



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE NORTH WEST

GREG BURKE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CHILDREN & LEARNERS

Cheshire Governance Board, 26 October 2007

GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE NORTH WEST

Agenda

- What is a LAA?
- Place shaping
- Indicators and targets
- GO working differently
- What will happen with the current LAA?
- What will make a good LAA?

GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE NORTH WEST

What is a LAA?

A 3 year agreement that sets out the priorities for a local area, agreed between central government (represented by the GO) and a local area, represented by the lead local authority and other key partners through Local Strategic Partnerships.

What is a Local Area Agreement ?

Primary objective:

- To deliver better outcomes for local people

Secondary objectives:

- Enhanced efficiency
- Better partnership working
- Enhancing community leadership by Local Authorities
- Improved central/local relations

What LAAs offer

- Greater devolution and local autonomy
- The chance for elected members to steer the totality of public services in their area
- Value for money from joined up services
- Coherent and integrated government for the citizen
- Scope to win 'hearts and minds' on long term challenges
- Measurable better outcomes on the ground

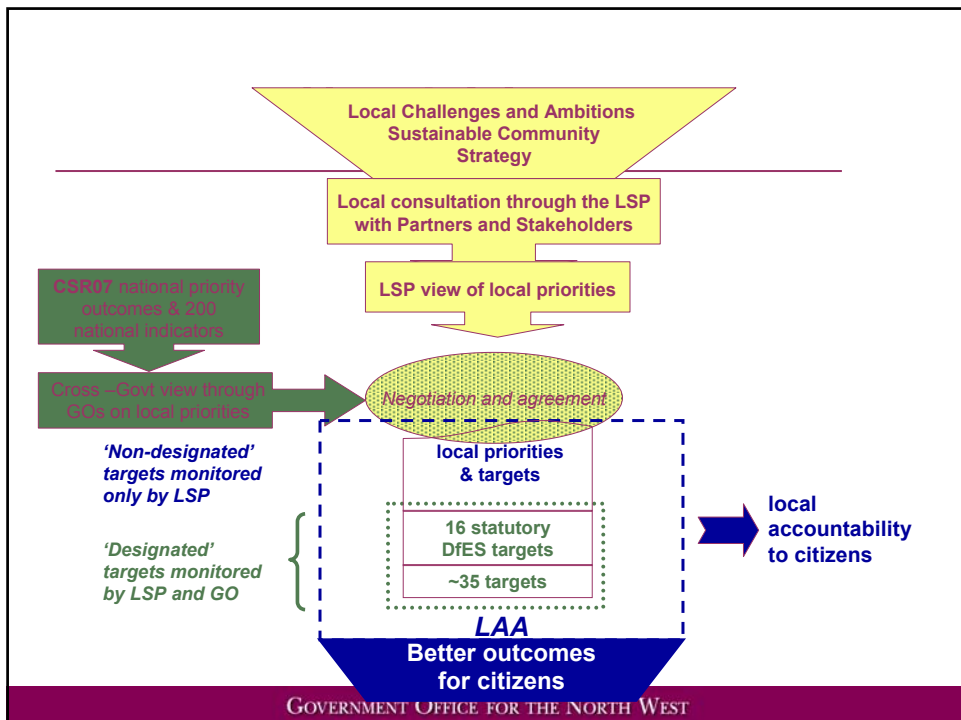
LAAs – Context

- Local Area Agreements will become the main focus for setting priorities and performance managing local public services
- Funding streams will be rationalised and responsibility for allocating resources to different activities and priorities will be devolved to local level
- Following CSR07, resources are likely to be very tight, while pressure for and expectations of improved outcomes will not diminish

What can councillors do now?

- Identify lessons from first generation LAA
- Review LSP governance and membership
- Invest in partner relationships and trust building
- Update evidence base for community strategy
- Strengthen scrutiny process and tracking progress on the LAA
- Help to tell the public what is happening

GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE NORTH WEST



Indicators and targets

- The 198 indicators – the National Indicator Set (NIS) published
- LA / LSP will agree a maximum of 35 (+16 DCSF statutory)
- Indicators which will have improvement targets attached
- The remaining indicators would still be reported on but would not have improvement targets
- Annual reviews would assess whether any of ‘the 35’ should be removed and/or replaced by others

What will happen to the current LAAs ?

- Rounds 1 and 2 have completed an end-of-year performance review,
- Round 3 will not have a mid-year performance review in November
- All LAAs will have transitional negotiations with GOs from October/November, in order to move to new style LAAs

Go – Working Differently

- Sharing our data with Places
- Places and Partnerships Team created
- Qualitative aspects of LAAa e.g Narrowing the Gap, Building Capacity, Utilising the LAA as a Vehicle for change etc
- Appreciative Inquiry – understanding what works and how things could be
- Working more closely with the Audit Commission

How to develop the LAA

- Understanding what partners want your LAA to do for your area (is it about performance, ambition or both)
- Thinking about the “principles for inclusion” you might apply to suggestions
- Being clear about who decides what goes in the LAA (and what doesn’t go in!)
- Talking to GO early on about views and involve Audit Commission
- Sharing your data with GONW
- Being clear on the role of members
- Using your current LAA as a starting point
- Accepting there isn’t an exact science to this

How to build a successful LAA

- Four key building blocks
 - Use your evidence base
 - Identify priorities and agree indicators
 - Plan and deliver
 - Manage Performance

Use your evidence base

- Vital to help develop your “local story” (to be clear about what makes your distinctiveness)
- Think about where your story will be presented (your community Strategy of the LAA)
- Use the evidence base to support the process of prioritisation
- Work towards availability of data at smaller spatial levels

Identify Priorities

- Localities have already done extensive work on identifying and revising community strategies
- In current LAAs, the number of priorities or targets has not been specified – it has been possible to add targets in response to the need of the particular interest groups
- In selecting 35+16 it will be important to choose priorities that are actionable
- Good data is necessary for identifying priorities but not sufficient – e.g. will not decide between obesity and climate change

Plan and Deliver

- LSP clearly established as overarching partnership responsible for setting priorities, with their delivery the responsibility of individual partners and thematic partnerships, e.g. including Children's Trusts, CDRP and forthcoming health partnerships
- Government focus is in better outcomes
- Better outcomes will be the result of well planned activities
- In planning activities will need to understand relationship between activity - cost - outcomes
- Importance of indicators that are robust and performance - manageable

Manage Performance

- Needs to be part of delivery planning - how will managers know that their service is making its contribution?
- For high level outcomes may need to identify intermediate activity indicators that can be gathered in real time - (e.g for all-age, all-cause mortality – smoking cessation participation)
- Manage closing the gap

Key tips

- Emphasise the uniqueness of place
- Be evidence driven
- Address narrowing the gap
- Drive partnership working
- Try new approaches
- Integrate with other processes
- Clearly define objectives
- Use the LAA as a driver for change
- Develop robust outcomes
- Promote sustainable development
- Have strong community engagement

Practical tips

- There is nothing new under the sun!
- Do not throw the baby out with the bath water – use current LAAs Community Strategy
- Keep talking to your GO team
- Encourage partners to be open, flexible to change and confident enough to challenge each other
- Be assertive – despite the lack of guidance and timescales get on with it!

Indicative timetable 2007/08

- October/November: CSR Results, Publication of National Indicator Set & Guidance Package & CLG Road show
- November onwards: Transitional negotiations with LAA areas
- March 08: Agreed priorities and indicators
- May 08: Agreed targets
- June 08: Ministerial sign off for new generation LAAs