

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel
DATE: 2 April 2009

RE: Walsall Partnership Report

1. Purpose

This briefing note informs the Panel of progress in agreeing Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets with Government and in developing Target Action Plans (TAPs) – the means through which LAA targets are delivered. It also asks the Panel whether it wishes to continue to receive a report from the Partnership and, if so, what form this should take.

2. Background to the LAA

Walsall's LAA was signed-off in June 2008. It contains 25 main indicators and 5 local indicators agreed with Government as a balanced approach to delivering activity to meet local needs as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy while at the same time reflecting the national policy context.

At sign-off, targets for 16 of the main indicators were still outstanding mostly because Government did not have sufficient information to enter into target setting negotiations. The LAA process allows for annual 'review and refresh' which has been used as the opportunity to complete these negotiations. Section 3 details progress.

Delivery of the LAA is being managed through Target Action Planning for each LAA target, or target groupings where appropriate. Progress in producing TAPs is set out in Section 4.

3. Progress in Agreeing Outstanding Targets

The LAA has just reached the end of its first Refresh – the process through which targets can be re-negotiated with Government.

This year Government requested that Partnerships concentrate their Refresh efforts where agreement was not possible when LAAs were signed off. In the vast majority of cases the reasons were that Government had not developed definitions for all of the National Indicator Set (NIS), that baseline data was not available or target setting guidance had not been produced.

Walsall's Refresh proposals were agreed by Cabinet on 18, March 2009 and are set out in Appendix 1.

4. Development of Target Action Plans

The LAA targets have been grouped together under the headings of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). This enables activity to be identified which delivers against a number of targets.

The TAP process involves identifying a lead agency to engage all relevant parties through workshop activity to:

- Review current evidence and trends
- Map current activity and funding
- Identify priorities, best practice and performance gaps
- Options appraisal
- Define future activity

TAP workshops have been held for a number of targets, with others planned to take place imminently. A schedule of progress is attached at appendix 2

A number of TAPs have been developed in order for activity to be commissioned; the rest will be completed following the planned workshops.

5. LAA Performance and other Walsall Partnership Issues

Previously the Panel has asked for regular reports on the activities of Walsall Partnership, including progress in meeting LAA targets. Since then negotiations with Government on the second LAA have taken up a large part of the Partnership Team's time and have dominated the content of the report. This has meant that other Partnership activity has not been reported fully, including the re-structuring the Partnership, undertaking consultation on the effectiveness of Local Neighbourhood Partnerships and initiating work on their future development, and preparing a joint credit crunch action plan.

Over the next 18 months the content of the LAA will be much more stable and there are significant changes resulting from the introduction of Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) which will affect the way performance is reported throughout the Council and its Partners.

The Panel are asked whether they wish to continue to receive a Partnership report. If so, one model might be for the Panel to receive a presentation from the Partnership Director at its first meeting in the Municipal year outlining the work programme contained in the Partnership's business plan. From that the Panel could highlight issues where it would require subsequent progress reports to be made, the timing of which would be dictated by the activity identified. Whether these reports also include an update on progress in implementing the LAA will depend on how CAA reporting arrangements unfold.

Contact Officer

Tim Ferguson,
Head of Partnership and Performance
Walsall Partnership
fergusont@walsall.gov.uk 01922 652481

Appendix 1



Walsall Local Area Agreement 2008 – 2011

Priority	Indicator(s), ★ From national indicator set L - Local indicators W - WNF Reward grant indicator	Baseline	LAA Improvement Target ★ designated targets			Partners signed-up to the target ★ Lead partner
			08/09	09/10	10/11	
Creating opportunity and potential	NI 5 Overall/ general satisfaction with local area★	71.1% (2008)			74.4% ★ (2010)	Walsall Council ★, Walsall Partnership, Safer Stronger Communities Pillar Executive Group, including WM Police, WM Fire Service, Walsall Voluntary Action
	NI 8 Percentage of adult population who participate in sport ★	16.1% (Oct 06)	18.1% ★	19.1% ★	20.1% ★ (Oct 2011)	
	NI 112 Under 18 Conception Rate (L)	53.3 (2006)	36.4	33.3	30.2 (2010)	Walsall tPCT ★, Walsall Council, Walsall Partnership
Feeling safe and being healthy	NI 16 Serious acquisitive crime rate ★	21.55 per 1000 population (2007-08)	20.68 ★	19.82 ★	19.03 ★	Safer Walsall Borough Partnership ★, Walsall Council, Walsall Partnership, Safer Stronger Communities Pillar Executive Group, including WM Police, WM Fire Service, Walsall Voluntary Action
	NI 19 Rate of re-offending by young offenders ★	116	112 ★	108 ★	104 ★	
	NI 20 Assault with injury crime rate ★	Revised baseline 08- 09 to be	n/a		Baseline – 8% ★	

	confirmed after March 2009				
NI 30 Re-offending Rate of Prolific and Priority Offenders ★	New baseline 2009 = 16%	19% ★	18% ★	The target will be arrived at by applying the common ratio W to performance ceiling % target identified after the cohort has been reviewed.	
NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 ★	19.4% (06-07)	19.0% ★	18.8% ★	18.6% ★	Walsall tPCT ★, Walsall Council, Walsall Partnership, Healthy Communities and Vulnerable Adults Pillar Executive Group
NI 120 All age/all cause mortality ★	M 1017 F 629 (1995-97)	M 702 ★ F 488 ★ (2009)	M 681 ★ F 478 ★ (2010)	M 659 ★ F 468 ★ (2011)	
NI 135 Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information ★	11.5% (06-07)	21.5% ★	24.5%★	27.5% ★	Walsall Council ★, Walsall Partnership, Healthy Communities and Vulnerable Adults Pillar Executive Group
NI 136 People supported to live independently through social services ★	1795 (06-07)	2200 ★	2600 ★	3000 ★	
NI 17 Public perceptions of ASB (L)	25.6%			29.8% (2010)	
The number of referrals to Children's social care for domestic abuse (L)	548	525	500	480	
Developing strong and dynamic communities	NI 1 Number of people from different backgrounds who get on well together in their local area ★	71.3% (2008)		75.1% ★	Walsall Council ★, Walsall Partnership,

	NI 4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality ★	22.3% (2008)			25.6% ★ (2010)	Safer Stronger Communities Pillar Executive Group, including WM Police, WM Fire Service, Walsall Voluntary Action
	NI 7 Environment for a thriving third sector ★	16.8% (2008)		No target set	22.4% (indicative) ★ A measurable improvement calculated in accordance with published OTS guidance. Based on the results of the 2008 national survey of third sector organisations, it is estimated that the required improvement in Walsall will be an increase of 5.6 (indicative) percentage points. This remains an estimate. The final target will be confirmed once 2010 national survey of third sector organisations has reported	
Improving housing choice	NI 141 Percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living ★	76.3% (06-07/07-08)	76% ★	78% ★	81% ★	Walsall Council ★
	NI 154 Number of additional houses ★	Average of 444 homes per annum 2002/03 to 2006/07	326 net ★	363 net ★	574 net★	Walsall Council ★

2002/03 to 2006/07

		inclusive				
	NI 187 Tackling fuel poverty ★	6.43% u/35 29.05% o/65	6.4% u/35 ★ 29.1% o/65 ★ (2008)	4.4% u/35 ★ 31.1% o/65 ★ (2009)	2.4% u/35 ★ 33.1% o/65 ★ (2010)	Walsall Council ★
Improving the quality of our environment	NI 191 Residual household waste per head ★	850Kgs (06-07)	755Kg ★	739Kgs ★	697Kgs ★	Walsall Council ★, Walsall Partnership, Safer Stronger Communities Pillar Executive Group, including WM Police, WM Fire Service, Walsall Voluntary Action
	NI 188 Adapting to climate change ★	N/A	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
	NI 198 Children travelling to school; mode of transport used ★	31.4% (Jan 07)	30.4% ★	29.4% ★	28.4% ★	
	NI 186 Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area (L)	tbc	A target is being developed which records the CO2 reduction brought about by measurable local activity			Walsall Council ★
Improve access to employment, services and facilities/ Working with employers to create jobs and opportunities	NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty ¹ ★ (W) (see footnote)	25.7% (April 07)	24.5% ★	23.5% ★	22.5% ★	Walsall Council ★, Walsall Partnership, Economic Development and Enterprise Pillar Executive Group
	NI 152 Working-age people on out-of-work benefits ¹ ★ (W) (see footnote)	16.5% (May 2007)	16.2% ★	15.7% ★	15.0% ★	
Education and skills	NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities ★	71.3%		74% ★	78.5% ★	Walsall Council ★
	NI 117 16- to 18-year olds who are NEET ★ (W)	9.1% (07-08)	9.0% ★	8.9% ★	8.7% ★	Walsall Council ★, Walsall Partnership
	NI 163 Working-age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher ¹ ★ (W) (see footnote)	55.1% (2006)	+ 2% on baseline ★	+4% on baseline ★	+7% on baseline ★	Walsall Council ★, Walsall Partnership, Economic Development and Enterprise Pillar

						Executive Group
Accessible, sustainable places for business	NI 172 VAT-registered businesses in the area showing growth ★	12.69% (2006/07)	11.08% ★	10.25% ★	11.02% ★	Black Country Small Business Service ★ Walsall Council Walsall Partnership Economic Development and Enterprise Pillar Executive Group
	Businesses in the area receiving 3 hour or more of advice support and guidance (L)	N/A		100	110	

1. Negotiations on these targets to be re-opened if the Birmingham City Region MAA for Employment and Skills is unsuccessful.

Appendix 2



UPDATE ON TARGET ACTION PLANS

NI No	Target	Progress Update
NI1 / NI4	Community Cohesion	Pro forma completed for this financial year, but awaiting outcome of Local Neighbourhood Partnership consultation before review TAP content
NI5	General satisfaction with the local area	Draft TAP pro forma received
NI7	Thriving Third Sector	Workshop held on 25 February 2009. TAP pro forma being developed
NI17	Perceptions of Anti Social Behaviour	Workshop held on 4 February 2009. TAP pro forma being developed
NI19	Rates of Re-Offending	Workshop held on 26 January 2009. TAP pro forma being developed
NI110	Positive activities for young people	Lead officer now identified, workshop to be arranged
NI112	Teenage conceptions	Agreement to move to Children's Services. Workshop to be arranged
NI116	% of adults participating in sport	COMPLETED
NI117	Child Poverty	COMPLETED - included in the Worklessness TAP, Skills TAP and Enterprise TAP
NI117	Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	COMPLETED
NI120	All Age All Cause Mortality	COMPLETED – requires financial breakdown
NI130	Persistent Prolific Offenders and acquisitive crime	Workshop held on 21 January 2009. TAP pro forma being developed

NI135	Carers and needs assessment	Workshop held on 26 February 2009, TAP pro forma being developed
NI136	People supported to live independently	Workshop held on 26 February 2009, TAP pro forma being developed
NI141	% of vulnerable adults / independent living (supporting people)	COMPLETED – awaiting signature
NI152	People on Out of Work Benefits (Worklessness)	COMPLETED
NI154	Number of additional houses	Lead officer identified. TAP pro forma to be completed
NI156	Obesity in children	COMPLETED – awaiting signature
NI163	NVQ2 (Skills)	COMPLETED
NI172	Number of VAT registered businesses (Enterprise)	COMPLETED – Pro forma needs some slight amendments
NI187	Fuel Poverty	COMPLETED – Pro forma needs some slight amendments
NI186	CO2 Emissions	COMPLETED – Pro forma needs some slight amendments
NI188	Adapting to climate change	Pro forma needs some slight amendments
NI191	Residual household waste	Lead officer identified. TAP pro forma to be completed
Local	Domestic Violence	Workshop held on 20 January 2009. TAP pro forma being developed
Various	Children and Young People indicators	Draft pro formas received – further work to be undertaken