

Chorley Partnership Board

Thursday, 2 December 2010

Present: Allan Jones (Chair) and Councillor Eric Bell (Chorley Council), Pat Case (Chorley Council/Lancashire County Council), Peter Goldsworthy (Chorley Council), Peter Malpas (Chorley Council/Lancashire County Council), John Walker (Chair of the Children's Trust), Geraldine Moore (Age Concern Lancashire), Lincoln Shields (Business Consultant), Reverend Martin Cox (St Laurence's Church), Pat Duckett (Centre Manager Market Walk Shopping Centre), Gwynne Furlong (Chorley Chamber of Trade), Terry Dickenson (Chorley District Sports Forum), Cindy Bolton (Chorley & South Ribble CVS), Diane Gradwell (Citizens Advice Bureau), Jeannie Stirling (Homestart), Chief Inspector Richard Robertshaw (Lancashire Constabulary), John Buck (Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service), Kevin Hodges (Rotary Club of Chorley Astley) and David Brown (Chorley Pensioners Association)

Also in attendance:

Officers: Sarah James (Performance, Partnership and Equality Manager), Louise Wingfield (Policy, Performance and Partnerships Assistant), Chris Sinnott (Head of Policy) and Colin Everett (District Partnership Officer)

10.CCS.78 WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

Allan Jones (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

10.CCS.79 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Chief Superintendent Stuart Williams (Lancashire Constabulary), Councillor Alistair Bradley (Chorley Council), Richard Houghton (Chorley Community Housing), County Councillor Mark Perks (Lancashire County Council), Donna Hall (Chorley Council) and Reverend Andrew Mashiter (Chorley Churches Together).

10.CCS.80 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 7TH SEPTEMBER 2010

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a correct record.

There were no matters arising.

10.CCS.81 CHORLEY PARTNERSHIP RESTRUCTURE

Allan Jones opened this item by saying that the Chorley Partnership needs to be more efficient but also to ensure everyone can contribute. The restructure is out to consultation and open for comments until 14th December. An overview of the proposal has been emailed out to all Partnership members for comments.

Sarah James explained that the proposal recommends that:

- The **Board** be replaced with a larger Network, who meet yearly at an Annual Conference. This will be supplemented by online facilities for sharing information and best practice.
- The current **thematic groups** are based on the previous SCS and old LAA structure, and therefore are no longer quite fit for purpose. As the Children's Trust

and Community Safety Partnership are statutorily required, they will continue to form part of the official structure (Health and Wellbeing may also become statutory at some spatial level). The other groups, however, will need to take this opportunity to think about the purpose of the group, and if it is required. Within the new structure, there will be less capacity for the Council to support and administer these groups, however if the groups want to continue meeting the Council will attend.

- The **Executive** is to be reduced and to focus on how to work together to reduce public expenditure. This will mean that there will be a smaller set of members, including **three Champions**, one for each of the three themes. This will be an individual from a partner organisation, who will be co-opted by the Executive. Their role will be to provide the link from the Network to the Executive and to lead the delivery of their theme.

In terms of the VCF sector, it has been agreed that there should be a representative on the new Executive. To enable the sector to organise and elect a representative, it has been proposed that a small sum of money is provided for an organisation or consortium of organisations to undertake capacity building work to form a network. This Network would then be the link for all partnerships and organisations to the sector in the area.

This proposal was discussed at length in the Chorley Partnership Board and some of the key issues highlighted were;

- Role of the VCF Sector – Ensuring that the diverse nature of the groups represented is recognised - Reverend Martin Cox highlighted that there is a tension point motivated by his client group. The third sector is so diverse and how we handle this group is going to be a real challenge, how we balance it out. Therefore there may need to be a discreet part of the tender to get faith groups involved, or to include an additional faith seat on the Executive.
- The online 'network' and developing a public facing part of that facility - Gwynne Furlong felt that the online forum would be a more useful vehicle for all to use, and that public access could also be given. Sarah James explained that the Network would meet in person once a year and that the Network has the potential to expand as more organisations can get involved.
- The timing of the annual conference, and ensuring that it enables the Network to fully engage in looking at previous performance and planning for the year ahead - Cllr Pat Case thought that the idea of an Annual conference was good but asked how this would tie into the SCS delivery. SJ explained that initial thoughts were to hold the Annual conference after the publication of the annual report, in order to look back at last year and feed into next year's business planning.
- In terms of the VCFS Tender - Cllr Eric Bell asked who will be able to bid for the VCFS money, would it be one organisation? SJ explained that it could be a consortium of organisations or one organisation. Geraldine Moore explained that at the original meeting with the VCFS it was thought that it could have some merit to forming a consortium. A special meeting of the Stronger and More Involved Communities group is being held to discuss. She also highlighted that the group would need to work together as some positive projects have come out of SMIC.

Geraldine Moore asked if a review of the new structure would be built in at some point and if so how would the review be built in.

Chris Sinnott explained that the review of the new structure would happen at the annual conference.

Allan Jones explained that the restructure proposal was still open for change and asked people to send comments to Sarah James before 14th December. An overview of those responses received will be tabled at the Executive meeting.

If approved at the LSP Executive on 15th February 2011, the new structure will be in place from April 2011.

10.CCS.82 PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORT

Chris Sinnott presented the Quarterly Performance report for Quarter 2 which had been provided with the agenda.

He explained that this was for the period July to September and was a positive report, the highlights were:

- Overall crime had reduced by 6.5%
- the number of new businesses established is not back on target and performing well with 33 new businesses being established against a target of 26
- Unemployment has risen very slightly from 2.2% to 2.3% - this means there are 32 more people now claiming benefits than at the end of the 1st quarter.

LSP projects:

Our Cotswold Community Kitchen was rated amber at the end of quarter 2 as the recruitment of a Lifeskills Coordinator had been delayed. There is now a person in post and the project is now back on track.

Chorley Help Hub was rated red at the end of quarter 2 as there had been a problem with the building. Discussions will be taking place about their approach and a report will go to the LSP Executive in December, when we anticipate the project will be back on track.

Terry Dickenson asked what work had been undertaken to attract the workforce, affected by the move of the BBC to Salford, to Chorley.

Allan Jones explained that he had contacted the BBC and informed them that if they wanted someone to go along and talk about Chorley then he would be available to do so. They said they believe that there are already some people from the BBC living in Chorley.

A discussion was held around the Database of Adapted Properties project and Cllr Pat Case asked what we do about looking at public money used to adapt properties. Adapting houses costs a lot of money and large numbers of houses in the borough have been adapted and sold on in the normal way. Chris Sinnott agreed to provide Cllr Case with the information.

10.CCS.83 JOINT CENTRAL LANCASHIRE CORE STRATEGY & SITES FOR CHORLEY - ISSUES AND OPTIONS DISCUSSION PAPER

Cllr Peter Malpas presented the Local Development Framework report that had been provided with the agenda. Two documents which form part of the LDF are the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations document.

The Core Strategy for Central Lancashire, is a document that covers Chorley, South Ribble and Preston. It sets out the strategic context for Central Lancashire and general locations for development and the overall quantum of development up to 2026. It is at an advanced stage and has been subject to previous public consultation. Formal representations can be made on the publication version of this document from 8th December 2010 to 31st January 2011.

The Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document, sets out development management policies and allocates or protects land for specific uses such as housing, employment, community uses, retail and open space. This ensures that land is set aside to secure local jobs, homes and community facilities in the future.

The Discussion paper is also out for public consultation from 8 December – 31st January 2011. You can share your views, comments and suggestions by completing the representation form from 8 December 2010. This can be completed online via the Chorley Council website, by email, by Central Lancashire's website or by return of post.

Website: www.chorley.gov.uk/planning

Email: planning.policy@chorley.gov.uk or

Central Lancashire's website: www.centrallancashire.com

Cllr Malpas highlighted that all members of the Board should get involved and pass on to other members of their groups.

Cindy Bolton added that from a VCFS perspective, 8 weeks is not long enough and that the recommendation is for 12 weeks for consultation, as per the compact.

Allan Jones said that this was something that needed to be picked up for future consultations. Chris Sinnott agreed to action.

10.CCS.84 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

John Buck gave a quick update on the Firebreak project ran in 2009/10 with partnership funding. The Firebreak course was funded by the Chorley Partnership in March this year. The course is aimed at vulnerable young people – it challenges them and puts them in difficult situations. Pupils were selected from Albany, Parklands, Southlands, Wellfield and Walton le Dale. There were 14 on the course in total and 12 completed it. The course covered areas such as working at height and fire safety, and passing out took place in March. John highlighted that for some of these young people it was the first certificate they had ever received and the course had proved life changing in some cases.

John thanked the Partnership for all their support.

Terry Dickenson gave a public thanks to the Police for the brilliant job they did at the Chorley Charity Challenge event which took place in September.

Diane Gradwell said that CAB have received funding to provide extended services around welfare housing, all thanks to Core Funding received from Chorley Council. She called for people to please use these services. If you would like to access this service please contact Diane Gradwell.

Allan Jones closed the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

10.CCS.85 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 4.00pm on Thursday 3rd March at Eaves Green Community Centre, Lower Burgh Way, Chorley.

Chair