

Southwark's LAA 2008/11 – Supporting Statement

Partnership Engagement

Southwark's LAA has been developed through the Southwark Alliance and its thematic partnerships and has been led by the SA Board. In developing the LAA in Southwark it has been crucial to build on the existing partnership arrangements and the close working relationship with the 3rd sector and the business sector. This is a developmental process, and there is always potential for greater collaboration which needs to be maximised. To date, the 3rd sector have been involved in the development of the LAA at a number of levels:

a) Developing Southwark 2016

Southwark 2016 is underpinned by feedback and input from the 3rd sector across the borough. In developing the strategy there was extensive consultation and feedback to wide ranging groups in the borough. The process of engagement involved:

- Initial issues workshops with a range of communities of interest followed up by a second stage of feedback on the emerging draft strategy, and how community views had been incorporated
- Workshops at Community Councils and area partnerships
- Presentations and discussions at a number of voluntary sector meetings, including the VS forum, and a wider conference for all the voluntary sector
- Articles and requests for feedback in various VS newsletters
- A publicity campaign to garner views from the wider public
- Hard to reach groups. Examples of groups included: people with disabilities; pensioners, refugee community groups, Latin American and Vietnamese residents.

b) Developing the LAA

Our overall approach to the LAA has been to build on the Southwark 2016 engagement and has further involved the 3rd sector in a range of ways:

- 3rd sector membership on the SA Board
- 3rd sector membership on SAMG
- 3rd sector membership on the thematic partnerships
- Presentations and discussions at Southwark's Stronger Communities Task Group Meetings

c) Taking forward the LAA

The 3rd sector has been engaged in the development of the LAA, but it is important to ensure that this engagement is sustained, and that 3rd sector engagement at a strategic, partnership and operational level is built on and maintained. A key aspect of the successful delivery of the LAA will be developing the 3rd sector capacity so that they can be fully involved in delivering against the LAA outcomes, and monitoring our progress against this. This is one of the objectives of the Community Strategy and will also need to link to and build on the 'Review of the Council's Strategic Approach to Working with the Voluntary Sector'. As part of this, we will need to ensure that the linkages across the development and embedding of the local Compact, ChangeUp and the LAA are clear.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The LAA directly builds upon our Community Strategy, Southwark 2016, which was developed specifically to reduce the inequality gap experienced by many of our citizens, and to ensure that discrimination and economic and social exclusion are replaced by opportunities.

The successful achievement of these outcomes will involve a sustained focus on working towards equality for all and continued recognition of both the value of diversity and the importance of community cohesion.

Southwark Council has a single generic equalities scheme (addressing age, disability, faith/belief, gender, race and ethnicity and sexual orientation) which, in line with and in some cases beyond legislative requirements, commits us to:

- Promoting equality of opportunity
- Eliminating unlawful discrimination
- Promoting good relations between members of different groups

Southwark 2016 and the key strategies of the Council that will deliver against the LAA priorities have been subject to Equality Impact Assessments.

Our partnership approach will extend this commitment through the LAA and into our work with partners. The LAA will be strategically linked to the Council's new Corporate Plan. The Council is working to mainstream equality and diversity outcomes into the Council's business planning and performance management framework. The LAA will be kept under ongoing review by the Southwark Alliance, with the impact on different groups within the borough largely monitored through the sub-strategies of Southwark 2016, such as the Children and Young Peoples Plan, the Employment Strategy and so on.

Key Issues

A number of issues have arisen during the negotiations and the way these have been resolved is set out below:

- Time taken to process Housing Benefit / Council Tax benefit new claims and change events - GOL requested the inclusion of NI 181. The DWP comments were not based on up to date data and did not reflect our actual performance. The indicator is a new one and no robust baseline or trend data are available so it is not suitable for inclusion at this time. It is also a process indicator and is not an indicator that would be one of our top 35 indicators measuring progress against our LAA and Community Strategy outcomes.
- Child Poverty – GOL requested the inclusion of NI 116 on tackling Child Poverty. The partnership view was that given the long term and crosscutting nature of this outcome we will seek to measure our progress over the three year LAA timeframe through a basket of indicators. We have particular issues over the proxy indicator in the 1st year, as it will not include data on poverty for those in work, and this will clearly present issues for comparison with the expanded indicator in years 2 & 3. Given the long-term nature of this outcome we would also have concerns over the impact our interventions will have on this indicator in the 3-year LAA timeframe. Obviously we will be monitoring and performance managing this indicator along with all 198 national indicators and this initial stance would not preclude us considering this indicator in subsequent LAAs once the indicator is established and we have trend data that would allow robust target setting. We would also note that the latest data shows Southwark to be the fastest improving borough in London which clearly suggests that our crosscutting approach to this issue is working.
- All-age all cause mortality rate - GOL requested the inclusion of NI 120; our Healthy Southwark Partnership Board have considered this indicator and agree that this is both a priority and a suitable indicator for inclusion in our LAA. They are therefore recommending that we include it in our final 35 LAA indicators.
- Healthy Life Expectancy at age 65 - GOL requested the inclusion of NI 137; our Healthy Southwark Partnership Board have considered this indicator and whilst they recognise that this is a priority they have concerns over whether this is a suitable indicator for inclusion in our LAA. There are concerns over the definition, baseline and survey elements of this indicator. They are therefore recommending that we do not include it in our final 35 LAA indicators.
- Adult Sport Participation - GOL requested the inclusion of NI 8 the partnership did not see how we could include NI 8, as a LAA indicator, as we already have a LPSA target for this where our outturn will be measured in the 2008/09 Active People Survey i.e. the survey that will run from Oct 2008 - Oct 2009. Setting a LAA target, covering much of the same period, would therefore not be practical over this already stretching LPSA target. The fact that we have this as one of our 13 LPSA stretch targets (along with childrens participation in sport) would also appear to show that the Sport England view that we have not prioritised sport is out of date.

- Decent Council Homes - GOL requested the inclusion of NI 158. There are issues with the focus of NI 158 as it only addresses Council homes and is based on outputs that don't necessarily correlate to our wider priorities. Our local focus is around improving the quality of homes across all tenures, particularly within the context of major regeneration. The Council's review of its Decent Homes plans concluded that the Decent Homes standard did not meet all the investment priorities of the council or of our residents and that a higher standard should be delivered, to include measures that address some of the issues on our inner-city estates, such as security and environmental improvements; as well as meeting some of residents' aspirations for improved homes. To meet this higher investment standard, Southwark will undertake a further review of resources potentially available. Delivery of our investment programme is also being reviewed and we will move towards a longer term elemental approach aimed at achieving improved value for money; this will have an impact on Decent Homes targets as investment will be delivered via borough-wide contracts running over a number of years. Consultation has already taken place with residents and discussions are taking place with GOL in relation to the impact on our targets as a result of both the above issues.
- Serious acquisitive crime - GOL requested the inclusion of NI 16. Both NI 15 & NI 16 are combinations of crime types and to properly understand performance both will need to be broken down and analysed. NI 15 was put forward for the LAA to focus on the crime which causes the most harm which is violent crime. Neither indicator is a perfect fit for the Strategic objectives but NI 15 remains the preferred indicator and retains the consistent message that tackling violent crime is our top priority. SSP suggest we include a local indicator on personal robbery. We have always used this as a topline tracker for violent crime and have also split it between young people and adults. We have also included a PI on serious youth crime (homicide, gun and knife crime) in the performance framework on youth crime. It is further proposed that the SSP strategic indicators will also include NI 16 as a topline indicator in the violent crime section.
- Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods - GOL requested the inclusion of NI 153. We recognise this is a priority however there are concerns over the geographical focus in a borough such as Southwark where disadvantage is spread across the borough. The Council's Economic Development Team (EDT) are also concerned that the population estimates used to calculate this indicator have a significant influence over the claimant rate of areas and it is therefore an inaccurate measure of success. However we have incorporated sub target to NI 152 on NI 153 areas
- Per Capita CO2 emissions in the local area - GOL requested the inclusion of NI 186 Notwithstanding our concerns over the scope to influence this indicator in a 3 year timeframe we will replace NI 185 with NI 186. However we would stress that we are doing so on the basis of the Government's commitment to setting achievable LAA targets for this indicator and that we reserve the right to drop this indicator if that proves not to be the case.
- Drug Users in effective treatment - GOL requested the inclusion of NI 40 We have agreed to the inclusion of this indicator in our 35.
- KS4 for BME - GOL requested the inclusion of NI 108 we have agreed to the inclusion of this indicator in our 35.
- Migrants language knowledge and skills – This indicator was included by the partnership with LSC as the lead agency. However the final definition of this indicator was not in accordance with our initial expectations. Establishing baselines, targets and clear accountabilities for the indicator was not possible and we are unable to proceed with this indicator in the 2008-11 LAA.