



To: Community Services Scrutiny Committee
Report by: Executive Councillor for Community Development & Health – Cllr. Tim Bick
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee
Wards affected: All Wards

Draft: LAA Performance Report 2009/10 – CAMBRIDGESHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST

Not a Key Decision

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The City Council is a key partner in Cambridgeshire Together. This partnership has overall responsibility for negotiating the Local Area Agreement for Cambridgeshire and making sure it is delivered.
- 1.2 Cambridgeshire Together has delegated responsibility for delivery of targets within the LAA to 6 thematic strategic partnerships. Partnership arrangements are presently being reviewed and it is likely that there will be fewer partnership bodies in the future.
- 1.3 An Executive Councillor from the City Council sits on Cambridgeshire Together and each of the thematic strategic partnerships. It was agreed that they present an annual report on performance against their partnership's LAA targets to the relevant City Council Scrutiny Committee. This paper is one of six providing this report.

2. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider the 2009/10 year-end performance against the LAA indicators that have been assigned to the Community Wellbeing Partnership.
- 2.2 Advise the Executive Councillor of any issues or suggestions for further action that the partnership should consider to improve performance against the indicators.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Cambridgeshire is an agreement between the government and Cambridgeshire County Council and its partners for improving selected services and getting better outcomes for local people. It contains a number of targets (55) and the intention was for the government to appraise performance against these, with the possibility of Reward Grant being distributed based on their achievement, at the end of a 3 year period (2008/09 to 2010/11). This grant has now been withdrawn, as a part of the new government's public spending review, and it is unlikely that a "refreshed" LAA will be in place after April 2011.
- 3.2 Cambridgeshire Together is the body responsible for overseeing the LAA and acts as the Local Strategic Partnership for Cambridgeshire. It has assigned responsibility for developing and delivering actions to bring about the improvements in the LAA to 6 thematic strategic partnerships, involving elected members, who work with specialist officers with responsibility for services contributing to the targets in their area. Some of the partnerships existed before the LAA and have a wider remit. Partnership arrangements are presently being reviewed and it is likely that there will be fewer county-wide partnership bodies in the future, especially if there is no LAA to deliver.
- 3.3 Many City Council staff are presently involved in partnership work. Partnership working, when effective, can have major benefits for the City Council. For example, it can help us to deliver our own objectives such as sustainable growth and reducing CO₂ emissions by influencing the priorities of partners and the way in which they deliver their services.
- 3.4 Cambridge Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) set out a vision for the City in its Sustainable Community Strategy. This helped inform the Vision for Cambridgeshire, which in turn set the priorities that formed the focus of the LAA. Therefore, if the LAA is successfully delivered, the City's Sustainable Community Strategy will, to a large extent, also be delivered.
- 3.5 Cambridge LSP has now merged with South Cambridgeshire LSP to form a single LSP covering both districts. It continues to monitor the performance of the LAA locally and is looking to ensure that local partnerships and lead partners are contributing effectively to its achievement. One key task for the new LSP over the next year will be to prepare a shared Sustainable Community Strategy. This will involve consulting partnerships and other stakeholders about local priorities. The approach to developing the strategy may need to change,

however, with the emergence of new frameworks and reference points from the government.

- 3.6 Cambridge City Council has nominated Executive members to each of the 6 thematic strategic partnerships, to the Cambridgeshire Together Board and Cambridge Local Strategic Partnership. As well as helping to facilitate better partnership working and bringing about service improvements across partner agencies, the Council agreed that Executive members would give an account of the partnerships work to their scrutiny committees, so that scrutiny committee members can assess progress.
- 3.7 This report focuses on the performance of indicators, overseen by this partnership, that have been assigned LAA targets.

4. Introduction to Cambridgeshire Children's Trust

- 4.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership agreed at their meeting of 11 September 2009 to the decommissioning of the strategic partnership and the formation of the new Cambridgeshire Children's Trust. This had been required by legislation.
- 4.1 The Cambridgeshire Children's Trust is the sum total of co-operative arrangements and partnerships between organisations with a role in improving outcomes for children and young people. The Cambridgeshire Children's Trust Board is the statutory group for ensuring that Trust arrangements work in Cambridgeshire. Councillor Tim Bick represents the City Council on the Board.
- 4.2 The purpose of the Children's Trust Board ("the Board") is to set the strategic direction and commissioning of services in Cambridgeshire in order to improve outcomes for children and young people. The way this will be done is through the BigPlan2 and Children's Workforce Strategy. The Board has a strong relationship with the Local Safeguarding Children Board and they support and challenge the Board in its work.
- 4.3 Supporting the Board in delivering this work are the Children's Trust Executive and the Children and Young People's Area Partnerships. The area partnership covering the City is the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Area Partnership, one of the three such area partnerships in the county. Area partnerships allow local service providers and service users to engage with the Board, bringing forward local issues.

4.4 Cambridgeshire Children's Trust has agreed the following four priorities for children and young people in Cambridgeshire for the next twelve months.

Priority One: To help children and young people feel safe and happy in their communities by:

- Providing safe places to play and access to positive activities (including play and sport)
- Tackling bullying and discrimination
- Reducing accidents and intentional injuries to children and young people
- Reducing the number of children and young people involved in antisocial behaviour and criminal activity
- Promoting positive images of young people

Priority Two: To narrow the gap in outcomes for children and young people by:

- Improving achievement for all and narrowing the gap for specific groups of children and young people
- Improving health for all and narrowing the gap in health outcomes for specific groups of children and young people

Priority Three: To improve outcomes for children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities and complex needs

Priority Four: To meet the needs of children and young people in areas of growth or demographic change

4.5 Other key work underway currently is to consider both the needs identified in the new Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for children and young people and individual organisational requirements in order to determine priorities for the Trust for collective and individual agency action. This work will be finalised in October.

4.6 The Cambridgeshire Children's Board has overseen the performance monitoring of the following LAA targets:

- NI 51 - Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services
- NI 54 – Services for disabled children
- NI 69 – Children who have experienced bullying (LOCAL TARGET)
- NI 70 Hospital admissions for children/young people for intentional and non-intentional injuries

- NI 110 – Young people’s participation in positive activities
- NI 111 – First time entrants to the Youth Justice System
- NI 112 – Under 18 conception rate
- NI 117 16-18 in NEET

5.0 Performance against LAA targets

5.1 Overall the majority of performance indicators in this area were thought to be on target. The following LAA indicators, shown in Table 1, overseen by this partnership had missed its target at the end of the second year.

Table1: Underperforming Indicators at end of year 2009/10

NI	Description	Baseline	Current Performance	Target 2009/10
NI 112	Equality & Inclusion Under 18 conception rate	-16.2%	-15% (2007/08)	-37.7%
NI 117	Equality & Inclusion 16-18 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	5%	5.5%	4.8%

5.2 The target to **reduce the under 18 conception rate** in Cambridgeshire is hampered by the 14 month delay in the publication of the data, due to the way it is collected. In 2007 Cambridgeshire saw a small rise in the conception rate (rate per 1,000 girls aged 15 to17), which mirrored a national increase in rates. This increase equates to only 6 conceptions across the county. Across districts progress has been variable and although the City has seen a reduction (just over 11% against the baseline of 37 per 1,000 girls aged 15 – 17 years old) the numbers are relatively low (at 33.1per 1,000 girls aged 15-17 years old) making targeted action difficult in some places. Teenage pregnancy is linked to a wide variety of factors such as deprivation levels, educational attainment at schools, involvement in crime, looked after children, etc.

5.3 The Sexual Health and Teenage Pregnancy Partnership is guiding work in this area and has implemented a number of projects that will make a difference in reducing conceptions. This partnership is only guaranteed funding until the end of 2010/11 and there is uncertainty about whether the work of the team will continue in the future. If the target is not achieved there will still have been significant

improvements from the work, including the improved sexual health of young people.

5.4 The **percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)** in the county rose during the course of the year reflecting the decrease in employment opportunities for young people. This was partially offset by an increase, during the same period, of the number of 16 to 18s remaining in learning.

5.5 At present (prior to the start of the new academic year) it is difficult to ascertain performance because many young people haven't decided to take up of their entitlement to an offer of a place in learning yet. The position in the City has improved from a peak of 7.4% at the height of the recession to just over 6% or 182, 16 – 18 year old people. Cambridge LSP partners were encouraged to offer a range of work related learning opportunities for young people, particularly apprenticeships at a meeting in November 2009. The LSP also agreed to re-direct some of its Reward Grant allocation to support work to reduce the number of NEETS in the City.

6.0 Local issues affecting performance of LAA targets

6.1 The Area Partnership assists with the delivery and review of Big Plan 2 activities and targets. It also provides a vehicle for researching and promoting action on local needs. In 2009 the City and County Councils jointly commissioned research into the needs of children and young people living in deprivation and at risk of disaffection across South Cambs and the City. This research has been used to inform the development of a programme of activities prioritising work on bullying, access to mental health services and on the provision of social and recreation opportunities in isolated or underprovided areas and neighbourhoods.

7. Implications

7.1 The LAA sets out shared priorities and agreed targets for partners across the County, including Cambridge City Council. Failure to meet these targets will have an impact on the quality of life of County residents.

Financial

7.2 Failure to meet all the LAA targets at the end of the 3 year period (2008/09 – 2010/11) will reduce the amount of grant awarded to Cambridgeshire Together, assuming this is allocated.

Staff

7.3 A considerable number of City Council staff from all departments are working with partners to deliver the LAA.

Equal Opportunities

7.4 Equality and Inclusion is a key strand of the LAA

Community Safety

7.5 Safer and Stronger Communities is a key strand of the LAA

8. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Cambridgeshire Area Self Assessment – May 2010

Local Area Agreement, Year End Performance Report - May 2010

Proposals for a New Model of Partnership Working – May 2010

Cambridge LSP, Performance Management Report – January 2010

[Children and Young Living in Deprivation, the Disaffected and at Risk of Disaffection – March 2010](#)

9. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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