

**GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS HIGHLIGHT REPORT
ON LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT – END YEAR REVIEW**

APRIL 2006 TO MARCH 2007

Overall Progress – Summary

- GOEM held a comprehensive Annual Review of Leicestershire's Local Area Agreement on the 2nd July 2007. The review was well attended by a broad range of high level strategic LAA partners representing all the LAA themes. The review agenda focussed on the "red" risk targets and indicators off trajectory and at risk of not being achieved with discussion on remedial plans and action.
- The overall progress of the LAA during the year has been extremely positive within the Leicestershire Together framework and partnership working has clearly been significantly strengthened. The development of this framework has also provided the opportunity for cross cutting issues to be considered in partnership. There are very few concerns across the four blocks and the progress within the Economic block has been a significant achievement within the LAA and is therefore worthy of particular mention.
- 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.
- Leicestershire Together are reviewing and revising its structures to make it more fit for purpose in preparation for the new style LAA, for example with regard to the development of a Sustainable Community Strategy, the new local government framework (CAA) and the new LAA framework (single pot). This ongoing work includes how to increase member engagement in the LAA and the development of a more robust decision making process to administer the single capital pot.
- The performance management framework is working very well and although the bedding in of performance management processes has been a challenge, by the end of the year roles, responsibilities and processes have been clarified and the fully integrated TEN Performance Management IT package successfully implemented for the purposes of reporting against the indicators within the LAA.

Summary of Progress within each Block

Children and Young People Block

- Progress on the CYP Block over the year has been good. Already the single largest theme it has increased the number of outcomes and indicators through the refresh reflecting the key role of the LAA as the delivery plan for the Children and Young Peoples Plan. The key risk as described below is Key stage 4.

Healthy Communities and Older People Block

- Overall progress on the HCOP Block is good and the majority of baselines/indicators not set at the six month review have now been implemented. There is a sensitive issue around the setting of the baseline for the smoking prevalence reward target but it is likely that this will be resolved. There does, however, remain a significant risk that this reward target may not be fully realised.

Safer Stronger Communities Block

- Overall progress on the SSC Block has been good. A notable success has been the positive response under the Cleaner and Greener theme to the recognition at the six month review stage that delivery arrangements were off track. Since then the delivery group has met regularly and worked hard at supporting improved delivery.
- The main cause for concern under the SSC Safer theme as described below is the red risk crime reduction PSA under which criminal damage and wounding are critical categories.

Economic Development and Enterprise Block

- Overall progress is very good and the strategy and delivery structures continue to work effectively. The refresh process has enabled the rationalisation of the outcomes framework.
- One notable recent development has been the appointment of the same person as chair for the EDE blocks of both the Leicestershire County LAA and the Leicester City LAA. This should help to further enhance collaborative working within the new style LAA and in considering any future MAA proposals.

Risks to the achievement of outcomes and/or rewards

CYP Block

Key stage 4 – Increase average point scores of pupils (Reward)

Red risk - is off trajectory to meet the stretch target. A number of actions have been identified such as developing a 13 to 19 strategy, dissemination of good practice, implementing the schools improvement plan, providing CPD opportunities and providing brokered support on vocational courses. GOEM consider that whilst the overall target may fall short the kind of improvements the government wish to see will still be achieved.

Safer Stronger Communities Block

To reduce BCS comparator Crime

Red risk and off trajectory to meet the overall crime reduction targets, both the overall crime indicator and the individual categories of crime most associated with, Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO) particularly criminal damage and wounding. Resources and work are being focussed on tackling this and on delivery through neighbourhood management. Neighbourhood management and engagement has seen significant progress and enhanced interim measurement methods are being explored and the PPO referral process is being reviewed.

The impact of the LAA and strong performance

The LAA has provided many opportunities to strengthen partnership working and there has been a significant impact made both in terms of strategic partnership working and at the delivery level. Examples of LAA added value include:

- The LAA has developed a clear focus on vulnerable people, including developing arrangements targeted at particular geographical group areas through a new neighbourhood management approach.
- It has provided improved strategic capacity in some themes, for example with the creation of a new health partnership, stronger Communities Partnership Board and economic strategy group.
- Improved consultation mechanisms with residents, for example the creation of the older people's network.
- At the highest strategic level there has been a review of the Leicestershire Together structure following a Peer Review.
- County Council involvement in the LAA has provided opportunities to add value at a more local level, as demonstrated by the example given below.

One successful SSC outcome worthy of particular mention concerns previous poor performance of the Charnwood CDRP which was originally a red risk. There has subsequently been a very positive response via the taking forward of an integrated project which is already producing good results

Specific LAA Partnership concerns

- Very long delays by some Departments in reaching a decision on enabling measure requests impacting significantly on LAA ability to deliver certain targets.
- Fragmented and late financial guidance making LAA forward planning difficult or uncertain