

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Children's and Young People Scrutiny & Performance Panel
DATE: 27 September 2010

RE: Local Area Agreement

Purpose

This report informs the Panel on the current position of Walsall's Local Area Agreement (LAA) along with an overview of performance in relation to the 25 priority and 5 locally agreed indicators which form the LAA.

Appendix 1 sets out performance against those LAA targets of relevance to the Children's and Young People Scrutiny & Performance Panel for the period of Quarter 1 2010/11. Within the table ratings have been provided based on the latest position against agreed targets, with additional comments giving background to the listed ratings. Appendix 2 provides members with an overview of performance for the remaining LAA targets.

Current Position of Walsall's Local Area Agreement

Following the establishment of the Coalition Government a number of significant changes have been made which are now beginning to impact on the delivery of Local Area Agreements. As members will be aware the Comprehensive Area Assessment (acting as the over-arching framework for a single area) has now been abolished, in line with this Government's commitment to reducing the burden which the collection of data imposes on Local Partnerships. Consequently uncertainty exists over the future of some of Walsall's 25 priority performance targets as a review of the National Indicator Set is being conducted.

To date written confirmation has been received stating that the impending Place and Tellus 5 Survey's have been postponed, with the Government signalling their intent to shift power away from Whitehall and back to Local Authorities and the communities they serve. Overall 5 out of the 25 priority LAA indicators are considered to be 'undeliverable' due to written confirmation being received stating that the impending Place and Tellus5 Surveys have been postponed, In relation to the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel this only affects one LAA indicator (NI 110 - Young people's participation in positive activities).

In addition to this doubt has been placed over whether any Performance Reward Grant in relation to achievement of the current LAA will be forthcoming from this Government.

Quarter 1 Performance – Children's Scrutiny Panel

The most recent outturn data highlights that the following indicators have a red rating (performing below their agreed target):

- The number of referrals to Children's social care for domestic abuse (Local Target)

- Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 - Percentage of children in Year 6 with height and weight recorded who are obese
- Under 18 conception rate (PSA 14) (Local Target)
- Proportion of Children in Poverty

Throughout the lifetime of the LAA both the Child Poverty and Teenage Conceptions indicators have been rated Red due to the challenging nature of the targets. In relation to Childhood Obesity a number of activities are being undertaken through the Target Action Planning process, whilst the increased number of referral's for Domestic Abuse have been attributed to the current economic crisis.

The panel may want to consider looking into the performance of the above indicators by adding them into their work plan.

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Appendix 1: Children's Scrutiny Panel - Local Area Agreement 2010/11 Quarter 1 Outturn

Measure Ref	Indicator description	2010/11 Actual Achieved	2010/11 Target	2010/11 RAG Rating	Comments
NI019	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders (PSA 23)	0.67	1.04	G	This indicator has consistently achieved its designated target throughout the lifetime of the LAA.
Local Target	The number of referrals to Children's social care for domestic abuse (Local Target)	167	480	R	Domestic Abuse Referrals to Children's social care is rated red due to it underperforming over the past year (2009/10). It is not proposed to apply Corrective Action to this measure as under the present economic conditions and post Baby P, Heads of Service felt at the Specialist Performance Board that this would be inappropriate.
NI056d	Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 - Percentage of children in Year 6 with height and weight recorded who are obese	21.93% (2009/10 Actual)	18.60%	R	Confirmed data is not expected until December 2010 when the National Child Measurement Programme is released. A local indication of performance will be obtained during December 2010
NI110	Young people's participation in positive activities (PSA 14)	N/A	78.50%		The Coalition Government has decided to stop the delivery of the Tell us Survey as part of its commitment in reducing the burden which data collection imposes on local authorities. The decision is with immediate effect, which means the Tellus5 survey will not be delivered as planned in the Autumn Term.
NI112 - Local Target	Under 18 conception rate (PSA 14) (Local Target)	55.1 (2008 Actual)	30.20	R	This target has been Red for the Life of the LAA due to the challenging nature of the indicator.
NI116	Proportion of Children in Poverty (The percentage point difference between the proportion of children in 'poverty' in the LSP area and the West Midlands average)	N/A	5.5 pcp	R	This target has been revised as part of the LAA refresh and is now expressed as a gap with the regional figure. The target now takes account of the effects of the recession, however it still remains challenging.
NI117	16-18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET) (PSA 14)	8.1 (2009/10)	8.70%	G	Current performance is on target, a programme of activities is being delivered through Working Neighbourhoods Funding. Between Nov 2009 - Jan 2010 8.1% of 16-18 year olds (833) were not in employment, education or training (NEET). T
NI198	Children aged 5 -15 years travelling to school	28.5% (2009/10 Actual)	28.40%	G	The latest data has been released by DfT - derived from the January 2010 School Census. This data shows an improvement on the previous year's outturn and puts Walsall on course to meet its LAA Target. This is deemed good progress due to the number of school closures in the borough (resulting in longer journeys for pupils to attend school).

Appendix 2: Remaining Local Area Agreement Indicators

Measure Ref	Indicator description	2010/11 Actual Achieved	2010/11 Target	2010/11 RAG Rating	Comments
NI008	Adult participation in sport (DCMS DSO)	16.8% (2008/09 Actual Data)	20.10%	R	This indicator is dependent on the results of the Active People Survey in October 2011. Survey based indicators are typically regarded as high risk due to a number of external variables.
NI120	All age all cause mortality rate	M 1017 F 629	Total 1127	R	Statistically this target has been rated Red for the lifetime of the LAA.
NI020	Assault with injury crime rate (PSA 25)	2.15	Baseline - 8%	G	This indicator has consistently achieved its designated target throughout the lifetime of the LAA.
NI016	Serious acquisitive crime rate (PSA 23)	4.1	19.03	G	This indicator has consistently achieved its designated target throughout the lifetime of the LAA.
NI017 - Local Target	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour (PSA 23) (place survey)	N/A	29.8% (2010)		Written confirmation has been received stating that the Place Survey has been cancelled for this autumn. This means Local Authorities/Partnerships are no longer required to report against this particular National Indicator.
NI030	Re-offending Rate of Prolific Priority Offenders	Awaiting Outturn Data	The target will be arrived at by applying the common ratio W to performance ceiling % target identified after the cohort has been reviewed.	G	No data has been released for this particular target.
NI001	% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area (PSA 21)	N/A	75.10%		Written confirmation has been received stating that the Place Survey has been cancelled for this autumn. This means Local Authorities/Partnerships are no longer required to report against this particular National Indicator.
NI004	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality (PSA 21) (place survey)	N/A	25.6% (2010)		Written confirmation has been received stating that the Place Survey has been cancelled for this autumn. This means Local Authorities/Partnerships are no longer required to report against this particular National Indicator.
NI005	Overall/general satisfaction with local area (GLG DSO) (place survey)	N/A	74.4% (2010)		Written confirmation has been received stating that the Place Survey has been cancelled for this autumn. This means Local Authorities/Partnerships are no longer required to report against this particular National Indicator.

NI007	Environment for a thriving third sector	16.8% (2009/10 Actual)	22.4% (indicative)	A	This indicator is dependant on the results of the Third Sector Organisations Survey in October 2010. Survey based indicators are typically regarded as high risk due to a number of external variables. A plan of action is being drawn up prior to the survey being conducted - a review of this Target Action Plan has been requested by the Stronger Partnership. Through consultation it has been decided that a Amber rating can be attributed at the end of the financial year to those NI's derived from the Place Survey (due to it being conducted biennially).
Measure Ref	Measure Ref	Proxy RAG	2010/11 Actual Achieved	2010/11 Target	2010/11 RAG Rating
NI188	Adapting to climate change (PSA 27)	Level 2 (2009/10 Actual)	Level 3	G	This is a self evaluation indicator based on Local Authorities reporting the level of preparedness they have reached against the levels of performance.
NI186 - Local Target	Per Capita CO2 emissions in the Local Area	Awaiting Outturn Data	75 Tonnes of CO2 Reduction	R	The baseline for this particular NI came from the 2005 Calendar Year data which showed an increase in CO2 emissions (as opposed to a reduction), this equated to 7.18 total tonnage for 2004 Calendar Year which then increased to 7.40 in the following year (2005). However, since this data was posted onto the 'Hub' all data has been removed, pending confirmation of the 2005-2007 trends. The current rating of Red reflects the original documented increase in emissions from 2004 -2005. Future ratings will be based on the publication of the 2006-2007 trends when available.
NI187	Tackling fuel poverty	Awaiting Outturn Data	2.40%	G	This is an annual survey which will be carried out by the Energy Saving Trust in January 2011. The results of which will be available for Q4 2010/11. The window for submission of the out turn for this indicator should opened on 1st February, closing on 31st March 2010.
NI135	Carers receiving needs assessment or review and specific carer's service, or advice and information	11.47%	27.50%	G	This indicator has consistently achieved its designated target throughout the lifetime of the LAA.
NI136	People supported to live independently through social services (adults all ages) (PSA 18)	2168	3000	G	This indicator has consistently achieved its designated target throughout the lifetime of the LAA.
NI191	Residual household waste per household (DEFRA DSO)	125.35	697kgs	G	This indicator has consistently achieved its designated target throughout the lifetime of the LAA.
NI154	Net additional homes provided (PSA 20)	Awaiting Outturn Data	574 net	G	There has been no data released for quarter 1 due to an issue relating to the previous housing return data. Having undertaken a review of all completed figures Walsall require 969 additional homes in the current year to achieve its overall target.
NI141	Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living (CLG DSO)	89.36%	81%	G	This indicator has consistently achieved its designated target throughout the lifetime of the LAA.

Measure Ref	Indicator description	2010/11 Actual Achieved	2010/11 Target	2010/11 RAG Rating	Comments
NI163	Working age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher (PSA 2)	60.1% (2008/09 Actual)	+ 7% on baseline	G	NI 163 measures the proportion of working age pop (19 years to RA) qualified to at least level 2 or higher. Based on 2006 baseline of 55.3%, LAA targets are as follows; 57.3% (2008/9), 59.3% (2009/10) and 62.3% (2010/11). The most recent data received is 60.1% which relates to the period of 2008/09. It is anticipated that the release of the 2009/10 outturn data will be in December 2010.
NI172	% of small businesses in an area showing employment growth (BERR DSO)	14.11% (2009/10 Actual)	11.02%	G	The 14.11% outturn indicates that the LAA target looks achievable if this level of performance can be sustained.
Local Target	Businesses in the area receiving 3 hours or more of advice, support and guidance (Local Target)	191 (2009/10 Actual)	110	G	This indicator has benefited from the Enterprise programme which is being funded through Working Neighbourhoods Fund.
NI152	Working age people on out of work benefits (PSA 8) (The percentage point difference in the rate between the target LSP area and the West Midlands average)	4.3% pcp (November 2009)	4.1 pcp	R	The next update for this indicator will be based on a four quarter rolling average for the period up to February 2010.