

REPORT TO: Employment Learning and Skills Policy And Performance Board

DATE: 14th January 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Local Area Agreement Performance Report

WARDS: Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report on progress towards meeting Local Area Agreement targets at the end of the first six months of the Agreement.

2. RECOMMENDATION THAT:

- i. The report is noted.
- ii. The Board considers whether it requires any further information on the actions being taken to deliver the LAA targets.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Secretary of State signed off the revised Local Area Agreement (LAA) in June 2008. The purpose of the LAA is to agree a set of targets for Halton with government and local partners. Named partners have a duty to co-operate in striving to achieve these targets. There are 34 indicators in the LAA, plus a further 16 statutory education and early years targets. The agreement covers the period April 2008 to March 2011.

A report on progress over the first 6 months of the Agreement is attached at Appendix 1, covering those indicators which fall within the responsibilities of this particular Policy and Performance Board.

Given that the Agreement was only signed in June, this first progress report reflects a very early stage in the Agreement's life. In reading the report members should bear in mind that:

1. As all the national indicators are built into service plan monitoring, the information in the appendix has already been before the Board. The intention of this report is pick out the LAA indicators from the different service plans so that it is possible to see a clearer picture of progress overall.

2. It was not possible to set targets for all of the chosen indicators in June for lack of baseline information. For example, the first Places Survey is only just taking place so there was no background against which to set targets for indicators that are reliant on that survey.
3. Some indicators are only reported annually, so in those cases no progress report is yet available.

4. LAA REVIEW AND REFRESH

A process has just begun to “Review and refresh” the LAA with government office. The main purpose is:

1. To fill in the gaps – by February 2009 information should be available to fill in the missing baselines and targets.
2. To update baselines and targets for a small number of indicators following changes to definitions.
3. To consider if there are significant changes in context which make it necessary to amend targets even at this early stage (for example, the impact of the recession).

5. CONCLUSION

This is an early stage in the progress of the Local Area Agreement, but it is an opportunity to take stock of current progress and to check that appropriate delivery plans are in place.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Local Area Agreement acts as a delivery plan for the sustainable community strategy and as such is central to our policy framework.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Achievement of our Local Area Agreement 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 and its partners.

8. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES

This report deals directly with progress and delivering one of our five priorities.

9. RISK ANALYSIS

The key risk is failure to improve the quality of life for residents of 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.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

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


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

Document:

Local Area Agreement 2008. Place of inspection 2nd floor Municipal Building.
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APPENDIX

LAA PERFORMANCE REPORT EMPLOYMENT LEARNING AND SKILLS PPB (APRIL 08 - SEPTEMBER 2008)

Target Ref	Indicator Description	Baseline (2007/08 unless specified otherwise)				Current Performance (30.09.08)
NI 153 WNF Reward Indicator	Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods	31.6%	30.8%	30.6%		<p>There has been a slight increase at the half-year point, reflecting a general rise in unemployment as a result of the prevailing economic conditions.</p> <p>Performance is still very close to target, and all efforts will be made to keep it stable throughout the second half of the year.</p>
NI 163 WNF Reward Indicator	Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher	60.2 (2006)	-	65.4	-	<p>Data for this indicator is based on the annual survey that will be undertaken by the Office of National Statistics.</p> <p>Information in relation to this indicator is derived by the Department of Innovation, University & Skills from the ONS Annual Population Survey.</p>
NI 171	New business registration rate C4	New national Indicator – Targets to be set in March 2009 when baseline data is available.				N/A
NI 173 WNF Reward Indicator	People falling out of work and on to incapacity benefits. C4	New National Indicator - Targets to be set in March 2009 when baseline data available.				N/A