

Communities of Cheshire Partnership

13 April 2006

Report of the LAA Officers Group

Partnership Reporting Relationships

Summary

At the inaugural meeting of the CCP a question was raised regarding reporting relationships.

The particular issue was the relationship between the thematic partnerships and the CCP itself

At the meeting it was agreed an “overview” of reporting arrangements would be useful.

This report: provides an overview of the reporting structure and identifies the key responsibilities of the various elements of the partnership.

Subject to CCP views this can be used to refine the partnership performance management framework currently being developed.

Recommendation

1 The Partnership agree the outline reporting arrangements and request that the performance management framework reflect this

2 The reporting arrangements be referred to all thematic partnerships, the LSPs and also the Governance Board for information

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1. Information

1.1. Attached is a brief schedule of the proposed reporting arrangements and relationships between:

- the Communities of Cheshire Partnership
- the various Thematic Work Programmes
- the various LSPs

- 1.2. The schedule reflects the terms of reference of the various groups as agreed by the CCP at its inaugural meeting
- 1.3. It presumes that within the Federation all partnership groups will operate in the spirit of the terms of reference. In this respect timely and effective communication is essential (a separate report is presented on communication issues)
- 1.4. It also presumes that all participating agencies will ensure adequate and appropriate representation throughout the partnership
- 1.5. The reporting arrangements concentrates in particular on the specific relationships associated with the negotiation, approval and implementation of the LAA and to ensure that all parts of the partnership are able to fulfil their roles effectively with a combination of:
 - Direction from the CCP and (where appropriate) guidance from the Governance Board
 - Independence to plan and deliver the activities that fall within their remit
- 1.6. However the County Partnership and LSPs in particular have a broader role on community planning and the reporting arrangements should be capable of encompassing these.
- 1.7. There will also be a range of activities that are common to all parts of the partnership these include
 - Audit and research
 - Data and performance management
 - Communications
 - Developing community involvement and exhibiting community leadership
 - Evaluation and reinvestment of learning
- 1.8. In practice all parts of the partnership will have a role to play in influencing and shaping priorities and ensuring the effective delivery of work programmes and projects and, as has been emphasised consistently, the Federation should not be considered a “hierarchy”.

REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITIES OF CHESHIRE PARTNERSHIP

Communities of Cheshire Partnership	Thematic Groups	Local Strategic Partnerships
Determine vision reflecting national priorities, local needs and the diversity of Cheshire	Inform high level targets and priorities in each thematic block	Identify local strategic vision including priorities and needs (community plan) to inform county wide negotiation of LAA
Agree high level plans. targets and outcomes (benefits) to inform negotiation of LAA		
determine for the Cheshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2006-2011		
Co-ordinate and prioritise cross cutting issues	Identify cross cutting issues	Identify cross cutting issues
Approve thematic work programmes and approach to county wide and sub countywide commissioning	Develop and deliver thematic work programmes including cross cutting issues	Inform thematic groups on appropriate level for commissioning
	Commission projects and activity either at county wide or sub county (LSP) level	Approve and implement local (Joint/LSP level)work programmes and projects
Monitor performance against benefits and outcomes	Report on performance (by exception)	Report on performance (by exception) – [relates mainly to the district community plan but perhaps some specific KPIs need to be collated at a district level and fed into the county TG reports]]
Agree variances to LAA programme activity	Request variance to projects and identify resource implications for the CCP	
Liaison with the Governance board		
Common activities will include audit and research data and performance management, evaluation and learning, communications, developing community involvement and exhibiting community leadership/ Other activities based on the approved terms of reference and the partners broader involvement in community planning will also be taking place		
Governance Board		
<p>The Member authorities should ensure effective involvement in all aspects of the Partnership but in particular – working alongside the Communities of Cheshire Partnership - it will enable the main public sector funding bodies to lead the development of the LAA and ensure it is aligned to priorities and resources</p> <p>In the course of this role it will be able to advise on the level of flexibility of resources (financial and other)</p> <p>The Governance Board will also receive the same performance management reports that are presented top the CCP to ensure full and effective information is available</p>		