Cabinet - 22 March 2006

Local Area Agreement

Portfolio: Councillor Tom Ansell, Leader

Service Area: All

Wards: All

Forward Plan: No

Summary of report:

This report presents the Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2006-9.

The Council successfully applied for Walsall to be included as one of 66 authorities to develop an agreement to start on 1 April 2006. Acceptance on the programme was further acknowledgement of the improvements Walsall has and continues to make. The LAA provides the opportunity for Walsall to focus work with key partners and make that more effective but also to increase its influence around these priorities with Government and international, national, regional and sub-regional organisations. The Agreement is to cover three years 2006/7, 2007/8 and 2008/9.

The LAA is focussed around delivering the Community Plan and building and further developing Partnership working in the Borough. It is based around four blocks or Pillars, Children and Young People, Safer Stronger Communities, Healthy Communities and Older People and Economic Development and Enterprise. Within each pillar are a series of Outcomes (What we want to achieve), Indicators (What we will measure) and targets (the measure itself as a number). These are based around the local priorities and provide the basis for the negotiation of the agreement with Government. There is no set number of these for the agreement and they do not cover all activity but should represent priorities.

In exchange for the agreement the Government offers the opportunity for Freedoms and Flexibilities such as freedom from certain reporting regimes and the flexibility to pool or align funding streams.

The Agreement also includes the Performance Reward element, which has incorporated the previous Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) arrangements. These are detailed in Annex A of the agreement, a copy of the agreement is available in each group room.

Cabinet considered a draft at its December meeting, this report covers the Final document due for signature by Ministers, the Council and the Walsall Borough Strategic partnership

In order to allow for ministers to sign the Government Office have requested that Walsall Council sign by the 15 march 2006. this is earlier than was envisaged at the time of the December meeting. Therefore the Chief Executive has signed in consultation with the leader with this action and the final agreement being reported to this Cabinet meeting (as was originally planned)

Recommendation

That the cabinet notes that due to timescales the Chief Executive in consultation with the leader has signed the agreement on behalf of Walsall Council and endorses that action and the agreement itself.

Resource and legal considerations

The LAA is not fundamentally about new money, rather the opportunity to pool and align existing funding streams under agreed priorities. The framework for this is through the Local Strategic Partnership and the developing arrangements around Commissioning. These arrangements are detailed in the document. The aim is to gain as much local influence and flexibility around funding streams as possible. The agreement identifies some of those we feel should be considered. Where the Government agrees and where it is possible the Council will receive these funds on behalf of the Partnership on a monthly basis. This will happen where the funds are the funds are "pooled" or "aligned with agreement" (there is still much legal and technical debate on these issues). However the opportunity to influence other funding that is taking place in Walsall is just as important and the opportunity for Walsall to influence the use of these "non-aligned" funds is a major area for action.

As stated in the summary the agreement incorporates the Performance reward system previously dealt with as Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA). For this we need to identify a small number of targets that we can stretch performance on. There is £1m of Pump priming grant available from 1 April 2006 to help deliver these and this money is fed into the commissioning process. There is up to £8.56m of Performance Reward Grant (PRG) riding on the attainment of these targets. The allocation of Reward grant is set at the beginning of the agreement and is payable on a specific target basis once a 60% threshold has been reached, at a rate proportionate to that achievement. Hence 59% of stretch achieved, PRG = 0, 65% reached PRG = 65% of agreed sum. Reward grant is paid in the financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11

The LAA is an agreement between the Government and the locality it is not in itself a legal entity although there will be legal and contractual aspects to some of the actions that flow from it as part of the local implementation through the WBSP.

Citizen impact

The LAA is drawn from the Community Plan and therefore reflects the priorities set out there. More broadly it is part of the Government's vision for joined up Public Services within a locality. The idea is that as a range of partners align their objectives that the delivery of services is increasingly aligned for the benefit of the citizen.

The Walsall LAA

Community safety

The Safer Stronger Communities Pillar inn the LAA contains the key issues arising from the Community Safety work in the Borough. The pillar work has developed the agenda form the Safer communities agenda to a broader one encompassing a range of additional issues that impact on how people perceive the neighbourhoods in which they live, in particular the Environment and their own capacity and opportunity to engage in the decision making processes.

Environmental impact

The Environment is a key theme within the LAA. It has an explicit place within the Safer Stronger Communities Pillar but underpins each of the others. There is a real opportunity for Walsall to make great strides in this area with the major investments coming through the Urban Regeneration Company and the Housing Group but also through the work developing at a local level with the Local Neighbourhood partnerships

Performance and risk management issues

The LAA contains a description of how we propose to deal with Performance Management. This is a key issue for a number of reasons. We need to demonstrate that there is capacity locally to do the job so that Government feels confident about reducing reporting regimes. Also however in terms of the developing Partnership and the willingness of partners to engage we need to demonstrate a robust process which properly informs the process of ongoing strategy development and the Commissioning process. Increasingly partners will need to come into the one framework and be willing to have open discussion about what we can do as a Partnership to address performance issues which affect the services the people of Walsall receive.

The Project of developing the LAA has been run on project Management principle with a Project Board and a risk and issues register.

Each Pillar has a Co-ordinating lead officer who is pulling together the work in the Pillar and a Pillar champion. The Pillar Champions have sat on a Project Board which met fortnightly and has been responsible for overall steer of the project until negotiations were complete.

The Resources and Performance Scrutiny and Performance panel fed into the development of the agreement and are now looking at their role in terms of scrutiny of the agreement and the Local Strategic Partnership. They have also been considering this in relation to the Governments proposals for LSP's "Shaping the Future", a response to which the Cabinet agreed on 1 March.

Equality implications

Equality issues are an underlying theme of the LAA. While many of the Outcomes and targets are focussed on closing the gap between Walsall and the rest of the Country and the Region increasingly the se are being worked on to ensure the way in which we

deliver them closes the gaps within Walsall. Work is underway in the pillars to break some of the targets down to specific areas and or groups. Work is also underway with the Local Neighbourhood partnerships to address this on an operational basis within Neighbourhoods. The Equalities Forum which forms part of the Strategic partnership structure will have a key role in driving the agenda and monitoring delivery.

Consultation

There has been extensive consultation on the development of the LAA. This has been built on the work which was carried out to develop the Community Plan. The WBSP ran a series of events in early September across the pillars to make the links clear. Since then the Pillar groups have carried out a series of workshops, and presentations to engage and inform a wide range of stakeholders. There have been a range of events for the Voluntary and Community Sector, LNP's and a series of small and one to one meetings. A member training session was carried out in Mid October facilitated by the West Midlands local Government Association which was very well received.

Vision 2008

The LAA builds on the Vision 2008 it takes forward actions on each of the 10 priorities.

Background papers

LAA Final Draft

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Signed: ……………………………

Signed: ……. ……….

Executive Director:
Tim Johnson

Portfolio Holder:
Councillor Tom Ansell

Date: 10.03.06

Date: 13.03.06

WALSALL
BOROUGH STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP

GOVERNMENT OFFICE for the WEST MIDLANDS

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

2006-2009

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1 The Walsall Local Area Agreement

Walsall is a place of ambition, diversity and vibrancy that is undergoing a transformation. We applied to be included as one of the areas for a Local Area Agreement (LAA) because we see it as an opportunity to take us further on that journey of transformation. We want to use the LAA to build stronger partnerships and alliances within the Borough but also with partners who may have an international, national, regional and sub-regional focus. We seek to position ourselves as a Borough people want to be identified with. We know that in developing the LAA we won't get this all at once and that we may miss issues or opportunities but we see this as an approach for the future and we want to build on it and develop further.

Walsall has worked extremely hard in this process to ensure that there has been the highest level of partnership engagement so that the Walsall LAA is one that partners own, understand and deliver.

We have used the process to build on the excellent partnership working that there has been in the Borough and to move that on to a stronger place in line with our vision. Building successful partnerships takes time and we recognise the constraints on all parties in terms of getting an agreement in place by 1 April 2006. However for Walsall this agreement is far more than the words on the page and in the submission we also set out how we will deliver and crucially how we will continue to develop the partnership and performance management of the agreement.

The objectives we have for the LAA are as follows:

- To deliver the Borough's Vision and Community Plan
- To develop a new relationship with Government and our partners which delivers results
- Closing the Gap in performance by focusing on reducing inequalities
- Making better use of resources
- To further develop Partnership responsibilities
- To deliver better outcomes and services for the citizens of Walsall

The objectives can be seen throughout the agreement and fundamentally underpin the Outcomes which we have set out to achieve. This is a Local Area Agreement and while we understand and recognise the wider Social, Economic and Environmental context in which we sit it is ultimately about delivering better outcomes and services for the citizens of Walsall

The Partnership itself has been instrumental in developing the Agreement. The work on the four blocks of the LAA (referred to locally as Pillars) has been led by the relevant partnership groups. We have placed a very high store on the Partnership creating, developing and delivering the agreement. Hence the Health and Social Care Partnership Board (Chaired by the an Independent sector representative), the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership (Chaired by the local Police Commander), the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (Chaired by the Executive Director for Children's Services) and the Partnership for Walsall Enterprise and Regeneration (Chaired by the Chief Executive of Walsall's Regeneration Company), have led on the four pillars of the LAA. In this process they have been able to ensure the LAA is in line with the Community Plan and other plans and that the broadest range of partners have been engaged throughout. This is key to us in having an LAA that is seen to add value to our collective efforts. We have also worked

closely with the leads in the Government Office for the West Midlands to understand the Government's aims from the process and the objectives and aims of the Government departments. This has been a positive process and has ensured that this is clearly the basis of a new relationship and the start of further fruitful engagement.

The Council, as the accountable body, have been prominently engaged in the LAA process. Each Pillar Group has a Cabinet Member 'champion', with the Leader of the Council acting as the Council's overall LAA 'champion'. The Executive Director, Regeneration, has been designated as the Council's Lead Officer and the Project Champion. In addition there has been a Council Scrutiny task group feeding in, in particular to Performance management. This is a key area as the partnership develops locally and in response to any changes introduced to the role of the Local Strategic Partnership.

2 Our Vision, Priorities and Strategic Context

Our Community Plan, which was published in September 2005, provides the focus for our work over the next five years. The LAA is the practical expression of our Community Plan, reflecting strategic outcomes and is our route map to deliver our long-term vision for Walsall. That long-term vision is clear and strong:

"Our collective goal is to create an inclusive, prosperous and competitive Borough, in which our diverse communities feel involved, safer and healthier."

To achieve this vision we know where we have to target our efforts. We have listened carefully to the various public, private and voluntary sector organisations that have an interest in the Borough. Most importantly, we have consulted widely with our communities - the people who live and work in Walsall. This has been undertaken through detailed analysis of statistical and survey data which is available to us and through numerous meetings, workshops and public events.

The annual assessment of the WBSP recognised the significant progress made in delivering targeted outcomes across a range of themes. It also highlighted areas where we need to make improvements. We have identified the actions necessary to make these improvements and they are reflected in our approach to the LAA. In particular, the work to be undertaken to reduce worklessness and the systems which need to be put in place to record performance in achieving the decent homes standard have been identified.

Walsall cannot develop in isolation. In defining the key outcomes of the LAA, we have reflected the fact that Walsall will play a key part in the urban renaissance of the West Midlands region by revitalising our housing and employment accommodation and building upon our network of centres. In this context, we have been able to draw upon work such as the Unitary Development Plan for Walsall, the emerging Local Development Framework, the Black Country study, the area regeneration framework produced on behalf of the Walsall Regeneration Company and the housing-led District Regeneration Framework, which begins to scope out long-term aims and aspirations for improving Walsall's image and economic prospects. We will also be developing further the links with the Walsall plans and the City Region Development Plan and Agreement.

The LAA will help Walsall in all these areas of work by giving us a clearer focus on the key issues for us and enable us to play a full part in such developments.

We have also recognised the need to reflect national strategies and targets, but have been anxious to ensure that this is achieved within the context of local delivery, grounded firmly in the aspirations and needs of our communities.

In defining those high level outcomes we need to achieve in order to attain our vision, we have also identified the key measures against which our performance will be gauged. Very simply, we aim to narrow the gap between where we are now and the best performing areas of the country. Our priorities are shown in Table 1:

The table below indicates where Walsall is now in relation to key performance measures. Our over-arching aim is to close the gap with the best performing authorities:

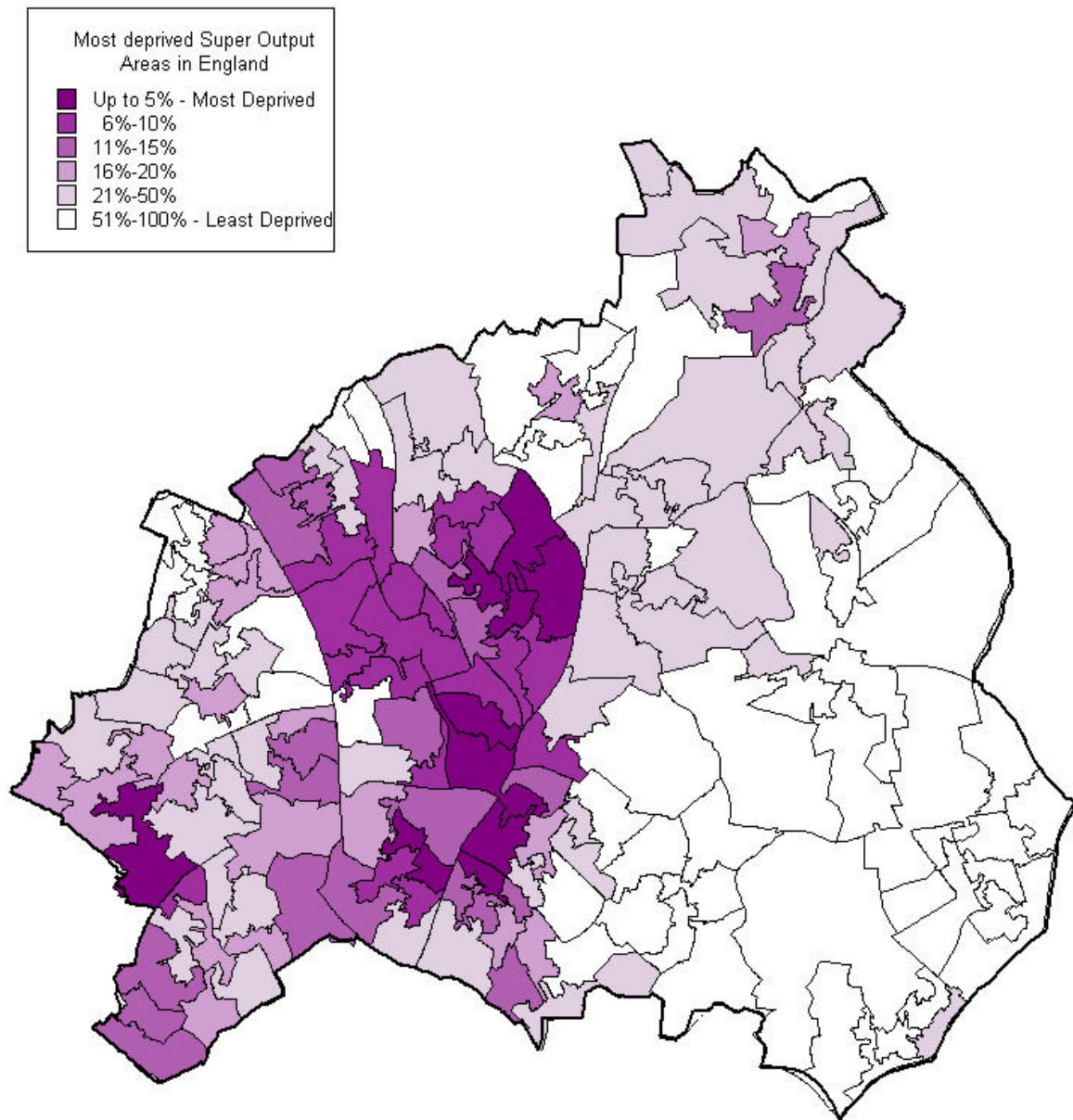| Elements of our goal	Key Measures
Inclusive	Walsall ranks 51st (out of 354 English Districts) in the Index of Deprivation 2004 based on the average scores for each District. (Source: IMD 2004)
Prosperous	Walsall is amongst the 10% most economically deprived (in terms of the income deprivation) local authorities in England (Source: IMD 2004).
Competitive	Walsall's employment rate is well below the national average – 68.2% compared to 75% for England. The gap has widened since 2000-01 (Source: Labour Force Survey).
Accommodating	Decent Homes need to be achieved for all tenures across the Borough, although the priorities for action are set to achieve government targets, which are: Bring all social housing up to a decent standard by 2010 70% of vulnerable households in the private sector will live in Decent Homes by 2010 and 75% by 2020
Diversity	70% of residents feel that people from different backgrounds get on well with one another (Tracker Survey 2005). This compares favourably with national research undertaken by the Home Office.
Involved	One in four people felt they provided some input to local decision making in the previous year (2005 Tracker Survey) and two thirds feel there is sufficient opportunity to get involved if necessary.
Safer	Walsall has a crime rate below that of England. Significant local improvements in burglary and vehicle crime have helped bring the overall crime rate below the national average.
Healthier	People in Walsall have a lower life expectancy than for England as a whole. The gap is more pronounced for men than for women (Department of Health). However, our preventive strategies have succeeded in reducing levels of deaths from cancer and circulatory diseases in

	Walsall over the last 3 years.
Pride	Three quarters of residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live. This compares with a national figure of 86%. A quarter of household waste was recycled, composted or used to recover heat, power or other energy sources. This is above the target the Council set itself.
Achievement	Fewer local 15 year olds obtain 5 or more GCSEs at grade C or above, than the national average. However, significant improvements have been made in recent years and now the percentage of 15 year olds, with at least one entry-level qualification is only just short of the figure for England.

In Closing the gap between Walsall and the rest of the country and the region we are also committed to closing the gap within Walsall, The map on the following page is of Walsall using the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Throughout the agreement we have where appropriate indicated if targets are focused around particular localities or groups. In addition the commissioning process will make use of the Shared Partnership Information Resource (SPIR) to enable us to prioritise activity on areas of highest need. We will also be able through the performance management system to monitor our success in this respect (more detail in section 4 Performance Management).

Currently targets are expressed around wards or Local Neighbourhood Partnership areas we will be working during the first refresh period to develop where appropriate baselines at a super output area level.

Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004

Most deprived Super Output
Areas in England

- Up to 5% - Most Deprived
- 6%-10%
- 11%-15%
- 16%-20%
- 21%-50%
- 51%-100% - Least Deprived

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3   Partnership Roles and Responsibilities

Successful development and delivery of the LAA will require clarity of roles and responsibilities and an understanding of the involvement of each of the Partners. As previously stated developing the LAA has helped us move this process forward in a number of ways.

At the heart of our delivery arrangements is the commissioning process, within which we will set clearly defined parameters to ensure that all work commissioned will deliver the outcomes of the LAA, give value for money and provide the basis for robust performance management. We also recognise the extent to which commissioning already takes place within partner organisations and take the view that a major factor in the ability of the WBSP to deliver the outcomes of the LAA will be how successfully we are able to facilitate the commissioning of both aligned and non-aligned funding to achieve our Community Plan and LAA outcomes. We know too, that partner confidence in this process will encourage them to support the inclusion of various funding streams within the LAA "pot".

That is why the new Partnership structure (fig1) makes clear our arrangement for governance, setting the strategic framework, strategic planning, operational planning, procurement activities, monitoring and review. To align these functions within our structure, we have used the strategic commissioning model (fig 2).

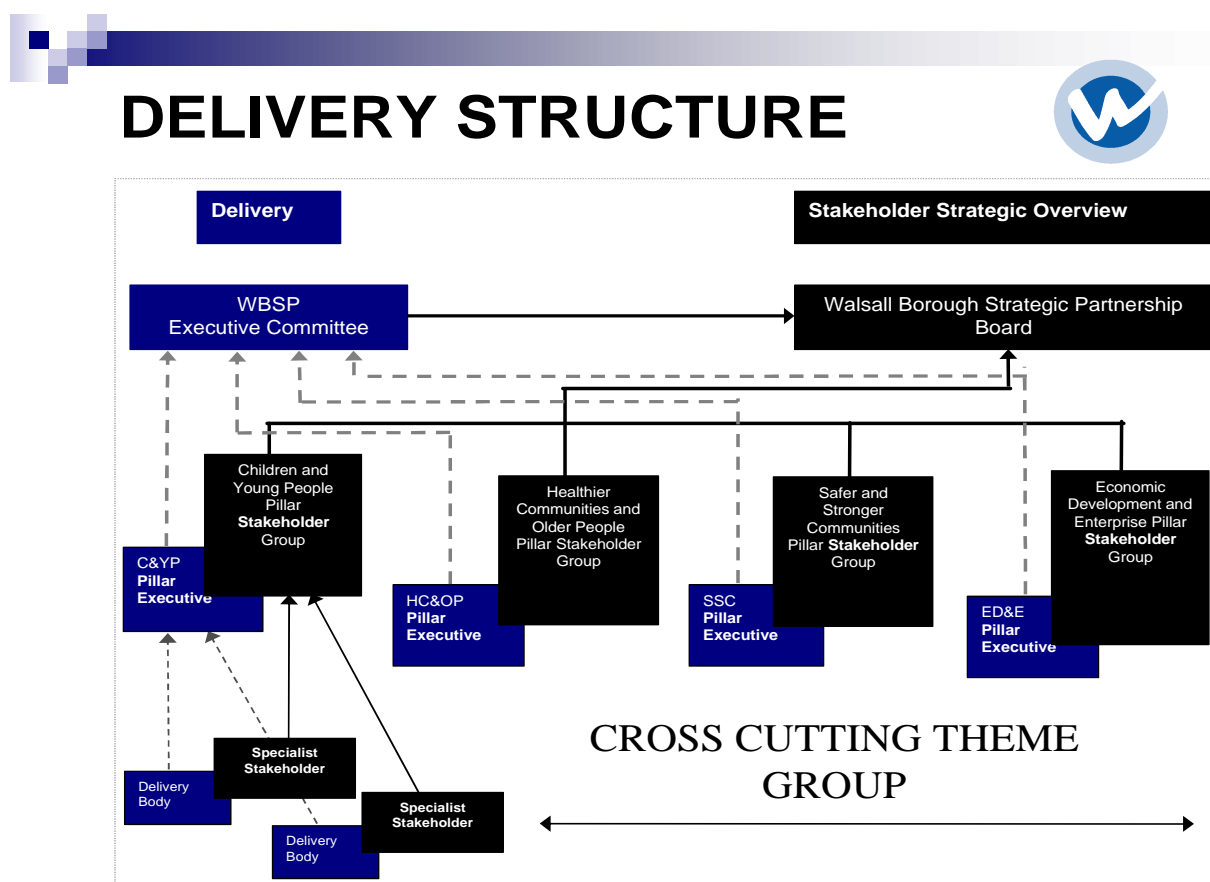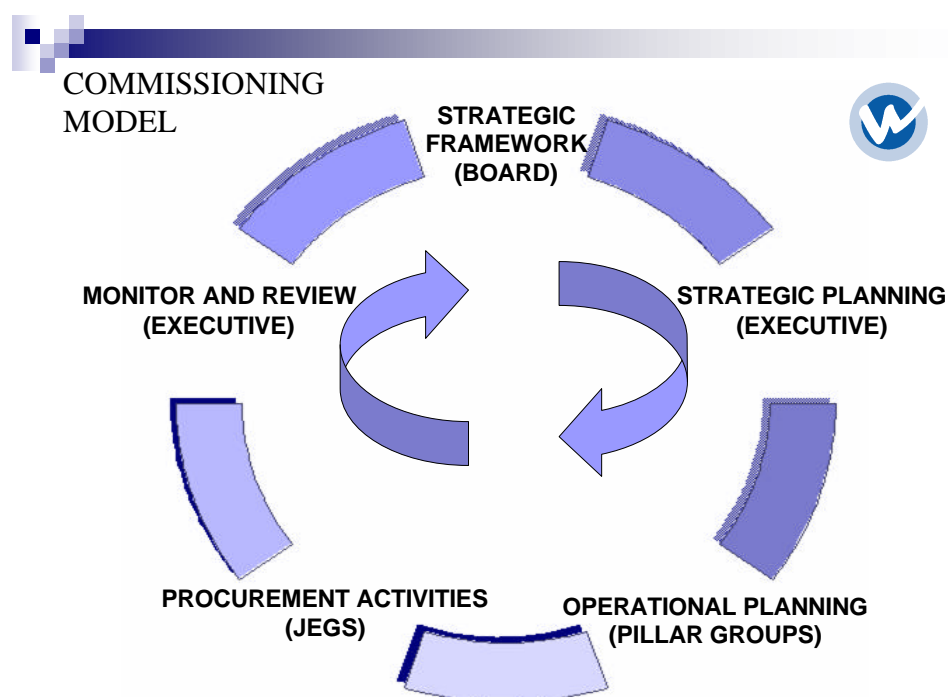Figure 1 – New Partnership structure

The Walsall LAA

Figure 2: Commissioning Model

To assist with our approach to commissioning, a shared understanding of terminology around the strategic commissioning process has been developed:

Commissioning definition

"The Strategic activity of assessing needs, resources and current services and developing a strategy to make better use of the available resources to meet identified needs".

Commissioning involves the determination of priorities, the subsequent procurement of appropriate services and their evaluation. There is a distinction made in our understanding between the strategic activity of commissioning and the actual purchase of services. This will work within a strategic framework based on a common view of required future developments; shared values and broad objectives; clarity on roles and responsibilities and agreement around the structure and framework.

The activity is then grouped around the following processes:

Strategic Planning – Strategic needs assessment, identify existing services and resources, define priorities and agree outcomes, consult stakeholders - Agree commissioning intentions

Operational Planning – Establish delivery mechanisms, develop performance management arrangements, Establish infrastructure needs.

Procurement activities – Agree specification, select providers, Agree contract and monitoring arrangements

Monitoring and review – Collect performance information, review provider performance, and feed information back into strategic review

Roles and Responsibilities of Partnership groups

Role of the Board
The overarching role of the Board is to provide strategic direction to the Partnership and to focus on:-

- Preparing the Community Plan
- Clarity on scoping Partnership activities
- Matching activities to the current national and local political environment
- Matching activities to resource capabilities
- Managing the values, expectations and objectives of the Partnership
- Long-term direction of the Partnership
- Implementation for change throughout the Partnership
- Performance and monitoring and management to ensure the outcomes of the Community Plan are achieved.

The Role of the Executive
The overarching role of the Executive is to ensure that all commissions and projects are in line with the outcomes of the Community Plan, LAA and other WBSP strategies, reporting to the Partnership Board on the following responsibilities:-

- Oversee the development of the LAA including ensuring that specific outcomes, performance indicators and targets of the Professional Executive Group (PEG) correspond to the overall Community Plan and LAA Objectives and Vision
- Approve commissions for pooled budgets assigned to it prior to the advertisement or invitation for proposals against agreed specifications and performance targets
- Ensuring that the implementation of the commissions adheres to the legal, financial, procurement, audit and policy regulations of the accountable body
- Oversee the performance management framework of the Community Plan and LAA, and any related funding streams.

Aims
- To approve commissions against the priorities agreed by WBSP in line with the Community Plan and LAA
- To monitor whether PEGs are:-
- Achieving their performance indicators and expenditure targets
- Contributing to the outcomes and targets of cross cutting themes
- Adhering to a set of common values and themes
- Meeting targets for cross cutting themes
- To ensure that priority is given to community cohesion, equality of opportunity and inclusivity within all programmes
- To ensure that the Partnership Director and Board is informed of any partner agency's policy, strategy or operational developments that will impact upon existing planned programmes
- Allocation and reallocation of major resources

Role of the Pillar Groups

The Pillar Groups will:-
- Scrutinise programmes of work to ensure they are in line with the Community Plan, LAA and other identified strategic outcomes of their respective Pillar
- Advise the Pillar Executive Group on strategies and operational issues
- Facilitate the relevant work programmes within their respective pillar and ensure that they are reaching agreed milestones
- Ensure that the performance management of their work programmes, both in terms of outcomes and expenditure, is robust

Aims
- To ensure that relevant work programmes are aligned with the key strategic outcomes of the Pillar
- To ensure that cross cutting issues are addressed and cross cutting outcomes delivered, including community cohesion, equality, inclusion and diversity
- To ensure that appropriate and required contributions are made to and co-ordinated with strategic outcomes of other Pillar Executive Groups
- To ensure that their Pillar Executive Group representatives are made aware of any policy, strategy or operational development which may impact on existing or planned programmes
- To be accountable to the PEG regarding performance of relevant work programmes
- To facilitate enhanced, collaborative commissioning of service, policy and alignment of funding streams

Role of the Pillar Executive Groups
The Pillar Executive Groups will

- Ensure that all programmes of work are in line with the Community Strategy, the LAA and the identified outcomes of their respective Pillar
- Monitor the work programmes of the respective Pillar and ensure that these are reaching their agreed milestones
- Commission work for pooled budgets managed by the Pillar ensuring that implementation of commissioned work adheres to the legal, financial, procurement, audit, and policy regulation of the accountable body
- Oversee the performance management of their respective Pillar, both in terms of outcomes and expenditure

Aims
- To ensure that work programmes are aligned with key strategic outcomes of the Pillar
- To ensure that cross cutting issues are addressed and outcomes delivered, including community cohesion, equalities, inclusivity and sustainability

- To ensure that appropriate and required contributions are made to and co-ordinated with strategic outcomes of other PEGs
- To ensure that the Executive Committee and Partnership Director are made aware of any policy, strategy or operational developments which may impact on existing or planned programmes
- To be accountable to the Executive Committee regarding performance of work programmes within the Pillar

- To work towards enhanced collaborative commissioning of services, pooling and alignment of funding streams

Cross Cutting Theme Group

This group comprises officers from across the partnership that have responsibility for leading and advising professional groups within the partnership. This group also includes New Deal for Communities and Local Neighbourhood Partnership representatives.

With the development of the LAA and the new community plan, this group will now have as it's focus cross cutting issues related to policies and strategies generated by the professional groups and ensuing action plans and commissions. This group also provide an advisory role to the four "pillar" groups.

Its formal purpose is set out below:

- Provide a link role between the Commissioning Executive and the Pillar/theme groups
- Improve cross-cutting working
- Develop new and innovative approaches to service delivery
- Develop capacity
- Scrutiny of partners, policies, procedures and commissions
- Identify areas of duplication or gaps in delivery

Role of the Local Neighbourhood Partnerships

The Local Neighbourhood Partnerships will:
- Develop local pledges and actions to create involved, safer, healthier and prosperous communities.
- Secure agreement from agencies to deliver actions that will result in improved public services.
- Identify those LAA outcomes which can be delivered in individual LNP areas and the level of impact that they can have on the borough-wide targets in their area.

Aim:
- Engage the community in local decision making
- Influence the commissions developed by the pillar groups
- Develop neighbourhood agreements to focus resources and activities in their neighbourhoods
- Connect local issues to borough-wide priorities and outcomes.
- Deliver neighbourhood commissions on behalf of WBSP.

More detail on this can be seen in the Safer and Stronger Communities pillar later in this document.

4   Performance Management

The WBSP and partner organisations recognise that effective performance management arrangements will be critical to the success of the LAA. Performance management is already embedded within the Partnership and its key partner organisations. WBSP is rated as amber/ green for performance management for 2005 and Walsall Council achieved a score of 3 for performance management in the 2005 Corporate Assessment.

An integrated performance management framework is being developed for the Walsall LAA. Linked closely to that for the Community Plan and existing Partner strategies it will build upon existing strengths and enable all partner's access to effective performance monitoring, increased transparency and robust management of under-performance.

Performance management of the Community Plan and LAA will be led by Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership supported by advice and practical assistance from Walsall Council's Corporate Performance Management Team.

A major element of this will be a web-based performance information management system (PIMS) currently being implemented by Walsall MBC. It is planned that partnership members will be able to access performance data via a secure internet connection to PIMS. The system will host a balanced scorecard for the LAA, which will eventually be linked to partner systems where possible to enable automated data collection. The system will not only improve accessibility and presentation of performance information, but will also achieve efficiency gains through reduced reporting requirements and automated data collection from multiple data sets. This information will be regularly and systematically fed back to partner organisations and form the basis of reports to the WBSP Board, the Executive and Pillar Groups.

Once the LAA outcomes and targets are agreed, trajectories for each target will be mapped on to PIMS. Each target will be profiled to allow timely comparison between projected performance (based upon actual achievement) and forecast levels of performance to achieve the target within the lifetime of the LAA. Trajectories will be developed against planned activity and initiatives for each target to closely monitor anticipated performance improvement at the appropriate time. PIMS will allow drill downs from strategic outcomes through objectives, performance indicators and initiatives, enabling the Partnership to effectively monitor performance at LAA, pillar, outcome and indicator level. The system will also enable the weighting of particular indicators or outcomes to ensure priorities are achieved. This golden thread will enable timely corrective action to be initiated, which will significantly increase the likelihood of achieving the desired outcomes by the end of the agreement.

One of the key aims of LAA's is to lighten the performance reporting requirements. In developing our basket of indicators for the LAA, we will aim to place no additional reporting burden upon individual partners, whilst ensuring that there is sufficient evidence to meet the reporting requirements of the Partnership. Each outcome will be supported by a small basket of indicators, most of which are already collected by partner organisations. Each indicator, in turn, will have clearly identified owner and updater accountabilities along with a pre-determined frequency of collection to enable more effective measurement and management of performance data.

WBSP has already developed the Shared Partnership Information Resource (SPIR), which has been held up as a model of good practice by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit. This

team assembles data from a variety of sources, including Government and Partner organisations to inform policy development and to monitor its implementation. SPIR will be integral to both the measurement and management of performance data throughout the LAA.

The structures are currently being established for effective performance management reporting. High level monitoring will be undertaken by the WBSP Board which will receive quarterly performance reports stating the latest position of progress in meeting the LAA outcomes. The Executive will receive reports at monthly intervals. They will be responsible for monitoring a wider range of indicators, including programme and financial management data, reflecting the detailed delivery of commissioned work. Pillar and Theme Groups will each receive progressively more detailed monthly reports which will include much more information about the delivery of specific programmes, including links with spend managed through the Partnership's commissioning arrangements.

Performance reporting arrangements are summarised by the following diagram.

Figure – Proposed Performance Monitoring Arrangements
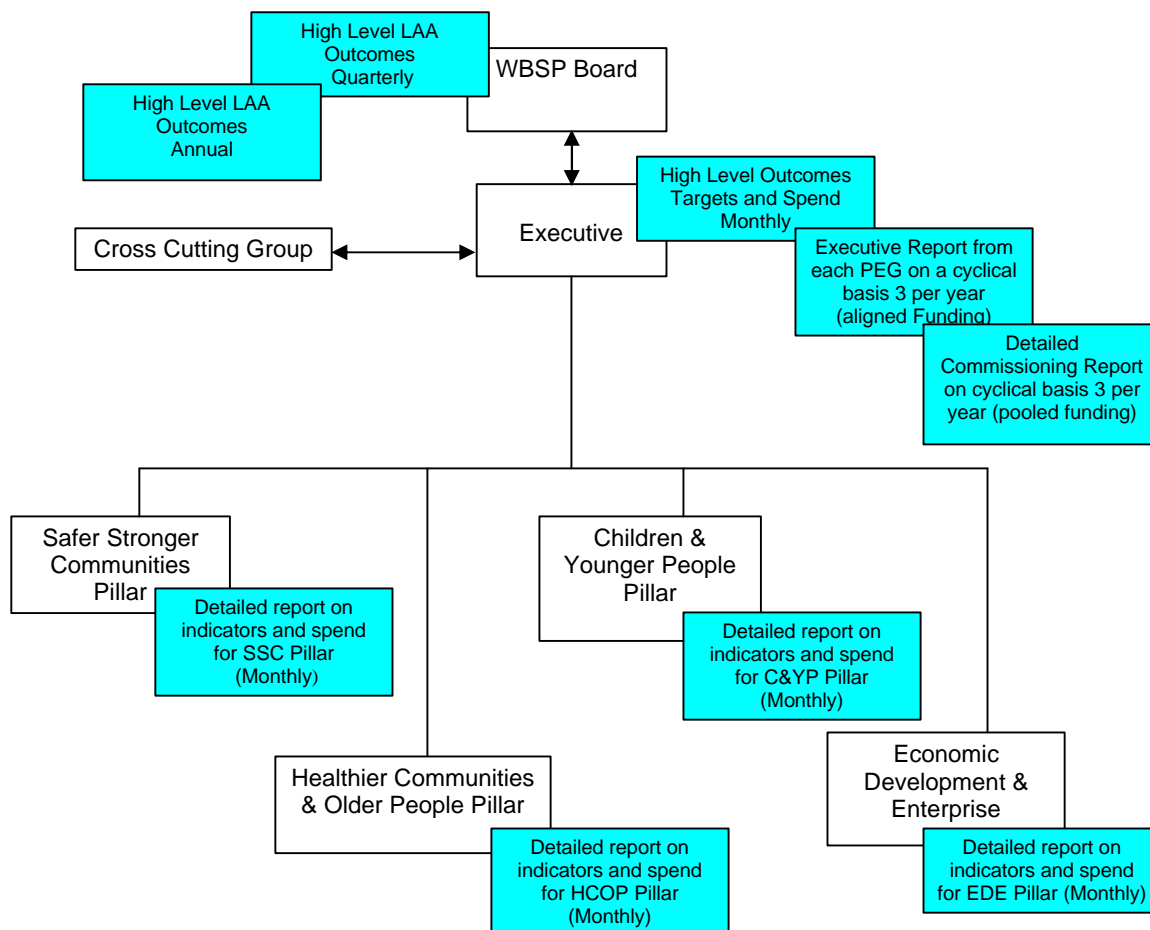
Each partner organisation will be responsible for ensuring its internal mechanisms for performance management are adequate. Within the Council, for example, responsibility will rest with the Corporate Performance Management Team, the Resources and Performance Scrutiny and Performance Panel, the Executive Management Team and Directorate Performance Panels.

Accuracy of performance data will be crucial and Walsall Council's Corporate Performance Team will work closely with Internal Audit and partner performance specialists to ensure data is reliable. Risk management will be integrated within the system.

The performance management framework is a means of driving improved outcomes by supporting intelligent, evidence based management and decision making. An overview is shown in the diagram below:

Figure – LAA Performance Management
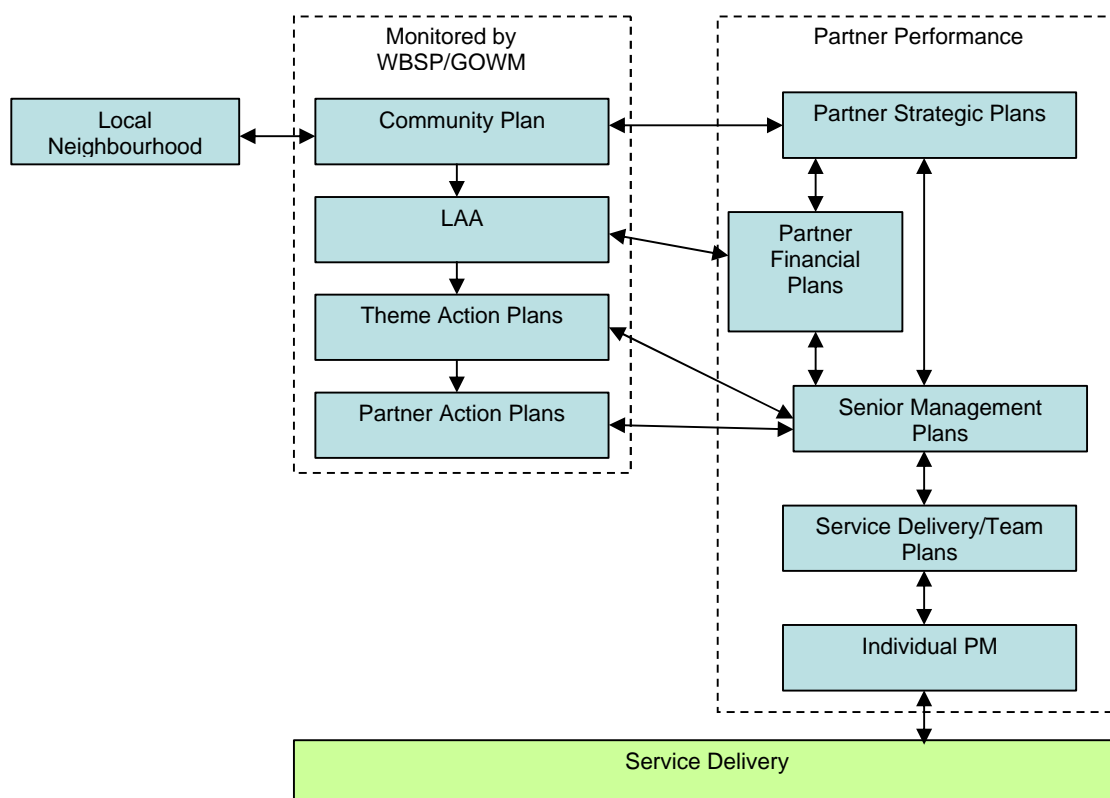
The Commissioning arrangements, and subsequent regular monitoring, will ensure that performance and programme management are fully integrated and value for money is achieved.

Underpinning the Outcomes framework will be a delivery plan identifying data sources, baselines and the owners and accountable organisations for the indicators and targets. This will be in place at the time of signing of this agreement. We are also currently working with the Government Office and the Audit Commission to develop a full Performance delivery Implementation plan the completion and enaction of which will have happened by the first refresh.

5 The Four Pillars of the Walsall Local Area Agreement

5.1 Children and Young People

The Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership have previously prioritised the educational attainment and inclusion needs of children and young people and established an ambitious 'Learning Commission' as part of their ground breaking commissioning of NRF funding. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has worked closely with the full range of Walsall stakeholders to ensure that within our community plan the needs of children and young people in Walsall are highlighted and that schools, settings, service providers and stakeholders are challenged to achieve the outcomes determined within the "Every Child Matters: Change for Children" agenda.

During the Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services Walsall was judged to be at level 3 in all categories. Our self-assessment indicated confidence with our partnership arrangements and the 'fitness for purpose' of the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership positioned us well to take forward the agenda for Children and Young People, in a coherent manner, with appropriate links between the Walsall Community Plan, our Children and Young Peoples Strategic Plan, the Local Area Agreement and the areas of challenge identified as part of the APA processes. The strategic partnership has championed exciting multi-agency work in schools enabling them to:

- Raise the profile of education through the Primary Pride project
- Address floor targets through the Learning Commission
- Narrow the attainment gap at all key stages
- Improve both primary and secondary school attendance
- Improve the number of permanent exclusions year on year.
- Looked after children successfully brought back to borough
- Developed multi-agency strategy for Children with disabilities/achieving national recognition for our innovative "Team around the child approach

We are poised in Walsall to increase the momentum of change in our services to children, young people and their families. At a strategic level there is compete accord between the strategies endorsed by the Council, the Strategic Partnership, service providers and stakeholders. We will bring this together in our Children and Young People's plan which will be subject to full consultation leading up to publication in April 2006. We intend our Children and Young Peoples plan to be a high level plan which sets out our vision and priorities, describing the universal, targeted and specialist services available to children, young people and their families in Walsall. It will signpost to the full range of service activity and delivery frameworks that fall within its scope. Operationally we are aligning services and funding steams, progressing with workforce development and remodelling by engaging local capacity through the voluntary and community sector and rolling out our framework for extended services through schools and children's centres.

We have carefully developed the priorities within the Children's Block of the Local Area Agreement to reflect the outcomes in the framework from Every Child Matters - *being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being.* We have managed to highlight activities which take account of:

- local consultation and needs analyses

- areas for development identified from feedback received following our first, successful, Annual Performance Assessment

- national drivers for regeneration and for improvement of children and young people's life chances and the associated floor targets

Closing the gap

The Walsall LAA has a focus on narrowing gaps. In this block we contribute to closing the gap in three broad areas.

1. Closing the gap between the outcomes for children and young people in Walsall and the national expectations. We compare ourselves with our statistical neighbours to give a further benchmark to our progress.

As mentioned above we have set targets in the LAA for each of the five outcome areas from every child matters. This will inevitably mean that we will jointly commission work with other LAA blocks as narrowing gaps associated with staying safe, achieving economic well being, being healthy and making a positive contribution clearly link to the wider agenda, cutting across the remit of other blocks, and lending themselves to cross cutting approaches.

2. Closing the gap between the outcomes for children and young people in the worst and the best areas of Walsall.

As we develop our approaches to improving outcomes for children, we make sure that our approach is able to benefit **all** children and young people. It is the case however, that there are some areas in Walsall where there are more children young people and families who need a particular type of support or help. This may be for a number of reasons – possibly because they live in an area with poor housing or high crime or where they will find it difficult to find jobs in the future or where more children and their families have poor health.

The map below shows areas of Walsall where we have identified that there are children, young people and their families who we must make sure have the support of our services. It is more complex than the often reported East / West split. The map shows the small 'super output' local areas. There are particular pockets of deprivation where we will commission targeted interventions. (IMD 2004 Children and Young People Domain)
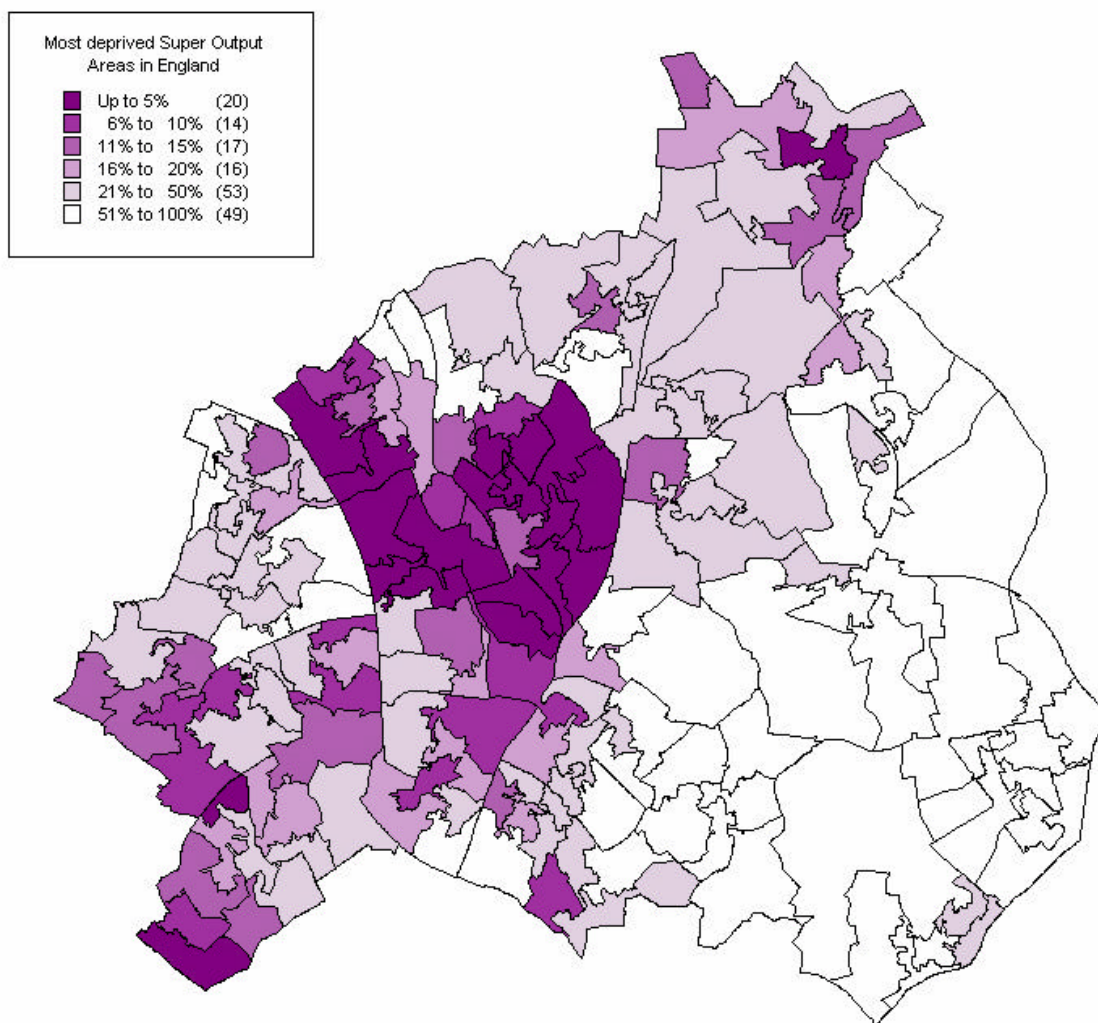
Most deprived Super Output Areas in England

- Up to 5% (20)
- 6% to 10% (14)
- 11% to 15% (17)
- 16% to 20% (16)
- 21% to 50% (53)
- 51% to 100% (49)

3. Closing the gaps between life expectancy outcomes between children and young people in Walsall and in the rest of the country.

As part of the being healthy outcomes within the children and young peoples block we have established targets around infant mortality rates, access to health services for looked after children, access to CAMHS services and reducing obesity. All will contribute to closing the gap between the outcomes in Walsall and the rest of the country.

Stretched Targets

While we have set targets in each of the five outcome areas to achieve better outcomes for children and young people in Walsall and narrow the gaps on national norms, there are four areas of particular priority that have been brought forward from the children and young peoples block to which reward elements are sought, our 'stretch targets':

The Walsall LAA

1. Teenage Pregnancies

Target: Reduce the under 18 conception rate.

Rationale:

The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy in England, published in June 1999, is a multifaceted strategy that includes action to both halve the under 18 conception rate by 2010 and provide support to teenage parents to reduce the long term risk of social exclusion by increasing the proportion in education, training and employment. Walsall has to reduce by 50% the under 18 conception rate by 2010. Walsall's joint action is to ensure that work is co-ordinated locally across all relevant statutory and voluntary agencies, have better prevention through improving sex and relationships education and improving access to contraception and sexual health services and support for teenage parents to reduce their long term risk of social exclusion by increasing the proportion returning to education, training or employment.

The rate of teenage conceptions in 2003 was 59.4, demonstrating a baseline reduction of 11.6%. The challenge for Walsall is to reduce this by 55% over a 10-year period, the completion date being 2010. Walsall currently has rates above both the national rate and the West Midlands rate.

Walsall's aim is to reduce the under 18 conception rate by targeting all initiatives in "hotspot" areas within the borough. Vulnerable young people and those young people most at risk will also receive targeted interventions, through increased SRE in schools and having improved access to a health professional at school

2. The attainment of young people in Walsall secondary schools

Target: GCSE Attainment 5A*-C including English and Maths

Rationale:

The national GCSE and equivalent Achievement and Attainment tables show that Walsall's results have risen again this year, slightly exceeding the target set by the DfES. Over 46% of pupils gained five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C, compared with 43% last year and just 37% five years ago. Walsall was the 28th most improved local authority for the GCSE average points score (uncapped). The gap between boys and girls is narrowing at 5+A*-C. This is due to boys making a vast improvement from achieving 30% 5+A*-C in 2003 to 41% in 2005. This is an 11% rise in boys' achievement over the last three years.

Walsall was the 17th most improved authority in the country based on the number of students gaining five A*-C GCSEs, including English and maths. The baseline attainment for this important measure was 36% in 2004/05.

We, in Walsall, recognise that competence and attainment in English and mathematics will serve our young people well in the future. We are keen to focus improvement in this area through the LAA and our strategic planning with schools.

3. Enabling Looked after children to make a positive contribution

Target: Reducing the numbers of young people placed away from Walsall as measured by the numbers of independent placements outside the borough (Measured as those in residential care + in agency foster care)

Target: CF/C69 - Distance children newly looked after are placed from home

Target: PAF CF/C24 – Number of children missing school for a total of at least 25 days

Rationale: Historically Walsall has had high numbers of children in care with poor education outcomes. High numbers has meant that considerable pressure has been placed on local foster care and residential placements with increasing numbers of children being placed outside the borough, sometimes at great distance, in high cost placements with poor outcomes. In 2003 a 5 year strategy was agreed with partners to reduce numbers of looked after children, by agreeing a thresholds framework for the identification of vulnerable young people, increasing the provision of flexible family support services and accelerating the recruitment and training of local foster carers. At the end of the financial year 2003/04, 133 children were placed in independent placements; this has now reduced to 125 with further reduction projected. The overall numbers of looked after children have also fallen; investment in family support has increased now showing very good performance (PAF E44). We have significantly reduced the numbers of new placed children having to be placed away from Walsall, at the same time improving performance in reducing the number of looked after children missing school. We believe this is related to the improved levels of support available to children in Walsall schools and the robust attendance monitoring possible when children are placed locally. The LAA will be used to add impetus to this improvement in numbers of children placed away (total numbers, and newly placed children PAF C69 and improving numbers of looked after children missing school PAF C24) thereby achieving improved outcomes for Walsall children.

4. % of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Target: % of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training NEET

Rationale:

Walsall has approximately 900 16-18 year old 'NEETS' and another 500 over the age of 18. Most 18 year olds are supported by Job Centre Plus as they are usually claiming income support.

In Walsall the target established with our local Connexions Partnership is to reduce from 12.8 % 16-18 NEET in 2004 to 11.5 in 2006.

Young people who are NEET are disproportionately located in high deprivation areas and neighbourhoods. Almost 50% of young people in the NEET group are concentrated in the post code areas of WS2 and WS3. This represents a major "hot spot" in North Walsall.

Breakdown of NEET figures by Walsall Ward

Ward	NEETs
ALDRIDGE CENTRAL AND SOUTH WARD	27
ALDRIDGE NORTH AND WALSALL WOOD WARD	30
BENTLEY AND DARLASTON NORTH WARD	55
BIRCHILLS LEAMORE WARD	78
BLAKENALL WARD	94
BLOXWICH EAST WARD	55
BLOXWICH WEST WARD	61
BROWNHILLS WARD	63
DARLASTON SOUTH WARD	59
HATHERTON RUSHALL WARD	38
PADDOCK WARD	11
PALFREY WARD	49
PELSALL WARD	36
PHEASEY WARD	16
PLECK WARD	60
SHORT HEATH WARD	31
ST MATTHEW'S WARD	78
STREETLY WARD	10
WILLENHALL NORTH WARD	36
WILLENHALL SOUTH WARD	59

The NEET group is large.

The proportion of NEET remains fairly constant; however, the individuals who make up the NEET group change from month to month.

Over 80% of the NEET group are not long term unemployed but young people who move in and out of non-engagement.

17 year old NEETs, for example, will usually have had experience(s) of training and experience(s) of work.

Around 80% of the NEET group in Walsall is made up of young people at or below level one qualification. Around 15-20% have learning difficulties and/ or disabilities of some kind. For a numerically small but significant proportion these difficulties are behavioural.

In order to ensure we tackle this issue in a joined up way we have set up a Neets working Group to be chaired by the Council's Executive Director for Regeneration (also chair of the Economic Development and Enterprise Pillar Executive Group). We are clearly focusing on ensuring young people get the maximum life chances and to do this we need to work more effectively with current and potential future employers.

5.2   Safer Stronger Communities

Vision

Our vision is to narrow the gaps between the Local Neighbourhood Partnership areas and create a cleaner, greener and safer borough, through partnerships with service providers and active involvement of the community in local decision making and delivery of service.

Introduction

We have developed the priorities within the Safer and Stronger Communities Block of the Local Area Agreement to transform our look, improve our environment, reinvent our places and connect our people to create an inclusive, prosperous and competitive borough, in which our diverse communities feel involved, safer and healthier.

Creating a safer and stronger community is a key priority for Walsall's residents, business community, voluntary organisations and all public sector organisations involved in the partnership.   The Borough's Community Plan has enshrined public safety, clean environment and civic engagement as key objectives in its vision:

The safer and stronger communities block (SSCB) takes on board national priorities from the Home Office, Department of Health, DEFRA and ODPM. It also reflects the aspiration and priorities set out in the Borough's 5 year Community Plan.

The SSCB covers 2 distinct agendas- clean, green and safe, and civic renewal. Six aspirational outcomes have been selected for these 2 areas, to dovetail with the priorities agreed in the Borough's Community Plan. Targets proposed for each of these outcomes have been set to reflect the feedback from consultation exercises and workshops specifically on this pillar as well as on the pillars held with key stakeholders and members of the community.

Best Value, Public Service Agreement (PSA) and local targets where appropriate have been incorporated to maintain continuity with existing key performance targets.   Broad targets have also been taken from the Crime, Disorder and Drugs Reduction Strategy 2005-08 and included in the SSCB.

Engagement of the community and voluntary sector is key to the successful delivery of this pillar. The borough has 9 Local Neighbourhood Partnerships (LNPs) operating across the borough, providing the local community with a platform for engagement and local decision making. These LNPs will play a key role in delivering the LAA. We have been highly successful in enthusing community participation in number of key workshops and consultation events relating to the development of this LAA.

The 'environment' strand of this pillar has been heavily influenced by the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership Environment Forum. This Forum has agreed a strategy and action plan which provided the basis for the identified performance indicators. The Environment Strategy will encompass work that has already begun and identify how this progress can be furthered by working with all our Partners and Walsall's communities. The Environment Strategy expands upon the objectives and approach of the Walsall Community Plan. In developing the strategies, a number of influential organisations have been brought together to contribute to its aims and these organisations share the role of monitoring the progress made towards achieving the aims and actions within the strategy.

The Safer Walsall Borough Partnership (SWBP) has been championing the efforts of all partners to create a safer borough that can be enjoyed by all.

The SWBP is almost one year into delivering its 3-year Crime, Disorder and Drugs Reduction Strategy. In order to bring the SWBP in line with the changes being introduced by the LAA, the partnership have agreed for the SWBP to become the lead body for the SSC Pillar, and this has been reflected in the change to the name of the SWBP to Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board (SSCPB).

We are committed to the principles of Sustainable Development and understand that, if this careful balance can be maintained, we will succeed. Likewise, we recognise that the SSC Pillar has an important role in helping to deliver the government's Liveability and Respect agendas. This involves improving the quality of life in every community by ensuring local environments are cleaner, safer and greener and is an important factor in the creation of sustainable communities which is our underlying objective.

Current Situation in Walsall

The Community Plan for Walsall outlines a step change for the borough to drive forward the strategic changes needed to make a real difference to our communities. Radical changes have been introduced by the Council, in partnership with Community organisations and other public service providers, to improve community engagement across the borough. Building on the government's drive to create a community of leaders and modernise local government, the Council introduced Local Neighbourhood Partnerships. The Community Plan identifies as one of its key issues the need for strong leadership of our communities to drive and manage change, and citizens who are actively engaged in the transformation of local neighbourhoods and the Borough generally. The Community Plan focuses on acting on local priorities, building community capacity and promoting a vibrant voluntary sector.

Walsall is a relatively safe, clean and green borough when compared to the neighbouring 6 boroughs. It has a lower crime rate per 1000 population (104.4 for 2004\05) than the England and Wales average (114 for 2004\05). Although in recent months Walsall has moved down from being third lowest crime borough to fourth lowest crime borough in the region, people generally feel safe.

The Safer Walsall Borough Partnership, the body responsible for delivering the statutory requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 undertook in 2004 a detailed 3 year audit on the level of crime, disorder, anti social behaviour and drug misuse within the borough. The audit was updated in mid 2005 with the final data for year ending 2004\05. This audit, based on extensive qualitative and quantitative research, statistical analysis and consultation with residents and communities in Walsall, acted as the basis for determining the key strategic priorities for the partnership, which have been incorporated into the Safer and Stronger Pillar. Data was analysed at the national, Borough and Local Neighbourhood Partnership (LNP) area level so that crime "hot spots" could be identified and comparisons made between LNPs or across the Borough and crime in Walsall could be compared with similar authorities nationally. The audit provided the baseline data for each of the community safety targets listed in this document. The Partnership has decided to use 2003\04 dataset as the baseline, as this data more accurately reflects the level of crime on average recorded in the borough, then the 2004\05 dataset.

Despite many crime types declining in volume in the LNP areas since 2001, overall crime remains most prevalent in the Blakenall and Bloxwich, Darlaston, Palfrey and Pleck and St Matthews and Birchills Leamore LNP areas.

The most notable changes since the Crime Audit 2001 were:

- *Total crime* in Walsall has decreased by 10.1% compared to an increase across England and Wales of 0.6%
- *Total disorder* in Walsall has increased by 12.0%
- *Burglary of dwellings* has decreased by 29.8% on average across the Borough.
- *Drug crime* has decreased by 19.6% on average across the Borough; however there are significant increases in certain LNP areas.
- *Robbery from the person* has decreased on average by 26.2% across the Borough.
- *Violence against the person* has increased on average across the Borough by 9.1%
- *Theft of Motor Vehicles* has decreased on average by 15.7% across the Borough
- *Disorder and anti-social behaviour* has increased across the Borough
- *Town Centre crime and disorder* has increased on average by 6.2%, with notable increases in drug crime (15.5%), theft from shops (20.6%), theft of motor vehicles (50.0%), disorder in the streets, public places and licensed premises (128%) and drunkenness and disorder (248%)

These findings have determined the community safety priorities detailed in this pillar.

The main difference for public service providers and our communities will be the creation of cohesive and engaged communities, a vibrant voluntary and community sector, a joined approach to engagement across all sectors and representative and inclusive Local Neighbourhood Partnerships (LNPs). This is why the LNPs are developing neighbourhood agreement for their area that:

- Captures local pledges and actions to create involved, safer, healthier and prosperous communities.

- Secures agreement from agencies to deliver actions that will result in improved public services.

- Identifies those LAA outcomes which can be delivered in individual LNP areas and the level of impact that can be achieved.

LNPs form part of the pillar group structure of WBSP. The LNP perspective will be represented at each of the four pillar groups by nominated individuals.

The LNPs are establishing task groups (where needed) to mirror the pillar structure of WBSP but with more local community and agency engagement and involvement. These groups will work on developing solutions to local issues. They will also introduce service innovation and involve the voluntary and community sector in service delivery.

Both the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) and Walsall Voluntary Action (WVA) are going through a process of change. The Community Empowerment Partnership Board is changing its accountable body to Age Concern from April 2005 in a move to clearly define the different services offered by the CEN and WVA as this has caused some local confusion to date.

Community Forums are being developed in each of the LNP areas building on the network of community based organisations such as community associations across the borough. The forums will be the voice for locally based organisations, groups and individuals to raise their concerns and issues. This information will be used to inform the content of the neighbourhood agreements and also for more immediate concerns to be addressed via the LNP meetings.

To support this, a multi-agency community involvement strategy is being developed for Walsall, with a completion date of February 2006. The aim of this work is to investigate where we are now in Walsall, identify demographic gaps, overlap and duplication, and draw in examples of good practice and existing toolkits. An existing toolkit is WBSP's learning champions – an innovative approach led by the Walsall Lifelong Learning Alliance to widen participation in learning and create learning communities. To support this they will be developing learning plans in each LNP area.

A conference for the voluntary and community sector – "Realising our Vision" – in January 2005 highlighted the needs of the sector by the sector.

- Mapping the extent of the sector in the borough

- Encouraging sustainable, focussed growth in line with community aspirations

- To have clear leadership

- Embedding the Local Compact

- Tackling the unpredictability and complexity of funding

- Promoting volunteering and celebrating their contribution

- Developing the sector as a significant provider of services

- Maximise their involvement in neighbourhood working

The Local Compact was launched, alongside the new Community Plan, in September 2005. The compact officer is working with public sector providers to embed this way of working within organisations and a series of events were held in October to support this.

Following on from the January conference, a review of Walsall Voluntary Action (WVA) was undertaken, commissioned by Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership, to ascertain their current strengths and opportunities for development. This has been supported by a Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor and will result in a joint action plan between the main funders of the organisation to reinvent WVA to meet the aspirations and needs of the sector.

Walsall's environment presents many challenges. Its position at the heart of the nation's transportation infrastructure creates the advantage of accessibility but the disadvantage of congestion at peak times, bringing with it issues relating to air quality. Issues associated with enviro-crimes such as litter, fly-tipping, fly-posting, graffiti and abandoned vehicles are common place in many areas of the borough, particularly those with high levels of multiple deprivation.

We recognise the key relationship between such behaviour and wider issues of crime and disorder, and have established the multi-agency Community Safety Intervention Group (CSIG) to co-ordinate the use of resources within agreed target areas. In doing so, the

group aims to improve the quality of life for local communities and address environmental inequalities in relation to issues such as cleanliness.

However, there are many other environmental issues which demand further sustained action locally, including:-

- The level of household recycling which was 18.7% for 2004/05. A significant increase in this rate is needed to achieve government landfill diversion targets and so reduce the emission of harmful greenhouse gases.
- The percentage of school children arriving at school by car was 48% and 37% for primary and secondary schools respectively (2004/05). The 'school run' contributes substantially to traffic congestion during the morning peak adding some 20% of vehicles to those already on the road. An important secondary impact is on the health of our young people who need to be encouraged to walk or cycle to school when these are pro-active options.
- The impacts of air pollution on health and quality of life are now well established. It is an issue that is rising up the national transport agenda, with air quality being one of the four transport shared priority themes. We currently have an extensive air quality monitoring network. We will extend this monitoring to include intelligence from Urban Traffic Control and to monitor for substances above and beyond the statutory minimum reflecting the borough's industrial heritage. We will ensure that air quality is an integral factor in regional traffic management and ensure greater public access to the information we are collating.
- The relationship between contaminated land and the effects on health is now well documented and understood. Our industrial heritage has led to a proliferation of sites and areas that present a concern in terms of potential pollution of the ground. In light of this, the identification and remediation of contaminated land is seen as a priority for the council as its successful implementation has direct implications for the health and protection of its citizens.
- The proportion of residents across the borough that were satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live was 72% in May 2005. However we must seek to address the difference in levels of satisfaction across areas; increasing overall satisfactions rates whilst closing the areas of high and lower satisfaction. .Research has highlighted that most people respond to this question by reference to their perception of the quality of their local environment in the broadest sense. As such, it is considered to be an important measure in relation to environmental services and is one that should respond over time to the full range of interventions aimed at improving environmental quality, including those incorporated within the LAA.

Our understanding of the current state of Walsall's environment will be further assisted by the State of Walsall's Environment Report currently under preparation on behalf of the Environmental Forum. This report will help establish a clear set of baseline data against which to assess future action.

Key priorities

The priorities of the block have been developed to reflect the priorities developed through the Local Neighbourhood Partnerships and those of the Community Empowerment Network in their most recent action plan. The activities included take account of:
- A conference in February for the voluntary and community sector "Realising our Vision"
- Consultation events held with the voluntary and community sector over the autumn

- Joint LAA workshops held with CEN members and representatives of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership.
- The priorities identified in the Community Plan around community leadership and active citizens.
- The need for the WBSP to engage with LNPs, as identified in their improvement plan.
- Emerging issues from the newly formed multi-agency cross-sector community involvement working group.

The key priorities of the LAA will address the needs of our communities and the third sector, and build on the work underway through the LNPs. In particular the targets will seek to widen engagement and participation in LNPs through developing neighbourhood agreements and establishing community forums. It is important that the joint achievements of the Council and the CEN are taken forward and the communities of interest supported through the CEN are linked to the neighbourhood based structures developed by the Council.

As described above, the sector itself identified their needs at a wide ranging conference in January. In order to deliver stronger communities, Walsall needs a vibrant and supported voluntary and community sector. Local delivery of Change Up as well as flexibilities around Lottery funding are critical to local success and achievement of LAA outcomes.

The partnership recognises that the LAA provides a great opportunity to focus on those areas that matter most to local people and those that can through a concerted effort provide a significant reduction in crime and disorder and improve community reassurance and safety. The following Key Strategic Priorities for community safety have been agreed for 2006 – 2009:

1. *Reduction in overall crime*
2. *Reduction in repeat domestic violence*
3. *Reduction in Anti-social behaviour\Criminal Damage*
4. *Reduction in Business related crime*
5. *Reduction in crime in Walsall Town Centre and Darlaston*
6. *Reduction in re- offending of PPO and young offenders*
7. *Improve Public Reassurance and reduce fear of crime*
8. *Reduction in fire and arson*
9. *Reduction in the harm caused by drugs and alcohol*

Walsall has recognised the importance and value of devolved approaches to local government through its Local Neighbourhood Partnership model and Walsall Safer Borough Partnership is keen to make links between the LNP model and its responsibilities for creating a safer Walsall.

A significant move forward in this regard has been achieved with each LNP establishing a Crime and Community Safety Theme Group, as a sub-group of the main partnership. Throughout the currency of the LAA, we will continue to look at how the LNP model and neighbourhood approaches to improving community safety can be effectively joined-up. However, we are already committed to several key actions in support of this agenda:

- Ensuring an intervention focus in the "hot spot" LNP areas
- Training and support to LNPs with regard to understanding crime in their area and action planning effective approaches

- Dedicated liaison officers to link LNPs and the SWBP
- Commissioning models to ensure LNP crime and disorder priorities are appropriately funded and responded to

In drawing up the LAA for this block we have taken on board recent national developments and government priorities, in particular the National Community Safety Plan, where we too are seeking:

- To make our communities stronger and more effective
- To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- To create safer environments
- To protect the public and building confidence
- To improve people's lives

We have also embraced the Respect agenda which runs across our 4 pillars in improving activities for children and young people; strengthening our communities and providing support for the most challenging families, as well as having in place punitive and enforcement action to deal with anti social behaviour.

The Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) will work closely with PPO clients to ensure they have access to treatment and are supported to remain engaged with services. In terms of young offenders, Walsall has already established the core programmes and partnerships that are recommended in the "Prevent and Deter" strand of the Government's PPO Strategy, namely Youth Inclusion and Support Panels (YISP) and Youth Inclusion Programmes (YIP). Walsall has also extended the age reach of both of these programmes and has developed a "YISP+" model to consider the cases of young people aged over 13 years and a "Junior YIP" to work with children aged 9 to 13 years.

The Environment Forum has identified seven priorities and eleven associated activities that will contribute towards achieving its vision:-

Waste
- Reduce level of recyclable waste going to landfill
- Develop education and waste awareness programme

Air Quality
- Develop an air pollution action plan

Transport
- Develop sustainable travel policy

Physical Improvements
- Develop programme of environmental improvements with LNPs
- Continue Gateway Improvement Programme

Biodiversity
- Adopt and support the Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan

Environmental Awareness
- Provide sustainability proofing role for WBSP
- Develop Place Check Action
- Plans with LNPs

▪ Develop State of Environment Report as baseline

Monitoring and Evaluation
▪ Monitor and publish condition and trends in the environment

We feel that Walsall is ready to increase the momentum of change in the services provided by the Partnership to address priorities around improving our environment, neighbourhoods and community safety.

Through the LAA, the Council and its partners are seeking to concentrate their collective efforts in order to address environmental inequalities across the borough. Co-ordinated through the Walsall Environment Forum, action over the next three to four years will be concentrated on the following three broad areas of work:-

1. **Improving the immediate and most common contact points that residents have with the environment, by:-**

   ▪ improving the cleanliness and maintenance of Walsall's streets, public spaces and parks,
   ▪ developing and implementing robust local policies and strategies on "enviro-crimes", to address concerns on local environmental degradation,
   ▪ working with Local Neighbourhood Partnerships to prepare a range of comprehensive neighbourhood environmental action plans, which will help to steer future local improvements,
   ▪ working with partners to establish the "State of Walsall's Environment Report" in order to establish a clear set of environmental baseline data, against which future action can be developed and to provide robust performance management information for the Environment Forum.

2. **Broadening the range of engagements that all residents have with the environment by:-**

   ▪ ensuring that all Walsall's residents, and in particular its "seldom heard" groups, have improved access to quality local green spaces and to Walsall's natural environment
   ▪ developing a range of Local Neighbourhood Partnership sponsored environmental improvement schemes, which will be drawn from the LNPs' environmental action plans and which will act as exemplars to drive further neighbourhood renewal across the LNP areas.
   ▪ providing opportunities for people to enjoy local historic and environmental assets, e.g. historic buildings and conservation sites, ensuring that the heritage of all communities is celebrated as part of the visible environment.

3. **Engaging Walsall's communities with wider environmental issues, such as recycling and waste reduction, climate change, energy conservation and new energy sources, and sustainable transport policies.**

   As community confidence and capacity is developed, it is envisaged that these broader environmental issues will become part of each Local Neighbourhood Partnership's agenda for action over the life of the LAA.

Achievement of the environment targets proposed within the LAA will have the following impacts:-

- Reduction in enviro-crime and associated anti-social behaviour
- Reduction in the growth of traffic congestion
- Reduction in environmental inequalities and improved quality of life within local neighbourhoods
- Increased community understanding and engagement in tackling local environmental issues
- Improvements in the health of school children
- Increased inward investment
- Reduction in the growth of global warming
- Improved environmental sustainability

The main difference for public service providers and our communities will be the creation of cohesive and engaged communities, a vibrant voluntary and community sector, a joined approach to engagement across all sectors and LNP areas which are clean, green and safe for all.

5.3   Healthier Communities and Older People/Vulnerable adults

Vision

Our Partnership has a clear joint vision-

> 'We will work together to deliver the Community Plan's vision of an "inclusive, prosperous and competitive Borough, in which our diverse communities feel involved, safer and healthier" by focusing on improving health and well being.'

Introduction

We are including within this pillar; 'vulnerable adults' which embraces people with learning difficulty, physical and sensory impairment and people with mental health problems as well as older people. Otherwise there is a risk that these groups could be excluded from the benefits of the LAA process.

The Health and Social Care Partnership Board (H&SCPB) (and its five contributing boards) are well established bodies that have developed robust governance arrangements and manage extensive partnerships activities. Implementation of the LAA will be monitored closely by the H&SCPB and the Joint Executive Group (the chief officers of Social Care and Inclusion Directorate, tPCT and Walsall Hospital). Delivery of the LAA will be primarily through the older peoples Partnership Executive Group, chaired by the AD Adult Services and Choosing Health Executive Group chaired by the Director of Public Health.

High levels of need

Walsall faces major health and well being challenges; it is one of the 15% most deprived local authorities in England – ranking 51st worse out of 354 councils. The life expectancy of men in Walsall was 0.9 years lower than men in England and Wales and 0.4 years lower in Walsall women (in 2002/4). Within Walsall, life expectancy varied substantially across the borough (2000/4), from 72 to 80 years in men and 78 to 86 years in women, a difference of 8 years and 7 years respectively. Some areas rank among the most deprived in the country. The number of accidents is too high – 11% higher than national rate. Accidents are a serious problem for the 75+ age group where the death rate from falls is 3 times the national rate – which may be linked to our high rates of admissions to Residential and Nursing Homes and to Hospital. Infant mortality has increased over the last few years (though small numbers make this volatility uncertain). Walsall has significantly higher levels of obesity than the West Midlands – at 19% compared to 16% for females.

Demographic change

The increasing number of older people in Walsall presents a significant challenge to agencies in terms of cost pressures. The graph below shows how the numbers of people aged 85 plus are projected to grow by 20% by 2010 and 40% by 2015 from the 2005 (2003 base projections), approximately 200 more each year. This will mean a substantial increase in expenditure unless we can deliver better prevention and community care solutions.

Walsall Population Projections for people 65 plus
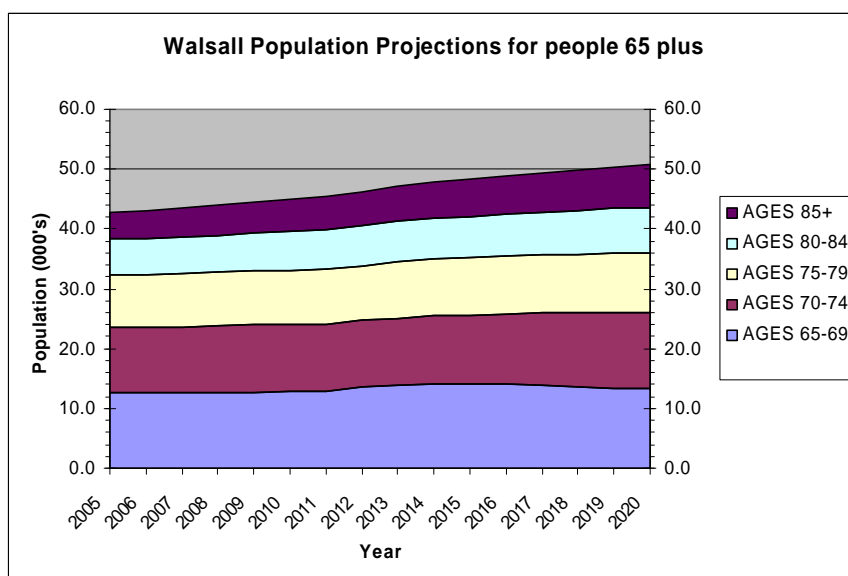
There is also projected to be a significant growth in young adults aged 25-29, up by 10% from 2005-10, an additional 1200 people. This will impact on demand for vulnerable adult services.

The numbers of adults and % of the population in Black & Minority Ethnic communities will also increase as the much larger % of children from BME communities 'age'. Using only 'cohort progression' we can expect the % over 85 to almost double from 4% to nearly 7% by 2020.

Age	White British	BME
2001		
0-19	78%	22%
20-64	86%	14%
65-84	93%	7%
85 plus	96%	4%

Increasing life expectancy and well being – linkages to other pillars

Life expectancy is our highest level indicator – as nearly every other indicator in this LAA contributes to it – and because it measures the health and well being of the entire population. To deliver improved life expectancy requires us to concentrate on the underlying determinants of health, such as employment and income, housing, leisure and environment. This is reflected in the breadth and diversity of our outcome targets and many links to other pillars. For example

- ➢ Economic Development
  - o Increasing employment in deprived wards will impact positively on health and well being and life expectancy and will be linked to employing Health Trainers.
  - o Similarly reducing admissions to residential care will require more expenditure in home care businesses which are mostly local and employ local people. Improving the health and welfare of people in work will assist higher levels of employment.
- ➢ Children
  - o Life expectancy targets depend on us focusing our efforts on older people and infant mortality. In the longer term increase educational attainment will result in higher income and improved health and well being

- o Child health and well being will be improved by our focus on reducing low birth weight babies, smoking, halting the rise in obesity, increasing sports activity in year 9, and improving housing.
- ➢ Safer Stronger Communities
  - o Our Increasing life Expectancy report identifies crime levels impacting on health and well being in several wards; including Darlaston, which is a target in this pillar. Similarly encouraging children to walk to school and improving footpaths will contribute to health and well being as will improved air quality
  - o Improving satisfaction with sporting facilities and more local screening will assist the target of increased % of residents who think their community activities have improved. Improved housing will contribute to improving the environment. Improved community mental health services may assist reduction in drug misuse.

The "Choosing Heath" Local Implementation Team and Executive Group are responsible for implementing the Choosing Health and reducing Health Inequalities agenda and this LAA will be their priority. They will use the Increasing Life Expectancy report and action plans as the core for their delivery plan as well as the work undertaken by the tPCT around health issues in the 9 neighbourhood partnership localities in 2005.

Closing the 'gap'

This LAA focuses on closing 3 gaps;

1   Between Walsall and national targets or comparators

All of our targets have been set to deliver national targets (such as decent accommodation and obesity) or move closer to, or exceed, local comparators such as the West Midlands.

2   Between the worst and best parts of Walsall

There is a recognisable 'east/west' divide in the borough, with the west containing most, but not all, of the high deprivation areas which is also reflected in lower life expectancy and ill-health and poor housing and environment. This is shown well in the map below.

Life expectancy in Walsall men by ward, 2000-2004
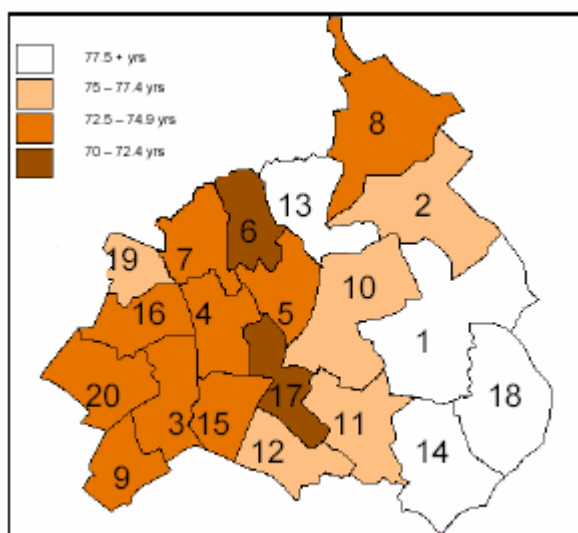
Source: Walsall tPCT

We understand that to achieve borough targets we must prioritise our efforts on the most deprived wards, while recognising that more affluent wards also require proportional responses to their particular needs (and there are some areas of deprivation even within these wards). The 9 Local Neighbourhood Partnerships (LNPs) will be utilised to deliver localised intervention.

Our action planning and the 'Increasing Life Expectancy Report' 2006 identify which wards we need to focus on across a wide range of interventions. The table below, based on analysis and audit, shows how we will focus on different issues in the different wards;

Localised targets (Increasing Life Expectancy Report 2006)

	Smoking Cessation	Maternal & Child Health	Teenage Pregnancy	Falls Prevention	Management of Long term conditions	General Lifestyle	Housing	Education	Income	Crime
St. Matthew's				o	o		o	*	*	*
Bloxwich East	o	o	o	o	o	*		*	*	
Pleck				o	o	*	o		*	*
Blakenall	o	o	o		o		o	*	*	*
Bentley and Darlaston North	o	o	o		o	*	o		*	*
Willenhall South	o	o			o		o	*		*
Palfrey				o	o		o		*	*
Bloxwich West	o	o	o		o	*	o	*	*	*
Birchills Leamore	o	o	o	o		*	o	*	*	*
Darlaston South		o	o		o	*		*	*	
Brownhills	o					*		*		
Short Heath	o	o			o					
Hatherton Rushall				o						*
Willenhall North					o	*	o			
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood					o					
Aldridge Central and South		o			o					
Paddock		o			o					
Pelsall		o			o					
Pheasey					o		o			
Streetly					o					

o	issues where actions will have an impact by 2010
*	issues where actions will have an impact in the longer term

(Note; delivering national target for increased life expectancy by 2010 requires us to focus on short term measures)

3 Between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy

A further challenge is for us to ensure that while people live longer, they also enjoy increased years of health. National data shows that although people are living longer, they are also experiencing more years of ill-health. This not what people want and it will cause substantial budget pressures on health and social care services (especially combined with the large demographic increase in those aged over 85 over next 15 years).

This requires that many of our targets are concerned with prevention and well being such as social inclusion and sport and reducing falls in later life. It also requires linkages across each pillar of the LAA to ensure a collective focus on the health and well-being of the population.

Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at birth: by sex, GB Source: ONS[1]
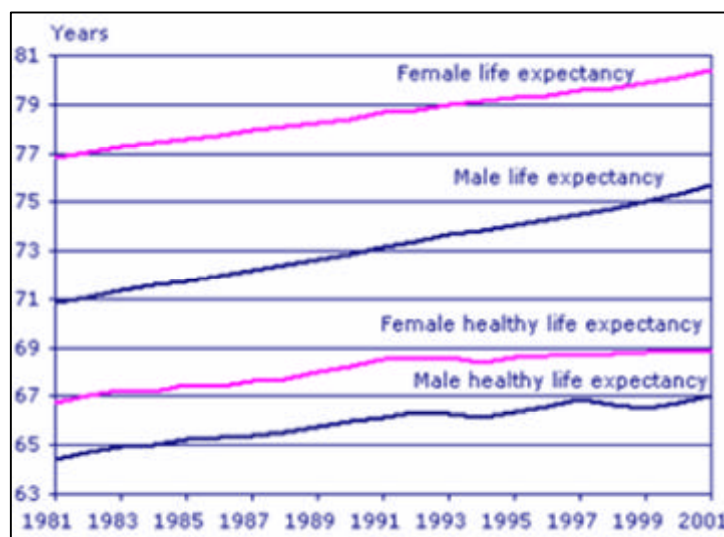
Our three main LAA outcomes

Our LAA sets out three outcomes that will deliver the community plan and our vision for the Borough.
- Improving life expectancy
- Improving Quality of Life & Independence
- Promoting Social Inclusion

Our outcomes will be delivered through 18 key targets (plus additional sub-targets). These have been selected and agreed by the Partnership Board after wide consultation and will deliver the Community Plan outcome of healthier communities.

The LAA targets provide a clear focus for increased partnership activity that prioritises our efforts in key localities. Our Increasing Life Expectancy report (based on a year's analysis, audit and action planning) provides detailed action plans for each agency and locality that will help us prioritise those areas of Walsall which require most support. Several of the targets (ie; Life Expectancy, smoking quitters, low birth weight babies) have, or will have, locality focussed action plans.

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[1] http://www.nationalstatistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=934&Pos=2&ColRank=2&Rank=1000

Our stretched targets will be our highest priorities;

a**.** **Improved Health of the population**

1. Reduce smoking

The Director of Public health advises this will have the biggest impact on health improvement and we will focus on actions in those wards with highest prevalence which will also reduce inequalities within Walsall. By reducing smoking in pregnancy we can also impact on low birth weight and infant mortality.

b. **Improved quality of life and independence**

2. Reduce admissions of older people to residential and nursing home care

Research clearly shows people prefer to remain in their own homes and maintain their independence; Walsall has had a high rate of admission for several years. We are redesigning our services to provide community alternatives. To deliver this target as well as the reduction in emergency admissions to hospital will require close partnership working with health and other agencies.

c. **Promote Social Inclusion**

3. Reduction in low birth weight babies

Tackling LBW will reduce stillbirths, perinatal and infant mortality. Healthier babies mean less risk of respiratory problems etc. This will provide efficiency through fewer hospital admissions and impact positively on life expectancy and reduce inequality in life expectancy within Walsall as a result of targeted actions on specific groups.

Overall we have selected the targets that;

- require multi-agency involvement and contributions

While some targets may appear single agency such as the Expert Patient Programme, they all rely on cross agency working. For example, the key to successful self management programmes is the development of partnerships at all levels – strategic, operational and interpersonal. Sustaining and further developing this Programme relies on building effective partnerships between patients, social care teams, voluntary sector organisations and health care practitioners to provide joined up services to help patients with chronic conditions get the right mix of services.

- that contribute to other targets within and across pillars

Many targets are inter-connected, for example reducing emergency bed days could make it more difficult to reduce admission to residential and nursing home care; reducing falls, and improved housing and increasing take up of Direct Payments will assist delivery of both targets. Similarly reduced falls will be assisted by increased physical activity.

5.4 Economic Development and Enterprise

The Vision for Walsall.

The Community Plan is the overarching vision from which the Economic and Enterprise activity in Walsall's LAA is being built.

The Local Strategic Partnership's vision[2] - "Our collective goal is to create an inclusive, prosperous and competitive Borough, in which our diverse communities feel involved, safer and healthier" clearly sets out the economic development and enterprise commitment at the heart of improving the borough's wider performance issues.

Activity that can demonstrate having an impact at ground level across Walsall's deprived communities will be critical to inspire existing business leaders and attract and retain new entrepreneurs and investors with a quality of life that fosters a new culture of prosperity, competitiveness and involvement.

The Importance of Economic Development and Enterprise to Walsall

The climate is right for positive Economic and Enterprise transition in Walsall. We are building a new model for regeneration. With the collective participation and representation of all of the key partners/agencies there is a real opportunity to unlock new potential through locally focussed outcome driven activity. In addition there is evidence of growing market interest I the opportunities evident within the Borough.

We recognise the challenge of addressing a vicious cycle of decline in economic performance.

Of the 354 local authority areas Walsall is the 9th most Education and Training deprived, 41st most income deprived and 62nd most employment deprived as per the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2004)

Walsall's employment structure has, in common with the other boroughs of the Black Country and the West Midlands a high concentration of employment in primarily manufacturing sectors with most businesses concentrated in sectors predicted to shrink (Manufacturing and Metalwork).

Evidence highlights that the current poor level of economic performance is a result of inter-related causes, including low skill levels, weak performance by existing businesses, an under-developed entrepreneurial culture and a significant lack of inward investment.

The specific areas of concern and where Walsall lags significantly behind the UK's economic performance are:

- The borough has a high level of unemployment (140% of the GB unemployment rate) and a high level of Inactivity rate at 108%. Reducing worklessness by closing the gap on the West Midlands and UK average is the lead priority for the LAA.

- Skills – In 2004 Walsall only had 16.8% of the working age population qualified to NVQ 4+ which compares unfavourably at 67% of the UK average. This coupled with only 12.6% of the population qualified to NVQ3 (86% of the UK average) and nearly a quarter at 23.2% of the working age population with no qualifications, skill levels are a clear priority on which to focus attention.

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[2] Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership (2005) Community Plan

- Enterprise Growth – The local number of VAT registered businesses per capita has fallen in Walsall relative to the UK trend falling from 78% to 76% of the UK's average over the period 1994-2004.

- Gross Domestic Product per head is well below the national average at 87.5% with evidence highlighting that the Gross Value Added per head output gap is widening.

This block of the LAA provides the opportunity to address Walsall's economic performance by ensuring a co-ordinated and collaborative approach is taken by all of the key agencies/partners involved in economic development, regeneration and business growth.

Regional Context

The LAA and in particular block four addresses the objectives of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) "Delivering Advantage" prepared by Advantage West Midlands the Regional Development Agency. It does this in the following ways: (RES objectives in bold)

- **Develop a Diverse and Dynamic Business Base**: through increasing economic growth, sustaining growth and reducing the unnecessary failure of locally owned businesses and attracting appropriate inward investors making use of local labour resources. (EDE, 3,4 and 6)

- **Promote a Learning and Skilful Region**: through increasing the skills levels of the local population with clear reference to local business need. (EDE 2).

- **Create the Conditions for Growth**: linking economically inactive residents to jobs through new opportunities linked to the physical regeneration of the Borough. (EDE 5).

- **Regenerate Communities**: through business support advice in most deprived wards and making town and district centres more competitive. (EDE 3 and 7)

Walsall sits in the Future Foundations Regeneration Zone and between the Wolverhampton to Telford Corridor and the Central Technology Belt, these are all delivery vehicles for the RES. The Walsall LAA works with and through these initiatives.

The main thrust of the Regeneration Zones[3] is to connect communities of need with opportunity. Involvement of the Regeneration Zone Secretariat in the work of the 4th Block will ensure clear co-ordination of the range of regeneration programmes and mainstream resources that impact on defined areas of need and opportunity, and position these areas within the wider regional economy.

National Context

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy[4] sets out the Government's vision for narrowing the gap between deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country, so that within 10 to 20 years, no-one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live. As detailed elsewhere in the agreement Walsall is Neighbourhood Renewal Funded area.

The Social Exclusion Unit has recognised the significance of enterprise to deprived communities. The vision is a 'Stable and dynamic economy where everyone has the opportunity to work, and no part of the country is left behind. We want to ensure a higher proportion of people than ever before are in work, while creating a thriving enterprise

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[3] Future Foundations (2003) Regeneration Zone Implementation Plan.
[4] ODPM (2001) National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal

culture throughout the UK.'5 This re-iterates the co-dependence of employment and self-employment.

The DTI's Small Business Service is the central policy/delivery conduit between SMEs and Government. Existing SBS contracts are now monitored and funded via AWM, a new Business Support model for the region will be in place by 1 April 2007.

The SBS's Small Business Action Plan (2004), which followed a review of the activity in this domain, echoes the importance of "High levels of entry by new businesses and the efficient exit of less productive ones are important contributors to productivity growth and to a dynamic and competitive economy". One of the dominant themes is of information failure forming the key barrier constraining success.

As part of the SBS strategy and action plan the theme of a 'more dynamic start-up market' is specifically highlighted. Under this theme a number of actions and measures are in place or under development that will enable existing models of support to be developed to meet the needs of deprived communities.

WBSP recognise the importance of building on the tools available to drive this agenda and promote a greater culture of enterprise in our regions and localities through our partnership work with a broad spectrum of agencies.

The Priority Outcomes

Walsall's LAA is based around addressing a range of priorities that focus on the poor performance issues that are outlined above. Addressing worklessness related performance is the main priority.
The Outcomes that have been chosen represent the emerging priorities of a dynamic and changing economic and enterprise environment.

- Increase Employment and reduce unemployment and inactivity in the locality (reducing worklessness) (EDE1)

- Increase the skill levels of the local population with clear reference to business need (EDE2)

- Increase Economic Growth (EDE3)
    - To support the sustainable growth and reduce the unnecessary failure of locally owned businesses (EDE4)
    - Linking economically inactive residents to job opportunities (EDE5)
    - To attract appropriate inward investors making use of local labour resources (EDE6)
    - More competitive towns and district centres (EDE7)

These outcomes create the agenda against which all commission led activity for the Economic Development and Enterprise Block utilising funding drawn down from NRF, European Co-Finance and others will be focussed.
All proposed activity will have to identify which specific outcomes are being targeted and how the new partnership underpinning that activity or leading it adds value to what they are currently doing including how the partnership can contribute to wider improvements on worklessness performance. In addition to the outcomes in the EDE block there is a specific indicator in relation to Business crime in the Safer Stronger Communities block.

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[5] Social Exclusion Unit (2004) Jobs and Enterprise in Deprived Areas

Within all the priority area's identified the emphasis is to create and instil a culture of enterprise that provides new aspirations giving Walsall's 'priority' citizens new confidence about the future of the borough.

Partnership Engagement - Economic Development and Enterprise

In order to develop a robust engagement process that contributes significantly to the priorities identified for Walsall, a new partnership group has been developed to focus specifically on the Economic and Enterprise agenda of the LAA. The Partnership for Walsall Enterprise and Regeneration (PoWER) has been formed to ensure that both the collective strategic thinking and activity related collaboration will add value to and join up existing partner activities.

The breadth of the partners involved from the Public, Private, Voluntary and Community sectors and also including sub-regional and regional partners is recognised as being a particular strength in creating a robust action orientated group.

Partners roles include:
- Leading, developing and delivering commissions. (An integrated approach to delivery has been adopted through the Governance arrangements in place and operating throughout the LAA)
- Creating new delivery relationships through theme/priority development.
- Joint collaboration and synergy between partner organisations.
- Identifying activity that can be refocused to meet the LAA priorities.
- Aligning resources to underpin priority activity.
- Building on previous projects and initiatives that have had a significant impact on the outcomes selected through wider partnership engagement.

The new commitment to partnership working has already demonstrated an increased level of collaboration across a range of activity, from the development of the Enterprising Walsall Strategy and the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) round 1 bid through to priority action development through a variety of 'theme' groups.

The new 'Enterprising Walsall' (EW) strategy is a 'blueprint' for an enterprise-led, change in the borough's economic fortunes. The robust evidence and baseline document provides a clear rationale in justifying a range of medium and long term priorities.

Although the LAA comes at a time of significant change with key sub regional partner organisations Black Country Learning and Skills Council, Black Country Chamber and Business Link and Job Centre Plus the opportunity through the LAA to re-focus activities at a local level is seen as a clear way to drive new outcome focussed interventions into the heart of the most deprived areas of the borough.

Target Areas – LAA Priority Neighbourhoods

It is clear from work undertaken in relation to the identification of priority wards as part of the Enterprising Walsall Strategy that the challenges the LAA faces are not distributed evenly across the Borough.

Through ward analysis focussing on Unemployment rate, Inactivity rate and Self employment rate from the 2001 census it has been possible to identify Walsall's most deprived ward areas and hence those of greatest economic and enterprise significance. The following wards are considered the priorities for action in relation to economic and enterprise related delivery actions. A number of initial priority action plans have been developed in PoWER, with recommendations for an Enterprise Commission in place.

Table indicates the priority wards identified for interventions as the most deprived.

ONS Code	Ward
00CUFC	Bentley and Darlaston North
00CUFD	Birchills Leamore
00CUFE	Blakenall
00CUFF	Bloxwich East
00CUFJ	Darlaston South
00CUFM	Palfrey
00CUFQ	Pleck
00CUFR	St. Matthew's
00CUFW	Willenhall South

Bentley & Darlaston North, Birchills Leamore, Pleck and St. Matthews are part of Walsall's Urban Regeneration Company footprint. Blakenall and Bloxwich East are in the New Deal for Communities footprint.

The targeting is complimentary and matches existing area-based initiatives and priorities including Walsall Regeneration Company; New Deal for Communities; Single Regeneration Budget; European Social Fund; Job Centre Plus; and Future Foundations.

Outcome Driven Activity

Walsall's opportunity to achieve a positive outcome driven change is underway. The pieces of the jigsaw are in place to create a 'new' Walsall. A town for Enterprise that has a vibrant 21st century town centre, a location at the heart of the national transport infrastructure and a range of transformational projects that will become the catalyst for engaging Walsall's priority communities with new opportunities.

We recognise the urgency in aligning appropriate economic opportunities for local people in relation to the demands created by the Physical regeneration activities led by the Walsall Regeneration Company. We remain committed and focussed on ensuring the priority communities reap the benefits from the level of investment planned.

The package for an outcome driven change in worklessness requires the co-ordination and collaboration of interventions organised and delivered at the most appropriate level by the most appropriate intermediary.

In order to achieve this PoWER has developed a number of Key Theme groups (with lead organisation):
- Physical Regeneration (Walsall Housing Group)
- Health as driver for regeneration (Walsall tPCT)
- Matching skills for employment and enterprise (Steps to Work)
- Building Tomorrow's Businesses (Private Sector/Business Link)
- Social Enterprise- linking needs to resources (Future Foundations)

- Creative and Cultural industries (University of Wolverhampton)
- Transport – A key cross cutting theme. (Walsall Council)

Each of these theme groups has been tasked with the development and identification of key added value activities that will create a step change of performance in addressing Walsall's worklessness performance.

A number of the new partnerships that have formed in relation to the theme group activities have already developed proposals that are now being worked up into an Economic and Enterprise commission.

One key area of work that is being driven by the PoWER group is in relation to Equalities as a cross cutting theme. We recognise the importance of Equalities in targeting interventions, removing barriers and unlocking the economic potential of disadvantaged communities and groups. We will be developing relevant indicators linked to the outcomes in the block as this work develops.

Detailed Activity

A range of activity that underpins the economic development and enterprise priority outcomes under the 4th Block have been highlighted across the partnership as a base from which to develop further added value services. The following demonstrate the activity planned in relation to two of the key outcomes and indicators.

LAA Outcome - Increase skill levels of the local population with clear reference to local business need

This outcome directly links to Regeneration Zones Strategic Objective 2 'Readying our people, especially those from disadvantaged and disconnected communities for the world of work and enabling them to access economic opportunities wherever'.

This is underpinned by the LSC's Annual statement of priorities Dec 2004, the Annual Business Plan, Co-Financing Plan 2005-07 and the LSC Agenda for change including relevant shared priority areas: '*Raising the skills and qualifications levels of individuals, particularly those from disadvantaged areas and in Zone priority sectors'.*
The new partnership theme group under PoWER 'Matching skills to employment and enterprise' is driving this agenda to ensure that robust proposals focus on building workforce skills to address existing shortages and opportunities. All of the other subgroups from PoWER have highlighted skills related opportunities and hence a range of commissions that align the future needs of sectors with the pool of potential labour from target communities.

LAA Outcome - Increase Economic Growth - Increase the Total Number of VAT Registrations

This outcome is aligned to the Regeneration Zones Strategic Objective 1 and associated zone priority 'Promoting the start-up and growth of modern and diverse businesses'.

A number of specific objectives in The Business Link Black Country Delivery Plan 2005/06 highlight relevant sections (Objective 1, Theme 1) 'To develop an enterprising culture that encourages people into enterprising behaviour from under represented groups; (Objective 4, Theme 10)'Support Enterprise to overcome barriers to growth arising through location.

Business Link has developed a joint approach with Future Foundations to provide 'business inclusion' services targeted at a range of groups including, Asian owned businesses (BCABA), Afro Caribbean-owned businesses (ACBF), Women entrepreneurs, and Community based business support organisations. This is further enhanced through the PoWER partnership with wider engagement with New Deal, ACSERG, The Private Sector and Community groups.

The development of the Black Country Incubation Strategy through key partners Black Country Investment, Black Country Chamber and Business Link provides a framework for support for new business starts and will help shape the physical incubator planned as a major component of the Business and Learning Campus transformational project led by WRC, Tesco and Walsall College.

The added value of engagement with a wider partnership will help build the linkages of a wider group of stakeholders and agencies who can support access to broader socio economic areas.

Early PoWER Partnership Activity

The following projects are illustrative of those that PoWER are considering taking forward as part of an integrated EDE Commission.

- A proposal for increasing the capacity and activity of Walsall Housing Group's Skills centre for construction training has been tabled, with a clear remit to build on the excellent reputation for delivering high quality apprenticeship programmes across a wider portfolio of construction trade programmes. The proposal is supported by a wide range of partners including Walsall Regeneration Company, Black Country Learning and Skills Council, Walsall Council, Black Country Asian Business Association, Walcat and Steps to Work. This proposal would have a direct link to the proposed indicators requested.

- A Health Sector upskilling proposal has been tabled in relation to a wide range of potential training programmes in the Health and social care Sector. This programme would help link people to a range of health jobs in preparation for the new hospital development. "Building a Careership" model is seen as an excellent mechanism for exposing people to a career in the Health Sector. Partners involved include Walsall tPCT, Walcat, Future Foundations, WMBC, and University of Wolverhampton.

- Procurement has been tabled as a major contributor to improving all aspects of worklessness. Not only is there a major opportunity to encourage Walsall's Physical regeneration investors to 'think local' first when engaging supply chains. There is also a commitment from existing Walsall public sector partners to help support the local economy through improving local links. Building the capacity of Social Enterprises to enable them to become key deliverers of mainstream public and private sector contracts is seen as a significant mechanism for generating new sustainable enterprises and is a key priority for development.

- Director Development Programme for 1-20 Employee sized Companies. Partners include BCLSC, BCCBL, BCABA, Steps to Work. This proposal builds on the success of the Director Development programme for companies 20-250 employees and is intended to support growth and sustainability of small businesses. Particular

focus on working with entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities is considered a major opportunity.

- Employee Training Scheme – Focussing on upskilling existing employees from established businesses wishing to expand or diversify with Growth Potential. BCLSC, BCCBL, Training Providers, BCABA, Steps to Work involved in partnership.

- Creative Industries. A partnership looking at the support for the development of a thriving creative industry sector led by the University of Wolverhampton, Walcat, WMBC, WRC. The focus of this proposal is to provide a range of services that will support the development of new and sustainable businesses from a high growth sector.

- The work underway in 'Re-inventing our places' specifically the competitiveness of the Town and District Centres through major change initiatives and regeneration activities with Walsall Regeneration Company, The Health Service, Walsall Housing Group, Walcat and the Learning and Skills Council.

The emphasis across the PoWER partnership is to ensure that both employment and enterprise skills are simultaneously built in line with skills linked directly to employment. This will help begin to move the emphasis from employee to employer development. A range of key partners including the LSC, Walcat, Steps to Work and the University of Wolverhampton, BCCBL and the private sector

6   Cross Cutting Issues

In developing the Local Area Agreement we set each pillar group the task of thinking and developing outcomes and initiatives that have the maximum overall benefit and cross a number of headings. We have done this by engaging as broad a range of interests in the development as possible and by a series of internal challenges. As can be seen from the section on the new partnership arrangements we are building this capacity and challenge into the process through the Cross–Pillar Group.

A number of themes have been identified which we have in particular tried to ensure are reflected in the agreement. Sometimes the Outcome, Indicator or Target explicitly recognises the issue. In other cases there is work going on to identify how activity under the cross cutting theme can be commissioned in order to meet the Outcome in the LAA. We intend to include a review of this as part of the regular review and refresh of the agreement to assess the extent to which we are making the best of the linkages.

These themes are

- **Environment** – The work of the Environment Forum and the LAA implications are considered in detail in the Safer Stronger Communities Section of the agreement

- **Engagement** – Engagement is covered in the Statement of Community Engagement as well as in more detail in the Safer Stronger Communities section.

- **Culture** - The Walsall Community Plan recognises culture and leisure as important components in making the Borough a stronger, more dynamic and prosperous place. Walsall communities care about the quality of their parks and libraries and recognise the contribution that physical activity does and can make to the health and well-being of people in the area. The uniqueness of Walsall is exemplified by landmarks such as the New Art Gallery, and it is this and other factors which lie at the core of regeneration plans to encourage new people and new business to live and locate in Walsall. Cultural activity is also best placed to celebrate and contribute to the ambitions of the very diverse population of the Borough.

   Culture (particularly as defined by the DCMS) is a cross-cutting element that can contribute to the pillars of the LAA. Walsall shares the DCMS aim of improving the quality of life for all through cultural, sporting and other leisure activities. It also acknowledges an important role for tourism and the visitor economy and creative industries in regenerating the Borough.

   The Boroughs cultural and leisure provision is delivered through a variety of agencies and is an explicit component in achieving the objectives of Every Child Matters, reducing health inequalities in the Borough and, through such schemes as Ready Steady Summer, reducing crime rates and creating a safer place for people to live in.

   We recognise that cultural provision in Walsall has strengths and weaknesses. We have exemplary provision such as the New Art Gallery (contributing to local regeneration), Forest Arts Centre (supporting skills development and aspirations); an innovative library service but poor building stock, and fine open spaces, many of which require investment and revitalisation. Through the LAA we aim to build on the

strength of the cultural contribution to the 4 pillars and to improve the quality and impact of the work for the communities of Walsall.

- **Equalities** – The Equalities Partnership was established in June 2005. and creates the opportunity for strategic decision makers to achieve joined up working to drive forward the equalities agenda and will ensure that the commitment to providing leadership and acting as champions for equality and diversity will rest at the highest level. The WBSP board will receive regular progress reports in order to scrutinise and challenge the work of the partnership.

  The initial meetings have been focussed on agreeing the purpose and objectives of the partnership and on identifying key equality issues on which the partnership will concentrate. In order to assist the identification of key issues, information has been provided on the following: statistical data highlighting the changing nature of the borough between now and 2021, mapping of equalities activity in the borough in relation to the voluntary and community sector and issues identified in recent consultation and research exercises including the Diversity Conference and WBSP race audit. The partnership will now be looking to produce a draft equalities action plan setting out both short and longer term actions.

  The objectives for the Partnership members are as follows:
  We are committed to:
- Eliminating all forms of discrimination and promoting social justice
- Promoting good community relations and securing community cohesion
- Providing leadership and acting as champions for equality and diversity and for Walsall Local Compact.

  As part of the work on developing a Partnership action plan, there was particular interest in developing a cross cutting theme around parents, in particular women, and children, to tackle health and education inequalities. It was agreed by the Partnership to develop a theme as part of the LAA with the outcome *'Closing the gap in the life chances of parents and children within the borough of Walsall'*.

  The Equalities Partnership is currently developing its role and input generally but has identified a particular interest in working in the following four areas:

- Reduction in under 18's conception
- Reduction in rate of repeat domestic violence
- Reduction in admission of babies to hospital from disadvantaged communities – low birth rate
- Community cohesion and celebration of cultural diversity – how people get on in their neighbourhoods

  The Equalities Partnership links to the Power Group to ensure that equalities is mainstreamed and is about an individual's life chances, empowerment and the economic regeneration of the borough.

- **Transport/accessibility -** Transport plays a key role in enabling the borough – its communities and individuals – to operate efficiently and sustainably to achieve their economic, social, health and environmental well-being.

Transport and Accessibility Planning are recognised as cross-cutting within the Community Plan and the four pillars of the Local Area Agreement, impacting on every person within the Borough. The successful delivery of transport improvements will require a coordinated approach from all key partners and service providers. These bodies and agencies are represented on the Transport Theme Group, which brings together the resources, energy and creativity of key organisations, groups, communities and people to work to meet the transport needs of the borough of Walsall. This group will establish Walsall's Transport Vision and Priorities up to 2020 and inform the development and delivery of future transportation improvement programmes within the Borough and feed into the wider Sub-Regional and Regional transport arena.

Improving public services, creating access to new opportunities and enabling individuals and communities to realise their potential is at the heart of Walsall's Community Plan 2005 – 2010. Therefore, Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership has embraced accessibility planning stating that "we will take an active and leading role in accessibility planning, improving connectivity between homes and job opportunities, health and other community facilities".

Improving accessibility not only addresses social inclusion, but also helps to support economic regeneration; facilitate transition from welfare to work; reduce health inequalities and improve participation and attendance in education. Transport has a crucial role to play in supporting these wider social objectives by making opportunities more accessible.

Accessibility planning is being progressed through a working group which will ensure that there is a clear process and responsibility for identifying groups or areas with accessibility problems, and to direct the development and delivery of a Local Accessibility Action Plan. Accession modelling is being carried out by the Shared Partnership Information Resource (SPIR) team which assembles and maintains a core indicator set and provides a comprehensive advice and analysis service. The data is provided by all partners – crime from the Police, educational attainment from Education Walsall, a range of health data from the PCT, and will continue to widen as more partners contribute. This will enable all the partners, and especially Walsall MBC, to work in synergy with other agencies to consider a wider range of solutions to accessibility problems, including changes to the location and delivery of services and measures against crime around transport, as well as improved mainstream and specialist transport.

- **Housing -** Housing in Walsall is a key cross cutting issue for the four pillars of the LAA. Walsall's Housing Strategy recognises the need to provide housing choice and ensure that all social rented homes and a proportion of private sector homes meet the Decent Homes standard. This vision for choice encompasses all income ranges and residents with both general and particular needs. This includes working with developers, Registered Social Landlords and neighbouring authorities to restructure Walsall's housing market, including affordable rented and home ownership options.

Housing has links to the economic regeneration of the Borough through the Walsall Regeneration Company framework. Walsall has an extensive canal network which provides ample opportunity for residential developments and wider regeneration, for

example, the proposed residential, economic and retail Waterfront development in the Town Centre.

Walsall Housing Partnership (membership includes all social housing providers and the council) is working to ensure that all our social rented properties meet the Decent Homes standard. In addition, WHP provide a coordinated best practice approach to the new provision and continued management of social rented stock in the Borough. Walsall Council continues to improve properties in the private sector occupied by vulnerable households to meet the Decent Homes Standard.

Housing specifically links to the 4 pillars by providing the right type of housing to meet the aspirations of Black Country Vision and needs of economic regeneration contributes to the design of both new and existing safer estates and ensures properties meet the Decent Homes standard, contributing to a healthy environment for young and older people. This activity will assist in improving educational attainment for younger people, improve health and well being for all and assist independent living for people with particular needs and older people.

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Walsall Council

Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership

Local Area Agreement

(With Reward Element)

Block 1: Children and Young People

Outcome	Performance Measure / Indicator	Outturn 2004/05	Performance Targets						Enhancement in performance
			2006/07		2007/08		2008/09		
			Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	
CYP1.Being Healthy	1.1 The number of conceptions to under-18s per thousand females aged 15-17as measured by ONS statistics and reported on a calendar year*	**(2005)** 52.6 per 1000 15-17 year old females	43.7	37	39.2	33.6	34.7	30.2	4.5 fewer conceptions per 1000 females aged 15-17
	1.2 The prevalence of obesity among children aged 4-11	Baseline being established through target work with schools. Targets to be subsequently established. Baseline and trajectory to be agreed with GOWM by 31st Sept 2006					TBA		
Closing the gap, Reducing the Perinatal mortality rate in the four wards with the highest rates	1.3 Perinatal mortality rate: 1.3.1 Willenhall South 1.3.2 Pleck 1.3.3 St. Matthews 1.3.4 Birchills & Leamore	 14.6 13.6 11.6 11.6	 13.4 12.5 10.6 10.6		 12.2 11.4 9.6 9.6		 11.0 10.2 8.7 8.7		
	1.4 Access to CAMHS	32 weeks	10 weeks		8 weeks		6 weeks		

			Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	
	1.5 Access to Health Services for Looked After Children (LAC) (PAF C19)[#]	86% (326/379)	89.05% (312/350)		90% (310/345)		91% (310/340)		
CYP2. Staying Safe	(No stretched target in this ECM outcome area)		Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	
	2.1 The number of children registered to the Child Protection Register per 10,000 children	36 per 10,000 (220)	32 per 10,000 (195)		28 per 10,000 (170)		25 per 10,000 (152)		
	2.2 % of under 16s who have been looked after for 2.5 or more years, living in the same placement for at least two years or placed for adoption	61% (171/230)	63% (173/275)		65% (175/270)		67% (177/265)		
CYP3. Enjoying and Achieving			Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	
		(2005)							
	3.1 % of all pupils in LEA maintained schools achieving 5 or more A*-C grades, including English and Maths, at GCSE* [#]	36%	36.5%	37%	37.5%	39%	38.5%	40%	1.5%

Closing the gap	% 14 year olds achieving level 5 and above in; 3.2.1 English 3.2.2 Maths 3.2.3 Science the achievement gap of Pakistani heritage pupils compared with the whole Walsall cohort 3.2.4 English 3.2.5 Maths 3.2.6 Science	E 69% M 67% Sc 61% E 21% M 18% Sc 30%	E 76% M 73% Sc 70% E 18% M 15% Sc 25%	E 77% M 75% Sc 74% E 14% M 12% Sc 20%	E 79% M 9%, Sc 74% E 10% M 9% Sc 15%
NRF Mandatory Outcome: **Raise standards in English, maths, and science in secondary education so that by 2008, in all schools located in the districts in receipt of NRF, at least 50% of pupils achieve level 5 or above in each English, maths and science.**	Number of Schools not meeting the 50% target in English, Maths or Science 3.3.1 English 3.3.2 Maths 3.3.3 Science	E 2 M 2 Sc 4	E 0 M 0 Sc 0	E 0 M 0 Sc 0	E 0 M 0 Sc 0
Closing the gap *Closing the gap*	% 11 year olds achieving level 4 and above in; 3.4.1 English 3.4.2 Maths the achievement gap of Pakistani heritage pupils compared with the whole Walsall cohort 3.4.3 English 3.4.4 Maths the achievement gap of pupils eligible for free school meals compared with the whole cohort in our priority area maths 3.4.5 Maths	E 76% M 70% E 11% M 15% 20%	E 80% M 77% E 9% M 13% 17%	E 81% M 79% E 7% M 11% 14%	E 83% M 83% E 5% M 9% 10%

			Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	
	3.5 The number of half day sessions missed due to authorised and unauthorised absence expressed as a percentage of total number of sessions in primary schools	6.20%	6.06%		5.88%		5.69%		
	3.6 The number of half day sessions missed due to authorised and unauthorised absence expressed as a percentage of total number of sessions in Secondary Schools	8.40%	7.84%		7.50%		7.17%		
CYP4 Making a Positive Contribution	4.1 Of children looked after at 31 March placed outside the borough of Walsall (excluding those placed with parents) the number who were in; 4.1.1 residential care* 4.1.2 agency foster care*	125 in total 41 84	1) 29 2) 81	1) 25 2) 75	1) 27 2) 78	1) 22 2) 65	1) 25 2) 75	1) 20 2) 60	1) 5 fewer 2) 15 fewer
	4.2 % of children newly looked after placed at March 31 more than 20 miles from their home address from which first placed PAF CF/C69*	Not collected	6.2% (6/100)	5% (5/100)	6% (6/95)	4% (4/95)	5.8% (5/93)	3.5% (3/93)	2.3% (2)
	4.3 % of children who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months and were of school age, who missed a total of at least 25 days of schooling for any reason during the previous school year PAF CF/C24*	9.1%	9.5% (27/285)	8.5% (24/285)	9% (25/280)	7.5% (21/280)	8.5% (23/275)	7% (19/275)	1.5% (4)
	4.4 Number of children and young people re-offending within 2 years of a conviction	50.5%	46.5%		43.5%		40.5%		
CYP 5 Achieving Economic Well Being		**(Nov 2004)**	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	

5.1 % of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training NEET*	12.4%	10%	9.7%	9.7%	9.4%	9.4%	9.1%	0.3%

* Targets marked with an asterisk are part of the LAA 'Reward Element'. See Annex A for full specification of indicator, periods of measurement, supporting conditions and miscellanea.

Funding Streams requested	Allocation		
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Pooled Revenue			
Pooled Teenage Pregnancy	334,000	334,000	
CAMHS	485,000	479,000	
Children's Fund	965,815	947,592	0
NRF	1,602,439	1,424,390	
LPSA 2 Pump Priming	250,700	0	0
Aligned Locally			
Post 16 Access Grant	150,000	150,000	150,000
LSC Sixth form funding	14,000	14,000	14,500
Standards Fund	17,384,246	19,101,701	19,865,769

Block 2: Safer and Stronger Communities Block

Outcome	Performance Measure / Indicator	Outturn 2003\04	Performance / Targets						Enhancement in performance
			2006/07		2007/08		2008/09		
SSC1 **NRF Mandatory Outcome: To reduce crime, the harm caused by illegal drugs, and to reassure the public, reducing the fear of antisocial behaviour** To reduce overall crime (HO PSA1) and anti social behaviour, with due consideration to alcohol related disorder.	1.1 Total number of all recorded crimes	28,856	27,413		25,970		24,528		
	1.2 Total number of criminal damage crimes	5124	4987		4850		4714		
	1.3 Total number of business related crimes	6948	6601		6253		5906		
	1.4 Total number of crimes and recorded anti social behaviour incidents within Walsall Town Centre	5567	5289		5010		4732		
			Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	
	1.5.1 The number of victims of domestic violence incidents recorded by the police in the year being measured who have been victims of a reported domestic violence incident within a period of 12 months preceding their last recorded incident*	1627	1166	1120	1105	1020	1039	920	119 fewer
	1.5.2 The number of victims of domestic violence accessing the Walsall Domestic violence forum	1002	1750		1800		1850		
	1.6 % of PPOs registered on system who, following their identification and start of an intervention in the community, do not re-offend during the following 12 months period	Will be determined by July 06	15%		15%		15%		

	1.7 The number of young people as offenders of crime	**(04\05)** 1861	1638	1489	TBC in 2007/08
	1.8 The number of young people as victims of crime	**(04\05)** 94	83	75	TBC in 2007/08
SSC2 To reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime and improve community cohesion (HO PSA2)	2.1 Public feeling of safety and re-assurance. 2.1.1 % of residents who feel fairly or very safe after dark 2.1.2 % of residents who feel fairly or very safe during daytime	(1)55% (2)92%	(1)56.6% (2)92.3%	(1)58.3% (2)92.6%	(1)60.0% (2)93.0%
SSC3 To reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs & alcohol including substantially increasing the number of drug misusing offenders entering treatment through the CJS (HO PSA4)	3.1 Number of people in treatment (DAT targets to be added following guidance from NTA and DAT Plan submission for 06\07)				
SSC4 **NRF Mandatory Outcome: To reduce Overall Crime in line with CDRP targets and narrow the gap between the worst performing neighbourhoods and other areas across the district**	4.1 The level of crime in Darlaston LNP area per 1000 population compared to borough average *The Borough's YTD figure is based upon April – December 2005 crime as the indicator requires a current Borough Average as a comparator. This figure will fluctuate and if there is a widening of the gap between the Borough Average and the level of crime in Darlaston LNP, this achievement will be significantly more challenging.*	118.8 (Darlaston) 114.2 (Borough) *108.9 (Borough YTD)*	115.5	112.2	108.9
SSC5 **NRF Mandatory Outcome: To empower locals to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services**	5.1 The number of residents participating in local decision making.	330 (04/05 half year outturn against local indicator, Walsall Council)	700	850	1000

	5.2 The number of residents saying they feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area	47% 2005 Tracker Survey	48%	49%	50%	
	The capacity of the voluntary and community sector: 5.3 Amount of public sector funding accessed by voluntary and community organisations and 5.4 The number of people generally and young people specifically engaging in (defined) formal volunteering activity.	Baseline to be established by Mar 06 Baseline and local definition to be established by Mar 06	To be set once baseline established			
	5.5 % of residents who think that for their local area community activities have got better or stayed the same.	81.14% 2003/04 ODPM BV General Survey	82.5%	85%	87.5%	

SSC6 To minimise the generation of waste and maximise the recycling of waste so as to reduce the amount of land fill, at least in line with government policy.	6.1 % of the total tonnage of household waste arising which have been recycled (BVPI 82a)	6.3%	13.5%	14.5%	16%	
	6.2 % of the total tonnage of household waste arising which have been sent for composting or anaerobic digestion (BVPI 82b)	12.4%	14%	14%	14%	
	6.3 Tonnage of office paper collected and recycled from council buildings	54.19 tonnes	110 tonnes	120 tonnes	130 tonnes	
SSC7 To increase the awareness of environmental issues, particularly in relation to key target groups, so as to influence personal behaviour in line with sound environmental principles as reflected in international, national and local policies.	7.1 Number of environmental awareness sessions in schools per annum	63 Oct 04-Oct 05	72	75	78	
	7.2 Number of activities to raise public awareness of environmental issues	0	10	12	14	
	7.3 Number of schools involved in Walsall in Bloom (target is to sustain present level of entries)	10	10	10	10	
	7.4 Number of schools registered with the Eco-Schools programme	7 (current)	10	13	20	
SSC8 To promote sustainable travel patterns and healthy lifestyles by encouraging modal shift with particular reference to the promotion of walking and cycling.	8.1 % of schools having an up to date travel plan	11.19%	22.39%	33.58%	44.78%	
	8.2 % of primary school children arriving at school by car	48%	47%	46%	45%	
	8.3 % of secondary school children arriving at school by car	37%	36%	35%	34%	

	8.4 % of the total length of footpaths and other rights of way that were easy to use by members of the public (BVPI 178)	64.6%	58% (improvement against anticipated out-turn figure for 2005/06)	65%	75%
SSC9 To secure a cleaner, greener environment so as to ensure improved quality of life at neighbourhood level and a borough that is more attractive to inward investment	9.1 Preparation of Environmental Action Plans for LNP areas	No action plans	Establish Environmental Action Plans for one LNP area	Establish Environ-mental Action Plans for three LNP areas	Establish Environ-mental Action Plans for five LNP areas
	9.2 Local nature reserve provision per thousand population (LQoLI 30b)	0.89ha per 1000 population	Preparation for declaration of LNRs	18 ha of new Local Nature Reserve to be declared	One hectare of land per 1000 population to be declared as a Local Nature Reserve
	9.3 Progress of a Local Action Plan to address the causes and impacts of climate change within the borough in line with the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change	No action plan	Prepare emissions inventory and forecast	Set emissions reduction targets (corporate and community)	Commence implementation of actions identified in plan, e.g. schemes in council owned buildings, reducing energy consumption through use of low energy fittings etc.

	9.4 Progress of Air Quality Action Plan & actions	Completion of stage four Air Quality Review and Assessment	Declaration of borough of Walsall as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) Completion of Air Quality action plan for Walsall. Incorporation of Urban Traffic Control intelligence into Air Quality review and assessment, ensuring Air Quality becomes integral with regional traffic management	Extend monitoring network to incorporate substances above and beyond statutory minimum	Monitoring impacts of action plan, refining as necessary	
	9.5 Number of investigations of high priority sites of potential contaminated land within the borough.	Completion of first stage prioritisation of detailed inspections	Commencement of detailed inspection	Completion of detailed investigations of five high priority sites	Completion of ten detailed investigations of high priority sites	

SSC10 **NRF Mandatory NRF Outcome: Improve the quality of the local environment by reducing the gaps in aspects of liveability between the worst wards/neighbourhoods and the district as a whole, with a particular focus on reducing levels of detritus**	10.1 The proportion of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level, from which unacceptable levels of graffiti are visible, from which unacceptable levels of fly posting are visible and the year on year reductions in total number of incidents & increase in total number of enforcement actions taken to deal with fly tipping (BVPI 199a,b,c & d)	19.72% BVPI199a	18.3%	18.1%	16%
		13% BVPI199b	10.8%	10.6%	9%
		2% BVPI199c	2.8%	2.6%	2.4%
		Category 2 BVPI199d	Category 2	Category 2	Category 2
		Baseline to be established by July 2006	Targets to be agreed to reduce the gap between the worst neighbourhoods and the borough as a whole once baselines have been agreed	TBA	TBA
SSC11 **NRF Mandatory Outcome: To improve the quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and ensure service providers are more responsive to neighbourhood needs and improve their delivery.** To increase the percentage of residents reporting an increase in satisfaction with their neighbourhoods and in disadvantaged areas showing a narrowing of the gap between these areas and the rest.	11.1 % satisfaction with neighbourhood as a place to live	72.4% (May 2005) borough average	74%	76%	80%
	11.2 % variance between highest and lowest levels of satisfaction across LNP areas (closing the gap)	62% (May 2005)	59%	56%	52%
	11.3 % residents' satisfaction with parks and public open spaces	44% (2005 Tracker)	50%	60%	70%

		(2004/05)	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	
SSC12 To reduce Arson and accidental fires	12.1.1 Number of accidental fires in dwellings*	184	203	201	199	195	195	189	12 cumulative
	12.1.2 Number of deliberate primary fires (excluding deliberate primary fires in vehicles)*	72	72	70	72	69	72	68	9 cumulative
	12.1.3 Number of deliberate fires in vehicles *	235	169	161	166	150	163	139	48 cumulative
SSC13 **NRF Mandatory Outcome: To build respect in communities and to reduce Antisocial Behaviour**[1]	13.1 % of adult residents who report that their local area is a place where people can get on well together	70% 2005 Tracker Survey	72%		77%		80%		
	13.2 Number of people who become victims of Anti-social behaviour	(2005/6) est 12000	11040		10080		9000		

Note – the mandatory outcome around Housing conditions is covered in the Healthy Communities and Older People block

Targets marked with an asterisk are part of the LAA 'Reward Element'. See Annex A for full specification of indicator, periods of measurement, supporting conditions and miscellanea.

[1] We are committed to delivery against the Respect outcomes and will make Respect a priority for the Annual refresh

Funding Streams requested	Allocation		
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Pooled Revenue			
Safer and Stronger Communities Fund including			
Neighbourhood Element	412,800	516,000	413,000
Clean Green & Safe	970,000	1,130,000	
Building Safer Communities	392,020		
Single Community Programme Fund (CEN)	129,067		
ASB	25,000		
Other Funding			
NRF	1,602,439	1424,390	
LPSA 2 Pump Priming	250,700		
Aligned locally			
DEFRA Waste Minimisation (50% capital)	500,000	520,000	
BCU	314,000		
Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP)	560,000		
Drug Prevention and Treatment	2,530,540	2,856,560	
Drugs Strategy Support Grant	70,000		

Block 3: Healthier Communities and Older People Block

Outcome	Performance Measure / Indicator	Outturn 2004/05	Performance / Targets						Enhancement in performance
			2006/07		**2007/08**		**2008/09**		
			Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	
HCOP1 Improved health of the population	1.1 The number of people who attended NHS Stop Smoking services in Walsall who are confirmed to have quit smoking at the four week review*	1707	1892	2247	1988	2584	2093	2971	1829 (cumulative)
	1.2 Health Trainers delivering one to one support to individuals from disadvantaged areas 1.2.1 Number of clients referred to Health Trainer Service 1.2.2 Proportion of clients referred to the Health Trainer Service from Deprived Wards	Service did not exist	16 109		24 179		Not yet set by SHA		
	1.3 Life Expectancy 1.3.1 Males 1.3.2 Females **LDP target**	**(95-97)** M; 73.5 F; 79.2	**(05-07)** 76.4 81.22		**(06-08)** 76.7 81.43		**(07-09)** 77 81.64 **(2010)** 77.6 82.06		
Mandatory NRF Outcome: **Health**	1.3.3 Gap in life expectancy between the most deprived wards and the rest of Walsall	**(00-04)** M: 8.2 F: 7.3	**(01-05)** M: 8.0 F: 7.1		**(02-06)** M: 7.8 F: 6.9		**(03-07)** M: 7.6 F: 6.7 **(04-08)** M:7.4 F: 6.6		

	1.4 Mortality rate from cancer, HD & Stroke and related disease in people aged under 75 1.4.1 HD & Stroke mortality rate	**(05)** 108.9		**(06)** 103.3		**(07)** 98.0		**(08)** 92.9			
	1.4.2 Cancer mortality rate **LDP target**	**(05)** 124.0		**(06)** 120.8		**(07)** 117.8		**(08)** 114.7			
	1.5.1 The number of patients attending hospital as a result of falls over the age of 50	**(05-06)** 4200		3780		3360		2940			
	1.5.2 The number of patients attending hospital as a result of falls over the age of 50 requiring admission to hospital **Data derived from local research using information from A& E)**	2000		1900		1805		1600			
	1.6 Prevalence of obesity in adults **LDP target**	Baseline to be agreed based on QoF data late 2006									
	1.7 Expert Patient Programme 1.7.1 Number of patient's/ clients completing a programme 1.7.2 Number of tutors 1.7.3 Access in deprived wards	**(04/05)** 13 4 6		514 64 266		816 86 580		Not yet set by SHA			

			Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	
HCOP2. Improving quality of life and independence	2.1.1 Supported admissions of older people to permanent residential and nursing homes per 10,000 population aged 65 or over (PAF C26)*	142.2	125	110	115	99	110	90	83

2.1.2 Take up of Direct Payments PAF C51 / BVPI 201	29	104.5	138.5	165.5	
2.2 % of items of equipment/adaptations delivered within 7 working days PAF D54 / BVPI 56	65.5%	87%	95%	95%	
2.3 Number of Emergency bed days	**(05/06)** (est.o/t) 187,296	184,151	181,005	LDP does not cover	
2.4 The number of people seen by the Mental Health Primary Care Team	1370	2413	3450	4500	
2.5 Health and welfare of people in work: Number of clients on the Employment Retention Project [#] **(Baseline set and data derived from local service monitoring)**	**(2004)** 230	280	300	400	

			Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	
	2.6 Engaging with target groups through physical activity 2.6.1 BV119a % satisfied with Sports and Leisure facilities and events	**(04/05)** 35	38		40		42		
	2.6.2 % adults participating 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport and recreational physical activity on 3 or more days per week	Sport England survey awaited	+1%		+1%		+1%		
	2.6.3 % year 9 students participating in at least 2 hours of sport and physical activity per week in and around the curriculum. (Targets will be set when baseline survey completed. Sport England or local survey each year)	Survey by 4/06	+1%		+1%		+1%		
NRF Mandatory Outcome: Housing	2.7 Amount of private sector accommodation occupied by vulnerable households which meets the decent homes standard	**(05/06)** 66% 14374	66.7% 14532		67.8% 14768		68.9% 15004		
HCOP3 To promote Social Inclusion	3.1 The number of infants born in Walsall who weigh less than 2500 grams at birth expressed as a percentage of all live births in Walsall *##	**(2005)** 10.3%	9.4%	9.0%	9.0%	8.8%	8.6%	8.0%	0.6%
	3.2 The number of older people from BME groups receiving an assessment PAF E47	0.95	1.09		1.1		1.2		
	3.3 The number of older people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups receiving a service following assessment PAF E48	1.22	1.08		1.08		1.08		

		(05/06)				
	3.4 Screening for 'hard to reach' groups 3.4.1 Uptake of breast screening by South Asian women (Baseline data derived from Walsall & Sandwell Breast Screening Unit)	56%	60%	67%	74%	
	3.4.2 Uptake of cervical screening by South Asian women (Baseline data derived from West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit)	65%	70%	75%	80%	
	3.5 % of LD day opportunity sessions taking place in the community (rather than in Social care facilities) Measure commenced as part of LAA	0%	1%	5%	10%	

* Targets marked with an asterisk are part of the LAA 'Reward Element'. See Annex A for full specification of indicator, periods of measurement, supporting conditions and miscellanea.

Contains cross cutting link to Economic Development & Enterprise pillar Outcome 5

Contains cross cutting link to Children & Young People pillar Outcome 1

Funding Streams requested	Allocation		
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Pooled Revenue			
Carers (Should be in C&YP also-but no split available)	1,110,000	1,118,000	
Supporting People Main Grant	7,031,486		
Supporting People Admin Grant	166,386		
NRF	1,602,439	1,424,390	
LPSA 2 Pump Priming	250,700		
Aligned locally			
Preserved Rights	840,000	770,000	
Residential Allowance	2,079,189	2,079,189	2,079,189

Block 4: Economic Development and Enterprise Block

Outcome	Performance Measure / Indicator	Outturn 2004/05	Performance / Targets						Enhancement in performance
			2006/07		2007/08		2008/09		
			Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	
EDE1 Increase Employment and reduce unemployment and inactivity in the locality (Reduce Worklessness)	1.1.1 The difference between the number of people in employment who are aged between 16 and 64 expressed as a percentage of all people between those ages in the West Midlands minus the same percentage in Walsall*	2.1 percentage points (Nomis)	2.6	2.3	2.8	2.1	3.0	1.5	1.5%
	1.1.2 The difference between the number of people in employment who are aged between 16 and 64 expressed as a percentage of all people between those ages in England minus the same percentage in Walsall*	2.3 (Nomis)	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.3	2.8	1.8	1%
NRF Mandatory Outcome: Worklessness	1.2 The gap between the average unemployment rate in the Walsall wards with the worst labour market position and the overall unemployment rate for England (Blakenall, St. Matthew's, Birchills Leamore, Pleck, Darlaston South, Bentley and Darlaston North, Palfrey, Bloxwich East, and Willenhall South).	January 2006 3.2	2.9		2.6		2.3		
EDE2 Increase skill levels of the local population with clear reference to local business need	2.2 The number of working age people in Walsall receiving job related training in the last 4 weeks as a % of all working age people	9.7% (Nomis)	9.5%		9.7%		10.0%		
	2.3.1The number of working age people in Walsall with NVQ level 2 qualification *	**(Feb 04)** 21000	Without Reward 22000	With Reward 23500	Without Reward 23000	With Reward 25000	Without Reward 24000	With Reward 26800	2800

			Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	Without Reward	With Reward	
	2.3.2 % of working age population in Walsall with NVQ level 2 qualification	14.1%	15.8%		16.8%		18%		2.1%
	2.4.1 The number of working age people in Walsall with NVQ level 3 qualification *	**(Feb 04)** 18700	20000	20500	20600	22200	22000	23900	1900
	2.4.2 % of the working age population in Walsall with NVQ level 3 qualification	12.6%	13.8%		14.9%		16.1%		
EDE 3 Increase Economic Growth	3.1 Total number of VAT registered businesses*	5830	5775	5790	5765	5810	5775	5865	90
	3.2 The gap between Walsall's mean annual earnings and those of the West Midlands as a whole	£1,594 (ASHE Dec 2005)	£1530		£1465		£1355		
	3.3 The number of people receiving business support advice in Walsall's wards which are in the 20% most deprived [1 and 2]	1356 (Business Link 04/05)	1375		1425		1500		
EDE4 To support the sustainable growth, and reduce the unnecessary failure of locally owned business	4.1 Amount of public and private sector procurement contracts secured by new or existing borough based companies	Baseline to be agreed by 30 Sept 06	Nil		£2million year on year increase		£3 million year on year increase		
	4.2 The number of businesses supported in developing succession strategies[2]	6 (Business Link 2005)	9		12		15		
	4.3 The number of jobs safeguarded through succession planning support work[2]	262 (Business Link 2005)	288		384		480		

EDE 5 Linking economically inactive residents to job opportunities through new opportunities#	5.1 Construction skills 'graduates' obtaining full time employment (with contractors engaged) on WRC/WHG projects	New Venture [3]	Nil	Nil	150 skills 'graduates' employed	
EDE 6 To attract appropriate inward investors making use of local labour resources	6.1 The number of businesses supported to invest in the borough	7 (BCI completed projects)	8	10	12	
EDE 7 More competitive town and district centres	7.1 The number of vacant business units in town and district centres[4]	192 (WMBC floor space survey 2004)	182	173	163	

Targets marked with an asterisk are part of the LAA 'Reward Element'. See Annex A for full specification of indicator, periods of measurement, supporting conditions and miscellanea.

[1] The Walsall Wards in the 20% most deprived are Bentley & Darlaston North; Birchills Leamore; Blakenhall; Bloxwich East; Bloxwich West; Brownhills; Darlaston South; Palfrey; Pleck; St Matthews; Willenhall South

[2] NOTE: Business Link work is subject to the renewal of Business support contracts

[3] Graduates to come through the new construction skills facility set up by Walsall Housing Group

[4] Walsall's district centres as identified in the Unitary Development Plan are: Aldridge; Bloxwich; Brownhills; Darlaston and Willenhall.

[#] Contains cross cutting link to Healthy Communities & Older People pillar Performance Indicator 2.5

Funding Streams requested	Allocation		
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Pooled Revenue			
NRF	1,602,439	1,424,390	TBC
LPSA 2 Pump Priming	250,700		
Aligned locally Revenue			
Black Country LSC	31,480,017	TBC	TBC
CO-FINANCING PLAN (Measure Level 4.1 only) – European Social Fund	910,466	910,466	TBC
Walsall Helping Generations – Walsall Housing Group	666,667	666,667	666,667
URC	750,000	750,000	750,00
Economic Regeneration Team Walsall Council	425,634	443,988	457,895
REGENERATION ZONE APPROVED PROJECTS			
Business Parks	79,500	0	0
Black County Knowledge Society	31,250	0	0
Reaching Disadvantaged Businesses	144,517	0	0
Health & Work Project	38,650	0	0
Business in the community	40,588	0	0

REGENERATION ZONE PROPOSED PROJECTS

Building Technologies Park	50,000	50,000	100,000
Careership simulation Centre	50,000	50,000	75,000
Advanced Engineering Centre		50,000	75,000
Vocational Skills & Employment Centre	25,000	125,000	125,000
Employment & Training Progression	37,500	37,500	37,500
Gateway to the Black Country	100,000		

Aligned locally Capital

LSC	17,000,000		
Red Routes programme- Centro	3,000,000	1,700,000	1,000,000
Bus Showcase programme – Centro	800,000	800,000	800,000
TCTP - Ring road DFT	5,200,000	0	0
ITP PFI – DFT	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000

REGENERATION ZONE APPROVED PROJECTS

Walsall Waterfront LEX	148,069	0	0
Omega	58,480	0	0
Isis Site Acquisition	45,493	0	0
Bridge Street/Ablewell Street	150,000	225,000	0

REGENERATION ZONE PROPOSED PROJECTS

Building Technologies Park	0	250,000	500,000
Careership Simulation Centre	0	125,000	375,000

Advanced Engineering Centre	0	0	375,000
Vocational Skills & Employment Centre	0	375,000	375,000
Employment & Training Progression	0	275,000	375,000
Waterfront Phase 1 (Gap funding) (Endorsed)	1,500,000	4,500,000	3,500,000
Initial Acquisitions (Darlaston) (Endorsed)	1,450,000	0	0
Darlaston Further Acquisitions/Remediations	0	7,500,000	12,500,000
Gateway to the Black Country	0	500,000	1,800,000
Bradford Place	0	1,900,000	0
New Gallery Square	0	2,000,000	2,000,000
Strategic Public Realm	0	1,500,000	2,000,000

Annex A

Reward Element - Target CYP1.1

Reducing teenage conceptions

Indicator by which performance will be measured

The number of conceptions to under-18's per thousand females aged 15-17 as measured by ONS statistics and reported on a calendar year

Source of data:

Office for National Statistics – Conception Statistics

Current performance (calendar year 2005)

52.6 per thousand

Performance at the end of the period of the Local Area Agreement (calendar year 2008)

Performance expected <u>without</u> the Reward Element

34.7 per thousand

Performance target <u>with</u> the Reward Element

30.2 per thousand

Enhancement in performance with the Reward Element

4.5 fewer conceptions per thousand

Allocation of Performance Reward Grant

£710,000

Reward Element - Target CYP 3.1

Children and young people achieve

Indicator by which performance will be measured

% of all pupils in LEA maintained schools achieving 5 or more A* - C grades, including English and Maths, at GCSE

Current performance (academic year 2005)

36%

Performance at the end of the period of the Local Area Agreement (academic year 2008)

Performance expected <u>without</u> the Reward Element

38.5%

Performance target <u>with</u> the Reward Element

40%

Enhancement in performance with the Reward Element

1.5%

Allocation of Performance Reward Grant

£710,000

Reward Element - Target CYP 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.2, 4.3

Indicators by which performance will be measured

Of children looked after at 31 March (excluding those placed with parents) the number who were in:

4.1.1 residential care outside the borough of Walsall

4.1.2 agency foster care outside the borough of Walsall

4.2– % of children newly looked after placed at March 31 more than 20 miles from their home address from which first placed (PAF CF/C69)

4.3– the number of children who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months and were of school age, who missed a total of at least 25 days of schooling for any reason during the previous school year (PAF CF/C24)

Source of data:

4.1.1 & 4.1.2 - Walsall MBC Client Information System (PARIS)

4.2 - PAF CF/C69

4.3 – The numerator for PAF CF/C24

Current performance (1st April 2004 – 31st March 2005)

4.1.1   41

4.1.2   84

4.2   0

4.3   9.1%

Performance at the end of the period of the Local Area Agreement (1st April 2008 – 31st March 2009)

Performance expected _without_ the Reward Element

4.1.1   25

4.1.2   75

4.2   5.8%

4.3   8.5%

Performance target _with_ the Reward Element

4.1.1   20

4.1.2   60

4.2   3.5%

4.3   7%

Enhancement in performance with the Reward Element

4.1.1   5 fewer

4.1.2   15 fewer

4.2   2.3%

4.3   1.5%

Allocation of Performance Reward Grant: £237,000

Split of PRG between indicators:

4.1.1   £70,000

4.1.2   £150,000

4.2   £15,000

4.3   £2,000

Reward Element - Target CYP 5.1

Children and young people achieve economic wellbeing

Indicator by which performance will be measured

% of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Source of data:

Black Country Connexions Management Information System as set out by the Supporting Children and Young People Group in Government Action Note 168

Current performance (30th November 2004)

12.4%

Performance at the end of the period of the Local Area Agreement (30th November 2008)

Performance expected without the Reward Element

9.4%

Performance target with the Reward Element

9.1%

Enhancement in performance with the Reward Element

0.3%

Allocation of Performance Reward Grant

£710,000

Reward Element - Target SSC 1.5.1

Reduce overall crime

Indicator by which performance will be measured

The number of victims of domestic violence incidents recorded by the police in the year being measured who have been victims of a reported domestic violence incident within a period of 12 months preceding their last recorded incident
Current performance (1st April 2003 – 31st March 2004)

1627

Performance at the end of the period of the Local Area Agreement (1st April 2007 – 31st March 2009)

Performance expected without the Reward Element

1039

Performance target with the Reward Element

920

Enhancement in performance with the Reward Element

119

Allocation of Performance Reward Grant

£710,000

Split of PRG between indicators:

N/A

Conditions of grant:

Performance Reward Grant will be withheld in units of one-third of the total Grant if the number of domestic violence victims referring to the Walsall Domestic Violence Forum (and shown as 1.5.2 in the Outcomes Framework) falls below the following levels:

2006/07   1750
2007/08   1800
2008/09   1850

Notes

Domestic violence incident - Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between people who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender

Reward Element - Target SSC 12.1.1, 12.1.2, 12.1.3

Reduce arson and accidental fires

Indicator by which performance will be measured

12.1.1   Number of accidental fires in dwellings – the numerator for BVPI 143 (iii)

12.1.2   Number of deliberate primary fires (excluding deliberate primary fires in vehicles)

12.1.3   Number of deliberate fires in vehicles

Source of data:

West Midlands Fire Service Oracle Database and as returned on form FDR1

Current performance (1st April 2004 – 31st March 2005)

12.1.1   184

12.1.2   72

12.1.3   235

Performance at the end of the period of the Local Area Agreement (1st April 2006 – 31st March 2009)

Performance expected <u>without</u> the Reward Element

12.1.1   597 (cumulative)

12.1.2   216 (cumulative)

12.1.3   229 (cumulative)

Performance target <u>with</u> the Reward Element

12.1.1   585 (cumulative)

12.1.2   207 (cumulative)

12.1.3   450 (cumulative)

Enhancement in performance with the Reward Element

12.1.1   12 fewer (cumulative)

12.1.2   9 fewer (cumulative)

12.1.3   48 fewer (cumulative)

Allocation of Performance Reward Grant

£584,750

Split of PRG between indicators:

12.1.1   £210,000

12.1.2   £189,750

12.1.3   £185,000

Reward Element - Target HCOIP 1.1

Improved health of the population

Indicator by which performance will be measured

The number of people who attended NHS Stop Smoking services in Walsall who are confirmed to have quit smoking at the four week review

Source of data:

LDP and monitored through quarterly return by Walsall Stop Smoking Service to Birmingham and Black Country Strategic Health Authority

Current performance (1st April 2004 – 31st March 2005)

1707

Performance at the end of the period of the Local Area Agreement (1st April 2006 – 31st March 2009)

Performance expected <u>without</u> the Reward Element

5973 (cumulative)

Performance target <u>with</u> the Reward Element

7802 (cumulative)

Enhancement in performance with the Reward Element

1829 more (cumulative)

Allocation of Performance Reward Grant

£710,000

Reward Element - Target HCOP 2.1

Improving quality of life

Indicator by which performance will be measured

Supported admissions of older people to permanent residential and nursing homes per 10,000 population aged 65 or over

Source of data:

2.1 CSCI/ Walsall MBC – PAF C26

Current performance (1st April 2004 – 31st March 2005)

142.2

Performance at the end of the period of the Local Area Agreement (1st April 2008 – 31st March 2009)

Performance expected <u>without</u> the Reward Element

110 per 10,000

Performance target <u>with</u> the Reward Element

90 per 10,000

Enhancement in performance with the Reward Element

20 per 10,000 fewer

Allocation of Performance Reward Grant

£710,000

Reward Element - Target HCOP 3.1

Promoting social inclusion

Indicator by which performance will be measured

The number of infants born in Walsall who weigh less then 2500 grams at birth expressed as a percentage of all live births in Walsall

Source of data:

ONS Vital Statistics

Current performance (1ˢᵗ January – 31ˢᵗ December 2005)

10.3%

Performance at the end of the period of the Local Area Agreement (1ˢᵗ January – 31ˢᵗ December 2008)

Performance expected <u>without</u> the Reward Element

8.6%

Performance target <u>with</u> the Reward Element

8.0%

Enhancement in performance with the Reward Element

0.6%

Allocation of Performance Reward Grant

£650,000

Reward Element - Target EDE 1.1.1 & 1.1.2

Increase employment and decrease unemployment and inactivity

Indicator by which performance will be measured

1.1.1 The difference between the number of people in employment who are aged between 16 and 64 expressed as a percentage of all people between those ages in the West Midlands minus the same percentage in Walsall

1.1.2 The difference between the number of people in employment who are aged between 16 and 64 expressed as a percentage of all people between those ages in England minus the same percentage in Walsall

Source of data:

Labour Force Survey/Nomis

Current performance (1st April 2004 – 31st March 2005)

1.1.1 2.1%

1.1.2 2.3%

Performance at the end of the period of the Local Area Agreement (1st April 2008 – 31st March 2009)

Performance expected without the Reward Element

1.1.1 3.0%

1.1.2 2.8%

Performance target with the Reward Element

1.1.1 1.5%

1.1.2 1.8%

Enhancement in performance with the Reward Element

1.1.1 1.5%

1.1.2 1.0%

Allocation of Performance Reward Grant

£700,000

Split of PRG between indicators:

1.1.1 £350,000

1.1.2 £350,000

Reward Element - Target EDE 2.3.1

Increase skill levels of the local population

Indicator by which performance will be measured

The number of working age people in Walsall with NVQ level 2 qualification or equivalent

Source of data

Local Authority Labour Force Survey (NOMIS)

Current performance (February 2004)

21000

Performance at the end of the period of the Local Area Agreement (February 2009)

Performance expected <u>without</u> the Reward Element

24000

Performance target <u>with</u> the Reward Element

26800

Enhancement in performance with the Reward Element

2800

Allocation of Performance Reward Grant

£710,000

Notes

This indicator uses the numerator from the Nomis Local Authority Labour Force Survey

Reward Element - Target EDE 2.4.1

Increase skill levels of the local population

Indicator by which performance will be measured

The number of working age people in Walsall with NVQ level 3 qualification or equivalent

Source of data

Local Authority Labour Force Survey (NOMIS)

Current performance (February 2004)

18700

Performance at the end of the period of the Local Area Agreement (February 2009)

Performance expected <u>without</u> the Reward Element

22000

Performance target <u>with</u> the Reward Element

23900

Enhancement in performance with the Reward Element

1900

Allocation of Performance Reward Grant

£710,000

Notes

This indicator uses the numerator from the Nomis Local Authority Labour Force Survey

Reward Element - Target EDE 3.1

Increase economic growth

Indicator by which performance will be measured

The number of VAT registered businesses

Source of data:

Small business service

Current performance (31st December 2005)

5830

Performance at the end of the period of the Local Area Agreement (31st December 2008)

Performance expected <u>without</u> the Reward Element

5775

Performance target <u>with</u> the Reward Element

5865

Enhancement in performance with the Reward Element

90

Allocation of Performance Reward Grant

£710,000

8 Enabling Measures/ Freedoms and Flexibilities (F&F's)

Walsall is interested in discussing with Government greater Freedoms and Flexibilities which would allow us to deliver Outcomes, Indicators and Targets more effectively in line with the objectives set out in this agreement. We intend to make it part of each of the Commissioning proposals that consideration to be given to whether these would be delivered more effectively if a Freedom or Flexibility were to be negotiated. We have not therefore in this agreement long listed potential F&F's which may or may not be needed or useful at some date in the future.

We therefore would welcome a process for ongoing consideration of F&F's through the life of the agreement.

Walsall welcomes the commitment from the Office of Deputy Prime Minister to produce a list of generic Freedoms and Flexibilities that apply to all LAA's and will review this approach in response to that initiative.

However given the strength of the Walsall Commissioning and evolving Performance Management frameworks there is a probable case to be pursued for the following during the first refresh.

- Greater flexibility around the use of resources within the pillars, the ability within the context of the Commissioning arrangements to vire funds between pillars where there is cross cutting activity
- Greater flexibility around the carry forward of funds at the end of Financial years within the lifetime of the agreement. The need to spend funds by the end of a financial year can distort the effective delivery of a commission and while each commission will have a defined time span and be performance managed and reported the financial year end is not always the most effective end date.

Additionally there is interest over how we can in line with the Efficiency agenda reduce reportage and re-invest any savings into the service delivery. We are also interested in ensuring we get the best use of resources by the linking of capital and revenue expenditure.

In terms of developing a vibrant and sustainable Voluntary and Community Sector we will also be looking to discuss early in the life of the agreement how we might gain greater local control and influence around the Change up Programme and the Big Lottery Fund.

As stated in introductory section there is significant interest in how we can draw into the partnership regional, sub-regional and national players to work more effectively together for the benefit of Walsall and would welcome any moves from Government to encourage this. In particular we are interested in the contribution that the Regional Development Agency can make working at a local partnership level.

9   Statement of Voluntary and Community Sector Engagement

Communities Scotland state Community Engagement is defined as

"*Developing and sustaining a working relationship between one or more public body and one or more community group, to them both to understand and act on the needs or issues that the community experiences*"

This definition is underlined by the fact that it is important to recognise the diversity of people and communities and to build on the skills and knowledge of those being engaged.

There already exists within Walsall a Community and Voluntary Sector Compact, the challenge for the Local Area Agreement process is to support and resource the delivery of the Compact processes and ensure that the activities within the LAA are Compact compliant across partnerships.

Taking this into consideration partners have identified with the sector three main issues for the Local Area Agreement.

1. Procurement and Contracting:

It is requested that clear recognition and direction is given through the commissioning of activities within the LAA to ensure that where possible procurement and contracting is significantly anchored within the community and voluntary sector. This will enhance the ability of the sector through local investment, training and delivery of projects and programmes. Already this approach of procurement and contracting is being developed by the Teaching Primary Care Trust through the Patient Public Initiative, and the costs of enhancing the abilities of the Sector to be a full service delivery partner explored.

As part of the enhancement of the Third Sector the Shared Partnership Information Resource will need to develop and hold details of the CVS organisations which may have the potential to deliver services and programmes and that a mapping exercise is commissioned by SPIR to ensure that data is available at the beginning of the LAA process.

Where ever possible a proportion of any commissioned activity makes use of the Third Sector, this would follow the model of Section 106 Planning Legislation, in the direction of recruitment and use of monies and resources.

2. Enhancing Community Cohesion

Through recognition of the cross cutting nature of Learning as a theme; that each LNP have a bespoke learning plan which is maintained and given direction by a Local Learning Champion. This process would ensure that appropriate learning and skills agenda might be delivered to grassroots organisations, whilst investing in community development. A further learning plan and Champion would be placed into the third sector to ensure the overall development of a robust skilled, trained and professional Community and Voluntary Sector.

There are specific roles outlined within this document for the Local Neighbourhood Partnerships, the Community Empowerment Network and the Council for Voluntary services. A synchronised approach by these three agencies through work with WBSP in the first instance and then through an Infrastructure organisation for the Third Sector, through the local implementation of Change-Up will be seen as vital.

3. Funding Programme for the Community and Voluntary Sector.

With the end of the Community Chest and the Community Learning Chest a large number of small neighbourhood organisations will find themselves without access to the small but nevertheless significant sums of money traditionally available to them to enable them to deliver services. Should such activities be removed from our communities the confidence of the sector will be reduced and the LAA targets of community cohesion impacted in a negative way. A two strand approach has been identified to address this weakness;

- Firstly a short term, 1 year, small grants programme be funded through the LAA.

- Secondly, during the first year of the LAA a commission is developed to enable the delivery and appropriate systems of accountability for the allocation of National Lottery Funds into the Borough.

We engage with our communities through three main channels:-
- The nine Local Neighbourhood Partnerships which operative within Walsall
- The Community Empowerment Network
- Walsall Voluntary Action (Council for Voluntary Services)

All three of these organisations are an integral part of the Partnership with specific roles and responsibilities in developing community cohesion, empowering communities and delivering the outcomes of the Community Plan and LAA.

Role of Local Neighbourhood Partnerships (LNPs)

The role of LNPs is evolving to one of mini LSPs, and will sit under the umbrella of the WBSP Board. They are established as multi-agency Partnerships engaged with service providers at a local level, who enable and facilitate service change and champion the engagement of the wider community.
LNPs look to:-

- Working within the LSP framework to capture outcomes to create cleaner, greener, safer and stronger communities
- Secure agreement from agencies to deliver actions that will result in improved public services
- Identify those Community Plan and LAA outcomes which can be delivered in individual LNP areas, and the level of impact that can be achieved to enable LNPs to fulfil the role. LNPs will be an integral part of the Pillar Group structure of the WBSP. The LNP perspective will be represented at all the Pillar Groups by nominated individuals. Through this arrangement LNPs provide service innovation and the involvement of the voluntary sector in service delivery and will also have an input into the strategic commissioning process.

The Walsall LAA

Role of the Community Empowerment Network (CEN)

The CEN have the primary role of promoting community cohesion and community capacity building. The importance of the role is reflected in the fact that the CEN are represented on the WBSP Board, the Executive Committee, and on each of the Pillar Groups.

The delivery mechanism for community engagement is through community fora which in locality terms mirror the LNP, and through 7 communities of interest, namely; women, BME, Older People, disability, inter-faith, voluntary services, and travellers and Roma.

Core funding for the CEN is by way of Government Grant for which Walsall Council will act as the accountable body. The ability of the CEN to fulfil its role however will be heavily dependent upon monies made available through the safer stronger pillar of the LAA.

The Activities of the CEN is overseen by a community steering board, Community Empowerment Partnership Board, through the LAA it will be desirable to strengthen the abilities of this board and its members.

This organisation as a whole will play a vital role in the promotion, development and enhancement of volunteering by individuals across the borough by creating links into training and organisational support contributing to the target for volunteers and active citizens.

Role of the Walsall Voluntary Action (WVA)

The WVA are represented on the WBSP Board and the Executive Committee. They contribute to the outcomes of the Community Plan and LAA by supporting the voluntary sector through start up and developmental assistance, training and research, fundraising and legal advice, as well as constitutional services.

This organisation will play a pivotal role in the development of organisations to be able to receive and work with volunteers across the borough.

Through Change-Up and support of partners, the statement within the Community Plan that we will promote a vibrant voluntary sector shall be achieved and that organisations within the sector are developed to enable them to be deemed "fit for purpose" and fully engaged in service delivery and the building of Community Capacity.

It has been expressed within the sector that any activities undertaken through Local Area Agreements must represent "full cost recovery" for the agencies.

Lastly, through partnership with Business in the Community it is hoped that there may be a development of the number of companies and key statutory organisations with Corporate Social Responsibility Strategies and Programmes. These would follow the models of good practice outline by Business in the Community and reflective organisations such as the Royal Bank of Scotland.

More detail on this can also be found in the text on the pillars in particular under Safer Stronger Communities.

The Walsall LAA