSNAs are requirements arising from the Department of Health and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007) and are joint processes between the local authority adult and children's

services and local Primary Care Trusts. The reports draw together key public health facts and locally identified priorities, from both professionals and through engaging local communities and residents and to identify the key themes running through the reports.

Partners discussed local issues emerging from the early JNSA reports concerning health inequalities and gaps in local life expectancy, alcohol (and links to the crime and disorder agenda), smoking cessation, ageing population, low birth weights and rises in obesity. The relevant web page documents provide links to more detailed statistical information concerning the issues and a questionnaire is available for further responses.

75.0 SECOND HOMES TAXATION – BID FOR RESOURCES

The Partnership was presented with a paper outlining a possible investment opportunity for the funding. The report outlined how additional receipts from the Council Tax raised from the ownership of second homes.

Paragraph two of the report indicates small sums of money were approved for the support work to reduce the number of PPO (Prolific and Priority Offenders) in the LAA outcome and to resource LAA focus group work with local equality groups in our communities. However, these bids were not taken up and £5000 was invested in the original Cheshire LAA volunteering outcome. Therefore, in addition to the previous under spend and the 2008/09 allocation: the present resource available totals £90000. This resource has been set aside to support delivery of underperforming LAA outcomes; especially those areas flagged as either 'amber' or 'red' within the mid-year performance report.

Partners were advised of a possible commitment to support a 'booster' sample of new Place Survey questionnaires targeting areas of high multiple disadvantages across Cheshire, to supplement the overall survey should be supported by the CCP. If additional responses are not received from these communities, then specific risks are unlikely to be identified and be masked by the expected high response reflecting the good quality of life in Cheshire.

A further suggestion concerned support for NI 125 and necessary changes to current working practices to adapt to the new needs of data collation for the new performance indicator. Another suggestion recommended further local research to build upon the early work and recommendations from Prof. Richard Tomlins. A final suggestion recommended the funding be invested into the induction and training costs for new LSP structures, if it remained un-invested at the end of the current financial year. However, the intention is to target resources

at potentially LAA Year One outcomes before the end of March 2008 to turn round under-performance as soon as interventions can be resourced.

ACTIONS

1. *Thematic partnership co-ordinating officers and Chairs (where possible), to identify where any intervention funded through the second homes taxation resource would pay dividends in the short term.*
2. *Recommendations for investment are presented to the Cheshire Chief Executives on 12 December for approval, on behalf of the Communities of Cheshire Partnership.*

76.0 NOTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and a couple of arising matters were reported. The agreed Partnership responses to the Performance Reward Grant and Comprehensive Area Assessment consultation exercises had been made by officers. A copy of the revised Local Transport Plan will be distributed to Partners and links to the web-pages and an electronic document will be circulated in the near future.

77.0 PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

Linda advised Partners that the Children and Young People's Plan (2008 – 2011) had been approved by the Cheshire Children's Trust and will inform the priorities for both the new post-LGR Trusts.

Chris Mahon updated Partners on plans to expand the existing Sustainable Cheshire Forum to become the Cheshire and Warrington Sustainability Forum, subject to approval of the recent recommendation. The current key theme of climate change would be continued throughout 2009 and a new travelling education sustainability initiative will be launched. Partners are invited to attend the Forum's Annual General Meeting at Crewe Alexander Football Club on the morning of Wednesday 10th December.

NOTE:

Date of the next meeting: **9.30am on Friday 9th January, Crewe and Nantwich.**

Signed (Chair):

Date: