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Dear Joanna and Keith

LAA Review meting – outcomes

As you are aware I decided to use the PSB's own review of the LAA as the main way of assessing progress at this point. I thought it would be useful to share with you and partners my conclusions.

Partners involved in the LAA are to be commended for retaining their focus on what needs to be achieved through the current agreement whilst at the same time investing considerable time and effort in agreeing a robust Sustainable Community Strategy and starting work on the new LAA.

There are some real areas of strength that have continued to make exceptional progress as we reach what would have been the half way point on the LAA1 and is the half way point on your reward targets.

Firstly, progress on the EDE stretch target on skills - 80% of target met in 37.5% of delivery period. Secondly, PPO's - progress seems to be strong and a real success story. Thirdly, recycling - the target of 33% is being well exceeded, as current performance is 40% countywide recycling and composting. The strong performance on these targets shows the importance of partnership working between the County, Districts and agencies across both in the statutory and voluntary sector.

Turning now to the areas of risk identified at last review and progress on these:

1) Teenage pregnancy : This has made some real progress through the focus on 10 hot spot schools and increased provision in emergency hormonal contraception. However, we still have concerns that the targets may not be met due to the timelag in the data. Teenage pregnancy was discussed at the DCFS priorities meeting on 19 Nov and no

additional actions identified by the GOSE Children Services Adviser at this stage. It will continue to need to be a high priority for action.

2) Smoking cessation - the annual review identified a need to ensure that effective recording and monitoring was in place. The report highlighted that an action plan has been developed and weekly meetings are taking place between the smoking cessation task force and the Director of Public Health. At this stage my conclusion is that you are confident that the actions put in place will ensure success in meeting this target.

3) Increase the number of those supported to live at home. The PSB report highlighted that this target is expected to met in the longer term. There does not appear to be any significant risks to delivery that require additional remedial action. However, this is an important issue and will no doubt be discussed during the course of our LAA2 negotiations.

4) Young people and tourism – work on setting a baseline and target has been progressed. But this target is a good example of where local targets can be difficult to establish and measure.

5) Affordable housing – there were significant issues that needed to be resolved regarding this target's baseline and measurement. These have been resolved and progress is reported to be on track to meet this stretch target. Crucial to this target is the need for ongoing review by the housing partnership.

6) Crime – especially wounding. The annual review identified a need for the production of action plans to support areas of under performance. This you reported is in hand. Although you had earlier written to highlight the potential impact that cuts in the stronger and safer fund might have, this does not appear to have adversely affected performance of this block.

There are however some areas of significant concern this period to GOSE.

1) Fear of crime – this is disproportionately high compared to the actual levels of crime. This was debated and it was agreed that the PSB would review this after the Safer Partnership had considered this further. This would seem to be a helpful way of progressing this.

2) Performance on the CYP target on GCSE performance is of concern as it is below the planned trajectory. This will be taken up by the GOSE CSA, Pauline Maddison during her discussions with Oxfordshire's Director of Children's Services. I was encouraged that the PSB debated the need for wider partner involvement to support this target on attainment and identified some wider actions in support of this target - encouraging community support for schools; improving the links between schools and the business sector and looking at whether there were any trends in inequalities and addressing these. These actions were taken away by the Oxfordshire LA Children's team and it would be helpful for the PSB to take early action to review progress on these before the next review.

Mandatory targets not reported on

Health target – all –age, all-cause mortality – data will not be available until December. It would be helpful to have an update when this is available.

Any proposals to alter targets as a result of flooding:

I questioned the PSB as to whether the effect on tourism by the flooding was likely to affect the existing EDE3 local target – increase the value of tourism. It was thought not as the effects of flooding had been short term. Please can you confirm that this is the case and if any consideration needs to be given by GOSE as to the effects of flooding on any of your targets.

Implications from the review for LAA2

GOSE has identified skills as one of the LAA2 priorities and as the targeting is likely to focus on same deprived areas, we will need to work with you to ensure that sufficiently ambitious targets are agreed that have a real impact on people's lives. Tackling deprivation and narrowing the gap is an important aspiration that has strong support by us in GOSE as well as with yourselves and partners in Oxfordshire.

The discussion highlighted for me that the EDE 2 target on enterprise has not been a particularly useful target and it has been difficult to set baselines. If any enterprise targets are proposed as part of the LAA for local targets you will want to ensure that will not be an issue.

The debate on the fear of crime highlighted an important issue in that there is a need to better understand why your perception indicators are out of kilter with the actual crime rates. I look forward to hearing the conclusion of the Safer partnership on this issue which will come back to the PSB, hopefully in January.

Household waste recycling, as stated above, is a real area of strength. However, we will need to see real added value as to why this should be included in the designated indicator set if this is proposed.

CYP attainment at GCSE is likely to be a key focus for the new LAA. Also identified was the issue of encouraging employers and young people that learning whilst earning was crucial.

Partnership working and the LAA

The enhanced reporting system has made it easier for all involved in the LAA to track progress and I look forward to this providing a firm foundation for the future.

I would however urge you to progress the review of partnerships and their memberships. This will ensure that as the LAA2 develops clear lines of accountability are in place that link the lead delivery partnerships and their Chairs or nominated spokespersons to the LSP, so that the LSP can empower them to deliver on their behalf and carry out its role as a strategic, cross-cutting body.

Finally, just to confirm that GOSE consider that the direction of travel is positive with improvements on a number of fronts over the past six months. There is a need to maintain momentum on the targets identified as of concern at the annual review but real progress has been made on a number of key issues. The focus on teenage parents, attainment, and crime, along with the perceptions on these will continue to be important I feel for the foreseeable future.

I am also copying this to Paul James, your Partnership Manager at Oxfordshire County Council, for onward communication to other partners as appropriate. I would be happy to take comments on this report either in writing or in person at the PSB on 7 January.

I very much look forward to working with you and your partners over the coming year as you all continue to deliver on the outcomes in your current LAA and we develop the new style LAA for Oxfordshire.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a productive and prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Di Morrish
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