

Area Based Grant (ABG)

Ensuring locally agreed shared targets are fully resourced

The Oxfordshire Partnership has agreed a number of challenging targets in its Local Area Agreement with the government. It is also developing a range of other targets that are important locally. Together these will be published in the *Oxfordshire 2030* Delivery Plan, which is currently out for consultation.

Having identified its priorities and targets the Oxfordshire Partnership needs to ensure that these priorities and targets are fully resourced. The government's Comprehensive Spending Review (2007) allows local authorities more freedom to target resources on priorities. This includes a new approach to grants. The **Area Based Grant** (ABG) (see spreadsheet attached, Annex 1) now brings together a range of funding streams that were previously distributed by government to councils as a number of separate (ring-fenced) grants. The idea of bringing them together as an Area Based Grant is to give the recipients (in the vast majority of cases the recipient is the County Council) more flexibility to aim resources at priorities that have been agreed through partnership – in this instance the priorities in *Oxfordshire 2030* and the new Local Area Agreement (LAA).

The total allocation of ABG funding to Oxfordshire for financial year 2008/09 is just over £26m which includes allocations of £180,000 and £26,000 made to Oxford City and Cherwell District Councils respectively. Details of the composition of ABG are set out in Annex 1. In future years the Government won't publish how this relates back to the old list of specific, ring-fenced grants.

It is important to note that although the money has been brought together into one "pot" it is not new or extra cash and it is currently fully committed to service delivery. There is no pot of unallocated cash. If money is moved from one place to another it will not be replaced, so there are positive and negative impacts to consider. However, these new flexibilities are to be welcomed as they provide what local authorities and other service providers have been telling the government they want – more local determination and less government interference about how resources are used to meet local priorities. It should also be noted that whilst this year one can easily see how the money was previously allocated via the various former ring-fenced grants, in future years only the total figure for the combined ABG will be observable.

What do Thematic Partnerships need to do?

In between meetings of the Health & Well-Being Partnership Board, the Health & Well-Being Officers Group are reviewing the resourcing arrangements for LAA and other key targets relevant to the Board's remit. They will do this by:

1. establishing how the ABG funding streams relevant to the health and well-being arena are currently being used and identifying any opportunities to use funding differently in the future to ensure that targets are met;
2. considering how they will factor this into the resource/ business planning of each organisation involved across the medium term planning timescale, but especially for the next financial year (2009-10);
3. providing assurance to the Public Service Board in September that partner organisations – including those who currently hold funding that is in the ABG – will be fully involved in any proposals and that planning processes are in place.

RECOMMENDATION

The Health & Well-Being Partnership Board is asked to endorse this approach and to instruct the HWBP Officer's Group to develop proposals for funding LAA and key local targets to the Public Service Board meeting in November.

Partnership / Former Specific Grant	Paid to	Govt Dept	Allocations			Description of Current Use
			2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
			£000	£000	£000	
Children's Trust						
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Grant (CAMHS)	County Council	DoH	701	739	778	Received for several years; funds joint strategies with NHS/other agencies to develop CAMHS; spent on pCAMHS and social workers in CAMHS teams, plus small projects; use directed by CAMHS Strategy Group
Carers Grant (Children)	County Council	DoH	417	449	481	Received for at least 6 years; used to support carers (both parent and young); over 75% contributes to cost of Barnardos residential short break centres for disabled and young carers breaks fund held by Carers Centres; other significant uses include relief to carer/sitting services for parents of disable children
Children's Fund	County Council	DCSF	869	869	869	Allocated by DCSF since 2003; to provide preventative services for 5-13 year-olds from vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised groups; 25% used to identify/support CYP at risk of crime and anti-social behaviour; funds 30 projects across the county; from April migrates to Children's Trust; extended funding for projects agreed for 1 year and tendering process planned for Years 2 & 3
Connexions	County Council	DCSF	4,914	4,669	4,658	Received by OCC since 07/08, formerly a long-term grant to MKOB quango from DCSF; used for statutory responsibilities for progression focused on formation, advice and guidance, LDD assessments and support to school/college based Careers Education; Connexions provision through 3 agreements - private provider, voluntary sector consortium and OCC departments, plus centralised commissioning and management etc; currently in process of re-commissioning contracts from Sept 2008
Positive Activities for Young People	County Council	DCSF	178	306	397	This grant was originally NOF funding routed through MKOB Connexions (started 2002 ?); then through YOS and YSS from last year; rationale to address the need for enhanced positive activity with vulnerable groups; plans to set up a multi-agency group, some work contracted, some in-house; targets in line with PSA 14 indicators.
Standards Fund Grants:						
School Development Grant - LA Element	County Council	DCSF	1,835	1,835	1,835	A number of grants merged as SDG from 04/05; devolved element remained in schools budgets, leaving this centrally retained element with the LA; currently used 37% on SEN, 36% on Excellence in Cities work, 19% on development work.
Extended Schools Start Up Costs	County Council	DCSF	925	1,593	655	One of two grants for ES - the other (Sustainability) not in ABG, totals £4.1m over 3 years; purpose to support all schools being ES by 2010, achieving the Full Core Offer; distribution has been 60% to partnerships, 30% to central support/training; 10% specific projects; future plans include larger % to partnerships tied to clear targets.
School Improvement Partners	County Council	DCSF	289	289	289	First received 06/07; purpose to support, rather than fully fund, requirement that all schools should have a SIP; role to monitor, challenge and support; pays for salaries, consultants fees, reimbursement of host schools HT costs.
Education Health Partnerships	County Council	DCSF	135	120	120	First received in 2002 from DoH to support implementation of local Healthy Schools Programme; majority spent on staffing (Co-ordinator and Consultant) to recruit schools into HSP and support them in achieving Healthy Schools Status; aim to meet national/local targets - 100% in Programme and 85% HS Status by Dec 09 - plus support for revalidation (every 3 years).
Choice Advisers	County Council	DCSF	37	37	37	First received 06/07 from DFES; purpose to advise/support families (esp hard to reach) in choice of school; used for part-time adviser (post currently vacant) and information leaflets; plans to recruit 2/3 part-timers.
School Intervention	County Council	DCSF	189	189	189	First received 06/07; purpose "to provide support to LAs to foster new and constructive support arrangements between strong and weak schools or other partners"; spent on a range of collaborative arrangements between schools, consultants and LA services; commitments already entered into (eg. Dashwood and Hook Norton); others anticipated, esp schools recently placed in an Ofsted category.
Flexible 14-19 Partnership Funding	County Council	DCSF	159	159	160	Received since before 2004; purpose to promote 14-19 reform; in 05/06 and 06/07 supplemented by post inspection budget; spent on programme co-ordinator, software licences, consultancy and consortium co-ordinator; need to continue project management and increase use of software for area-wide prospectus, common-application process and individual learning plans.
Extended Rights to Free Travel	County Council	DCSF	179	329	479	New grant in 07/08 (£54k); to support statutory requirement of Ed & Insp Act 2006 - extension of LA duty to provide free transport to disadvantaged pupils; to be used to cover claims from low income families exercising their right to school choice outside local community; to be integrated into sustainable school travel strategy.
Sustainable Travel	County Council	DCSF	52	52	52	First received 07/08; to support Sustainable School Travel Strategy as part of Ed & Insp Act 2006; Strategy to Cabinet in March 08; will contribute to costs associated with changes to travel plans arising from pilot schemes.
Secondary Nat Strategy - Behaviour & Att	County Council	DCSF	183	183	183	} Received since 2001/02; used to fund salaries of consultants and administrators, plus resources and venues for } training
Secondary Nat Strategy - Central Coordination	County Council	DCSF	268	267	267	}
Primary Nat Strategy - Central Coordination	County Council	DCSF	319	320	320	Received for past 5 years; provided to support administration of Primary Strategy and training associated with frameworks for literacy and numeracy; pays for 4 staff, consultants (10+); other support costs; plans to deliver DCSF initiatives, such as ISP courses.
Teenage Pregnancy	County Council	DCSF	160	160	160	Received since start of government strategy in 1998; used on projects and initiatives, including staffing costs for related posts; all initiatives have aim of longevity and mainstreaming into statutory or voluntary agencies; all spend approved through joint commissioning strategy and annual planning by the Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Board.
Care Matters White Paper	County Council	DCSF	246	345	403	Initial small grant in 07/08 (£22k); used for peer mentoring/activities/activity co-ordinator to complement DCSF pilot on Healthy Care; plans for activities to meet new Bill; corporate parenting/policy officer; service manager/family support workers & social workers to support Children Looked After, etc
Child Death Review Processes	County Council	DCSF	54	56	58	New grant 08/09; purpose to support new statutory responsibilities of the Local Safeguarding Children Board; effective from April 08.
Young People's Substance Misuse	County Council	HO/DCSF/DH	107	107	107	

OXFORDSHIRE AREA BASED GRANT ALLOCATION 2008/09 TO 2010/11

Annex 1

Partnership / Former Specific Grant	Paid to	Govt Dept	Allocations			Description of Current Use
			2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
			£000	£000	£000	
School Travel Advisors Grant	County Council	DCSF	92	92	92	Received since 2004; purpose to support LAs in helping all schools to develop a Travel Plan; spent on Personal School Travel Advisors (2.5 fte); plan to continue funding of PSTAs to achieve target of all schools having a Plan by March 2010; updating of older Plans also required.
Children's Social Care Workforce	County Council	DCSF	137	138	138	Formerly spent on training and development of Childrens Workforce; activities included assessors for NVQ in Childrens Social Care; resource to deliver CAF and Childrens Induction Standards; programme of events to underpin competencies required for NVQ, etc; recruitment fairs and workshops for the independent sector; a review is taking place of the training needs for the Childrens Workforce.
sub-total			12,445	13,303	12,727	
Health and well-being						
Carers Grant (Adult)	County Council	DoH	1,669	1,795	1,922	Received pre-2000; purpose to encourage LAs to develop personalised, innovative and high quality carers services in response to local needs; main element (60%) spent on service agreements with carers organisations; balance on residential beds and home support.
Mental Capacity Advocacy Service	County Council	DoH	223	283	273	First received 07/08; purpose to train staff to understand implications of Mental Capacity Act, commission an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate service, increase staff time for assessment of capacity etc; spent on external IMCA service and training; plans for a Mental Capacity Lead; IMCA service required to ensure compliant with deprivation of liberty obligation.
Mental Health Grant	County Council	DoH	1,171	1,233	1,296	Received since pre-2000; used for delivery of mental health services; helps fund the OCC contributions to the 2 Mental Health Pools.
Preserved Rights	County Council	DoH	2,893	2,794	2,693	First received 2002/03; purpose to help LAs meet costs of residential care for a new group of people - those who had previously paid care home costs themselves using higher rate income support.
Learning Disability Development Fund	County Council	DoH	367	367	368	Paid to PCT and passed to OCC since 2003/04; purpose to support priorities for service change in Learning Disabilities to meet the Valuing People Strategy objectives; spent on various improvements, eg. pilot project to provide more flexible respite care, and supporting the work of the LD Partnership Board.
Local Involvement Networks	County Council	DoH	222	223	223	New grant in 08/09; purpose to provide individuals/groups with opportunity to express views on local health and social care services and influence planning of services; planned to contract with host organisation to run the LINK.
Adult Social Care Workforce	County Council	DoH	1,268	1,312	1,356	Formerly spent on training and development of Adults Workforce; activities included assessors for NVQ in Adult Social Care; programme of events to underpin competencies required for NVQ, recruitment fairs and workshops for the independent sector, a review is taking place of the training needs for the Adult Workforce.
sub-total			7,813	8,007	8,131	
Supporting People						
Supporting People - Administration	County Council	CLG	406	374	320	First received in 2002/03; purpose to manage the administration of the SP programme effectively and maintain IT systems providing financial and statistical information; currently spent on the SP Team; reduction in grant in 08/09.
Supporting People	County Council	CLG		17,018	16,167	
sub-total			406	17,392	16,487	
Public Service Board						
Detrunking of Non-Core Routes	County Council	DfT	1,662	1,703	1,746	Received since 2001; purpose is the maintenance of "less strategic roads" (eg. A40, A420, A41, A44); based on national formula; used for routine repairs (eg. patching, safety fencing, cyclic maintenance).
Road Safety Partnerships	County Council	DfT	1,334	1,190	1,146	Received in present form since 2007/08; OCC cost of Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership funded from this grant (mainly for operation/maintenance of speed cameras); balance spent on Speed Indicator Device staff, Mobile Safety Exhibition Unit and education/training programmes.
Rural Bus Services Grant	County Council	DfT	1,592	1,634	1,676	Received since 1998; purpose to fund rural services introduced after that date; one-third of all services funded by OCC now funded by this grant; plus 2 administrative staff.
sub-total			4,588	4,527	4,568	
Safer Communities						
Stronger Safer Communities Fund	County Council	HO	652	652	652	Originally a Home Office grant made direct to District Councils to support activities of CDRPs; since 2006/07 paid to OCC on behalf of the Safer Communities Partnership; used for countywide, district based and local crime and disorder reduction activities; plans are programmed by CDRPs, TVP and OCC Safer Communities Unit, annual plans are prepared and receive elected member and partner approval; additional contributions made by various partners.
Youth Task Force	Oxford City	DCSF	75	75	75	
Preventing Violent Extremism	Oxford City	CLG	105	125	131	
Cohesion	Cherwell District	CLG	26	49	75	
sub-total			858	901	933	
TOTAL AREA BASED GRANT			26,110	44,130	42,846	

ABG - Significant changes 09/10 & 10/11

- 1 All 33 grants in 08/09 continue in 2 following years
- 2 "Supporting People ...added from 09/10 (£17.018m)
- 3 Extended Schools Startup Costs ..."jumps" in 09/10
...drops in 10/11
- 4 Connexions drops ...drops in 09/10
- 5 Extended Rights to free travel ...jumps in 09/10
...jumps again in 10/11
- 6 Care Matters White Paper ...jumps in 09/10
...jumps again in 10/11
- 7 Preserved Rights ...drops in 09/10 and 10/11
- 8 Supporting People Admin ...drops in 09/10 and 10/11
- 9 Supporting People ...drops in 10/11