

Report of	Meeting	Date
Assistant Chief Executive (Policy & Performance)  Introduced by the Executive Member for Corporate Policy and Performance	Executive Cabinet	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2008

## THE CHORLEY PARTNERSHIP – A PROGRESS REPORT

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To outline the improvements made to the Chorley Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership for Chorley) since last quarter, to keep Cabinet informed about the current work being co-ordinated by the LSP and future plans for the LSP.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the report be noted.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter has been a busy time of activity for the Chorley Partnership
  - LAA negotiations ongoing
  - Projects progressing
  - Children's Trust arrangements developed
  - Projects for 2008/9 being scoped out
  - Elections onto the LSP Board and a new Partnership Chair in 2008
  - Improved LSP communications

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- To keep Members informed about the progress of and work being carried out by the Chorley Partnership, and to update Members on the LSP's role in the 2008 LAA negotiations.

### ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- N/A

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional	X	Improved access to public services	X
--------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	---

economic development in the central Lancashire sub region			
Improving equality of opportunity and life chance	X	Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	X
Involving People in their Communities	X	Ensure Chorley is a performing Organisation	X

## PROGRESS TO DATE

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter has been a busy time for the Chorley Partnership, particularly in the delivery of its projects, the setting up of the Children's Trust, and the ensuring Chorley's interests are represented in the ongoing negotiations around the new LAA.

### 5.1 Local Area Agreement

Overall, the Chorley Partnership has been successful in securing 20 out of 35 indicators – with a few more still being discussed with GONW, particularly around the use of temporary accommodation and community safety indicators. This is good news for Chorley, and shows that we have been influential in the shaping of the new LAA for Lancashire.

Officers are now working with LCC and other partners to develop baselines for the 35 indicators, from which we can set 3-year stretch targets.

The final LAA will be agreed with GONW and signed off in June.

### 5.2 Children's Trust

A sub-group of the Children & Young People's partnership met to discuss the membership of the district Children's Trust. In line with statutory guidance, it was decided that the Children's Trust will supersede the Children & Young People's Thematic Partnership on the LSP, and will be made up of the 10 Duty to Co-operate Partners, at the most senior level as possible.

Former members of the Children & Young People's Partnership will still be included in the mailing list for the Children's Trust, to keep them informed of its discussions, and there will be an open invitation for these members to attend Children's Trust meetings when relevant.

The Children's Trust will continue to monitor the progress of the Children & Young People's Partnership's current and future LSP Projects, at its meetings and at the LSP Executive.

The Children's Trust will focus on strategic matters. Operational issues will be picked up in a number of ways, such as neighbourhood teams, task groups for specific issues (ie teenage pregnancy) and existing forums (ie the secondary head teachers' group).

### 5.3 Project bids

Following the Council's decision to allocate £90,000 to the LSP to pump prime joint projects with our partners, the Chorley Partnership's thematic groups are working on project bids for 2008/9. The LSP Executive will decide which of the projects to select at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The projects will be selected based on a variety of factors, such as their impact on the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy, the amount of additional funding they can lever, and the extent of support from other partners, amongst other criteria.

### 5.4 LSP Project update 2007/8

All the LSP projects from 2007/8 are progressing well. In particular, the Chorley teenage pregnancy action plan, which was given £10,000 from the Chorley Partnership and attracted over £95,000 of additional funding from other partners including the NHS, has already started to

demonstrate falling teenage pregnancy rates. The young mum's group is now fully trained and is delivering sessions with young people to demonstrate the harsh realities of teenage parenthood. The PCT have committed to extend sexual health clinics' opening hours and venues across the borough, which is very good news for the young people of Chorley. They are currently carrying out work to identify best possible locations for this service. The latest figures published show that teenage pregnancy in Chorley has fallen from 45.3 per 1000 of population to 40.4 - a reduction of 10% in 1 year. In real terms this is a reduction from 90 cases to 79. Whilst this data is 14 months behind real time, it is an excellent foundation on which to progress with our targeted work with young people.

MATAC continues to be a big success for the Chorley Partnership and its sub-group, the Community Safety Partnership, with crime dropping by 18% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter compared to last year. The process has now been mainstreamed by Lancashire Police, and is being used in other districts, which is very good news.

The Neighbourhood, Environment & Streetscene's project, 'First Steps' which involves a community tidy up in Clayton Brook and other community safety areas, has had plans drawn up, following consultation with residents. Physical work has been slow to start, following funding issues at Groundwork, however these have now been resolved and the project is now about to move into the implementation phase.

The Economic Regeneration Group are progressing with their Marketing Chorley project. With support from council officers, an inward investment pack is being produced and the business pages on the Internet are being updated to appeal to businesses looking to relocate to Chorley. The group has also produced the Pilot Employment Charter, which seeks to gain commitment from employers to actively employ local people, and, where possible, from disadvantaged groups (eg. the unemployed).

The Chorley Community Network project is also nearing completion, with a database compiled of over 130 voluntary organisations operating within the Borough. It is hoped that this network will strengthen links between the VCF sector and statutory agencies. Similar projects have proved very successful in other areas around the country.

The Vulnerable Households project, run in conjunction with the South Ribble Partnership, is now at the stage where lead professionals from the various organisations involved are being identified and we will soon be at the stage where the vulnerable families in Chorley can be identified. It has been agreed that families causing the most disruption, and where intervention will have the highest impact on communities, will be targeted first.

## 5.5 New Partnership Chair / VCFS members

Every two years, the Chair of the Chorley Partnership is re-elected by the members of the LSP Board. As the current Chair was last elected in 2006, the post of Chair will be up for election in May and nominees for Chair will be accepted until Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May. The deadline for votes for these nominees will then be Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The Performance Advisor (Partnership) will collate these votes and announce the result before the 25<sup>th</sup> June Board meeting.

The LSP Board has 10 seats allocated to the Voluntary, Community and Faith sectors. From 2008, these are also to be 2 year terms. The VCF sectors conduct these elections, putting forward candidates and then voting for their preferred representation. It is hoped that the results of these elections will be in place by the beginning of May, to allow these new members to take part in the election of the wider LSP Chair.

## 5.6 Communications

Following the recommendations of the IDeA Peer Review in November, we are developing a communications and marketing strategy for the Chorley Partnership. This will improve internal

communications between the thematic groups, Board and Executive and the elected members of the Council.

The Performance Advisor (Partnership) will now distribute quarterly updates on the LSP's meetings and distribute to all members of the LSP (**See Appendix A**).

The strategy will also include actions to promote the work of the Chorley Partnership to the public (this will be an important aspect of Comprehensive Area Assessment from 2009) such as branding and using existing communications channels (eg. Chorley Borough News) to further communicate the work of the Chorley Partnership.

### **IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT**

This report has no implications in the following areas.

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal			

There is one attached paper with this report.

<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Ext</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Doc ID</b>
Claire Thompson	5348		