

MINUTES



Date: 2 April 2008
Time: 2.00pm
Venue: Sandhole Farm, Hulme Walfield, Congleton.

PRESENT: Wendy Wright - Chair

District and District LSP Representatives:

Chester:	Robin Norrie, Chair, Chester in Partnership and Jan Rowley, Chester City Council (representing Chris Hardy)
Congleton:	David Brown, Chair, Congleton LSP and Glyn Chambers, Chief Executive Congleton Borough Council
Crewe & Nantwich:	John Bowler, Chair, Crewe and Nantwich LSP and Su Turner, Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council (representing Paul Ancell)
Ellesmere Port & Neston:	
Macclesfield:	John Wilbraham, Chair, Macclesfield LSP and Carol Haydon, Macclesfield Borough Council (representing Vivienne Horton)
Vale Royal:	Cathy Boyd, Vale Royal LSP (representing Tim Jackson)

Other CCP Member Body Representatives:

Cheshire Safer Stronger Communities Partnership:	Peter Fahy, Cheshire Police
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	Mark Cashin, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Service:	
Health / PCTs	
Cheshire CABx:	Paul Nicholls
Cheshire CVSs:	Michael Metcalfe

Support Staff:

Alison Armstrong, Jan Burns, Lisa Green and Robbie Taylor (Cheshire County Council), Clare Babbs (Chester City Council) and Craig Nicholson (Congleton Borough Council)

Visitors:

Greg Burke, Government Office for the North West

Apologies:

Helen Bellairs.

44.0 WELCOME MESSAGE

David Brown welcomed the Partnership to Congleton as the new Chair of the Congleton LSP.

45.0 INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME

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

46.0 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION IN CHESHIRE – PARTNERSHIPS AND LOCAL WORKING TRANSITION PLANNING

Jan Rowley presented a briefing paper on behalf of Chris Hardy, who is responsible for planning partnership and local working transitional work on behalf of the LGR Joint Implementation Team. The briefing updated the Partnership on who had been involved in this work-stream, the draft project briefs produced to date and the key milestones and actions outlined for the delivery.

Partners noted that those involved to date were solely local government officers. Rural communities would also need consideration when planning for the future and elected Members would have a key role in endorsing any proposals. Additionally, continuing countywide and sub-regional organisations would need to be consulted and involved more closely if the principles and values outlined in the original “People and Places” bid towards a ‘virtual public service’ were to be recognised. Interdependencies between the partnerships and local working agenda and the functions of the People and Places blocks were noted.

Greg Burke was asked whether the expected new Empowerment White Paper would be available for review at this important transitional time for Cheshire, so that new suggestions could be incorporated into future

planning. GONW reported that the details concerning the consultation on the proposed White Paper were not available yet.

Glyn Chambers confirmed that partnerships and local working development would be co-ordinated as a work-stream in the broader Performance and Capacity block, for which he was responsible in Cheshire East. Partners agreed that the existing papers needed to better describe what is planned in service delivery and that a broader (non local authority) community of opinion contribute to the development of this work when the details are added.

DECISION

That the Partnership receive further updates on developments at future meetings.

47.0 CHESHIRE LAA 2008 – CURRENT PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

Lisa Green introduced a paper outlining current progress on developing a new transitional LAA for Cheshire. The Partnership was advised in January that Cheshire would be legally required to produce a new model LAA regardless of capacity issues surrounding LGR. However, a more flexible approach to development was now suggested to account for challenging timescales facing the new local authorities to develop new sustainable community strategies, partnership frameworks and negotiate new LAAs by April 2009. As such, it was suggested that the life-span of the new model LAA would extend beyond the inauguration of the new local authority structures but that the Agreement would be 'severable'.

In order for this to be achieved a review of the nominated indicators was currently underway to ensure that the underpinning data is available at levels measurable by the new geographical areas. The co-ordinators of the countywide thematic partnerships were working on new baselines and improvement targets for the 35 'designated' LAA indicators and a smaller number of 'non-designated' indicators.

Greg Burke reported that initial feedback from Government on the draft LAA submitted on 12 March had been positive and there were no immediate concerns though issues might arise on the specific geographic targeting of some indicators (e.g. NI154 - net additional homes provided). Discrepancies between locally identified priorities and those dictated by central Government were noted. This was a particular concern for the Police as priorities and targets were largely influenced by the Home Office based upon the performance of comparator authorities. In turn, this could have a detrimental effect on the achievement of agreed LAA targets. It was suggested that the new Comprehensive Area Assessment performance management regime and framework should restrict this happening in the future.

The choice of the new LAA indicators had been the responsibility of the countywide thematic partnerships and the omission of some issues from the original list was due to the absence of appropriate new national indicators, e.g. alcohol, mental health, culture, etc. It was therefore, important to develop and include meaningful local (non-designated) indicators in these instances to ensure coverage of draft community strategy themes.

DECISIONS:

The Communities of Cheshire Partnership:

- (i) endorsed the approach to produce a severable, transitional LAA for 2008-11;
- (ii) endorsed the list of submitted performance indicators and local indicators; and
- (iii) delegated the development of appropriate baselines and targets for the new LAA to the countywide thematic partnerships.

48.0 INTERIM CHESHIRE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY – CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Robbie Taylor reported on progress and interim consultation feedback. Partners were advised of how their comments at the last CCP meeting in January had been acknowledged and of where alterations to the draft document had been made before broader circulation.

Partners were informed that no new issues or priorities for incorporation in the draft Strategy had emerged as a result of the consultation though additional contextual information had been provided to support the priorities already identified.

The Partnership was also advised of the outcomes of focus group work undertaken with minority communities in Cheshire. Views were sought from local residents from BME (Black and Minority Ethnic), Gypsy and Traveller and economic migrant communities. A series of reports would be compiled to aid the production of a refreshed Equality Needs Impact Assessment for the newly developing LAA, in addition to informing the draft strategy. Views would also be sought from representatives of the Cheshire Older Peoples Network. It was noted that issues surrounding the adverse impacts of alcohol were identified as a key priority of a large number of consultation participants.

The twelve-week consultation was due to close on Monday 28 April. The resulting document would then be disaggregated into two versions covering the new local authority boundaries, to assist the new authorities and partnership build new visions, sustainable community strategies and LAAs.

49.0 BIG LOTTERY ADVICE PLUS BID

Paul Nicholls updated the Partnership on the development of an integrated legal advice partnership (Cheshire Community Legal Advice Partnership - CCLAP) and a recent joint bid to the Big Lottery. The bid was based on the creation of a new 'Gateway' assessment process enabling residents living in areas of multiple disadvantage to access a range of legal advice services through a single referral process. The result of the first round of the bidding process was expected in September.

It was suggested that the use of Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LLSOAs) would also identify smaller pockets of isolated need in rural areas and ways of increasing services in these areas would be welcomed. It was also suggested that the Children's Centres be used as points of referral and information provision at the neighbourhood level.

50.0 NOTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes from the meeting in January were accepted as an accurate record of discussions and decisions.

In response to a question raised previously, Greg Burke reported that LSPs had complete flexibility and autonomy to select a Chairman from any background and profession though the Local Government White Paper and subsequent draft statutory guidance suggests that this appointment be formally recognised by the relevant local authority's executive.

Alison Armstrong reported that a response to the recent consultation on Comprehensive Area Assessment had been submitted on behalf of the Partnership. This was available on the Cheshire Partnerships Framework website.

51.0 PARTNERSHIP REPORTS – ISSUES FOR THE CCP

Chris Mahon, Chair of the Sustainable Cheshire Forum, confirmed that Kate Radford had been appointed as the new sub-regional Climate Change Programme Manager based at the CWEA office. He expressed concern regarding the uncertainty over local authority staff support to the Sustainable Cheshire Forum as a consequence of LGR and subsequent capacity issues for the Forum. Partners were asked to consider how resources to raise awareness of climate change could be transferred to develop local community capacity for action.

It was likely that, following consideration of the issue at the March meeting of the Children Trust, two new Children's Trusts would be developed to cover the new local authority areas.

John Weeks confirmed that the Healthier Communities and Older People Partnership report, which stated that a £45m PFI bid had been secured, had been misleading. The bid had successfully passed stage one of the bidding process but would require the support and longer term financial commitment of the new Shadow Authorities.

A briefing paper on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was circulated to partners. It was reported that the Assessments would be completed through utilising existing resources and would be aligned to the new local authority boundaries. Claire Wildgoose (based at Western Cheshire PCT) had been appointed as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Project Manager.

David Brown asked the Partnership to support a local Congleton campaign opposing the proposed scientific budget cuts to Jodrell Bank which could force the closure of the site. Jeremy Taylor seconded the proposal on behalf of the County Council.

DECISION:

That Congleton Borough Council provide additional background information on the issue to support a formal written Partnership response.

52.0 2008/09 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The programme for Partnership meetings throughout the remainder of the financial year was confirmed by Partners; the dates also take account of Governance Board and LGR Joint Implementation Team arrangements.

NOTE:

Date of the next meeting: **Friday 30 May, Macclesfield Town Hall.**

Signed (Chair):

Date: