



'WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER STOCKPORT'

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

2008/09 6 MONTH PERFORMANCE REPORT

APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2008

PRODUCED NOVEMBER 2008



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1. INTRODUCTION

In March 2006, the Stockport Partnership signed its first Local Area Agreement (LAA) with central government. That initial LAA has now been replaced by the 2008/11 agreement which contains:

- 27 'designated' improvement targets from the national indicator set (NIS)
- 16 education and early years targets from the NIS
- Local improvement measures (NIS and local indicators)
- 2006/09 reward targets

The LAA is the delivery plan for the Partnership's emerging Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and to further strengthen the agreement, a number of improvement measures reflecting specific local issues are being developed. These measures will be included in the agreement as part of the refresh process which takes place in early 2009. As such, the local improvement measures are not included in this report. It should be noted that the LAA refresh process provides an opportunity to review and revise existing measures and targets to take account of new information and changing circumstances. This is particularly relevant in light of the current economic decline which will have an impact across the whole LAA and as such targets will need to reflect this.

This report provides an overview of performance of the first 6 months of this LAA (April-September 2008) and focuses on the 27 designated targets, the 16 Education and Early Years Targets and an update on the final year of the 2006/09 reward targets from the previous LAA.¹ Full details of performance are provided at Appendices 1 & 2. Appendix 3 provides a brief summary of activities and outcomes planned and achieved by each of the thematic partnerships. This sets the context for the delivery of the LAA. Performance in relation to the non-reward targets from the previous 2006/09 LAA are superseded by the new LAA, although some will continue to be reported locally, within appropriate plans and strategies.

Performance in this report has been assessed and rated using a 'red', 'amber' and 'green' judgement. The criteria as determined by GONW, for these judgements are as follows:

- Red** *There are serious risks to the delivery of the outcomes of this theme and to a significant proportion of the targets set out under it. Many of the risks remain to be addressed.*
- Amber** *There are risks to the delivery of the outcomes of this theme and to some of the targets set out under it. However, there are plans and actions in place that are likely to address these.*
- Green** *There are no more than minor risks to the delivery of the outcomes of this theme and to a small proportion of the targets set out under it. Where risks exist there are clear plans and actions in place that will address them.*

¹ The one exception to this is the indicator **Alcohol related hospital admissions (Local version of NI 39)** which by agreement with Government Office this is being reported here in the same way as the designated indicators

Given the early stage of the LAA and the annual frequency of collection for many of the indicators, it should be noted that data is not yet available for 30% of the LAA measures. Where appropriate, progress in relation to activities and initiatives is reported in the relevant sections of the report.

It should be noted that there is a considerable lag in the availability of data for some targets which affect the ability to accurately forecast future performance particularly in the current uncertain economic climate.

2. OVERALL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Overall, the Partnership has made a positive start in delivering the outcomes identified within the LAA. 50% of measures are rated as 'green' and only 7% (3 measures) rated as 'red'. Figure 1 provides a summary by theme and figure 2 provides a summary of the performance ratings for indicators in each theme.

Figure 1 : Performance Summary by Theme
(based on GONW risk criteria identified above)

Children and Young People	Amber
Adult Health and Well Being / Tackling Exclusion and Promoting Equality	Green
Local Economy	Amber
Stronger and Safer Communities	Amber
Environmental Sustainability	Green

Figure 2 : Statistical Breakdown of Performance Indicators
(based on projected achievement of 2008/09 targets)

LAA Theme	Traffic Light Status								Total	
	Red		Amber		Green		Unknown			
Children and Young People	3	14%	4	18%	7	32%	8	36%	22	100%
Adult Health and Well Being/Tackling Exclusion and Promoting Equality	0	0%	1	20%	4	80%	0	0%	5	100%
Local Economy	0	0%	0	0%	4	100%	0	0%	4	100%
Stronger and Safer Communities	0	0%	1	13%	1	13%	6	75%	8	100%
Environmental Sustainability	1	11%	0	0%	8	89%	0	0%	9	100%
Overall	4	8%	6	13%	24	50%	14	29%	48	100%

Performance is currently particularly positive in the adult and well being/tackling exclusion and promoting equality and environmental sustainability themes which are rated as green. While the local economy theme is rated as amber, all measures are on track to achieve the targets. The amber rating has been assigned to reflect the increased risk of achieving outcomes associated with the national economic downturn. Data is available for only 2 out of the 8 measures in the Stronger and Safer theme but good progress is being made to deliver

outcomes. Whilst Children and Young People report instances of amber and red in relation to some of the indicator within that theme, examples of strong performance is also reported.

There is also a positive picture on delivery of 2006/09 Reward Targets, with 85% projected to attract in the region of £6.6 million of the £7.7m Performance Reward Grant available. Progress continues with the target to bring long term unemployed people back into work. Achievement of the Foundation Stage target remains the biggest challenge, with just one of the four elements projected to attract any Reward Grant. This area has, however shown significant improvement in the last academic year, with performance well ahead of peer authorities. It should be noted that the final targets for the measures based on academic years will be for summer 2009. Targets to maintain breastfeeding rates are also challenging. Additional intensive support for first time mothers is now being provided to boost performance in the last two quarters. The forecast for reducing the number of 16-18 year olds not in employment, education or training remains significantly below target, with new data not expected until the 4th quarter.

Particular examples of positive performance include the following:

- Outstanding Key Stage 2 results
- Considerable improvement in educational outcomes for children in care
- Improvements in relation to circulatory disease and smoking cessation which are expected to meet the end of year target
- Good progress in combating worklessness in deprived areas and the affordable housing target
- Excellent results for improving cleanliness across the borough

Areas where performance is more challenging include:

- Persistent absence in schools
- The impact of a changing population and economy on the Local Economy
- A dip in performance in relation to the target to decrease serious violent crime. Action plans and initiatives have been developed and this is receiving close monitoring and attention.

3. DETAILED COMMENTARY BY THEME

3.1 Children & Young People

AMBER

Highlights

Positive performance is reported in relation to the Children and Young People theme. Provisional results are available for some academic indicators and strong performance continues.

- **Foundation Stage** (NI 72, NI 92) – Strong performance is reported. The percentage of pupils achieving at least 78 points at Foundation Stage has increased by 5 percentage points and is 10 percentage points above the national average. This excellent performance is due to the roll out of the Early Years Foundation Stage across all settings and the embedding of the letters and sounds phonic programme following 2007 training. Schools are

provided comprehensive support and there is an ongoing commitment to continuous professional development programmes. There has also been a reduction in the attainment gap between the median score and the lowest 20% following some innovative and targeted interventions.

- **Key Stage 2** (NI 73) – Outstanding results are reported. Stockport is ranked 6th nationally for Reading, Writing and Maths and exceeded its own challenging targets in English and Maths. These impressive results reflect the impact of a range of innovative initiatives including increased training, support and information provided to school leaders and additional curriculum support provided to schools with particular focus on areas of disadvantage through the ‘Making a Difference’ project.
- **Key Stage 3** (NI 74, NI 83) – Provisional results indicate an improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above in both English and Maths and no Stockport schools results fell below the floor target. Senior leadership teams in schools have been supported in developing collaborative planning and data analysis around combined English and Maths performance with appropriate intervention for pupils who are in danger of not achieving level 5+ in one or other of the subjects. Consultant support has focussed on the revised secondary frameworks as part of the new secondary curriculum which promotes functional skills and two levels progression. The 2009 target remains challenging. Achievement of level 5 and above in science is more challenging and a reduction is noted compared with 2007 results.
- **Key Stage 4** (NI 75) – Strong performance is reported with an increase in the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE. No Stockport schools’ results fell below the floor target reflecting strong performance across the borough. A head teachers’ conference has been planned to focus on improving school standards.
- **Educational attainment of children in care** (NI 99, NI 100, NI 101) – A considerable improvement is reported in relation to education outcomes for children in care. 60% of children in care achieved level 4 and above in English at Key Stage 2 which was an improvement from 25% in 2006/07. There was also an increase in GCSE attainment which increased to 16.7% from 7.7% in the previous year.
- **Placement stability** (NI 62) – Outcomes continue to improve with a reduction in the percentage of children in care with three or more placements at the 2nd quarter. This is a challenging and volatile measure which is based on small cohorts of children. A robust action plan is in place for placement stability to ensure needs are met, and regularly monitored by the multi agency Integrated Education and Placement Panel. An independent Reviewing Officer chairs ‘disruption’ meetings to prevent future placement breakdown
- **Child Poverty** (NI 118) – Performance in relation to the percentage of low income families taking up the formal childcare element of working tax credit is improving. Although most recent data reflects the position at 2006/07, performance has increased to 22% compared to the national average of 17%. Based on this data, the target to maintain a 4% differential between Stockport’s performance and national performance has been exceeded. Stockport is participating in a national conference to inform action planning on this agenda. Geographical data for this indicator will be analysed through

the refresh of the childcare sufficiency audit and will inform Children Centre business planning.

- **Childhood obesity** (NI 56) – Childhood obesity targets are predicted to be achieved and this is further supported by Stockport’s multi agency Obesity Strategy and the recruitment of an obesity coordinator. Three innovative intervention programmes for obese children and their families have been successfully delivered. Evaluation has been excellent leading to an increase in physical activity and weight loss. There has also been a significant increase in the percentage of children who were weighed and measured (86.7%) resulting in a more robust dataset.

Positive performance continues in relation to the 2006/09 reward targets to increase breastfeeding initiation rates and to improve GCSE attainment (as noted above) and it is predicted that these targets will be achieved. Although the number of permanent exclusions rose in 2007/08, it is still expected that the reward targets on permanent and fixed-term exclusions will be achieved next year. Management of exclusions was a key discussion topic at a recent Secondary School Attendance Leaders meeting.

Exceptions

Areas where performance is more challenging are summarised as follows:

- **Persistent absence** (NI 87) – Persistent absence continues to be a priority area and all schools with high levels of persistent absence have been contacted by Senior Education Welfare Officers to work to address this. Intensive work is underway to prepare a new Attendance Strategy which will focus on a move towards early intervention and prevention.
- **Key Stage 3 level 5 Science** (NI 83) – This target remains a challenge and while provisional data (75.4%) indicates a slight reduction in performance from 2006/07, this is significantly ahead of the national average (71%).

2006/09 reward targets to maintain breastfeeding rates are also challenging. Additional intensive support for first time mothers is now being provided to boost performance in the last two quarters. The reward target to reduce the number of children and young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) remains a challenge and data will not be available until the 4th quarter.

3.2 Adult Health and Well Being / Tackling Exclusion and Promoting Equality	GREEN
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Highlights

Overall, good progress has been made in the first half of the year on the LAA targets under this theme.

- **Mortality rates for circulatory disease** (NI 121) – Based on provisional, interim data, this target is currently on track and expected to meet the 2008/09 target.
- **Smoking cessation** (NI 123) – While numbers attending the smoking cessation service have dropped in the first quarter, this is in line with a

national trend. An action plan has been developed to increase numbers and it is expected that this target will be achieved.

- **Support to live independently** (NI 136) – While this is currently slightly behind target, it is expected that current performance will improve to achieve the target once the Grant Funded Services (GFS1) survey results are known in November. With respect to current community based service provision, developments to support people to live independently at home include:
 - extension of the telecare service
 - launch of extra care sheltered housing provision
 - development of an integrated intermediate care service
 - development with a local voluntary organisation of a new resource model (including a day centre) to provide more streamlined information and support for adults with disabilities.
- **Adult mental health** (NI 150) – Positive progress towards increasing the number of adults receiving secondary mental health services in paid employment continues and it is predicted that this target will be achieved for 2008/09. A further 3 people entered employment during the 2nd quarter. While this is a small increase, given the complexity and challenge of sustaining people on the Care Pathway Approach (CPA), it is encouraging. Numbers on the pathway to employment have shown a net rise of 6 people since last quarter, with 10 more people in volunteering work and 4 fewer in education. In addition, a new community website has been launched to provide information that will promote the mental health of Stockport residents.
- **Alcohol related hospital admissions² (Local version of NI 39)** – Over recent years there has been an increase in the number of alcohol harm related admissions to hospital. A Vital Signs commitment has been made to reduce the rate of increase in our more deprived areas, areas which are currently experiencing the highest levels of admission. The PCT have introduced the ‘Alcohol Health Advice Service’ (AHAS) and a ‘fast alcohol screening tool’ (FAST) for use across Stockport. At the moment the FAST tool is being used in A&E and those patients with high scores are being offered a referral to the AHAS. There are plans in place to extend the use of the FAST test in GP surgeries and Police custody suites. The PCT are also working the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement as part of a learning set for World Class Commissioning about the use of data for improvement. The programme will run until March 2009 at which time any findings from this work should be implemented and additional workstreams developed.

The LAA Reward Targets to help older people to remain in their own homes and to increase the uptake of benefits by people aged 60 or over, continue to be projected to achieve the final three year targets on 2008/09. Increased referrals from the Dementia training programme have particularly contributed to increased uptake of Disability Living and Attendance Allowance with positive effects for Pension Credit uptake.

² This local indicator, by agreement with Government Office, is being reported here in the same way as the designated indicators

Highlights

A positive start has been made to delivering the outcomes in this theme with all 2008/09 targets currently forecast to be achieved. However, the theme has been rated as 'amber' due to the increased risks and challenges to achieving improved outcomes in the context of a national economic downturn.

- **Worklessness in deprived areas (NI 153)** – Progress is currently ahead of target (based on most recent data from February 2008) and is being supported by mainstream funding from key partners including Job Centre Plus (JCP), Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Other local initiatives which are supporting this outcome include the Council led Stockport into Work initiative which aims to offer 6 months employment to around 70 long term unemployed people and the Deprived Areas Fund (DAF) which is used to employability courses.
- **Affordable homes (NI 155)** – While this is currently ahead of target, it is expected that this will be severely affected by the economic downturn. Several large registered social landlords (RSL) and private sector schemes have been put on hold which is likely to substantially reduce the number of affordable housing completions in the year. However in spite of this, the target set for this financial year has already been achieved, with six months remaining. This is because those RSL schemes already on site are being completed. The 13 units at the Citadel have been handed over and the last phases of the 53 units at Brinnington Centre have been finished. Work on the 18 units at Holly Bank is progressing well and a start on site at the mixed use Stockholm Road site is underway.

Excellent progress is being made in relation to the LAA Reward Target to bring lone parents and people on incapacity benefit back into work, with 81 people placed in employment. At the end of the quarter, 46 had completed 13 weeks, and this figure is expected to increase significantly as a result of the Stockport into Work programme.

Exceptions

It is anticipated that the current global economic climate is likely to considerably affect jobs growth, and therefore make it harder to get those furthest from the labour market into employment. This could of course put at risk achievement of the outcomes in this theme despite the current positive progress identified in the highlights above.

Basic skills (NI 163 & NI 164) – Based on current data and uncertainties in relation to the current economic slowdown, it is difficult to accurately forecast performance relating to these indicators. There is a significant lag in the availability of the data and the indicators are sensitive to changes in the population. Most recent figures indicate a fall at December 2007 and as such this suggests that the achievement of these targets may be problematic. Work is progressing to improve skill levels and key organisations on the Partnership will continue to identify how they can encourage more people to take up training, for example using initiatives such as the Learner Lounge network,

which is being developed in our priority areas to engage people.

3.4 Stronger & Safer Communities

AMBER

Highlights

Although data is only available to report on a 2 of the 7 measures under this theme, progress towards meeting the year end targets for both has shown a positive direction of travel over this six month period. All of the reward targets within this theme remain on track to be met next year, with particularly impressive progress in reducing criminal damage and drug-related acquisitive crime.

- **Satisfaction with the locality as a place to live** (NI 5) – this indicator is currently being collected via the Place Survey and results will be reported in the full-year 2008/09 report. A number of initiatives, focusing particularly on improving priority neighbourhoods, have begun well which are expected to have a positive impact. These initiatives and activities include:
 - Heaton Norris Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)
 - Credit Crunch Public Information Event - held at Netto to provide advice and information to Lancashire Hill area residents about the Credit Crunch
 - Brinnington Fun Day
 - 'Skills to Work' event in Brinnington
 - Annual Adswood and Bridgewater Hall Fun Day
 - Art on the Park Activity.
- **Serious acquisitive crime rate** (NI 16) – This measure is now forecast to exceed the year end target and numbers of incidents continue to fall. This is a challenging target and work to maintain good progress includes fortnightly volume crime meetings to quickly identify trends and offenders around acquisitive crime. The Tactical Partnership Business Group will also be looking in detail at acquisitive crime every month, ensuring partnership agencies are able to react to the identified trends.
- **Re-offending by young offenders** (NI 19) – Data is currently unavailable for this measure due to the introduction of a new Youth Justice Board counting rule for monitoring re-offending, but this should be available in time to agree targets for the LAA refresh. Performance will be reported for the full year in the next report.
- **Perceptions of dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime** (NI 21) – This indicator is currently being collected via the Place Survey, and results will be reported in the full-year report for 2008/09.
- **Reduction in re-offending rates for prolific and priority offenders** (NI 30) – This target will be agreed as part of the LAA refresh. Data will be reported annually as the figure is based on the re-offending rate of a cohort tracked over a year. Meanwhile, this cohort of offenders is being actively managed by the Stockport Pyramid Project. The project aims to address the 7 pathways which can lead to offending through a partnership approach (i.e. education & training, health, drugs, finance, family, attitudes and accommodation). This partnership approach is coordinated by the Offender Management Unit, whose core business is the management of the offender cohort. Intelligence meetings to discuss Prolific and other Priority Offenders

are held monthly where offending risks and required actions are highlighted and tasked.

- **Reducing repeat incidents of domestic violence (NI 32)** – This indicator is not due to be introduced until 2009/10 and will be part of the LAA refresh in March 2009. The appointment of a new Community Safety Officer to lead on domestic violence has enabled dedicated work to begin on a number of initiatives which will support the reduction of domestic violence.
- **Drug users in effective treatment (NI 40)** – Good progress is reported and based on current information, it is forecast that this target will be achieved. It should be noted that this is a new measure and there has been a delay in receiving data from the national system which affects our ability to accurately forecast performance.

The 2006/09 reward target to reduce the number of incidents of criminal damage related to alcohol (RT 6b) has shown an excellent reduction of 281 incidents as a result of successful interventions targeting “hotspot areas”. There has also been continued success in reducing the numbers of drug related acquisitive crimes (RT 7) with incidents falling again this quarter. The Stockport Pyramid project has focused on the reducing re-offending pathway for accommodation and drugs and alcohol this quarter, hosting an away day to build on good practice between the Offender Management Service and substance misuse services.

Exceptions

- **Serious violent crime (NI 15)** – Performance is forecast to narrowly miss the 2008/09 target. This criteria for this target is due to be revised for 2009/10 of the LAA. Although performance has been disappointing in relation to this challenging target, the Council and partners are actively seeking to address this. Based on previous year’s activity profiles prospects for improvement in the second half of the year are good. Outstanding performance was reported in 2006/7 and the aim is to build on this substantially. It is expected that initiatives such as the Town Centre Safe scheme (run on Friday and Saturday nights with the aim of curtailing disorder associated with the evening economy) and the Help Point (to be run by police and partnership staff over the Christmas and New Year period), should contribute to reducing the current shortfall and achieving the target by the end of 2008/09.

3.5 Environmental Sustainability	GREEN
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Highlights

Excellent performance is reported in relation to this theme, particularly in relation to improving recycling and cleanliness.

Recycling (NI 192) – strong performance is reported for the first two quarters of 2008/09 with performance to date in excess of 43%.

Cleanliness (NI 195) – Significant improvements have been made in relation to improving cleanliness across the borough. The targeting of additional resources out of the Council’s priority initiatives fund (PIF) for additional

mechanical sweeping equipment and additional litter bins has been the key here, together with the adoption of 'A Strategy To make Stockport Cleaner', as approved by the Council Executive in 2007. This created a fast-track scheme for the removal of litter and fly-tipped material from Council land and also provided the opportunity to target better the evening, night-time and weekend cleansing operations. In addition, and perhaps most crucially, variable sweeping frequencies across the Borough reflect more accurately now the variable cleansing needs of different areas.

Congestion and public transport access to services (NI 167 & NI 175) – Good progress is reported and it is predicted that targets will be achieved for both of these measures.

Development on vacant or derelict land (NI 170) – In the light of a recent planning appeal decision the Council has had to stop applying the housing phasing policy of the UDP. This had the benefit of focusing new housing developments on sites which were in need of regeneration and had the potential of targeting longer-term vacant and derelict sites, and regrettably, this strategy cannot now be applied. In spite of this, it is predicted that the 2008/09 target will be met.

CO2 emissions (NI 186) –The latest figure for CO2 emissions in 2006 indicates a slight improvement from the baseline, but is below the 2008/09 LAA target. It is anticipated that the reduction target can be achieved by the end of the LAA in 2011. To further support this, the Council is developing a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan that identifies a wide range of objectives in the areas of sustainable development and energy efficiency; managing flood risks; managing air pollution and heat risks; managing water resources and biodiversity; extreme weather; waste; transport; street lighting; community leadership and adaptation. The Council's energy reduction and efficiency measures across its estate continue to deliver emissions reductions of over 100 tonnes CO2 per year. This is supported by the Salix financing scheme - a national scheme to fund investments in energy efficiency. In addition funding has also been secured from the Energy Saving Trust through the 1-2-1 programme to carry out a feasibility of small scale hydro-electric schemes on the borough's rivers.

4. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In previous LAA reports a summary of funding focusing on eligible expenditure in relation to pooled funding was provided in the format of a Statement of Grant Usage. It is not possible to replicate that format due to changes in the reporting of grant funding. These changes and their implications are described as follows:

Area Based Grant – An Overview

From 2008/09, the government combined various former specific grants (including LAA Pooled Grant) into a new general non ring-fenced grant called Area Based Grant. The Government has also published details of the former grants which have been combined into the new grant; some of which were outside of the scope of the previous LAA. Area Based Grant is not a straight replacement for LAA Pooled Grant.

Although the grant is administered by DCLG, the funding components which make up the grant are still determined and provided by various other government departments such as DoH, DWP and DCSF. Local Authorities have the flexibility to re-allocate these resources towards local priorities if they so wish. A summary of Area Based Grant allocations for 2008/09 is shown in the following table:

Portfolio	No of Former Specific Grants	2008/09 Allocation £000
Adults & Health	7	3,587
Children & Young People	24	6,239
Communities	4	1,046
Regeneration	1	60
Transportation	3	371
Total	39	11,303

Performance Reward Grant (PRG)

As detailed in Appendix 2, the Council expects to receive around £6.6m of PRG based on current performance estimates. PRG will be paid in two instalments in 2009/10 and 2010/11 and will be 50% revenue and 50% capital as shown in the following table:

	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
Revenue – Total	1,655	1,655
Less: Partnership Office Available	(500)	(500)
	1,155	1,155
Capital	1,655	1,655

The Partnership Board has agreed to earmark £1M of PRG to finance the costs of a Partnership Office. The Partnership Board have also agreed in principle that the balance of PRG will be used to support partnership initiatives aimed at ensuring that the targets contained in the new LAA can be met or exceeded.

Lead officers and thematic partnerships have been invited to submit proposals for utilising revenue and capital resources over the next two years, primarily in support of LAA designated and local targets (including disaggregated targets). Proposals will need to show how the additional time limited PRG monies would be supporting mainstream resource allocations and clearly demonstrate the impact on performance levels against LAA indicators.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Stockport Partnership is asked to:

- Approve and review performance of the first 6 months of 2008/09 as part of the LAA review process

- Agree that the report can be submitted to Government Office North West (GO-NW), and
- Recommend that specific performance concerns are raised by LAA theme leads and the relevant thematic partnerships.