

<b>CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 6</b>
<b>15 SEPTEMBER 2009</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services**

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### **PROGRESS REPORT ON DELIVERY OF LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITY**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to share with Members the performance at the end of Quarter 1 related to the 35 indicators for which this scrutiny committee has responsibility.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the performance as shown in appendices 1 & 2 and to ask questions about the actions being undertaken to address those performance areas which are not currently performing to target.

#### **3. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

Performance on these indicators is fundamental to the corporate plan, the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

The indicators shown in appendices 1 & 2 are a mixture of those which are required to be reported on and those which have been chosen to be within the local area agreement.

Performance on these and all other relevant indicators are considered quarterly by the GPP Executive and the GPP Board. On a quarterly basis, a performance update will be provided to Scrutiny Committees.

#### **5. KEY ISSUES**

The overall status is amber which is the same position as at the end of 2008/09. Overall, data reliability and regularity is a persistent challenge with gaps across the outcomes impacting on confidence and forecasting ability. Several indicators are annual measures which exacerbates this situation. Further work with outcome lead officers and performance leads will be undertaken to improve this position. As previously reported, all data gaps should be filled by September 2009 however issues with data lags in some areas will continue to challenge. Regenerating neighbourhoods is rated amber given data gaps and risks associated with the economic downturn. Improving health shows mixed performance and has two key areas (childhood obesity and teenage pregnancy) in implementation phase following Solution Centres. More work is needed to underpin forecasts for improvement in these areas. Supporting vulnerable people (amber overall) includes significant improvement against assessment indicators in children's services (both now green). Data gaps are again detracting from overall confidence at this point in the year. Self-directed support is under-target but the programme is progressing well and this indicator is expected to be green by the year end. Education and Skills is amber reflecting mixed performance and much unconfirmed data. Data lag and lack of proxy data continues to mean

uncertainty around skills indicators which is a high risk area. The narrative in appendix 2 provides more information about the performance and activities.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

The performance at Quarter 1 shows that while there have been improvements from last year's performance, there is still some way to go to secure a RAG status of green for this basket of indicators.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

Consultation on performance occurs regularly in the partnership boards which underpin the GPP arrangements. These boards assess the extent to which further action is needed and plan action accordingly.

## **8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

Members of Scrutiny are asked to assure themselves that through the scrutiny process, officers are actively working to improve performance.

## **9. NEXT STEPS**

Scrutiny Committee can expect a further update after the end of Quarter 2

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Local Area Agreement Indicators

## **11. APPENDICES**

1. Overview of RAG status
2. Performance narrative by blocks of indicators

**APPENDIX 1**

**OVERVIEW OF RAG STATUS**

<b>Creating Opportunities, Tackling Inequalities (OI)</b>				
Apr	May	Jun		Prediction
			<b>Regenerating Neighbourhoods (OI01)</b>	Month to reach Green?
			<b>Improving Health (OI02)</b>	Month to reach Green?
			<b>Supporting Vulnerable People (OI03)</b>	Month to reach Green?
			<b>Improving Skills in Education (OI04)</b>	Month to reach Green?

**APPENDIX 2**

**PERFORMANCE NARRATIVES BY BLOCKS OF INDICATORS**

<b>Regenerating Neighbourhoods (OI01)</b>		
<b>Claire Higgins</b>	<i>June 2009</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current RAG is amber.</li> <li>• This outcome includes two national indicators</li> <li>• NI 187 – Fuel Poverty – is currently green and likely to meet year end target</li> <li>• NI 153 – Number claiming out of work benefits – is currently red as there is no data available</li> <li>• NI 153 is undergoing in depth analysis by the performance information team</li> <li>• NI 153 has also been highlighted as a key area of risk – will be reviewed and action plans refreshed where necessary</li> </ul>		

<b>Improving Health (OI02)</b>		
<b>Bellairs Christine</b>	<i>June 2009</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current RAG is green. Targets for smoking cessation 4-week quit exceeded for 2008-09. We have been working with the SHA on a workforce development project to train staff and champions in PSHFT acute wards and midwifery. The training programme has been developed by McKinsey consultants and comes to an end in August. This project will be taken forward by PSSS.</li> <li>• The National Support Team for alcohol have been working with us to identify areas for improvement for alcohol harm strategy and have presented their findings. They are returning in August to help with action planning.</li> <li>• Main areas of risk are around swine flu. Smoking cessation will continue to be a priority for improving health.</li> </ul>		

<b>Supporting Vulnerable People (OI03)</b>		
<b>Neil Greenfield</b>	<i>June 2009</i>	
<p>The overall status of this outcome is amber.</p> <p>The current improvement in performance in key areas would indicate that the LAA outcomes should be achieved.</p> <p>NI059- At the end of June a cumulative outturn of 89.1% against a target of 75% showed the remedial action undertaken is now influencing performance; this will be sustained through weekly monitoring.</p> <p>NI060 also improved due to remedial action with an outturn of 75.5% against a target of 70%.</p> <p>Main areas of risk include NI050 which is amber and will remain so until the CAMHS Partnership has moved forward on its actions. NI063 returned an outturn of 73.1% against a target of 80%. The continuation of placement support meetings and partnership working with key providers and services should improve this. Also all Looked After Children have an allocated social worker. Expected to achieve target by December 2009. NI150 is a continued risk due to the lack of data received by the mental health trust. This is being taken forward through contract monitoring.</p>		

<b>Improving Skills in Education (OI04)</b>		
<b>Mel Collins</b>	<i>June 2009</i>	
<p>Improving Skills and Education is made up of a number of different outcomes: outcomes in schools and early years settings, adult learning and skills outcomes, attendance and the % of pupils Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) – all of the indicators either cover attainment/achievement or closing the gap. This area is rated amber overall, mainly because 2009 data is not yet complete for some indicators (KS2 and KS4) and other indicators e.g. KS2 are still very unreliable. If KS2 and KS4 results improve significantly through the re-marking, validation and forvus processes, this outcome could turn green</p> <p>2009 Early Years Foundation Stage profile results have just been released and we have significantly improved on 2008 data for NI 72, indeed at 47.4%, we more than achieved our 2010 LAA target (45%). However, the very challenging NI 92 closing the gap target of 29% was not achieved, although the 2009 result of 35% matches the 2008 NA figure and indicates we are well on task to achieve the national target of 33% by 2011. Next year's figures will see the first year effect of the 2 year old pilot so we should narrow the gap further, possibly achieving the very stretching 2010 LAA target.</p> <p>KS1 results improved significantly in 2009. At Level 2, writing improved by +6%, reading by +5%, speaking and listening by +5%, maths by +4% and science by +3% - indeed 33/36 indicators were the best they have ever been.</p> <p>2008 L2 and L3 aged 19 results have recently been released and we have shown rapid improvement, more than meeting our LAA targets and the GO East trajectory.</p> <p>We have significantly improved attendance data and met our 2009 target.</p> <p>Provisional KS2 data has been released but is very unreliable. Several issues with the quality of the marking of the English exam have been highlighted by various schools across the city and many papers are being returned for re-marking because of this. Conversely, mathematics is showing an improvement but this is yet to be confirmed. Investigation shows that other LAs are showing the same</p>		

issues with the English papers and this appears to be a national problem. We anticipate that the next data feed will be available by August 2009 and the final validated results in January 2010. Our KS2 target of 77% in English are achievable if marking issues are addressed and MENA children removed through the forvus process.

KS4 data will be released in August 2009 and we are expecting an uplift on 2008 data. However the target of 50% is very challenging and we are likely to be amber in 2009 and green in 2010.

NEET levels increase in summer as young people leave full-time education and combined with the economic downturn means that NEET figures will remain high until the Autumn.

Data on the adult learning and skills outcomes will be available in August – indications from the LSC are that we should meet our LAA targets for NI 162, 163 and 165.

The risks around KS2 and KS4 focus on the timely release of accurate data. The Learning and Skills Team and Young People's Service have supported, challenged and intervened in schools; targeted groups of young people and individuals and organised a range of training and development opportunities for leaders and teachers to improve skills and education outcomes across the city.

What additional assistance could partners offer to help with the management of risks?

A recent OLO meeting focussed on encouraging and enabling schools to be more involved in the LAA process. It is anticipated that a range of activity will take place in the new academic year to engage schools in healthy schools, the environment and leisure and culture to improve educational standards further.

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