

What's happening in the Chorley Partnership 3rd Quarter Update

THE EXECUTIVE

At the recent Executive meeting on Tuesday 15th January, the LSP's budget for next year was discussed. Chorley Borough Council have allocated £90,000 in their draft budget for 2008/9 for more cross-cutting projects. The council hopes this might encourage partners to contribute to a joint pot of funding with which we can run 10 – 12 projects next year and enable the partnership to attract further external funding.

Thematic groups are asked to consider what sort of projects they would like to run next year, to help them deliver the objectives of the new Sustainable Community strategy. Projects that have pooled funding from partners, or commitments of funding from elsewhere already agreed, will be especially welcome. The Chairs of each of the thematic groups will receive bid forms to fill out for each project, demonstrating how a particular project would meet the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

It is hoped decisions will be made at the end March / beginning of April, when we have a confirmed budget for 2008/9.

Chorley Borough Council - Circle of Need project

The Council presented the Circle of Need concept, which aims to provide its customers with related services when they contact the council, by linking different needs together. For example, if someone needs temporary accommodation they may also need housing, financial help, food or health support. The idea is to understand all these needs at the first point by understanding the relationships between them. The model brings together Council services with others from government departments and the voluntary sector to provide a truly 'joined up' service. It is hoped that partners will help to develop the project.

Chorley Smile Consultation Panel

As part of its continued work to engage residents and to ensure services are shaped around customer needs, Chorley Council has recruited a citizen's panel of residents, of 1000 residents which is representative of the local community. The council has commissioned a social research company to carry out 2 surveys this year. Chorley Council have offered this resource to partners – if any organisations would like to carry out consultation over the next twelve months, they are encouraged to utilise the residents panel, at a greatly reduced cost than carrying out their own separate consultation.

If you're interested in the Chorley Smile consultation panel, drop Chris Sinnott, Performance Advisor, in the Policy & Performance Team at Chorley Council, a line on 01257 515337 or chris.sinnott@chorley.gov.uk and he will advise you on how many questions are available for partners to add onto surveys, timescales and costs - and will answer any further queries.

Improvements to the LSP

The IDeA's review of the Chorley Partnership produced a series of actions to consolidate the effectiveness of the LSP and its capacity to deliver the Community Strategy. These included producing a Communications Strategy for the partnership, consolidating the Compact with the voluntary sector and engaging elected members in the scrutiny of the partnership. An action plan is in place to deliver these improvements by March 2009.

THE THEMATIC GROUPS

Children & Young People – 27th November 2007

The Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan was updated on. The young mums training being led by YACS (Youth and Community Services) is going well. The increased condom distribution and sexual health sessions are not progressing as well – for example there is only one service per week for young people in Chorley.

The PCT gave a presentation on the development of young people's sexual health services and the need to increase the frequency of clinics. Options are currently being looked at as to new venues and ways to engage with young people.

[B4@AJ's](#) the under 18 club night at Applejax is going really well with approximately 450 members. A review meeting will be held in the near future with partners.

Children's Trust Arrangements Terms of Reference and Statement of Commitment are being examined by a sub-group of the CYP. The Statement of Commitment will be signed in January.

A submission of funding has been made to Sports England for £170k to increase sports and physical activity in Chorley by 1% each year. 3 priority areas being targeted: 14-24 year-olds; Women and girls participation and the 50+ population.

Next meeting: January 29th, 2pm

Community Safety Partnership – 7th December 2007

At its December meeting, the Community Safety Partnership reported that there had been an overall reduction in crime over the last 4 months. The MATAC process is proving to be very successful in tackling crime – crime is down by 18% compared to this time last year.

In February the first Week of Action will take place, to be held in Chorley East. Commencing on 18th February 2008, a series of proactive actions will take place to reduce crime and make people feel safer in their neighbourhood, such as vehicle safety and road tax checks, as well as crime prevention advice, increased patrols and anti burglary packs. The PCT are providing

health checks and advice on healthy eating, smoking cessation and alcohol awareness. The council are carrying out graffiti removal, litter picking and general tidy-ups of the area. Over 30 agencies are involved in the pilot initiative, with more planned in other areas if the pilot is a success.

Next meeting: 14th March, 10am

Health & Wellbeing - 4th December 2007

The group discussed several issues at its last meeting. The plans for a Central Lancashire Health & Well Being Board were raised and the merits of such a group debated.

The group undertook an action planning exercise on what it would be focusing on in 2008/9. Topics included Fair Access to Care Services / Gateway Development and supporting vulnerable people through the 3rd sector following the County Council's decision to raise its social care provision threshold, as well as tackling health inequalities that exist within Chorley.

Next meeting: 12th February, 10am.

Neighbourhood, Environment & Streetscene – 12th December 2007

The group ran through its action plan, which, it was recognised, needs to be updated to include 'added value' actions rather than actions that single organisations are delivering as part of their day job. Partners reported progress on their current actions – all work is progressing well.

The new National Indicators around climate change and the environment were discussed and debated around how to measure some of the indicators and how they would add value for Chorley.

The Lancashire Locals Climate Change Fund was discussed. Community & Voluntary groups are encouraged to apply to the fund for grants if they wish to make changes that will reduce their organisation's carbon footprint or benefit the local community in terms of climate change. It was recognised that this could be a potential source of funding for future project work.

An update was given on the progress of the First Steps project, which is developing into a larger-scale project. The work to improve the community areas of Clayton Brook is continuing, with more funding being sought for an expansion of the project from Lancashire County Council.

Next meeting: 12th March, 2pm

Stronger & More Involved Communities – 1st November 2007

The group were updated on the consultation on the LSP's Sustainable Community Strategy and the Community Cohesion Strategy and thanked for their input to date.

The Chorley Community Network project, which aims to Bring together the vast range of voluntary, community and faith sector organisations within the

Borough, is a real challenge, but one that the group are committed to achieving this next year. The project is making good progress, over 450 organisations have so far been contacted for information and informed of the support available to them. A competition is running to choose a logo for the Network.

There was some discussion about Fair Access to Care with some serious concerns raised. Don Rowbottom from LCC is being invited to talk to the group at a future meeting to bring them up to speed on the changing social care provision thresholds and the impact this may have on their organisations.

Next meeting: 17th January, 4pm

Economic Regeneration – 4th December 2007

A Marketing Chorley sub group has now been established and are making progress with the project. In particular 4 key actions are being driven forward:

1. Improve the internet 'business' area on www.chorley.gov.uk
2. Produce Inward Investment pack - based on information provided for website.
3. Produce an events timetable for 2008 of event and networking opportunities and to ensure representation from the partnership.
4. Work up into a business case for further funding to create a database of customers based on three info sets - new customers, customers already in Chorley and business start ups. This database would be used to help target further activity in marketing the borough.

The Economic Regeneration Partnership have also lodged bids with the NWDA (North West Development Agency) to access funding worth £3.8m for 5 further projects, including a green technology centre, to be included in the Sub-regional Action Plan. The NWDA is to make allocations across 14 themes. There will be another opportunity to 'polish' bids before final decisions are made on the allocation of funding.

Next meeting: 4th March, 2pm.