

REPORT TO: Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 16 September 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Local Area Agreement and Community Strategy Progress 2007/2008

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise on progress towards targets set in the Community Strategy and 2007 Local Area Agreement.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Policy and Performance Board:

- (1) receives the progress report; and**
- (2) identifies any areas of concern where further information should be requested for a future meeting of the Board.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Council and its partners adopted a revised Community Strategy in April 2006. The Strategy contained targets for its key objectives for the period 2006 to 2011. These targets were subsequently incorporated into the 2007 Local Area Agreement.

3.2 Appendix 1 to this report summarises progress in 2007/8 and indicates the likelihood of achieving the Local Area Agreement and Community Strategy targets as they relate to the interests of this Policy and Performance Board. A more detailed commentary on individual indicators and targets is available for inspection on the council's intranet site at the following address: <http://intranet/documents/rni/infoleps/pbb/>. It presents an opportunity to reflect on progress made by the council and its partnerships. Where targets appear unlikely to be achieved, the board may, if it has not already done so, wish to request further information on the steps being taken to address under-performance. It may be appropriate to do this jointly with partners or the relevant specialist strategic partnership (SSP).

4.0 FUTURE REPORTING

4.1 Members are aware that the 2007 Local Area Agreement has now been replaced by a revised Agreement signed by Ministers in June 2008. The LAA 2008 incorporates just 32 indicators plus 16 statutory Children and Early Years indicators. Targets for these 48 indicators were agreed with Government and will be the basis for performance monitoring of Halton.

It was chosen not to include additional local indicators in the LAA on the grounds that our Community Strategy already sets out our priorities and targets for Halton, and we will continue to monitor progress in delivering the Community Strategy locally.

- 4.2 For 2008/09 onwards, we will therefore be reporting progress on both the new Local Area Agreement and the Community Strategy. This will form the basis for the area assessment by the Audit Commission as part of the new comprehensive area assessment.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The delivery of the Community Strategy is the central plank of our Policy Framework.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Achievement of our Community Strategy targets has direct implications for our Comprehensive Area Assessment. Further consideration of any areas of under-performance may give rise to other implications for the Council.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 7.1 This report deals directly with progress on delivering one of our five priorities.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The key risk is failure to improve the quality of life for residents in Halton in accordance with the objectives of our Community Strategy. This risk can be mitigated by regular reporting of performance and reviewing the action being taken where under-performance occurs.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

One of the guiding principles of the Community Strategy is to reduce inequalities in Halton.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Community Strategy 2006 – 2011)	
) 2 nd Floor	Rob MacKenzie
Local Area Agreement 2007) Municipal Building	0151 471 7416
)	
Local Area Agreement 2008)	