

GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS HIGHLIGHT REPORT ON LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

APRIL 2006 TO SEPTEMBER 2006

1) Overall progress

Amber

- From the outset overall progress of the LAA has been positive within the Leicestershire Together framework and partnership working has been clearly strengthened. There are very few concerns across the four blocks and the progress within the Economic block has been a significant achievement within the LAA. Details are included in section 4 of the report.
- The LAA has also developed a clear focus on vulnerable people, including developing arrangements targeted at particular geographical group areas through a new neighbourhood management approach.
- After a slow start performance management framework is working well and improved planning proposals for the future have been identified including the use of the 'TEN' integrated performance management system for reporting in quarter 3 and measures to address concerns about availability of data.
- Progress on the CYP Block over the last 6 months has been good. This has been supported by an Annual Performance Assessment, Standards and Priorities Meetings and regular updates of the LAA performance.
- Overall progress on the HCOP Block is good although a number of baselines/indicators have yet to be set. There is a potential issue around the setting of the baseline for the smoking prevalence reward target and unless a change in the target can be agreed, it seems unlikely that this reward target can be met.
- Overall progress on the SSC Block has been good although relatively slow on the Cleaner and Greener element. For example, the block delivery group has only just had its first meeting and still has to fill a number of gaps in the delivery plan.
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- There are currently two reward targets where the Partnership are seeking clarification and review of baselines and targets. These are currently being discussed with client departments.

2) Direction of Travel

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- Overall there is confidence that the LAA is moving forward positively. The LAA has been an important catalyst for more integrated and targeted delivery, including some new delivery approaches around multi agency teams. The principles of governance and performance management arrangements have

provided a clear and appropriate framework for lines of accountability and reporting.

3) Risks to the achievement of mandatory outcomes

CYP Block:

- **Non attendance:** Area of significant challenge but progress has been made in last 6 months.
- **Young people in drug and alcohol treatment programmes:** Performance on this indicator is on target although some planned activity is behind owing to delayed recruitment. It is expected that the posts in question will be filled by end of quarter 3.

Safer and Stronger Block:

- **Crime Reduction target:** Off trajectory due to poor performance in a few districts. This has been raised with partners in Leicestershire and GOEM are taking a proactive approach to improve performance. A project team is being developed, which will include GO, HO, police and council staff, to work intensively with one CDRP that is contributing significantly to the poor performance of this outcome.
- **Increase the number of seizures for Class A drugs:** The partnership reported that there needed to be some clarification of the measurement regime for this indicator and the Police were investigating this which led to a delay in reporting. The original LAA baseline agreement did not agree a definition of a seizure. It is now proposed that a common definition drawn from the Home Office Crime Recording Standard is adopted so that figures are comparable.
- **Improving waste management within Leicestershire:** There is a potential issue regarding the definition of the waste reward target as an error was made in the text to accompany performance target figures for recycling in Leicestershire. This may result in the Year 1 target being missed.
- **Reduce health inequalities:** This outcome (all age all cause mortality) can only be measured long term. It is of some concern that immediate financial constraints in the NHS will mean that resources may be lacking for the short to medium term. However, the new management of the Primary Care Trust do seem to be taking this very seriously and are giving out appropriate messages regarding engagement in the LAA.
- The NHS is currently in the middle of a major re-organisation, and the 'turbulence' which this has placed in the system is not helping achieve a focus on 'health' as opposed to 'health-care'.

Risks to the achievement of other outcomes of key importance to the local partnership

Safer and Stronger Block:

- **Reduce the number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system (Reward Target):** Has been a conflicting target with the police target to increase offences brought to justice. This issue has been recognised by the

partners and a local action plan has been developed to address these conflicting targets.

- **Improving the quality of town and village centre environments:** Off trajectory but remedial action being taken by the partnership.
- **Increase walking, cycling and level of outdoor physical activity:** Data not available until the end of the year therefore partnership and GOEM are unsure of performance.
- **Improve bio-diversity and nature habits:** Annual survey data is only available in May each year for the previous 12 months therefore performance on this outcome is unknown.

HCOP Block:

- The risks outlined in section 3 also have the potential to impact on other key outcomes.
- Significant baseline gaps were evident at the end of quarter 2 e.g. the school's based smoking target and this could lead to a shortage of time to demonstrate impact. However, much of the baseline work was identified as 'in progress' within the LAA and at the time of writing a number have been filled as planned e.g. the Active People Survey has given the baselines for the physical activity indicators.
- The problems with the adult tobacco prevalence baseline (Reward target) mean that a major smoking reduction target might not be achieved. This is, however, one of a basket of indicators so the impact is mitigated somewhat.

4) The impact of the LAA and strong performance

- The first 6 months of the LAA have seen a lot of activity to set up new approaches and initiatives. Robust partnership and governance arrangements have been set up within the Leicestershire Together framework including a non executive LSP board to drive strategy and a Senior Strategic Officers Group to progress delivery.
- Partnership working has clearly been strengthened and stakeholders have reported a number of examples of greater partnership working. LAA innovations such as the appointment of Champions for each block and outcome enablers has helped to ensure better communication between the Leicestershire Together Board, Blocks and wider stakeholders.
- District LSP and District Council engagement has been strengthened with the districts leading on Neighbourhoods and Communities.
- Delivery plans have been produced for each block, the only remaining gaps being some elements of the Cleaner and Greener plan which will be finalised in December.
- The working relationship between GOEM and the partnership has been overwhelmingly positive with both sides keen to continue this over the term of the LAA.
- Progress on the Economic Development Block is a significant achievement and is reflected by the fact that eleven of the twelve targets are on track. The

Business Support reward target within the Economic Block has been particularly successful and has been almost met within the first 6 months. To take this even further forward it was agreed at the 6 month review meeting that GOEM would support further working with the City Council.

5) Missing information

After a focussed meeting in December it can be confirmed that data gaps are largely being progressed as agreed within the signed LAA. Where milestones have slipped or new gaps appeared new completion milestones have been set and will be monitored.

HCOP Block:

- The main concern is over the lack of information caused by delay in reporting the findings of the lifestyle survey. Reporting has now begun so baselines are available. There is some concern that there is some uncertainty as to whether or not the survey will be repeated by Sport England in 2009.
- Problems with DWP data on attendance allowance continue. These are being addressed by DWP and DCLG. In the interim, proxy measures are being used for internal monitoring.

CYP Block:

- The Partnership is working on a few outcomes that still have missing baselines. These will, however, be resolved by the end of the financial year.
- There are issues around the release and timing of information which the partnership relies on for measurement of its outcomes. They are looking at resolving some of this by collecting their own information.

6) Other key issues for Government

- GOEM and the partnership have been very concerned that the Department of Health have still not responded to a long standing freedoms and flexibilities request relating to direct payments. DCLG are also involved in this issue because of their role in Local Government.
- The Partnership has raised an issue around streamlining the survey burden that Government places on local partners. This is a common issue to LAAs particularly due to increased perception based measures in the stronger element of the SSC Block. GOEM continue to work with partners to address this.
- The partnership has raised an issue about the problems caused by the perverse nature of targets around first time entrants into the criminal justice system where the Police and Criminal Justice Board are driven in opposite directions. GOEM are taking this issue forward with Home Office colleagues. Partners also wished to register their concerns around new perception based Respect indicators both in terms of validity and the ability of partners to influence them.
- An offer of help from the Partnership has been extended to Rutland County Council regarding its development of the LAA.
- The partnership has raised an issue about the new School Travel Advisors mandatory target which states that 'the percentage annual increase in the

number of schools with an approved school travel plan (STP) are required to achieve 100 percent STP coverage by March 2010'. The partnership have no objection to this being a mandatory target as they already have an outcome within the LAA 'to work towards 90% of schools and half of all major employers having travel plans by 2011'. They are concerned, however, that to achieve a 100% within the timescale proposed is unrealistic.