

WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – EXECUTIVE BOARD**WEDNESDAY 20th JANUARY 2010****WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW****1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report outlines the outcome of the Annual Review discussion at the LSP Management Group, 6th January 2010. Senior Officers from the Partnership were joined by Government Office for the North West to discuss the progress that the Partnership has made in improving its governance and delivery arrangements and in delivering the Local Area Agreement (LAA). These discussions were informed by the performance information considered by the Board on 11th November 2009 and the outcomes of CAA.
- 1.2 The LSP Executive Board is also asked to note the designated National Indicators in Wirral's LAA that are to be 'refreshed' for 2010/11 and the timetable for doing so.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The publication of The Local Performance Framework in 2008 set out the arrangements for performance managing the delivery of Local Area Agreements. This is termed 'The Annual Performance Cycle' and places LSPs at the centre of this process. The completion of the first Comprehensive Area Assessment in December meant that, for the first time, the Annual Performance Cycle fell sequentially into place (copy attached as appendix A to this report).
- 2.2 The LAA / LSP Annual Review process enables the LSP to discuss with GONW the outcomes of CAA alongside progress on delivering priorities in the Local Area Agreement. The focus of these discussions is on identifying partnership priorities for the coming year and identifying any future support requirements for delivery of these priorities. Guidance from Government is clear that the Review process should not place any unnecessary bureaucratic burden on partnerships and should draw on existing performance information and the outcomes arising from CAA. The Review discussions at the LSP Management Group therefore drew from Wirral's Area Assessment, published by the Audit Commission, December and from the LAA Performance and Risk report, presented to the Executive Board, 11th November 2009.

3. LAA / LSP ANNUAL REVIEW FINDINGS**3.1 What's working well?**

The Review considered the current Partnership arrangements which were felt to be operating more effectively due to:

- Improved governance and delivery structures



- Development of a Comprehensive Engagement Strategy as a framework to move forward
- Formal adoption of the Sustainable Community Strategy and framework for reviewing partnership delivery of Wirral's long term vision
- A performance management culture that focussed on addressing key challenges,
- Improved analytical information supporting the performance framework

3.2 The half year performance and risk report highlighted the following indicators as achieving targets and where good progress is being made:

- NI 15 – Serious violent crime
- NI 20 – Assault with injury
- NI 39 – Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates
- NI 55 – Obesity amongst primary school age children in Reception Year
- NI 123 – Stopping smoking
- NI 156 – Number of households living in temporary accommodation
- NI 192 – Household waste recycled and composted
- NI 195 a-d – Improved street and environmental cleanliness, good progress has been made particularly to reduce inequalities within the borough.

3.3 Areas which were emphasised in the CAA area assessment as good performance included the following priority areas which were judged by the joint inspectorate to be performing well:

- Response to the Recession
- Crime and Community Safety
- Children's Services
- Recycling

3.4 The above priority areas will continue to be closely monitored by the LSP Executive board through the regular performance and risk reports presented to the board.

3.5 Areas for improvement

The area assessment element of CAA for Wirral identified the following as priority areas of activity for the LSP over the next year:

- Adult Safeguarding
- Health Inequalities
- Tackling Inequalities
- Impact of Recession

3.6 Additionally, the half year LAA performance and risk report presented to the Board in November 2009 identified indicators assessed as red as follows:

- NI 68 Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment
- NI 117 NEET
- NI 130 Social Care Clients receiving self directed support
- NI 151 Overall employment rate



- NI 153 Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods
- NI 154 Net additional homes provided

3.7 The Review considered each of these areas and identified a significant amount of partnership activity already underway. Discussions will be ongoing with GONW and sector support organisations to determine any additional support that may be required to assist delivery.

The following table outlines the review findings for each area and Wirral's Partnership response:

Area for improvement	Review Finding	Partnership response
Adult Safeguarding	<p>Current activity should be sufficient to bring performance back onto track.</p> <p>Support is available from Department of Health staff in GONW.</p>	<p>Additional resources and training now available should improve performance.</p> <p>This will remain a priority for the Partnership.</p>
Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	<p>Current activity should be sufficient to bring performance back onto track.</p> <p>Support is available from Department of Children, Schools and Families staff in GONW.</p>	<p>Additional resources, training and data flow improvements should address performance issues.</p> <p>This will remain a priority for the partnership and is already subject to regular monitoring by the LSP Executive Board through the quarterly performance and risk reports.</p>
Impact of the recession	<p>The Review concluded that the impact and recovery from the recession would have a significant impact on the Partnership's ability to successfully address a range of priorities including NEET, Worklessness and Housing.</p> <p>Despite Partnership efforts, concern remains about the two worklessness indicators – NI 151 and NI153 – and there is an opportunity, reflecting the national difficulties caused by recession, for the Partnership to renegotiate targets for these two indicators. There is a similar opportunity to renegotiate NI 154 to reflect the adverse impact that the recession has had on the housing market.</p>	<p>The Partnership is in the process of developing and implementing a recovery plan which will be regularly reported to the LSP Executive Board.</p> <p>The impact of the recession and partnership response is subject to a regular report to the LSP Executive Board and a partnership group has been established.</p> <p>Targets will be subject to refresh negotiations.</p>



Area for improvement	Review Finding	Partnership response
Young people not in education, employment or training	NEET performance is improving against a very difficult economic backdrop, vindicating the Partnership's decision to focus Working Neighbourhood Funding very specifically on tackling worklessness, for example, the successful Apprenticeship Scheme.	This will remain a priority for the partnership and is already subject to regular monitoring by the LSP Executive Board through the quarterly performance and risk reports.
Health inequalities	The importance of Tackling Health Inequalities was covered during the Review, particularly the challenge faced by the Partnership in reducing premature mortality, rated as amber risk at quarter two. This area should continue to be a priority issue for the LSP over the next year.	The Partnership has approved a health inequalities action plan which will regularly reported to the LSP Executive Board. This will remain a priority for the partnership.
Tackling inequalities	The Review discussed the progress that the Partnership was making in tackling inequalities generally within the Borough and that it should consider how it could be more explicit about whether and how its activities were addressing inequalities.	The quarterly performance and risk reports include specific focus regarding how the partnership is tackling inequalities within Wirral. Further work will be undertaken to define how partnership activity is narrowing the gap.
Self directed support	Pilot phase ready to be rolled out.	This will remain a priority for the partnership and is already subject to regular monitoring by the LSP Executive Board through the quarterly performance and risk reports.

3.8 The review concluded that the LAA priorities will continue to be regularly reported to the LSP Executive Board with specific focus on the following areas:

- Tackling Health Inequalities
- Impact of the recession
- Adult Safeguarding
- NEET
- Self Directed Support for Social Care Clients

3.9 It is furthermore proposed that a work programme for the LSP Executive Board be developed by the LSP Partnership Team to ensure that findings from the LAA / LSP review and the CAA are addressed by the Partnership.



4. LAA Refresh

4.1 Due to the impact of recession, Government and the Local Government Association reached agreement last year that all local areas should have the opportunity to revisit the targets for a small number of economy based targets as part of this year's LAA Review. For Wirral, these indicators are:

- NI 151 – Overall employment rate
- NI 153 – Working age people claiming out of work benefit in the worst performing neighbourhoods
- NI 154 – Net additional homes provided
- NI 155 – Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)
- NI 171 - New business registration rate

4.2 Negotiations are underway with GONW and should be concluded by 17th February 2010 at the latest. Partners are asked to ensure that the Refreshed LAA is formally adopted by 12th March 2010. The refresh will also be an opportunity to revise any baseline data where latest information is now available. The refreshed LAA will be signed by CLG Secretary of State on 31st March 2010. A further progress report on the refresh negotiations will be presented to the LSP Executive Board in February 2010.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The LSP Executive Board is recommended to:

- I. Acknowledge the significant successes of the Partnership during 2009/10.
- II. Consider the conclusions of the LAA/LSP Review and confirm that the priorities identified will be the focus of Partnership activity over the coming year, and agree that a work programme for the LSP Executive Board will be developed on this basis and reported to a future board meeting for approval.
- III. Note the process for renegotiating the limited number of economic indicators.
- IV. Consider what further support the Partnership may require to deliver its priorities.

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