

Notes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Strategic Senior Officers' Group (SSOG) held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday 22 January 2008.

PRESENT

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| John Sinnott | - Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council (in the Chair) |
| Kate Allen | - Representing Chief Executive, Leicestershire and Rutland PCT (Healthier Communities Lead) |
| Rosemary Beard Ch. Insp. Sally Chivers | - Chief Executive, Connexions LeicesterShire - Representing Assistant Chief Constable, Leicestershire Constabulary |
| Mick Connell | - Director of Adult Social Care and Health, Leicestershire County Council (Older People's Lead) |
| Barry Day | - Representing Chief Executive, Leicestershire and Rutland NHS Partnership Trust |
| Christine Fisher | - Chief Executive, North West Leicestershire District Council |
| Phil Hawkins | - Head of Youth Justice and Safer Communities, Leicestershire County Council (representing Assistant Chief Constable, re. Safer Communities Lead) |
| Brian Hayes | - Chief Executive, Charnwood Borough Council (Cleaner and Greener Lead) |
| Neil Lambert | - Director, Voluntary Action Charnwood (Stronger Communities Lead) |
| Mary Rogers Kishor Tailor | - Area Director, Learning and Skills Council - Chief Executive, LeicesterShire Economic Partnership (LSEP) (Economic theme Lead) |
| Dave Webb | - Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service |
| Gareth Williams | - Director of Children and Young People's Service, Leicestershire County Council (Children and Young People's Lead) |

Officers in Support:

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| Andy Robinson | - Assistant Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council |
| John P Wright | - Senior Policy and Performance Officer (LAA), Leicestershire County Council |
| Dave Tantum | - GOEM – Head of Leicester/Leicestershire Team |
| Geoff Cave Louise Hall | - Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council - Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council |

149. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of: Jim Connelly (Job Centre Plus), Derek Smith (University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust), Acting Assistant Chief Constable Wendy Yeadon (represented by Chief Insp. Sally Chivers), Antony Sheehan (represented by Barry Day) (Leicestershire and Rutland NHS Partnership Trust), Catherine Griffiths (represented by Kate Allen) (Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT) and Keith Murdoch (Leicester City Council)

150. Notes of the meeting held on 13 December 2007

The notes of the meeting of Leicestershire SSOG held on 13 December 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

151. Matters Arising from the Notes of the Previous Meeting

- Minute 147 – LAA Reward Targets Risk Assessment

John Wright referred to minute 147(iii) and reported that further discussions were being held with JobCentre Plus and the project deliverers on the Incapacity Benefit target.

It was AGREED that the funding against this target not be re-directed at this stage and further consideration be given to this matter in three months' time.

- Minute 144 – Implications of Recent Government Guidance (Vulnerable Adults)

Mick Connell referred to minute 144, specifically the reference to vulnerable adults and future plans to improve services. CSCI had since also announced that services for vulnerable adults would form a greater part of future inspections. It was suggested that a report be presented to the Group at the next opportunity outlining future plans for the services in question.

It was AGREED that Mick Connell present a report to the next meeting on 27 February 2008.

152. Leadership Project – Next Steps

The Group received a report on the proposed next steps for the Leadership Project that had been agreed at the meeting on 2 July 2007. A copy of the report is filed with these notes.

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Mr David Bolger joined the meeting by telephone. He outlined the discussions he had held to date and the proposal that the Leadership Project should continue to focus on inter-authority working but using a number of current joint working areas as exemplary or case studies.

The next steps were set out in paragraph 5 of the report. Mr Bolger also draw attention to forthcoming changes in the Leadership Centre's funding arrangements and the impact this might have on the project. In the future it was likely the new Regional Improvement Partnership would have a role in funding this sort of project.

Christine Fisher indicated the District Councils' agreement to proceed with the Project on the basis as outlined.

It was AGREED that the Leadership Project be proceeded with on the basis discussed in the report and at the meeting and that David Bolger would liaise further with Andy Robinson to enable it to be progressed accordingly.

153. Development of the new Local Area Agreement (LAA)

The Group received a report providing the basis for a discussion and decision at the meeting on the first draft submission to GOEM of LAA outcomes and indicators. A copy of the report is filed with these notes. Attached to the report, as Appendix 1, was the current LAA priority outcome framework.

In introducing the report, John Wright drew attention to the following main points:-

- Since the previous meeting of SSOG on 13 December, at which indications had been given on which outcomes were considered to be priorities, the LAA Leads Plus had met to consider and refine the first draft framework.
- An initial submission of draft LAA indicators must be made to GOEM by 24 January and the Group was asked to sign off this submission containing 35 indicators (as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report) at this meeting. A wider three-week stakeholder consultation on the SCS and the LAA would then take place and further consideration would be given at the next meeting of the Group on 27 February. The Leicestershire Together Board and the County Council's Cabinet would be asked to sign-off the targets in April. This was expected to lead to a final sign-off in June both locally and by Ministers.

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- The criteria for choosing LAA priority outcomes and indicators were set out in Appendix 2 and current issues were detailed in Appendix 3. These were noted and accepted by the Group.
- There may be further calls on the up to 35 allocations if targets were agreed for the MAA that are not currently in the LAA. The County and City Council's would be meeting with CLG on 4 February 2008 regarding the MAA proposals.
- It was now proposed to add a health target NI57 (Children's Participation in PE and Sport) in substitution for NI47 (People Killed and Seriously Injured in Road Traffic Accidents), which it was proposed would, not least for technical reasons, now become a local indicator.
- There were also ten further areas where the potential for a local indicator was being discussed.

John Sinnott expressed his appreciation for the involvement of other partners in the process to date and then invited comments on the draft framework. The following main points were made:-

- (a) Kishor Tailor informed the Group that a similar exercise was taking place within the City Council in relation to the alignment of LAA/MAA targets.
- (b) Kate Allen queried the non-inclusion of a Year 6 obesity target (NI56) and John Wright responded that consideration would be given to making this a local indicator to ensure it covered a wider age group.
- (c) Neil Lambert queried whether volunteering would appear as a cross-cutting outcome. John Wright clarified that the framework chart only indicated main outcomes and that volunteering was in the broader set of outcomes and these would be included in the final framework once agreed in April.
- (d) Brian Hayes reported that the Cleaner and Greener Group had met again the previous day and agreed with the four relevant indicators included in the draft framework but also considered that an indicator on the reduction of CO₂ emissions should be added. He suggested that consideration be given to substituting such an indicator for the waste reduction indicator that had been included. John Sinnott suggested that a more appropriate indicator for substitution might be that related to NI197 but, in response, Brian Hayes said there would be some reluctance to its removal. It was agreed not to make any change to the framework to accommodate reduction target at this stage but

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that further discussions would take place to seek to include a Climate Change target.

(e) On behalf of the District Councils, Brian Hayes expressed concerns regarding the inclusion of an efficiency target (NI179) in the latest draft of the framework on the following grounds:-

- (1) It had been added to the updated draft outside of the process.
- (2) It was considered that the evidence base did not support its inclusion.
- (3) District Councils had not been consulted on its inclusion.

He added that the Districts considered there were more appropriate indicators that could be included and that this issue could be addressed more appropriately outside the LAA.

John Sinnott responded that:-

- (1) The County Council's view that an efficiency target should be added had been highlighted at the previous meeting (minute 145 – bullet point 4 on page 4 refers).
- (2) Preliminary discussions had been held between the County Council, the Police and the PCT regarding a local efficiency target and the County Council would find it disappointing if the District Councils did not support the inclusion of an efficiency target in the LAA.
- (3) To include such a target would also acknowledge the fact that value for money was placed at the heart of the new draft Use of Resources assessment for local authorities and other bodies.

Upon discussion, the Group accepted that the most appropriate way of dealing with the matter at this stage was to approve the framework in the form attached as Appendix 1 for submission to GOEM but to note that the District Councils did not agree with the inclusion of NI179. It was noted that a three-week consultation period on the LAA would follow the first submission and a further report would be made to the next meeting of the Group on 27 February. Brian Hayes stated that, during this three-week period, the District Councils would be prepared to discuss practical ways in which an indicator might be included.

(f) In response to questions raised, Dave Tantum stated that:

- (1) further Government guidance on their priorities would be submitted to the County Council following a GOEM meeting to take place the following day,

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- (2) local indicators could be included in the submission to GOEM and these would be regarded as 'work in progress'; and
 - (3) the CSCI and other Inspectorates would be factored into the process by GOEM.
- (g) Andy Robinson suggested, and it was agreed, that, in relation to the statutory guidance to be issued by the Government, he would write to the organisations with 'a duty to co-operate' requesting their comments on the final draft of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the first draft of the LAA during the consultation period.

It was AGREED:-

- (i) that, subject to the substitution of NI57 for NI47, the draft version of the LAA framework (attached as Appendix 1 to the report), with priority outcomes and 35 indicators and possible areas for local indicators, be approved for submission to GOEM by 24 January 2008;
- (ii) that it be noted that the District Councils did not support the inclusion of NI179 (efficiency target); and
- (iii) that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of SSOG on 27 February which encompasses feedback on the draft framework and any other matters arising from the stakeholder consultation between 30 January and 20 February.

155. Commissioning Under the Single Performance Framework

Andy Robinson informed the Group that it was intended to submit a report on this matter to the next meeting.

156. Any Other Business

Mick Connell reported that there would be an inspection of Older People's Services in the spring/summer of this year. An action plan would be written shortly and brought before the Group to seek support.

157. Date of Next Meeting

It was NOTED that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 27 February 2008 in the Guthlaxton Committee Room at County Hall.

It was AGREED that the start time would now be 2.30pm.

9.30 am – 10.25 am
22/1/08