

**The Local Area Agreement
Briefing for Health and Well-Being Partnership Board
13th September 2007**

Introduction

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is an agreement with Central Government, setting out targets on a range of topics which are monitored regularly. The current agreement has been in place since April 2006 and is set to run for 3 years. New guidance has been issued which sets out the parameters for a new-style Local Area Agreement to come into action in mid-2008, effectively during the last year of the existing agreement. Some details of the new LAA (which is being referred to as LAA2) are still unknown, but discussion on the priorities for the new agreement is already underway.

The current LAA

The targets in the current agreement are set out in four main topic areas (Children & Young People, Safer Communities, Environment and Economy and Healthier Communities & Older People). Stretch targets attracted pump priming money and will receive a financial reward when met.

The current stretch targets in the Healthier Communities and Older People block (HCOP) are

- Reduce the number of falls for people in residential homes
- Increase intensive home support

Non-stretch targets include increasing smoking cessation, increasing physical activity, increasing Direct Payments, improving support for Carers and setting up a cross agency referral system to prevent accidents and reduce crime. These targets are managed through the HCOP block programme board.

Some targets in other blocks also have an impact on improving health including in the areas of domestic violence, alcohol and drugs treatment, reducing fear of crime, improving educational outcomes, reducing teenage pregnancy and so on. Full details of all the targets can be found on www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.

The development of LAA2

Work has already begun on developing a Sustainable Community Strategy for Oxfordshire and this will be finalised by December 2007. This will set out the strategic priorities for the county for the medium to long term and be used as a basis for LAA2. This new agreement needs to be ready for sign-off by the Oxfordshire Partnership in early March 2008. The LAA2 targets will cover the period June 2008-2011 and will include 18 statutory Children & Young People targets and up to 35 other targets. Each target must relate to one of the 200 national indicators which are due to be announced in autumn 2007. The targets within the LAA2 will be a focus for the Common Area Assessment when it replaces the Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA).

Some information is still needed to complete this process.

- There will be an announcement of the size of the funding pool for LAA2 – provisional figures are to be announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review (Oct 2007).
- The 200 national indicator set is due to be published soon, and some of the draft indicators have already been circulated for consultation by various government departments, giving some idea of the content of the final set.
- We are also awaiting guidance on how the transition between the current LAA and LAA2 will be managed and this isn't expected until early next year.

A timetable is currently being developed in consultation with GOSE to ensure that key decisions are scheduled into the Oxfordshire Partnership and Public Service Board agendas.

The role of the Health and Well-Being Partnership Board

This Board will have a crucial role in proposing the targets and outcomes for health improvement for LAA2, not only in the HCOP block but across the whole agreement. In order to do this it is proposed that the Board

1. Has an initial discussion on the development of targets for health improvement for the LAA2 at the September meeting.
2. Sets up arrangements for continuing discussion before the next meeting in December, both through the Healthier Communities and Older People programme board and by e-mail.
3. Finalises proposals for inclusion in the LAA2 at the meeting in December.
4. Receives a report on the negotiations with GOSE at the meeting in March 2008 and sets out plans for monitoring the health related targets and outcomes once the LAA2 is implemented from June 08.

Jackie Wilderspin, August 2007